
The Messenger

Valley Community Presbyterian Church July 2017

Sundays at Valley

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

July

2 Children's Musical

9 Communion
VBS Planning/Training
Session, 12:00 p.m.

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

23 All Church Picnic

30

August

6 Communion



Rev. Jeff Binder Arrives at Valley July 17



Jeff and Julie

chapter in his life as well as in the life of Valley. Jeff will be driving across the country from Lynchburg, Virginia. We pray for his safe Journey.

An exciting new chapter in the history of Valley Community Presbyterian Church begins July 17 with the arrival of Pastor Jeff Binder in the office. His first Sunday in the pulpit as our Pastor will be July 23. Our soloist for that Sunday will be Angela Niederloh, mezzo-soprano, from the Portland Opera singing "O thou that tell us the good tidings to Zion" from "Messiah." Angela is a colleague at Portland State Univ. of our Minister of Music.

Pastor Binder has been in close contact with Valley over the last several weeks in preparation for his ministry among us. He has expressed great excitement about the new

All Welcome to Church Picnic July 23



The All Church Picnic is Sunday, July 23 after worship! This year the theme is *Galactic Starveyors*, following the adventures that were enjoyed by all during Vacation Bible School the week before. Be ready for good food and refreshing beverages, great fellowship and games for everyone to enjoy.

To carry the theme of picnic just a little further, please dust off your favorite picnic basket and **decorate it with GALACTIC decorations**. Everyone will vote on his or her favorite *space age themed décor*. There will be a prize for the winner!

Load that picnic basket up with your own plates, cutlery, napkins and drink containers, so that we can keep our planet green a little longer. (Don't worry! If you forget, there will be disposables available to you.)

Both fried and roasted chicken will be provided for everyone, as well as lemonade and cold water. Congregants are being asked to contribute the rest:

A through H are asked to bring desserts.

I through Z are asked to bring a salad or side dish.

Mark your calendars for July 23 and watch for reminders in the e-blast and the weekly bulletin.

A Message from the Rev. Greg Tatman

"Time flies like the wind; fruit flies like bananas"

I am writing from the soon to be empty office of Pastor Greg. Two and a half months is a brief time to be a pastor, yet despite how quickly time has flown by, it also seems like years since I started May 1 as your "Bridge Pastor."

Valley is such a busy congregation that in my zeal to stay caught up with you, I haven't had much time to watch either the clock or the calendar. The fact is, however, that your new Pastor Jeff Binder arrives July 17, in about two weeks, and I'll be finished up. Instead of Ben's office seeming like an empty tomb, ("Where is Ben; where have they put him...?") it will be my office's turn to seem empty.

I had lunch with Ben the other day. He is doing just fine as he and Suzanne are transitioning out of their former home and into their condominium. When I am gone I will be fine too. Only God knows where and when I will be occupying another office. Until God's plan is revealed, I plan to rest, resume some semblance of an exercise regime, resume my regular daily nap and try to go fishing. Judy and I are going on a ten day Viking River Cruise in early September. We'll start in Prague and end in Paris.

I cannot fully express the profound thanks for your trust in me to be your pastor. You are a wonderful congregation that will go far in the work of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Judy and I will have only the fondest memories of our time with you. We hope that down the road, after an appropriate period of ethical separation, we can pop in and see all the friends we have made.

Yours in Christ,
Greg

Session Meeting

June 13, 2017

- **The Class of 2020** was welcomed, and all present introduced themselves and told something of their history with Valley.

- **Property Improvement Committee:** Dan Rueff reported on the May 7 Town Hall meeting.

See below: letter to the congregation from Roger Rees and the PIC.

THE MESSENGER

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GREG TATMAN AND JEFF BINDER

NEWSLETTER STAFF:

SHIRLEY HERCHER AND ANGELA GRAHAM

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

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

- **Session** elects a Clerk (and Secretary of the Corporation), a Treasurer, and a President of the Corporation annually. **Elected for the coming year were Carol Powers as Clerk of Session and Secretary of the Corporation, Frank Powers as Treasurer and Sam Connell as President of the Corporation.**

- **Valley Future Activities:** Valley's 75th anniversary is on October 25, 2017. We typically have a fall kickoff on the Sunday following Labor Day, which will be September 10.

Congregational Meeting, June 18, 2017

Eric Blair and Edie Leland were elected as Deacons. Later in the service, Karen Miller, Edie Leland and Eric Blair were installed as Deacons.

Letter to Congregation from Property Improvement Committee

From Roger Rees, Valley's Facilities elder and member of the Property Improvement Committee.

The Property Improvement Committee held a town hall meeting after church on Sunday, May 7, 2017 to update the congregation on the status of property improvements completed, projects currently underway, and jobs planned for the remaining three-year Building in Christ capital campaign.

Continued on p. 6

Adult Education, Sundays 9:00 a.m. in Armitage Hall

Introduction: This begins a series of discussions by Marcus Borg, a noted Biblical scholar and theologian; a faculty member at OSU '79-07; National chair of The Jesus Society of Biblical Literature. He was a major figure in historical Jesus scholarship and an influential voice in progressive Christianity.

Titles in the DVD Series

- **July 2: God** - Discussion begins with reference to our thought processes concerning God. Prior thinking focused on God as an all-powerful, loving Being who occasionally intervened in human history. This chapter focuses on God as the Reality and Spirit within which we live and have our being. The experiencing of God is enhanced by recognition of our limits of understanding, and the complexity and enormity of God and God's creation. Borg cites the conventional concept of God as loving, but possibly punitive if we don't "do right.", Borg, alternatively raises the concept of God as a source of infinite love and compassion that exceeds our ability to perceive or comprehend.
- **July 9: Jesus** – Borg points out that Jesus may be considered the decisive revelation of God in human life. Two realities are expressed: the pre-Easter Jesus who was crucified, and the risen Christ who is the central figure of our Christian tradition. The risen Christ exhibited the qualities of God, and in one sense, became one of the names of God. Borg states that perhaps 10-20% of Christians have an intimate experience during worship, or thinking about the risen Christ.
- **July 16: Salvation** - Borg discusses the conventional concept of salvation as a "loaded word" embedder in our lives and religion. Conventionally, it implies a perpetual after-life and salvation from the consequences of our sins. Alternatively, he emphasizes the concept of a salvation that occurs on this side of death as a transformation of human life, metaphorically expressed as freedom from bondage, removal of alienation, liberation resurrection and transformation that frees us from our fear-based self-centeredness.
- **July 23: Practice** - This refers to practicing Christian principles in the "here and now." It implies a need for dedication, preparation and transformation to achieve those ends. In the Book of Acts, Christians were called "Followers of the Way, implying application of their Christianity to their practice of living. In the process of worshipping God, we are formed and filled. Prayer is not just about asking for things; it involves a pursuit of a relationship with God by which we are transformed.
- **July 30: Community** – Although this aspect of our religion has received less formal discussion, it is at the heart of Christian history and practice. Borg's discussion raises the question of the role of community in Christian life today. This involves not just praying, but participation in the acts of living. Likewise, the purpose of the Christian community is participation in God's purposes, realizing that the phrase "that God so loved the world" expresses God's love for the practices of justice, love and caring for the well-being of both human and non-human life. "Loving God and loving our neighbors" is the bed rock of the Law, but all too often is "marginalized". We put limits on our care of the sick, the hungry and the outcast. Life in Christ involves our obligation to the broader human family.

Congratulations to Valley Family Graduates



Emily DaDalto, granddaughter of Ron and Barbara Symons, graduated from Seattle Pacific University with a major in Theology and a minor in Spanish. She is starting a job with World Vision.

Alexis Marie Wise, daughter of Angela Graham, graduated from the School of Business at Portland State University with a BS in Business Management with a focus on Accounting.

Elizabeth Tsen, daughter of Ann and Andy Tsen and granddaughter of Terry and Shirley Hercher, is a graduate in Nursing from Azusa Pacific University.

Chie Andersen graduated from University of North Dakota in Aviation. Her parents are Craig and Hideko Roberts in Kumamoto, Japan, and her grandparents are Dick and Janet Adkins.

August Giering, grandson of Sam and Marilyn Connell, graduated from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and is planning on becoming an Aeronautical Engineer.

Summer Youth Interns

Valley is pleased to welcome two wonderful young women, Hannah Pyle and Mackenzie Spencer, to the Valley youth team as summer interns. Hannah recently graduated from the University of Oregon with a Bachelors of Arts in Spanish and is working full time at Pier 1 Imports.

Mackenzie graduated from Oregon State University with her Bachelors of Science and from Portland State with her Masters of Science in Special Education. She will be starting her second year as a special education teacher at Cedar Mill Elementary School in the fall.

These two gals will be working with the youth group this summer running open gym on Wednesday evenings from 7:00-9:00 p.m. as well as working on Sunday mornings with the youth. The summer is a busy time for Valley youth including:

- High school mission trip to Hollywood, CA – July 9-15
- Hillsboro Hops baseball game – July 22
- Middle school mission trip to Portland, OR (City Camp) – July 30-August 3
- Youth group beach trip – date TBD

If you are interested in attending the Hops game, please contact Allison Carlson by July 5. There will be no Wednesday night youth group on July 5; enjoy the holiday!

Women's Bible Study

Consider joining the monthly Women's Bible Study beginning in the Fall:

It hasn't yet been decided how, or whether, the Women's Bible Study will be organized in the coming year, but it is hoped that decisions will be made during the summer. If you are interested in participating in this Bible study, please let the church office know or contact Connie Brenner.

The Horizons Bible Study for Presbyterian Women for the program year 2017-18 is entitled "Cloud of Witnesses: The Community of Christ in Hebrews." It was written by Melissa Bane Sevier, who was a church pastor for many years, and now focuses on her longtime ministry of writing and photography. The author has a Masters of Divinity from Louisville Seminary and a Doctorate in Ministry from McCormick Seminary. The nine lessons in the study explore nine major themes in the Letter to Hebrews, relates those themes to other parts of our faith tradition, and ties them together with the overarching motif of community. Since the study is thematic, not sequential, some parts of Hebrews may be included in more than one lesson because they relate to more than one theme. Passages in other books of both the Old and New Testaments are also examined to see how the themes in Hebrews relate to similar themes in other parts of our tradition.

VBS 2017 Galactic Starveyors

Vacation Bible School is just around the corner. If you haven't already, you'll want to register your children soon. Space is limited!

Thank you to those who have signed up to volunteer. There is a VBS Staff and Volunteer training/planning session scheduled on July 9, 12:00 - 2:30 p.m. Here we will go over policies and protocol, meet the rotation leaders, sample snacks and introduce curriculum.

Book Group Meets July 28

The Valley Book Group will meet on Friday, July 28, in the Fireside Room at 10:00 a.m. to discuss *My Grandmother Asked Me To Tell You She's Sorry*, by Fredrik Backman, who also wrote the best seller, *A Man Called Ove*.

This novel tells the story of a seven year old girl who meets a variety of unusual people as she fulfills her beloved grandmother's last wish to deliver a series of letters apologizing to the people she has wronged. It is described by the Library Journal as "full of heart, hope, forgiveness and the embracing of differences." All who have read the book are invited to bring their own coffee and join in the thoughtful discussion.

Visit the Sunday Produce Table Every Week



Everything is growing in Oregon! If you are a gardener, please consider bringing some of your yield to the Valley Produce Table during coffee fellowship on Sundays. If you are interested in home grown green goodies, please stop by the Valley Produce Table and see what is there to make your next meal *extra* delightful. All monetary donations go to the Oregon Food Bank to help those with food insecurity in their lives thrive. Let's hope for a full table this month and a full donation box!

Empowerment Program Aided by Kenya Non-Profit

Dining for Women at Valley meets on Sunday, July 16 at 11:30 in the Fireside Room for our monthly potluck and program. This month the featured non-profit is the **Girls Empowerment Program** in western Kenya.

The mission of Kenya Self-Help Project is to improve the social and economic future of Kendu Bay children through school-based programs that promote gender equity and advance education opportunity. The grant request will span two years. The project aims to provide an integrated, in-school program of Girls Club education, life skills training and material support to improve health awareness, school retention and the class performance of 3,400 girls. This grant will have an amazing impact!

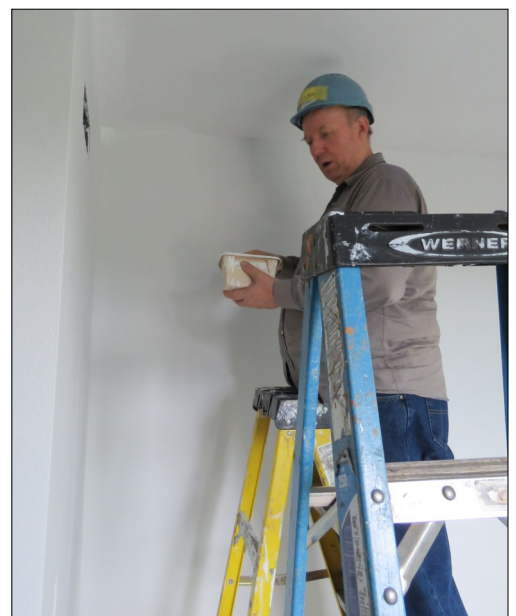
If you have ever been interested in letting your first world dollars make a huge impact in the lives of third world girls and women, come and check out Dining for Women at Valley: Sunday July 16, 11:30 in the Fireside Room, potluck lunch, presentation and donation opportunity.

If you have questions, please contact Ruthann Marquis, 503.297.8992. Hope to see you there!

Valley Group Aids Habitat

Valley Church had a Willamette West Habitat build day on June 3. Seven people went to the site at Allen Estates to work during the morning: David Rasmussen, Greg Russell, Gaylen Uecker, Debbie Purcell, Steve Bird, and Chuck Falconer. A big thank you to them for labor, painting, caulking and cleaning up.

The annual Willamette West Habitat fundraiser on May 12 raised over \$150 thousand dollars to help build more homes.



Valley Notes

Opportunities

It's time for a trip to the **Master's Circus!** On July 2, children from Valley's Music & Drama Camp will present the musical "Step Right Up" by Dan Goeller during worship at 10:00 a.m. This circus-themed musical is energetic and amusing, while reminding us of important Bible verses and life lessons. The hard work the children put in to learn the musical in just five days will surely be appreciated. At the end, you will leave with a joyful heart...and probably be humming a catchy tune!

Join Valley friends for the annual Valley outing to a Hillsboro Hops ballgame. Tickets are \$15. The date is July 22 (a Saturday) and game time is 5:00 p.m. Then join us in the parking lot after the game for strawberry shortcake hosted by the youth. Contact Roger Rees (rcubedor1@outlook.com or 503.332.6236) to reserve your seats.

Have you heard about our new MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) program being developed here at Valley? Do you know any young mothers who might benefit from our group? The MOPS Organization originated about 40 years ago, and we are thrilled to announce that Valley is sponsoring a brand new chapter who will meet in the mornings on the third Wednesday of each month beginning in September in our Youth House. Please contact Kay Hope Gold at children@valleycommunity.org for more information.



Valley Christian Preschool



Valley Christian Preschool proudly graduated a class of 32 four-year-olds this year, two classrooms of 16 students each. Our prayers and best wishes as our young friends head off for Kindergarten and other great adventures.



Valley Christian Preschool is now enrolling for the 2017-2018 school year. VCP is a nurturing learning environment for 2, 3, and 4 year olds.

For more information contact Anne Scarce, Director, 503.292.3537 x146, anne@valleycommunity.org,

Letter from the PIC (cont. from page 1)

The Property Improvement Committee has a lot of work remaining on our list of things to upgrade, including making at least one and perhaps two ADA compliant restrooms downstairs, upgrading all other restrooms and painting the sanctuary. There are many other items are on our list as well.

Some of the feedback, particularly initially, centered on the exterior accent colors. The Committee felt we had executed on our responsibility in managing the work, taking the advice of a professional architect and sharing all the conceptual drawings with the congregation. Therefore, we decided to hand this particular issue to Session.

After discussing this issue in detail during the June 13 Session meeting, it was decided to keep the current church colors for a minimum of three years at which time they will review the possibility of changes.

In the meantime, the Property Improvement Committee will put our energy into finishing up the exterior projects and begin with interior upgrades.

I wish to thank you all of your for your comments and support.

Roger

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
<p>2</p> <p>9:00a Adult Education 9:30a Early Coffee Fellowship 10:00a Worship - Music and Drama Camp Presentation 11:00a Coffee Fellowship</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Church Office Closed 8:00a Women's Exercise Group</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Fourth of July - Church Building Closed</p>	<p>5</p> <p>8:00a Men's Bible Study 8:00a Women's Exercise Group 1:30p Mission Committee Meeting</p>	<p>6</p> <p>High School Mission Team in California</p> <p>5:00p Worship and Music Committee</p>	<p>7</p> <p>8:00a Women's Exercise Group 7:00p Youth Mission Team Meeting</p>	<p>8</p> <p>High School Mission Team returns "The Messenger" Newsletter Articles Due</p>
<p>9</p> <p>7:00a High School Mission Team leaves for California 9:00a Adult Education 9:30a Early Coffee Fellowship 10:00a Worship 11:00a Coffee Fellowship 12:00p VBS Planning/Training Session</p>	<p>10</p> <p>High School Mission Team in California 8:00a Women's Exercise Group 6:00p Girl Scout Troop 7:00p Finance Committee 7:00p Girl Scout Troop</p>	<p>11</p> <p>High School Mission Team in California 10:15a Tai Chi Class 1:30p Staff Meeting 7:00p Session</p>	<p>12</p> <p>High School Mission Team in California 8:00a Men's Bible Study 8:00a Women's Exercise Group 7:00p Open Gym for Youth</p>	<p>13</p> <p>High School Mission Team in California 8:00a Soup Kitchen 8:45a Vacation Bible School 12:00p Arts Exploration Camp 5:00p Music Selection Team</p>	<p>14</p> <p>High School Mission Team in California 8:00a Women's Exercise Group</p>	<p>15</p> <p>High School Mission Team returns</p>
<p>16</p> <p>9:00a Adult Education 9:30a Early Coffee Fellowship 10:00a Worship 11:00a Coffee Fellowship 11:30a Dining for Women</p>	<p>17</p> <p>8:00a Women's Exercise Group 8:45a Vacation Bible School 10:00a Meals on Wheels 12:00p Arts Exploration Camp 6:00p Girl Scout Troop 7:00p Girl Scout Troop</p>	<p>18</p> <p>8:45a Vacation Bible School 12:00p Arts Exploration Camp 7:00p Deacons Meeting</p>	<p>19</p> <p>8:00a Men's Bible Study 8:00a Women's Exercise Group 8:45a Vacation Bible School 12:00p Arts Exploration Camp 7:00p Open Gym for Youth</p>	<p>20</p> <p>8:00a Soup Kitchen 8:45a Vacation Bible School 12:00p Arts Exploration Camp 5:00p Music Selection Team</p>	<p>21</p> <p>8:00a Women's Exercise Group 8:45a Vacation Bible School 12:00p Arts Exploration Camp</p>	<p>22</p> <p>5:00p Valley outing to Hillsboro Hops Baseball Game</p>
<p>23</p> <p>9:00a Adult Education 9:30a Early Coffee Fellowship 10:00a Worship 11:00a Coffee Fellowship 11:00a All Church Picnic</p>	<p>24</p> <p>8:00a Women's Exercise Group 6:00p Girl Scout Troop 7:00p Girl Scout Troop</p>	<p>25</p> <p>10:15a Tai Chi Class 11:30a Staff Meeting</p>	<p>26</p> <p>8:00a Men's Bible Study 8:00a Women's Exercise Group 7:00p Open Gym for Youth</p>	<p>27</p> <p>2:00 West Slope Library Summer Reading Program</p>	<p>28</p> <p>8:00a Women's Exercise Group 10:00a Gamble Library Book Group</p>	<p>29</p>
<p>30</p> <p>9:00a Adult Education 9:30a Early Coffee Fellowship 10:00a Worship 11:00a Coffee Fellowship</p>						

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VALLEY COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

TIME DATED MATERIAL



Valley Galactic Starveyors VBS is on the horizon!



Help is still needed to make this year a success. There is room for more classroom volunteers, adult and youth. Contact Lizz Brown or register at www.valleycommunity.org. We are also accepting donations for snacks, crafts and decorations.

Needed items include: star-shaped glitter, stickers-small stars and/or planets, craft sticks-6 inch (need about 250), craft sticks-4 1/2 inch (popsicle size, need about 100), food coloring, glue sticks, washi or decorative tape.

Snack food: apples, baby carrots, blueberries and raspberries, tortilla chips, pretzel sticks, round crackers, cheese slices, mini bagels, cream cheese, cans of pineapple rings, napkins (black or navy blue), small star shaped cutter.

Donated food should be placed in the upstairs kitchen and labeled VBS.