

# 2019 Annual Report





# Mission Statement

*Adopted April 8, 2003 as part of the Mission Study Report, prepared by the Mission Study Team.*

Valley Community Presbyterian Church is the people of God in one place and one time. We are called by God to gather, in the name of Christ, and we have responded to that call with a commitment to active membership in this body, this community of Christians.

*We are called, and we have committed*

to worship God regularly in this place, in hearing the word, in prayer, in sacrament and sacred music.

*We are called, and we have committed*

to care for each other, individually, in large groups and small; to form a community in the midst of a rushing world.

*We are called, and we have committed*

to care for our children and youth, not only telling them of the love of God but also showing them.

*We are called, and we have committed*

to continue to learn and to grow, to discuss, to wrestle with the challenges of applying our faith to our place and time.

*We are called, and we have committed*

to serve God by serving others, with soup kettles and hammers, with hands of hope and ears of understanding.

*We are called, and we have committed*

to hear and proclaim God's vision of a kingdom of peace and justice.

*We are called, and we have committed*

to throw open our doors, to invite in and welcome all our neighbors.

*We are called, and we have committed*

to be the body of Christ in this place and time.

*“For what does the Lord require of you, but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” Micah 6:8*

# Pastoral Letter

*“Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old.  
I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?  
I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.” (Isaiah 43:18-19)*

Greetings in the name of Christ Jesus: our brother, our teacher, our hope!

The year of 2019 continued to serve as a reminder of the many blessings we receive each and every day here at Valley Community. What will the year 2020 bring? One thing in particular that I'm most excited for this coming year is the Vital Congregations Initiative that we officially started this year. We have already made several key strides in this process, including creating a task force to serve as the facilitators of this congregational experience.

We have taken a congregational survey to see how we evaluate ourselves in relations to the Seven Marks of Congregational Vitality:

1. Lifelong Discipleship Formation
2. Intentional Authentic Evangelism
3. Outward Incarnational Focus
4. Empower Servant Leadership
5. Spirit-Inspired Worship
6. Caring Relationships
7. Ecclesial Health



As of the writing of this report, we have started with Lenten conversation groups to study and discuss the role of these seven marks of vitality.

We have started with town hall gatherings, where we hope to keep the congregation up to date with our progress, and to hear first-hand any questions or comments people may have.

So what is next? Over the next few months our task force will gather information and feedback to share with the Session and the congregation as an assessment of our church vitality, including some recommendations on how we as Valley Community may continue to move forward as a vital community of faith. Following the adoption of these recommendations, year 2 (2021) will be exciting as we seek to enact these action steps for this congregation and community.

As your pastor, I am so excited to be part of this process as we take perspective on a wonderful congregational tradition, and an exciting future for all of us to envision!

In Christ,

  
Pastor Jeff

# Church Information

## Church Officers

### Session

Adult Education.....Amy Dee  
Christian Nurture for Children.....Bev Hubbard  
Christian Nurture for Youth.....Carolyn Reed  
Facilities.....David Marquis  
Fellowship.....Ruthann Marquis  
Finance, Stewardship.....Eben Jenkins  
Communication, Membership.....Glenys Craig  
Mission.....Connie Brenner  
Personnel.....David Jimerson  
Small Groups.....Sandy Cundiff  
Worship and Music.....Greg Russell  
Moderator.....Rev. Jeff Binder  
Clerk of Session.....Carol Powers

### President of the Corporation

Sam Connell

### Treasurer

Frank Powers

### Deacons

Kathy Bach  
Jan Bellis-Squires  
Cathy Bernhard  
Roy Conner  
Valerie Conner  
Christine Danner  
Diana Domingo-Forasté  
Kay Hope Gold  
Richard Gold  
Roberta Hahn  
Amy Henning-Blair  
Edie Leland  
Karen Miller  
Debbie Purcell  
Jim Sandberg  
Karen Sandberg  
Jean Sowers  
Joyce Wood

## Church Staff

Pastor	Rev. Jeff Binder
Pastoral Associate	Rev. Chuck Falconer
Pastoral Associate	Rev. Jenny Hale
Director of Children's Ministries	Donna Carlson
Director of Youth Ministries	Marshall Lauck
Minister of Music	David Jimerson
Organist	Bob Hinson
Director of Youth and Children's Music	Amy Rheingans
Preschool Director	Anne Scarce
Publication and Office Administrator	Angela Graham
Business Manager	AmyAnn Green
Building Custodian	Alex Mendoza

# Ministry Reports

## Worship and Music

Greg Russell, Elder  
David Marquis, David Jimerson, Bob Hinson,  
Ron Leland, Karen Acker, Raoul Bellis-Squires

The Worship and Music Committee is responsible for the liturgy, music, and drama throughout the seasons of the church year. It oversees the functionality, maintenance, lighting, sound and liturgical arts of the Sanctuary area.

Sub-committees are tasked to provide ushers, greeters, communion servers, liturgists, acolytes, and sound board operators all essential to cohesive worship services. Fresh flowers in the entry are provided by congregants via a sign-up calendar in the church office, or by the committee as otherwise needed.

Prominent celebrations include Epiphany, Lent, Pentecost, Advent, and Christmas. As well as All Saints Sunday commemorating those who passed away in the past year, as well as Kirkin' o' the Tartan honoring our Presbyterian Scottish heritage.

Acolytes light the Christ Candle and pour the baptismal water during the prelude at each worship service. Communion is served by intinction on the first Sunday of each month.

Valley continues to be blessed with a vital music program, which includes the Sanctuary Choir, Youth Choir, King's Kids Choir, Cherub Choir, New Spirit Ringers and Royal Ringers. Instrumentalists and soloists enhance worship services on occasion. In the fall of 2019, the Youth Choir and King's Kids Choir under the direction of Amy Rheingans each offered well-received annual musicals. In the fall of 2019, the youth and children's choirs expanded and became community choirs: the youth choir becoming the Armonia Choir; the King's Kids Choir becoming the Melodia choir, and the Cherub Choir keeping its name.

Valley's Sanctuary Choir continued successfully under the direction of Prof. David Jimerson as Minister of Music. The choir has been blessed with the skills and support of student music interns. Organist/pianist Bob Hinson has continued to prove himself a vital asset with his versatility and improvisational talents.

Worship hymns and music are chosen by Pastor Jeff Binder, in collaboration with the Music Selection Committee which includes Valley's Music staff and a subset of the Worship & Music Committee members. In 2019, to ensure diversity, we decided use the piano during at least one song during the Sunday services.

In 2019, the committee continued the annual Blessing of the Animals Sunday service with a Blue-Grass band to better tie into the local Community. For Good Friday, we continued with displaying the Stations of the Cross throughout the Sanctuary for visitation throughout the afternoon. A second new Sanctuary curtain was installed for ordinary time. The popular Christmas pageant was held during advent.

The committee is ever-exploring new ways in which to enhance our worship of God. We welcome any suggestions for our consideration.

# Finance

Eben Jenkins, Elder  
Sam Connell, Lyle Chadwick, Don Sowers,  
Shannon Pratt, Hank Grootendorst, John Purcell

Frank Powers, Treasurer

The Finance Committee is responsible for overseeing the financial operations of Valley Community Presbyterian Church. This includes tracking assets, liabilities, fund balances, program and non-program revenues and expenditures. In addition, the Finance Committee coordinates the annual Stewardship campaign for Valley. Eben Jenkins served as the head of the Stewardship Committee for the 2020 Campaign, with Ruthann Marquis and Pastor Jeff serving on this committee and Lyle Chadwick assisting with forecasting based upon giving and pledge trends.

Valley received \$435,764 in 2019 adult giving contributions, the second consecutive year of growth and exceeding our budget for the year. Valley was budgeted in 2019 to end with expenditures exceeding receipts by \$24,087. Fortunately, Valley ended 2019 with a positive net result of approximately \$2,000. Valley achieved this while also increasing our mission giving with the approval of Session.

As of January 15, 2020, the Stewardship Campaign had received 122 pledges totaling \$366,982. This is 2 fewer pledges and approximately the same total pledged amount as the same time last year. With our pledge and giving trends, the Stewardship Committee estimated 2020 adult giving to be close to the same as budgeted for 2019. This was used for the purposes of the budget submitted to and approved by Session in January 2020.

This expected giving level to Valley, combined with possibly higher annual expenses in 2020 due to facilities, administration (including utilities) and personnel costs, may mean that expenses could outstrip giving in 2020. The Session will monitor results throughout the year and adjust if necessary, keeping in mind that our ability to forecast both giving and expenses is not an exact science. Using the past two years as indicators, we have been blessed to see strong annual giving and have avoided some of the forecasted costs in our budget. On that basis, the Finance Committee recommended a 2020 budget with expenditures exceeding receipts, similar to the approach at the start of 2019.

The church remains without debt and financially sound at present. \$24,000 of our reserves, however, are expected to be consumed in 2020, much as we planned for at the start of 2019 and 2018. Statements for 2019 and 2018 operations, and end of year balances for Valley can be found on the following pages.

Valley Community Presbyterian Church Summary Balance Statement (Selected View)

<b><u>Current Assets</u></b>	<b><u>As of 31 Dec 19</u></b>	<b><u>As of 31 Dec 18</u></b>
Operating Cash Account	\$135,246	\$479,600
Investment Account	\$485,590	\$152,343
Online Accounts / Petty Cash	\$9391	\$1262
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>\$630,227</b>	<b>\$633,205</b>



## Valley Community Presbyterian Church Summary Income Statement

	Actual 2019	Actual 2018
<b>Sources of Income:</b>		
Adult Giving Income	\$ 435,764	\$ 427,357
Misc. Income and Donations	\$ 41,376	\$ 58,201
Rental Houses Net Income	\$ 20,751	\$ 7,032
Children Ministries Income	\$ 8,562	\$ 5,070
Youth Ministries Income	\$ 6,214	\$ 9,077
Designated Mission Income	\$ 34,305	\$ 33,446
Transfers from Reserves	\$ 37,170	\$ 4,028
VCPC Foundation and Other Grants	\$ 9,481	\$ 11,633
Valley Preschool Net Income	\$ 15,858	\$ 9,461
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 609,481</b>	<b>\$ 565,304</b>
 <b>Expenditures:</b>		
Compensation and Benefits, All Staff	\$ 323,722	\$ 306,846
Facilities	\$ 84,390	\$ 46,076
General Administration	\$ 103,218	\$ 91,923
Adult Education and Small Groups	\$ 2,540	\$ 2,269
Children's Ministries Expenses	\$ 14,832	\$ 11,850
Youth Ministries Expenses	\$ 13,352	\$ 10,854
Congregational Care	\$ 450	\$ 229
Mission Giving	\$ 53,502	\$ 40,543
Worship and Music Expenses	\$ 6,675	\$ 7,018
Communications, Fellowship, Membership	\$ 4,574	\$ 3,610
Additions to Reserves	\$	\$ 24,000
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 607,256</b>	<b>\$ 545,218</b>

## Memorials and Gifts

Jim Sandberg, Chair  
Hank Grootendorst, Ann Johnson  
David Marquis, John Purcell, Frank Powers

The Memorial Gift Committee oversees the gifts given to Valley Community Presbyterian Church as memorials. The Committee serves as a ministry of the Finance Committee of the Session.

Contributions to the memorial fund are received in honor of members and friends of the church. These gifts are used to enhance the life of the church and its buildings and grounds.

There were six (6) requests in 2019. The requests included landscaping for the south patio, funds for expanding Valley's youth choir program, support of the youth Triennium mission trip, registration for a Seaside choral conducting conference, and funding for new carts for the folding chair carts in Davis Hall, and a new refrigerator and freezer for the main kitchen. The Memorial and Gifts Committee approved five (5) of the requests for a total amount of \$8,812. Cost for replacement of the refrigerator and freezer was not approved. The Committee did not feel the refrigerator and freezer reached their end of life and were still in good working condition.

There are still moneys in the memorial fund for youth, music ministries, the library and undesignated funds that can be used to enhance the life of the church and its buildings and grounds. As the overseer of the memorial fund the Committee is responsible for informing the designated ministries of the church to be aware of the funds available to them.



Landscaping on the South patio.

## Facilities/Safety & Security

01/01/2019-05/30/2019

Roger Rees, Elder

Stephen Rees, Secretary

Terry Hercher, Ed Sanders, Roy Conner

06/01/2019-12/31/2019

David Marquis, Elder

Carol Powers, Secretary

Stephen Rees, Ed Sanders, Paul DuFresne,

Brad Carlson, Jim Stevens, Alex Mendoza (staff)

### Facilities:

The Facilities Committee is responsible for the maintenance throughout the church campus grounds and structures. This includes the three Cedar Street rental properties and the lower parking lot. The Facilities Committee identifies, assesses, approves and coordinates all repairs and improvements. Facilities is a ministry of small projects resolved by committee members. Large projects are contracted through qualified outsourcing. Sometimes issues are crisis-based, but proactive maintenance is our primary strategy.

2019 was primarily a year of research and planning significant 2020 projects.

- The long-overdue stained glass window project required the last six months of extensive research, contractor selection, and fundraising. Their preservation and restoration will take place in the first half of 2020.
- In early 2020 you will see the north exit stairs from Davis Hall replaced. This was a deferred Property Improvement (PIC) project due to funding.
- Professional landscape services have been prioritized and budgeted for 2020. JSL Landscaping is contracted to begin in February 2020.

Valley's courtyard underwent a dramatic change as the result of a Session approved Eagle Scout project. Garrett O'Laughlin, of our charter troop 592, removed overgrown shrubbery, expanded the patio and installed additional benches. Garrett was awarded his Eagle badge in October as a result of this project.

Valley received new LED tube lights to replace current fluorescent tube lights throughout the church. These lights were free of charge offered by an Energy Trust of Oregon incentive program. Once they are installed we will track the energy savings.

### Safety & Security

Effective 06/01/2019, the Safety & Security Committee, lead by Phil Miller, Elder and Steve Bird, consolidated with the Facilities Committee. During Phil's tenure, he brought his wealth of FBI expertise to Valley. Phil meticulously assessed and initiated safety and security systems and policies to benefit the preschool and congregation at large.

- Historically, all fire and security testing, documentation and maintenance was performed by several agencies. Beginning in 2020, Performance Systems Integrated (PSI) will be contracted to consolidate and coordinate all of these systems.
- Fire code upgrades required repair of several fire-doors, and enhanced signage.

Facilities is continuously striving to make Valley a welcoming, comforting, and safe place to all those who enter our church and grounds.

# Valley Community Presbyterian Church Foundation

Andrew Dee, Chair  
Board of Trustees: Janet Adkins, Cathy Bernhard, Pat Bryant,  
Andrew Dee, Joy McNeal, Bob Peterson, Wally Phillips, Stephen Rees, Daniel Rueff

Valley Foundation has an investment account to use for our church's needs. All Foundation Trustees are members of Valley Presbyterian Church and elected by the congregation. This account sets aside money to be spent each year, while keeping the principle intact. By rules set forth in the bylaws, these funds are to be kept separate from the general fund. The interest and donations the Foundation receives are used to fill requests from Valley.

In 2019, Valley's Foundation funded two requests for financial support amounting to \$411.05

## **The following requests were funded or being evaluated:**

- \$411.05 was granted to the Worship Committee for "Glory to God" enlarged print hymnals.
- Began an evaluation of a request from the Stained-Glass Preservation Fund.

Valley Foundation is pleased to be a continuous resource for the church and its programs.



Stained glass window from the Sanctuary.

## Mission Committee

Mission Committee Members: Connie Brenner, Elder  
Andrea Murdoch, Janet Adkins, Jan Falconer,  
Chuck Falconer, Christine Danner

Your Mission Committee continued to be very busy during 2019, and could use some help! If interested in participating, please contact Connie Brenner. Thanks to the generosity of the congregation, money and many donated items were collected during the year, and actions were taken to help those in need in our community and around the world.

A Minute for Mission was offered during worship on the second Sunday of each month. **Special PCUSA Offerings** were received four times during the year: **One Great Hour of Sharing**, Pentecost Offering, Peacemaking Offering, and the **Christmas Joy Offering**, totaled over \$8,000. Portions of the Pentecost and Peacemaking Offerings are retained by Valley and used for work in our local community or specified gifts to national/international projects from the Presbyterian Giving Catalog that help people with water supplies and latrines; displaced students, youth agricultural training, and education

**Presbyterian Partnership Giving**, to support denominational outreach, received \$7,500 from Valley's budget; and the **Theological Education Fund**, supporting the education of pastors for Reformed church congregations, received \$500. Also from Valley's Mission budget, \$500 was contributed to Presbytery to help cover the use of emergency funds to fund the purchase of a forklift by the **Warm Springs tribe** to help alleviate their ongoing water crisis, \$300 was contributed to the **Sunshine Pantry** to help with their move to a new location, \$400 was sent to the **Groner School**, Hillsboro, to cover the cost of a software program that helps in the education of Special Education students, and \$300 was sent to help fund Chenoa Stock's **Joining Hands ministry in Peru**.

Due to underspending of the 2019 budget, it was agreed to send \$4,500 of the surplus to **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance** for Puerto Rican hurricane and earthquake recovery, and \$4,500 to the **Australian Salvation Army** for wildfire relief, with the remainder going to Valley reserves.

\$2,100 was received in the **monthly Cents-Ability offerings**, with \$1,100 sent to **Care to Share**, a local social service agency, and \$1,050 to the **Presbyterian Hunger Program**.

The annual **Mission Market** raised \$810 for the following groups: Second Home, Equal Exchange, Habitat for Humanity, Heifer Project International, Knit for Kids, Luke Dorf, Youth Missions, and the Soup Kitchen.

Soup (or another hot meal) was provided monthly at the **Bud Clark Commons** in downtown Portland. Prayer shawls, purple hats for Providence Hospital newborns, sweaters for kids, and girls' dresses for Africa were made and distributed.

**Dining for Women** held monthly meetings to hear about and help support programs that work to improve the situation of women and girls around the world in underserved areas.

**Items collected** during the year included layette outfits for the **Letty Owings Center**, and over 200 pair of eyeglasses and a few hearing aids for the **Lions Club**. Over 250 pounds of food for **St. Matthew's food pantry** and 44 backpacks for **Project Back** were collected; and a big bag of Box Tops and Labels for Education went to Tobias Elementary School in Hillsboro.

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Valley participated in two **Habitat for Humanity** “builds” this year, in June and October, with 11 participants in June and 6 in October.

On October 21 Valley observed **Bread for the World** Sunday with a bake sale. The proceeds (nearly \$400) were used to support our Covenant Congregation status with Bread for the World.

A number of volunteers helped distribute food at **St. Matthew’s Lutheran Church/SCAT Food Pantry** to alleviate hunger locally on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of each month.

Valley participated in the **CROP Walk** again in 2019, raising \$270 to support hunger relief programs.

A **produce table** was held during the summer months; \$325 in proceeds went to the **Oregon Food Bank**.

**VBS donations** to an **African Neo-natal clinic** totaled over \$1,050.

Food and household items went to the **Grass Roots Church** for the Reverse Advent Calendar collection.

Other Mission endeavors around Valley include: Children’s books were collected for the **Legacy of Literature** through the Assistance League. On the Last Wednesday of each month Valley’s Youth participated in a “Hands-on” service outreach project. Sophie Vermillion collected coats and other cold weather gear for **NW Children’s Outreach**. We collected items for the **Salvation Army Giving Tree**, donated pints of blood for the **American Red Cross**, and supplied drivers for **Meals on Wheels**. Valley hosts the **Beaverton Awards Breakfast for First Responders**, and provides office space to the **Rev. Jenny Hale** and **Second Home**.

**The Earthcare Team** identified and generated activities that earned enough points to qualify for **Earthcare Congregation** status under PCUSA and submitted an application for that designation, and hosted a very successful recycling event in April.

***THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO PARTICIPATED IN ANY OF THESE ACTIVITIES!!!***



Letty Owens Center Baby Layette Drive donations.

# Mission Endowment Committee

David Marquis, Carol Powers, Co-Chairs  
Jan Bellis-Squires, Ernie Bootsma  
Robert Hayes, Mary Kelly  
Janet Adkins, Mission Committee Liaison

## ***Funds available from the Mission Endowment Fund:***

\$21,600

## ***Funds awarded:***

\$21,600

## ***Spring 2019 Grant Cycle recipients:***

Valley Youth – Triennium 2019

Seeds of Learning – Scholarships for Four Nicaragua University Students

Impact NW – Homeless Prevention Services

Interserve Canada – Support Jesse Montes family move to Bhutan

Good Roots Community Food Bank and Garden

## ***Fall 2019 Grant Cycle recipients:***

YWCA of Greater Portland – Domestic Violence Services

Willamette West Habitat for Humanity

United Nations Foundation – Nothing But Nets (Malaria Prevention)

Project Never Again – Duffel Bags for Children Entering Foster Care

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon – Second Home – Staff Computers

Ignite the World Ministries – Solar Audio Bibles

Open Arms International – Mobile Medical Camps in Kenya

## ***Committee business:***

The application deadlines remain April 1 and October 1. Notices for applications appeared in the March and September *Messenger* as well as Sunday Bulletins and e-Blasts. Award summaries were published in the August and December *Messenger*. The committee met in April and October. After approval from the Mission Committee, the proposed grants were ratified by Session in May and November. Award letters and checks were sent in June and December.



Valley teamed up with Willamette West Habitat for Humanity to build a home for a deserving family.

## Mission Endowment Fund Investment Committee

Lyle Chadwick, Chair  
Don Sowers, Richard Page  
Frank Powers, Treasurer  
Dave Balk, Umpqua Advisors Financial Consultant

The genesis of Valley's Mission Endowment Fund began in 1949 with a gift of over \$200,000 in closely held stock by a former Valley member and his wife. The donor designated the gift to be used only for "mission purposes and not for salaries or operating expenses at the local congregational level." Accordingly, the fund is held in a separate designated account on Valley's books to which the original donor hoped that "the gift itself would inspire others to add to this fund." Current investments are broadly diversified in market traded assets with about two-thirds in the equity sector. At December 31, 2019, the balance in the Endowment Fund was \$456,338, an increase of \$64,530 (16.5%) for the year.

Semi-annually, the MEF Investment Committee determines the dollar amount under the gifting formula – 2½% of the fund's nine quarter rolling average – a 5% annual payout. Mission requests are reviewed by the Fund's gifting committee (co-chaired by Carol Powers and David Marquis) and then recommended to Session for final approval. In 2019, the Fund generated gifts of \$21,600 and has provided for gifts of about \$430,600 since the year 1999.

The MEF Investment Committee meets quarterly to review market trends, results and the asset composition.



Mission Endowment Funds helped Valley's high school youth attend Triennium.



# Membership and Outreach Committee

Glenys Craig, Elder  
Julie Binder, Valerie Conner, Roy Conner

## Mission Statement

We are called and have committed to:

- Welcome all who come to Valley – members, friends and visitors alike by creating a welcoming atmosphere.
- Encourage a community of faith by caring for our members, friends and children by communicating one on one what Valley has to offer and retaining and recruiting those interested in joining a community of faith.
- To throw open our doors, to invite in and welcome all our neighbors.

## Highlights

The Membership Committee consists of a small, dedicated team who are working to open Valley's doors to the community and to bring new people into the church. We are also working to facilitate cross-church activities so many groups can participate in projects. 2019 highlights included:

- Continued the Personal Greeters Program so people entering the church receives a personal greeting. Thank you volunteers at the front and East doors!
- Provided a First Time Visitor gift for each person identifying themselves. Worked with Youth to assemble the gifts.
- Each new worshipper who provided contact information was contacted by a Pastor and/or a Membership Committee member.
- Held a Welcome to Valley luncheon to answer questions about VCPC and how we can best serve their needs.
- Conducted New Membership Classes with Pastor Jeff to prepare people for the benefits and responsibilities of membership.
- Called special Session meetings to accept new members. New members were introduced to the congregation at a worship service and a reception following. Thirteen new members joined in 2019.

- Kristi Albertson
- Grace Baker
- Julie Binder
- Dylan Blair
- David Caputo
- Brad Carlson
- Donna Carlson
- Angela Graham
- Anthony Graham
- Joyce Jenkins
- Jeena Joseph
- Maria Rinella
- Ellen Wilson

Welcome new members!

- Coordinated/wrote the New Member feature articles in the Valley Messenger.
- Published an updated contact directory.

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- Coordinated photo sessions for a new photo directory published in 2019.
- Participated in the Kick-off Sunday activities with a table showcasing membership activities at Valley.
- Revised and maintained New Member Packets for those joining the church.
- Teamed with the Worship and Music Committee to sponsor the Blessing of the Animals service in July.
- Teamed with the Fellowship, Facilities, and Worship Committees along with others to co-sponsor the second annual Community Tree Lighting and Carol Sing in December.
- Team members were vital participants in the 2019 VBS camp.

Want to join in on all the fun new activities happening at Valley? We still have room for a few more members on this important committee!



New members are welcomed to Valley church.



Valley friends and family wait in line for a blessing of their pets.

## Communications (a Membership Subcommittee)

Glenys Craig, Elder  
Sarah Martin, Pam Kessinger, Bob Rasmussen, Michelle Blair, Shirley Hercher  
Jeff Binder, Pastor  
Angela Graham, Publication and Office Administrator/Webmaster

The Communications and Social Media Committee reformed in 2018 as a subcommittee to Membership. It coordinates and supervises external and internal church communications and publishing including Internet presence, event promotions, and temporary outdoor signage and public relations events. It administers the Valley website ([valleycommunity.org](http://valleycommunity.org)), Facebook page and oversees the publication of *The Messenger*, weekly e-blast, and the weekly church bulletin along with specialty items such as the church membership directory, the annual report, etc. The coordinator also communicates activities to those outside our church walls by use of our Nextdoor account and with communications with the apartment complex adjacent to our building. All church communications route through the Communications Administrator (Angela Graham) before publication or distribution to ensure consistent messaging, to aid proper identification, and to act as a clearinghouse.

The Communications Committee handled publicity for the following special events: Lent/Easter and Advent/Christmas, website banners, outdoor banners and posters, Facebook messaging and pushes, and flyers to the preschool as well as flyers to be included in the Project BACK backpacks. Special promotions for the Blessing of the Animals. VBS, and the Community Christmas Tree Lighting and Carol Sing were coordinated.

We used our Facebook page as a tool for promoting and publicizing events in 2019. We paid to promote certain posts to our neighborhood and the Beaverton/Portland community including: Holy Week and Easter, Valley Kids Events, Advent Fair, and Christmas services. We created a master calendar for annual Valley events, which we use to promote and advertise throughout the year on Facebook and the website.

Communications is working on replacing all our old outdoor banners with new, double-sided, multi-use banners to save money and promote uniformity.

2020 will see a website update with a new format and updated graphics.



# Fellowship

Cheryl Rees, Elder through June 2019  
Ruthann Marquis, Elder  
Wendy Jenkins, Marcia Sanderman,  
Laura Sanders, Beth Busch,  
Dian Domingo-Forasté

The mission of the Fellowship Ministry is to build community and create opportunities for Christian fellowship within the congregation at Valley Community Presbyterian Church and the local neighborhood.

## **Activities for 2019:**

**Coffee Fellowship Hour** – Wendy Jenkins skillfully coordinated all of the helpers to serve coffee hour after Valley’s 10:00 a.m. worship service. This included finding hosts to set up a space of hospitality in Davis Hall, prepare coffee/juice/sweet treats, serve these items and clean up.

**Juice and Half & Half** – to make it easy for the helpers that serve coffee hour, Laura Sanders and Diana Domingo-Forasté kept track of and replenished these items so that they were available for Sunday morning.

**Coffee/Tea and Kitchen** – Marcia Sanderman kept her eye on these needed items for coffee fellowship hour and general Valley needs, ordering through Equal Exchange for replacement coffee and tea. She also monitored kitchen supplies in general.

**Kick off Sunday (September 8)** – Fellowship Ministry coordinated this event where all active groups and ministries were represented with table space in Davis Hall to share information and treats with all those that stopped by to learn more about the many ministries at Valley.

**Stewardship Kick off Luncheon (November 3)** – Fellowship Ministry hosted a picnic style lunch in Davis Hall following worship and the official start of Stewardship season at Valley. Since there wasn’t an All Church Picnic this summer this luncheon provided an opportunity to visit and enjoy all of the fixings of fine meal.

**Advent Fair (December 7)** – Davis Hall was transformed into a workshop for 12 different multi-age related holiday craft activities, where beautiful music was performed by Valley’s Community Choirs, pizza was eaten, lemonade quenched abundant thirst and a special ornament could be made for Valley’s outdoor tree. The Fair this year was two hours long, ending exactly at 5:00 p.m. when everyone was invited outdoor for the tree lighting, carol singing and sweet treats.

As always, Scout Troup 592 generously set up and took down our last three major events. Many of their hands made light work. Thank you!

# Church Officer Nominating Committee (CONC) and Leadership Development

Cheryl Rees, Elder  
Stephen Rees, Deacon  
Pat Bird, David Marquis, Ruthann Marquis, Gaylen Uecker, Members at Large

**CONC** is a committee mandated by the constitution of the Presbyterian Church. It is composed of a representative elected by the Session, who serves as Chair, a representative elected by the Board of Deacons, and members-at-large who are elected by the congregation. The pastor serves *ex officio* without a vote.

Each January or February the search for potential candidates begins. The candidates must be church members and are presented to the church body at a congregational meeting. When elections are held, there is an opportunity for nomination from the floor by any active member of the congregation.

## **2019 Officers elected by the congregation were:**

**Ruling Elder:** CONC nominated the following for the office of Ruling Elder:

Sandy Cundiff	Three year term, Class of 2022
Amy Dee	Three year term, Class of 2022
David Marquis	Three year term, Class of 2022
Ruthann Marquis	Three year term, Class of 2022
Carol Powers	Two years, filling an unexpired term, Class of 2021

**Deacon:** CONC nominated the following for the office of Deacon:

Diana Domingo-Forasté	Three year term, Class of 2022
Roberta Hahn	Three year term, Class of 2022
Karen Miller	Three year term, Class of 2022
Jim Sandberg	Three year term, Class of 2022
Karen Sandberg	Three year term, Class of 2022
Joyce Woods	Three year term, Class of 2022
Edie Leland	One year, filling an unexpired term, Class of 2021

**Church Officer Nominating Committee:** CONC nominated the following as members-at-large of the 2020 Church Officer Nominating Committee:

Jini De Vries  
Gary Eaton  
Joy Eaton  
Steve Rees

# Christian Nurture for Youth

Marshall Lauck, Director of Youth Ministry (June 2019-present)  
Preston Russell, Director of Youth Ministry (January-May 2019)  
Carolyn Reed, Elder (2018-21)  
Amy Rheingans, Director of Children's and Youth Music  
Committee Members: Kathy Bach, Allison Carlson, Hayley Lauck,  
Carolyn Reed, Karen Yakymi  
Youth Advisors: Hayley Lauck, Carolyn Reed, Trent Sele, Ken Stennett,  
John Whitehurst, Karen Yakymi

**Children's and Youth Ministry Mission Statement:** Using Christ's love as our example, we seek to INSPIRE, CELEBRATE, and EQUIP children and youth as together we explore and live out our relationship with God. We accomplish this through worship, education, fellowship, and mission and service.

## 2019 Activities and Accomplishments:

- January- Finals week care packages and note of encouragement distributed to all Valley high school students (17 care packages delivered).
- February 24- Youth Sunday: middle and high school youth participated in leading worship
- April 28- Pancake Breakfast: middle and high school youth participated with the Clippers Mariners Group.
- May 19- Graduation Sunday distribution of quilts to High School seniors (ten students), graduation lunch with seniors, their families, and quilters at the Youth House.
- June 9- Confirmation Sunday: five high school youth started their Confirmation class in October '18 and ended on Confirmation Sunday. Four of the confirmands became members of the church.
- July 2019- High school youth attended Presbyterian Youth Triennium at Purdue University (9 youth and one adult chaperone attended). Triennium is a gathering for high school youth from the Presbyterian Church (USA) and that Cumberland Presbyterian Church that occurs every three years.
- August 2019- Middle school youth attended City Camp in Salem at Westminster Presbyterian Church and performed outreach at local service organizations (12 youth and four chaperones attended).
- August 2019- Beach trip for middle and high school youth.
- December 2019- Christmas Party for youth and advisors at the Youth House.
- 2019 mission projects supported with youth time and funds: Northwest Children's Outreach, Medical Teams International, Night Strike.
- Regular weekly meetings on Wednesday: middle and high school youth group with dinner provided.

## Fundraisers:

Pancake Breakfast- \$631.89 (net)

Spring Plant Sale- \$374.05

Cookie Platter Sales- \$1243.00

Bottle fundraiser- \$180.00

Valley Presbyterian Cookbook-on going



# Valley Kids 2019 Report

## From the Christian Nurture for Children's Committee

Elder: Bev Hubbard

Members: Lizz Brown, Cheryl Hoffbeck, Evan Martin, Wendy Jenkins

Staff: Amy Rheingans, Director of Children's and Youth Music

Donna Carlson, Director of Children's Ministry

### Children's Ministry:

- 13 children sang in the King's Kids Choir, which changed in name to Melodia in September, and continued with 12 kids, mostly different kids from the other 13. In total, the group participated in five services, including a spring musical and also sang in a retirement home and the Advent Fair.
- 10 kids participated in the Royal Ringers in the spring. The group played in worship twice.
- 12 children participated in Cherub Choir. They sang four services and also sang in a retirement home and at the Advent Fair.
- 12 kids participated in the Music and Drama Camp in June. They did an evening performance and performed in a retirement home.
- 20 kids participated in the Valley Youth Choir, which changed in name to Armonia in September. They participated in six services and also sang in a retirement home and at the Advent Fair.
- 65 Children participated in nine Kids' Night Out events. (excluding April, July & August)
- 47 Children participated in "ROAR" V.B.S. for a full week in July! Adult and youth participation were able to provide a one to one child to leader ratio.
- Two Family Dinners: One in February for Ash Wednesday and one in November.
- 13 Children attended Sunday School Class throughout the year.
- 50 Children received Christmas gift bags at the Christmas Eve services.
- 15 Children were welcomed by our Nursery Care Coordinator Christena Keller and our volunteer staff.

### Children's Ministry Special Events:

**First Annual Easter Egg Hunt & Carnival:** was held on a Saturday afternoon for three hours on the front lawn which drew 170 people with 70+ children running in the two Easter Egg Hunts. A carnival of kids' games, bounce house, potato sack races, fishing and photo booths, temporary tattoo parlor, craft table and a dual basketball shoot were in place for the kids to participate in as well. A light snack & refreshments were available. All free of charge to the community.

**Second Annual Trunk or Treat/Halloween Festival:** was held on Saturday afternoon for three hours with 12 decorated vehicles in the east parking lot and a Halloween Festival inside Davis Hall. Double the number of vehicles from last year. We reported 150 attendees which included children and adults with lots in costume. Boy scouts contributed by volunteering and with vehicles. The carnival games all had a Halloween theme to it, also included a bounce house, a tiny tot play area with tables for parents to sit at. Tattoo station, popcorn, hotdogs & cider all free of charge. Donna gave out costume badge awards as the little ones went around. Goodie bags were taken home by each child there.

# Valley Christian Preschool

2019 marked Valley Christian Preschool's 23rd year as a joyful ministry of Valley Community Presbyterian Church. We continue to be a nationally certified program, under the Quality Rating Improvement System (QRIS), with 3-Star Rating. We are proud to be a reputable and highly-recommended preschool option in Southwest Portland area.

Our **2018-2019** school year ended in June 2019 with a total of 82 students from 72 different families; we had 10 sets of siblings enrolled. Enrollment for 2018-2019 was at 89% of maximum capacity. In June, VCP graduated 28 students from our 4 year-old class and sent them off to Kindergarten for Fall of 2019.

We are currently in the midst of the **2019-2020** school year, and VCP's current enrollment totals 77 students from 73 different families (4 sets of siblings are enrolled) and we are at 84% of our capacity for enrollment.

Our enrollment has stayed steady the last two years even though we have cut back considerably on our marketing spend. Currently, the primary means of advertising for our preschool is word-of-mouth. Most families enrolling claim to have heard great things about our school from other families. The preschool also has a website, a Facebook page and a beautiful new, yellow banner hanging outside the church. We also utilize yard signs to publicize our Open House.

Registration for the upcoming **2019-2020** school year has just begun and it is too early to project enrollment numbers for next year, but registration appears to be off to good start. Our 4 year-old classes are close to fully enrolled for next year, and there has been a steady stream of school tours scheduled for families interested in enrollment.

VCP employs eleven staff members and ended the 2019 calendar year with over \$15,000 in net profit to which goes directly into the general fund for Valley Community Presbyterian Church.

In Spring of 2019, the preschool hired a teacher to lead Mandarin language lessons in both 4's classrooms once a week. The addition of foreign language to our curriculum was enthusiastically received by students. They are excited to learn and have acquired new language skills quickly and effortlessly. We are proud to continue to offer Mandarin lessons in our 4 year-old classrooms again this school year.

VCP families are invited to participate in all of the family-oriented programs Valley Community Presbyterian Church offers through email, the preschool newsletter and through flyers distributed to each individual student. Valley's preschool students account for 80% of the children regularly attending events and holiday traditions hosted by Valley's Children's Ministries team. VCP also promotes the children's choir and children's ministries programs, and is open to finding new and creative ways of building connections between Valley Community Presbyterian Church and Valley Christian Preschool.

There are any preschool students participating in Valley's Children's Choir offered by Valley's Children's Music program led by Lizz Brown and Amy Rheingans. The families of Choir participants attend Sunday worship when the Children's choir performs, which includes the Children's Sabbath Sunday and other holiday worship services.

The 2019-2020 VCP School Board meets monthly and reviews policy, pricing, and marketing support. The current School Board includes Elder Bev Hubbard, members Allison Baird Carlson, and Amy Henning Blair, VCP Director Anne Scarce, Assistant Director Danielle Ames, Children's Ministries Director Donna Carlson, and two current VCP parents; Andrea Chaney and Sarah Woodward. These board members provide ongoing support and innovative ideas for the future of the preschool.

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In 2017 VCP implemented an online payment process for our VCP families to make monthly tuition payments. This process has streamlined the monthly tuition process and continues to be a service that our parents appreciate, with 92% of currently enrolled families registered for monthly automated, on-line tuition payments each month.

The core purpose of Valley Christian Preschool is to embrace childhood in partnership with families and God. With prayer and support, we will continue to succeed in these endeavors. Our preschool families enjoy their time at VCP and feel embraced by our community.

Faithfully submitted on February 26, 2020.

Anne Scarce,  
VCP Director

### Valley Christian Preschool – 2019 Key Events

- Added Qian Xiang to the preschool staff to teach Mandarin language lessons twice a week in the 4-year-old classrooms – March 2019
- Graduated 28 students with a ceremony and post-celebration – June 2019
- Painted interior of the 4s classroom - July 2019
- Hired 4 new preschool staff members to start Fall of 2019 – Teachers Karissa Beutler, Hyeyeon Kim and Dani Gross, and Danielle Ames in the new position of Assistant Director
- Christmas Outreach program – 3rd Annual Stuffed Animal Drive benefitting Portland Ronald McDonald House - Dec. 2019
- 3rd annual 'Blessing of the Stuffed Animals' service for the preschoolers and their families – Dec. 2019



The Blessing of the Stuffed Animals service project.

# Christian Nurture for Adults

Amy Dee, Elder  
Class of 2022

On September 22, adults interested in Sunday morning classes met to discuss the needs and direction of the Adult Nurture program. In summary, the group discussed the need for trying different times for classes, the need to attract younger adults, the problem of serving a small percentage of congregants, the desire for the pastor to teach classes, and a broader range of topics offered on Sunday mornings. No volunteers to teach classes came forward during this meeting. With a small number of regular attendees on Sunday mornings coupled with the lack of an active Adult Nurture Committee, this part of the ministry currently carries on with the help of Rev. Chuck Falconer and volunteers who are either teaching or recruiting members to teach. The courses have used a video series owned by the church and available in the library.

Additionally, in the late fall, session blessed a subcommittee with the task of analyzing ministry areas and responsibilities of elders given the difficulty in recruiting church officers. With the addition of a new Small Groups elder, several church groups were moved from Christian Nurture for Adults to Small Groups. At present, the Adult Nurture ministry encompasses the library, adult classes and Presbyterian Women and the Men's Bible Study.

With the retirement of Jan Falconer, the Gamble Library has welcomed a new librarian, Valerie Conner. Furthermore, Valerie is establishing a new library advisory board to discuss updating the inventory of books, the donation of materials to churches overseas, and providing children in foster care with books. The library advisory board will also establish procedures for making library-related decisions, modes of communication, and prioritizing projects.

## **Sunday Adult Education class:**

Our Adult Education Class meets Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. in Armitage Hall. The curriculum and topics vary with the facilitators. The first course, taught by Rev. Chuck Falconer, was *The Story of the Bible* and ran from September 29 – November 3. The second series, also taught by Rev. Chuck Falconer in January, was on the efforts to *English the Bible*. Various attendees have volunteered to continue the video series. In November, guest speaker, Hannah Nolan spoke about her YAP trip to Scotland. The average attendance at the Sunday morning class is approximately 12.

## **Midweek Adult Education classes:**

Pastor Jeff Binder has facilitated two series based on the spiritual connections seen in a popular television program. The series is called *The Gospel According to Northern Exposures*. The first session of classes was held in the fall with an average attendance of approximately 20. Round two of the series was held January 29 through February 12. Again, the average attendance was approximately 20.

## **Senior Men's Bible Study**

A group of men gather to study the Bible each Wednesday at 8:00 a.m. in the Fireside Room. About 15 (mostly) retired men gather to support one another and study the Bible on a regular basis.

## **Presbyterian Women's Bible Study**

On the second Tuesday of each month, September through June, the Presbyterian Women's Bible study uses the Horizons Bible Study curriculum published each year through the PC(U.S.A.). The group gathers at 11:00 a.m. for the study with coffee and treats in the church office Conference Room.

**Vital Congregations:** The seven marks of a Vital Congregation are scheduled twice weekly from February 16 – April 1.

# Small Groups

Sandy Cundiff, Elder  
Class of 2021

Getting together in Small Groups is a wonderful way to meet new friends here at Valley and help identify God's movement in your life and your family.

## Small Groups

New gatherings are posted in the Messenger, e-blast and bulletin. It could be a cooking class, going to a performance and dinner together, a day for a short hike, a trip to a museum. Keep watch for what is next!

## Mariners Groups

A new group of 16 Mariners was just started called the "Sailors." The group has gatherings once a month and has varied activities. They carry the traditional cargos helping with coffee fellowship and soup kitchen. They have added to their cargo this year a Staff Recognition Luncheon at the end of May.

## Prayer Shawl Ministry

Valley has a very active Prayer Shawl Ministry which has "gifted" with prayer over a 1,000 hand knit or crocheted Prayer Shawls for encouragement to church members, friends in our community and friends across the country. New knitters are always welcome to join the group. They gather the first Tuesday of each month at 2:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room.

## Senior Lunch

Join friends for a scrumptious lunch and varied entertainment on the fourth Thursday of every other month beginning in October and always at noon. Only \$5 per person! A great way to connect with others in Valley's community.

## Men's Bible Study and Ministry

A group of men who gather to support each other and study the Bible. They meet each Wednesday at 8:00 a.m. in the Fireside Room.



Senior Luncheon is enjoyed by many.

# Personnel

David Jimerson, Elder  
Roy Conner, Ann Johnson, Jan Bellis-Squires, Tim Kurtz

The Personnel Committee is accountable to the Session, with authority and charge to carry out the following:

- Oversee and write personnel policies and practices and make recommendations to Session.
- In collaboration with the Finance Committee, recommend salaries.
- Conduct annual performance reviews.
- Develop and maintain position descriptions.
- Assist in interviewing and hiring staff.
- Encourage professional effectiveness and growth.
- Support the staff.

Highlights of 2019:

- Worked with the Finance Committee to make recommendations for 2020 budget.
- Accepted the recommendation of the Youth Ministry Elder and her committee and hired Marshall Lauck as Director of Youth Ministries (approved by Session).
- Continued meeting monthly with Jeff.
- Support Jeff as he works toward his Doctorate.
- Began reviewing and editing the Valley Personnel Handbook and adding a VPS section.
- Conducted annual performance reviews for all Church employees.

## Board of Deacons

Class of 2020	Class of 2021	Class of 2022
Cathy Bernhard	Edie Leland	Diana Domingo-Forasté
Christine Danner	Kathy Bach	Roberta Hahn
Kay Hope Gold	Jan Bellis-Squires	Karen Miller
Richard Gold	Roy Conner	Jim Sandberg
Amy Henning-Blair	Valerie Conner	Karen Sandberg
Jean Sowers	Debbie Purcell	Joyce Wood

**Moderator:** Jim Sandberg

**Secretary:** Debbie Purcell

**The Ministry of Compassion and Service:** The ministry of deacon as set forth in Scripture is one of compassion, witness, and service, sharing in the redeeming love of Jesus Christ for the poor, the hungry, the sick, the lost, the friendless, the oppressed, those burdened by unjust policies or structures, or anyone in distress. Persons of spiritual character, honest repute, exemplary lives, brotherly and sisterly love, sincere compassion, and sound judgment should be chosen for this ministry. (G-2.02 PCUSA New Form of Government)

### Meetings:

- **Dates:** The Deacons met on the third Tuesday of the month
- **Time:** The meetings begin at 7:00 p.m.
- **Place:** The Fireside Room at Valley

### Compassion and Outreach

- **Home Communion:** Deacons served communion to members and friends of Valley that were unable to attend church services.
- **Rides to Church:** Deacons arranged for rides to church for those without personal transportation.
- **Congregant Care:** Deacons stayed in contact with members and friends of Valley (with visits, cards, phone calls, emails) that have special needs or were unable to attend worship services.
- **Get Well and Sympathy Cards:** Deacons sent get well, sympathy and thinking of you cards to members and friends of Valley that were facing health problems or lost a loved one.
- **Grief Ministry:** Deacons contacted and sent a series of booklets to Valley members and friends to help them understand and cope with the grieving process following the loss of a loved one.
- **Memorial Service Receptions:** Deacons provided refreshments and hosted receptions following memorial services.
- **Maundy Thursday Communion Supper:** The Deacons were responsible for planning the supper (and service) with the pastor, and hosted the dinner.
- **Coffee Fellowship After Sunday Worship:** Deacons hosted Coffee Fellowship after Sunday morning worship service in January and October.

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## Congregational Life and Service Ministries

- **Communion Preparation:** Deacons provided and prepared the communion elements.
- **Bulletin Board:** Deacons have a bulletin board to keep Valley members aware of current Deacon activities.
- **Blood Drives:** Deacons worked with the Red Cross to obtain donors and volunteers to assist with Valley sponsored blood drives.
- **Prayers of the People:** Deacons presented prayers of the people on the third Sunday of the month.
- **New Member and Baptism Welcome Letters:** The Deacons sent letters to new members and the newly baptized welcoming them to the Valley family.
- **Church Officer Nominating Committee (CONC):** Deacon served on CONC to help with the recruiting of Church Elders and Deacons.



Maundy Thursday simple supper and communion service in the gym.

# Clerk's Report

Carol Powers, Clerk of Session

Valley Total Membership: 316

Membership by Year						
2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
409	378	368	341	329	317	316

## 2019 Membership Detail:

**Gains: 13**

**Confirmands: 4**

**New Adult Members: 9**

**Losses: 14**

**In Memoriam: 9**

<i>Bill Greer</i>	<i>January 1</i>
<i>Bill Schumacher</i>	<i>March 13</i>
<i>Jean McDowell</i>	<i>March 23</i>
<i>Cora Arlene Stiles</i>	<i>May 26</i>
<i>Gloria Freeborg</i>	<i>September 13</i>
<i>Dorothy Wiley</i>	<i>October 4</i>
<i>Gerda Krug</i>	<i>October 18</i>
<i>Liz Mitchell</i>	<i>December 18</i>
<i>Mary Carol Schnell</i>	<i>December 22</i>

**Transfers and removals: 5**

**Net Membership Change in 2019: Loss of 1**

Worship Attendance by Year						
2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
171	174	161	153	163	164	150

**Valley Community Presbyterian Church**

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