
The Messenger

Valley Community Presbyterian Church January 2017

Sundays at Valley

Adult Education Class, 9:00 a.m.
Early Coffee in Library, 9:30 a.m.
Worship, 10:00 a.m.
Sunday Funday, 10:20 a.m.
Nursery Care, 9:45 to 11:15 a.m.
Coffee Fellowship, 11:00 a.m.

January

1 Communion

8 Ceremony of Carols

15 Dining for Women Meeting,
11:30 a.m.

22

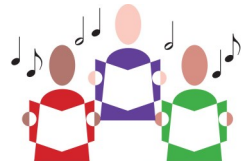
29

February

5 Communion



Valley's Sanctuary Choir Presents 'A Ceremony of Carols' January 8

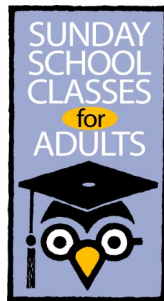


A Ceremony of Carols, Op. 28, is a choral piece by Benjamin Britten, scored for three-part treble chorus, solo voices, and harp. Written for Christmas, it consists of eleven movements, with text from *The English Galaxy of Shorter Poems*, edited by Gerald Bullett; it is in Middle English. The piece was written in 1942 while Britten was at sea, going from the United States to England. The Valley Sanctuary Choir will perform an arrangement for four-part choir by Julius Harrison.

Soloists are Haley Maddox, mezzo soprano; Grace Skinner, mezzo soprano; Justin Peters, tenor and Aaron Lange, tenor.

Guest harpist is Denise Fujikawa, Professor of Harp at Portland State University. She studied at the Eastman School of music with the renowned harpist Eileen Malone, was awarded a graduate teaching assistantship at the University of Southern California and has taught at California State University, Sacramento. She currently resides in Portland where she has been a member of the Portland Opera Orchestra since 1998. She played harp with the Sacramento Symphony from 1992-1997 and many other orchestras in New York, California, Oregon and Washington.

Adult Education



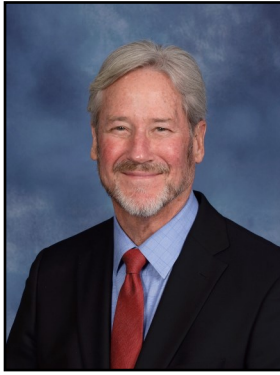
January 8, 15, and 22

Adult Education Class Sundays at 9:00 a.m. in Armitage Hall will feature presentations by Dr. Richard Rohrbaugh about how Jesus was understood by those who heard him first. A fundamental, but usually unrecognized truth is that the Bible is not a western book. It was written by, for, and about people in the ancient Mediterranean world whose culture differed from ours in nearly every respect. It is a simple fact that the first to hear Jesus did not see the world like Americans do and would not have reacted to him the way we do today. In this brief class, we will focus on core values in first century Galilee that shaped the way Jesus' stories were originally heard.

January 29

Adult Education Class, January 29 at 9:00 a.m. The topic for discussion on January 29 will be a DVD presentation by Bill Moyers discussing the religious perspectives of Richard Rodriguez who feels that in many ways his religion chose him rather than the reverse alternative. The issues of why we believe what we believe are complex and insightful.

Pastor's Column



Pastor Ben Paroulek

God has just handed us something very special: a “brand, spanking-new” New Year. With this New Year, we can do some very special things. Or not. It’s really up to us. Newness is something that is very popular in our American culture. Who doesn’t enjoy that “new car” smell, that fresh-out-of-the box aroma of a new pair of leather shoes, or the feel of that nice Christmas sweater you just opened? Our



resolve is high to make this year different than other years. But research shows, the average time between the moments we make our resolutions and their demise is a pathetic three weeks. By that time, all the newness has been aired out of them – and they become mere chores. It’s one of the reasons I don’t make resolutions.

Instead, I’d like to offer a new way to tap our New Year’s enthusiasm. Let’s focus on provisions for the journey. In our culture, when we are faced by the unknown, we like to stock up on what we need. Like when we get an inclement weather report. Remember a few weeks ago when people rushed to the store to stock up on provisions? I’ve often been fascinated why a snowstorm requires bread milk and eggs, any more than any other day in the year. But apparently, our anxiety is alleviated.

So my question for you is this. (Focus on the year ahead.) What are the most important “provisions” that you will need for your faith journey? When you think about the most challenging times in your life, what are the most important things that have tided you over?

Personally, I can think of some precious things that have gotten me through. The majority of these things take up little or no physical space. This makes sense because Jesus always encouraged his disciples to travel light. In Mark 6:8-9, Jesus “charged them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; but to wear sandals and not put on two tunics.” His point was to set their focus... not on scarcity but on abundance. It was to clear their vision of material things so that they can clearly see the most precious provisions of all: *other people, and the presence of God in those people*. Of the most precious things on my journey, I count the kind presence of family and friends in dark hours. I stockpile in my mind the sound of their voices. I also hoard up within my soul those moments when I have been transported by beauty far beyond the ordinary: A startling discovery in a familiar scripture; a perfect poem, or word of wisdom from a spiritual master. And, maybe most of all, I treasure those transcendent moments when I hear the voice of God through music or song.

These are my provisions for the times the winter wind blows. So at the beginning of this new journey of 2017, as you put away your milk, eggs and bread, I ask you to contemplate this: who and what are the real provisions of your life? Think of them, and tuck them away in that special part of your heart that you reserve for precious things.

Peace to you all and grace for your New Year’s journey.

Ben Paroulek

THE MESSENGER

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PASTOR

BEN PAROULEK

NEWSLETTER STAFF:

SHIRLEY HERCHER AND ANGELA GRAHAM

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

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

Stewardship Campaign 2017

I once more say “Thank you” to all from whom we have heard for our 2017 Stewardship Drive. The pledge information for 2017 helps drive a much clearer picture of the financial state of Valley for the coming year. That can then make for clearer decisions, earlier, for the Session.

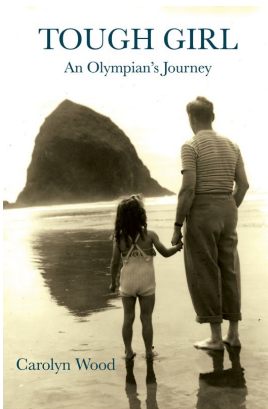
Unfortunately, we have seen a slowing in response (returned pledges) over the past four weeks. While the average individual pledge has increased compared to last year, the number of returned pledges has dropped significantly compared to last year. We are still about \$100,000 below our goal for 2017 commitment, and well off of our goal for returned pledge cards. Please see the details below.

If you have not already done so, please return your pledge card to the church. Thank you for your support of Valley and its mission.

Eben Jenkins, Stewardship 2017



Local Author Featured at Valley Book Group



Local author Carolyn Wood, who was only 14 years old when she won an Olympic gold medal in swimming, will be talking about her recent autobiography entitled *Tough Girl: An Olympian's Journey* at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, January 27, 2017, in Armitage Hall. All interested Valley members, friends and neighbors are invited to attend. Refreshments will be provided and Carolyn will have copies of her book for sale and will be glad to autograph them following the presentation.

Amazon.com gives the following brief description of her book: “After several failed swim lessons, young Carolyn Wood finally conquers her fears and dives into unknown waters in *Tough Girl*. By 1958 she has set a goal to make the 1960 Olympic team and, along with teammates and competitors, begins the arduous road to Rome. Losses, pain, fear, and fatigue accompany the rambunctious athlete as she finds her way through athletic training, school, and social-gender expectations.

Beautifully written, *Tough Girl* artfully weaves Wood's life story around the tale of her long walk on the Camino de Santiago, an effort to tap into her tough-girl resilience so she can understand and accept the end of a decades-long marriage. The ups and downs of this story will thrill and inspire readers as the ultimate lesson becomes clear: we get through life one stroke, one step, and one page at a time.”

Carolyn is a former English teacher in the Portland Public Schools and has lived the majority of her life just a few blocks from our church. *Tough Girl* tells her life story with the challenges, triumphs and public and personal victories that helped make her who she is today.

‘Dining for Women’ Project in Cambodia

Valley’s Dining for Women group starts this New Year on Sunday, January 15 at 11:30 a.m. with a very interesting featured grantee in Cambodia called Mith Samlanh. This project aims to provide safe shelter to marginalized girls who are separated from their families in Phnom Penh as they are transitioning back to their families or participating in vocational training.

Dining for Women loves this project because of its focus on marginalized girls to secure their rights to education and employment while assisting them in their reintegration to their families. By providing transitional shelter and support services, Mith Samlanh is reducing the vulnerability of young girls to human trafficking.

Make it a New Year’s resolution to come to our monthly meetings on the third Sunday of each month after worship in the Fireside Room. We have an amazing potluck lunch, learn about the month’s featured grantee and have the opportunity to support that nonprofit by making a monetary donation, typically what is spent on lunch out. It is collective giving in action!

Come to our meeting January 15 at 11:30 a.m. in the Fireside Room and check us out. If you have questions, please contact Ruthann Marquis or go to diningforwomen.org to see what an amazing organization Dining for Women is.

Kidz Mart Report



KIDZ MART had the most profitable year yet! Due to the very generous donations from Valley's friends and members, sales totaled \$336.79. All proceeds go to Children's Ministries. The Children's Committee meeting in January will decide just how best to utilize these funds to benefit Valley's children.

Thank you to David Caputo for helping with set up, Cheryl Hoffbeck for "take down," and excellent Shoppe Keepers Olivia Hoffbeck and Jacqueline Rheingans. As always, heartfelt thanks to Patricia (Hope) Goff, Gail (Hope) Brooks and Richard Gold for volunteering to make our 2016 Kidz Mart such a joyful success.

Most importantly, remembering those smiles on our children's faces prompts me to say, let's do it again, next year.

Peace to All and Happy New Year,
Kay Hope Gold

Christmas Cookies Came to Valley



A little snow couldn't stop our faithful Valley bakers from delivering their homemade cookies to the church by December 10. We want to say a big thank you to Valley members and friends for making the youth cookie exchange fundraiser such a successful event. On December 10, fifteen high school and middle school youth and their parents gathered in Davis Hall and sorted over 1500 Christmas cookies donated by 28 master bakers from Valley. The youth wrapped up 68 platters of delicious treats in cellophane and prepared 16 tasting trays of cookies for the cookie tasting contest. After the Pageant of the Holy Nativity on December 11, the sale of the donated cookies brought in a grand total of \$1,260 for the Youth Mission Trips.

In addition to selling cookie platters, we also had 16 contestants who baked an extra three-dozen cookies to be sliced up for the tasting contest. The congregation grabbed a ballot and a cup of coffee and circled around the gym in search of their favorite Christmas treats. On December 18, we announced the five winners:

- Traditional Favorite: Amy Henning-Blair with her Snickerdoodles
- Best Decorated: Laurel Cluthe with her Coconut Trees
- Most Unique: Wendy Jenkins with her Tea Time Tassies
- Tastiest Tasting: Barbara Symons with her Mint Brownies
- And The Best Overall Cookie Award: Marcia Sanderman with her Shortbread Cookies with Yellow Sugar Sprinkles

We would like to say thank you to all of our bakers and purchasers. We hope that many of you enjoyed tasting and sharing the delicious treats with family and friends. We are extremely grateful to the following bakers who shared their time and talent to make our cookie exchange such a huge success: Ruthann Marquis, Pat Bird, Connie Brenner, Jan Falconer, Barbara Symons, Laura Sanders, Lizz Brown, Marcia Sanderman, Karen Sandberg, Christina Keller, Barbara Bootsma, Anne Scearce, Birgitta Carlson, Michelle Blair, Jenny Pratt, Jini DeVries, Glenys Craig, Cheryl Hoffbeck, Pat Peterson, Amy Henning-Blair, Wendy Jenkins, Laurel Cluthe, Jeanine Williamson, Claudia Askew, Alisha Killian, Sarah Boyle, Kathy Bach, and Roy Conner.



Thank you for sending your check for **\$32.00** for the
2017 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 Scrapbook



Pastor Ben and the VCP preschoolers sing Christmas songs at the Senior Adult Luncheon.



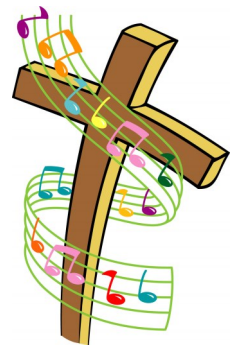
The Holy Family at this year's Pageant of the Holy Nativity.



Left and above: Many crafts including wreath making and snowman tea lights were at the annual Advent Fair.



The Cherub Choir sings during the Pageant of the Holy Nativity.



Valley Notes

Opportunities

Christmas Tree Recycling: Our Middle School and High School Youth will be recycling Christmas trees again at Valley. If you would like to participate, you can drop your Christmas tree off in the grey trailer parked in front of the youth house now until Sunday, January 8 at noon along with a suggested donation of \$10 in the donation box on the trailer. If you live in the neighborhood, our youth will be driving by to collect trees on Sunday, January 8 from 12:00-2:00 p.m. Please contact Allison Carlson, 503.701.9853, if you have questions or would like to arrange a pick up.

Mission Collections: The Children's Ministries and the Mission Team wish to thank everyone who participated in the Reverse Advent Calendar activity. We are still collecting through Epiphany Sunday, January 8. All items collected will go to the Good Roots food pantry and clothes closet in Southeast Portland. This is an outreach to Karen Smith's brother's church. Both Karen and Bill Kruchek were children of Valley, and we are pleased to share the gifts of Christ.

Women's Bible Study resumes on Tuesday, January 10 at 11:00 a.m. in the office conference room. All are welcome!

Valley's next **Habitat build day** is Saturday, February 18. If you are interested in taking part, please contact Chuck Falconer. Thank you!

Tai chi at Valley: Try something new to kick-off the New Year. Tai chi has something to offer everyone--strengthening, balance work, meditation, and relaxation. We share, we laugh, we celebrate

each day, each breath, and each moment. Join us, **Tuesdays, 10:00-11:00 a.m.** Classes resume January 10. See you then. Questions? Contact Diane Harris, dianeharris@mac.com or 503.805.6011.

January Hands-On Mission Project: Valley is collecting warm socks, hats/scarves, mittens/gloves. These can be deposited into the bins by the Fireside Room. Donations will be shared between Nightstrike, Nightwatch and Son Rise Church cold weather shelter.

Flowers: A warm thank you to all who provided **flowers for the entry** during the past year. They provided a welcome to all worshippers. The flower calendar is available now on the office entry wall. Please sign up for any dates you want. Sign-ups can be for birthdays, anniversaries or "just because." There are funds available if you would like to be reimbursed. Again, thanks and blessings for the new year, Pat Bryant

Thanks

A "humungous thank you" to all who helped with the **Advent Fair on December 4**. It was a very successful Fellowship event that filled Davis Hall with the sights and sounds of Christmas, plus there was a little pizza, dipped pretzels and cookies thrown in for sustenance! There were about 40 different sets of hands that helped at craft tables, with fresh greens, in the kitchen and at the welcome table. Thank you to everyone who shared time and talent with all who came to Valley's Annual Advent Fair.



Soloists at the Pageant of the Holy Nativity.



A candy cane mouse was one of the many crafts at the Advent Fair.

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
1 New Year's Day 10:00a Worship 11:00a Coffee Fellowship	2 Church Office Closed 8:00a Women's Aerobics 6:00p Girl Scout Leaders Meeting 7:00p Girl Scout Troop 7:30p Scouts Pack 592	3 11:00a Staff Meeting 1:30p Mission Committee 5:00p Membership Comm. 6:00p Wolf Den Meeting 6:45p Christian Nurture for Youth Meeting	4 8:00a Men's Bible Study 8:00a Women's Aerobics 5:00p Cherub Choir 5:00p King's Kids Choir 6:00p Royal Ringers Bell Choir 6:30p Bear Den Meeting 6:30p Scout Pack 592 6:30p Youth Group Night	5 6:00p Christian Nurture for Children Meeting 7:15p Britten Rehearsal	6 8:00a Women's Aerobics	7 10:00a Britten Rehearsal 3:00p Elaine Tunnell Memorial and Reception
8 9:00a Adult Education 9:00a Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal 9:15a Confirmation Class 9:30a Early Coffee Fellowship 10:00a Worship-Ceremony of Carols 10:20a Sunday Funday 10:20a Youth Bible Study 11:00a Coffee Fellowship 12:00p Clippers Manner Group 4:15p New Spirit Ringers 5:00p Valley Youth Choir	9 8:00a Women's Aerobics 7:00p Girl Scout Troop 7:30p Scouts Pack 592	10 10:00a Tai Chi Class 11:00a Staff Meeting 11:00a Women's Bible Study 7:00p Session	11 8:00a Men's Bible Study 8:00a Women's Aerobics 5:00p Cherub Choir 5:00p King's Kids Choir 6:00p Royal Ringers Bell Choir 6:30p Youth Group Night	12 5:00p Worship and Music Committee 6:30p Pack 592 Meeting 7:15p Sanctuary Choir	13 8:00a Women's Aerobics	14
15 "The Messenger" Newsletter Articles Due 9:00a Adult Education Class 9:15a Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal 9:15a Confirmation Class 9:30a Early Coffee Fellowship 10:00a Worship 10:20a Sunday Funday 10:20a Youth Bible Study 11:00a Coffee Fellowship 11:30a Dining for Women Mtg. 4:15p New Spirit Ringers 5:00p Valley Youth Choir	16 8:00a Women's Aerobics 10:00a Meals on Wheels 6:00p Girl Scout Leaders Meeting 7:00p Girl Scout Troop 7:30p Scouts Pack 592	17 10:00a Tai Chi Class 11:00a Staff Meeting 7:00p Deacons Meeting	18 8:00a Men's Bible Study 8:00a Women's Aerobics 5:00p Cherub Choir 5:00p King's Kids Choir 6:00p Royal Ringers Bell Choir 6:30p Cub Scout Lion Den 6:30p Scout Pack 592 6:30p Youth Group Night	19 8:00a Soup Kitchen 5:00p Music Selection Team 7:15p Sanctuary Choir	20 8:00a Women's Aerobics	21 7:00p Fundraising Concert for Children's Ministries
22 9:00a Adult Education 9:15a Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal 9:15a Confirmation Class 9:30a Early Coffee Fellowship 10:00a Worship 10:20a Sunday Funday 10:20a Youth Bible Study 11:00a Coffee Fellowship 4:15p New Spirit Ringers 5:00p Valley Youth Choir	23 8:00a Women's Aerobics 11:30a Century Club General Meeting 6:00p Girl Scout Leaders Meeting 7:00p Girl Scout Troop 7:30p Girl Scout Troop 7:30p Scouts Pack 592	24 10:00a Tai Chi Class 11:00a Staff Meeting 6:30p Girl Scouts	25 8:00a Men's Bible Study 8:00a Women's Aerobics 5:00p Cherub Choir 5:00p King's Kids Choir 6:00p Royal Ringers Bell Choir	26 6:00p Scouts Pack 592 7:15p Sanctuary Choir	27 8:00a Women's Aerobics 10:00a Gamble Library Book Group with guest speaker Carolyn Wood	28
29 9:00a Adult Education 9:15a Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal 9:15a Confirmation Class 9:30a Early Coffee Fellowship 10:00a Worship 10:20a Sunday Funday 10:20a Youth Bible Study 11:00a Coffee Fellowship 4:15p New Spirit Ringers 5:00p Valley Youth Choir	30 8:00a Women's Aerobics 6:00p Girl Scout Leaders Meeting 7:00p Girl Scout Troop 7:30p Scouts Pack 592	31 10:00a Tai Chi Class 11:00a Staff Meeting				

January 2017

THE MESSENGER



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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

TIME DATED MATERIAL

JANUARY HANDS-ON MISSION PROJECT

Valley is collecting donations of:



- ❄ Socks
- ❄ Mittens
- ❄ Gloves
- ❄ Hats
- ❄ Scarves



Please bring your items to the bins
by the Fireside Room. Thank you!

See p. 6