

2020 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

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ,

How do we adequately speak of the year 2020 given the monumental scope of all that has transpired over the past year? As many of you know, I enjoy connecting themes of spirituality with (usually outdated) pop-culture references. If we could identify a song to represent the year 2020, what would it be?

For me, one song kept popping into my head: “Three Little Birds” by Bob Marley & the Wailers. The lyrics go like this:

Rise up this mornin’
Smile with the risin’ sun
Three little birds
Pitch by my doorstep
Singin’ sweet songs
Of melodies pure and true
Sayin’, (“This is my message to you-ou-ou”)

Singin’: “Don’t worry ‘bout a thing
‘Cause every little thing gonna be all right”
Singin’: “Don’t worry ‘bout a thing
‘Cause every little thing gonna be all right!”

You know, Jesus said something similar when he taught us about anxiety and worry:

Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? (Matthew 6:25-26)

Well friends, God did provide for us in this past year. In fact, Valley Community thrived in many ways thanks to the commitment and sacrifice of its members and friends. Our giving remained consistent, we gathered for Spirit-filled worship each Sunday, and I encourage you to review the many mission efforts and generous giving that Valley Community was part of throughout the year helping to meet the needs of those in need ([found in the February edition of *The Messenger* newsletter](#)).

God will continue to provide in the year 2021 in amazing ways. I am excited to see how God calls us individually and as a community in the year ahead. The birds are singing to us, our God is faithful! Are you ready to join in the chorus as we move forward together in faith?

In Christ,



Pastor Jeff

Church Information

Church Officers

Session

Christian Nurture for Children.....Bev Hubbard
Christian Nurture for YouthCarolyn Stennett
FacilitiesDavid Marquis
FellowshipRuthann Marquis
Finance, Stewardship.....Eben Jenkins
Communication, MembershipGlenys Craig
MissionConnie Brenner
Personnel.....David Jimerson, Amy Dee
Worship and Music.....Greg Russell
Youth ElderDylan Blair
ModeratorRev. Jeff Binder
Clerk of Session.....Carol Powers

President of the Corporation

Sam Connell

Treasurer

Frank Powers

Church Staff

Pastor	Rev. Jeff Binder
Pastoral Associate	Rev. Chuck Falconer (Ret.)
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 (left mid 2020)
	Kylie Cole (began mid 2020)
Publication and Office Administrator	Angela Graham
Business Manager	AmyAnn Green
Building Custodian	Alex Mendoza

Deacons

Kathy Bach
Jan Bellis-Squires
Cathy Bernhard
Roy Conner
Valerie Conner
Christine Danner
Angela Graham
Robertta Hahn
Amy Henning
Karen Miller
Debbie Purcell
Jim Sandberg
Karen Sandberg
Charlene Stansbury
Joyce Wood

Ministry Reports

Worship and Music

Greg Russell, Elder

David Jimerson, Bob Hinson, Ron Leland, Karen Acker,
Raoul Bellis-Squires, Amy Rheingans, Cheryl Hoffbeck, Bev Hubbard

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 audio/video 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.

With the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic, worship was transformed from in-person to online using Facebook Live Streaming. It was decided to have the livestream Sunday worship services broadcast live and not prerecorded. During COVID-19, the Church was closed to in-person worship, with only the worship participants in the Church building during the Sunday services. To enable a strong live stream Sunday worship experience, additional audio/visual equipment and software was purchased through donations from the Presbytery of the Cascades and Valley's Memorial Gifts.

The audio/visual team, with the assistance of Bob Rasmussen, implemented the Open Broadcaster Software (open source) to capture camera video, soundboard sound and computer output providing the opportunity for Valley members and friends to continue to enjoy live worship remotely.

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. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Valley church celebrated Communion remotely with the congregation during the first live stream worship services of the month.

Valley continues to be blessed with a vital music program, which includes the Sanctuary Choir, Armonia Youth Choir, Melodia Children's Choir, Cherub Choir, New Spirit Ringers and Royal Ringers. During the COVID-19 live stream worship, soloist vocalists from Valley's Sanctuary Choir were used to lead the singing during worship. Occasionally, other singers (e.g., youth) and instrumentalists also participated in the service.

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.

For Good Friday, we continued with displaying the Stations of the Cross throughout the Sanctuary for visitation throughout the afternoon.

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. Due to COVID restrictions, our 2021 campaign was conducted 100% remotely.

Valley received \$427,902 in 2020 adult giving contributions, a small decrease from 2019 but more than 2020 budget. The Finance Committee would like to thank our congregation for its ongoing commitment to Valley and its mission despite the difficulties of 2020.

The most significant condition affecting Valley and our finances was restrictions imposed by the coronavirus: Sunday Worship rolled to a virtual basis, and our building was closed except for essential services. That meant our Preschool could no longer operate, a condition that persists to this day. In recent previous years, the Preschool generated revenue in excess of the cost of operations. That was of course impossible in 2020, and we anticipated a substantial expense in this area once the restrictions became clear.

Thankfully, Congress passed the CARES act in the spring. A portion of this legislation called the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) was designed to encourage employers to keep staff on the payroll. Valley received a PPP forgivable loan as reflected on our Income Statement. A significant portion of the loan proceeds was used to help pay for the cost of preschool salaries through (what we hoped would be) a partial shutdown ending by summer.

As of February 1, 2021, the Stewardship Campaign has received 106 pledges totaling \$293,476. This is 18 fewer pledges and approximately \$80,000 less than last year. Using historical trends, the Stewardship Committee thus forecast 2021 adult giving to be \$40,000 less than 2020 as reflected in Valley's 2021 budget.

The church has debt for the first time in many years. This debt, in the amount of \$93,800, will be forgiven when our lender processes our PPP loan forgiveness paperwork.

Income Statements for 2020 and 2019 operations as well as end of year balances for Valley are located on the following pages.

Valley Community Presbyterian Church Summary Balance Statement (Selected View)

Current Assets	As of 31 Dec 2020	As of 31 Dec 2019
Operating Cash Account	\$213,384	\$135,246
Investment Account	\$412,463	\$485,590
Online Accounts / Petty Cash	\$29,089	\$9391
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	\$654,936	\$630,227

Valley Community Presbyterian Church Summary Income Statement

	<u>Actual 2020</u>	<u>Actual 2019</u>
Sources of Income:		
Adult Giving Income	\$ 427,902	\$ 435,764
Misc. Income and Donations	\$ 53,571	\$ 41,376
Rental Houses Net Income	\$ 26,718	\$ 20,751
Children Ministries Income	\$ 2,480	\$ 8,562
Youth Ministries Income	\$ 1,169	\$ 6,214
Designated Mission Income	\$ 36,815	\$ 34,305
Transfers from Reserves	\$ 104,113	\$ 37,170
VCPC Foundation and Other Grants	\$ 2,000	\$ 9,481
Valley Preschool Net Income	\$ (71,844)	\$ 15,858
CARES PPP Loan Proceeds	\$ 93,800	\$
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 676,724	\$ 609,481
Expenditures:		
Compensation and Benefits, All Staff	\$ 338,635	\$ 323,722
Facilities	\$ 142,181	\$ 84,390
General Administration	\$ 97,850	\$ 103,218
Adult Education and Small Groups	\$ 562	\$ 2,540
Children's Ministries Expenses	\$ 5,654	\$ 14,832
Youth Ministries Expenses	\$ 3,487	\$ 13,352
Congregational Care	\$ 451	\$ 450
Mission Expenses	\$ 60,741	\$ 53,502
Worship and Music Expenses	\$ 4,089	\$ 6,675
Communications, Fellowship, Membership	\$ 1,859	\$ 4,574
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 655,509	\$ 607,256

Memorials and Gifts

Jim Sandberg, Chair
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 no memorial fund requests in 2020. There is still money 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.

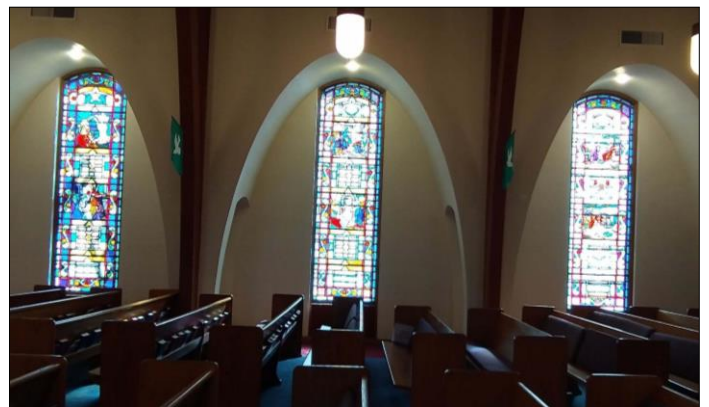
Facilities/Safety & Security

David Marquis, Elder
Carol Powers, Secretary
Brad Carlson, Paul DuFresne, Stephen Rees, Ed Sanders,
Jim Stevens, Karen Yakymi, Alex Mendoza (staff)

Valley's Facilities/Safety & Security Ministry is responsible for maintenance of the church building, Youth House, residence and grounds, as well as three rental properties on Cedar Street and the TriMet parking lot on Laurelwood. The committee identifies, assesses, approves and coordinates all repairs and improvements. Work is performed by committee members when feasible, and qualified contractors when needed. Proactive maintenance is our primary objective.

Significant 2020 projects

- Stained Glass: Our stained glass window preservation and restoration project took place in August after six months of extensive research, contractor selection, and generous fundraising. This deferred and long overdue preservation assures that their legacy will endure for generations to come.



- North Staircase: The north exit stairs from Davis Hall to the courtyard were replaced. This required custom fabrication to conform to the existing base and comply with fire codes. This was a deferred Property Improvement (PIC) project due to funding.

- Davis Hall Chairs: Roger Rees fabricated attractive and structurally sound steel chair carts for Davis Hall. As a result, chair carts now require less space and are easily movable. All chair cushions were cleaned.





- East Entrance Sign: A church name sign was mounted to the entrance canopy over the east parking lot entry to the church. This was also a deferred PIC project.

- Sewer Line Replacement: The 1947 discharge sewer line from the Youth House/Residence was replaced due to failure in grading and disintegrating concrete piping. This was an unexpected unbudgeted project. Alpha Environmental provided the materials and labor at a deep discount.



- COVID-19 Updates: With onset of COVID-19 pandemic in March, extensive research was undertaken to compile statistical data for occupancy, habitation, building access, sanitation, accountability, tracing, ventilation, air circulation & filtration, and much more. Facilities worked in concert with the Virus Task Force and Worship & Music.
- Landscape Maintenance: JSL Landscape's services was budgeted for 2020 providing grounds-keeping and irrigation services throughout the year.
- LED Lighting: Approximately 350 LED tube lights replaced all fluorescent tube lights throughout the church (except Davis Hall). Energy Trust of Oregon provided these tubes at no charge.
- Lower Conference Room: This room was refurbished with new paint and new conference table chairs.
- Hall Stairs: First floor hall stairs were carpeted. The original rubber stair treads were breaking apart and hazardous. This otherwise simple project required necessary asbestos-based mastic removal and decontamination at considerable expense.
- Rental Properties: An assessment of required rental property repairs was presented to Session. As a result, a task force was formed to research the viability of these properties as well as the necessity of retaining the lower parking lot.
- Safety & Security: Performance Systems Integrated (PSI) was contracted to consolidate and coordinate fire and security testing, documentation and maintenance previously performed by various agencies.

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

Valley Community Presbyterian Church Foundation

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

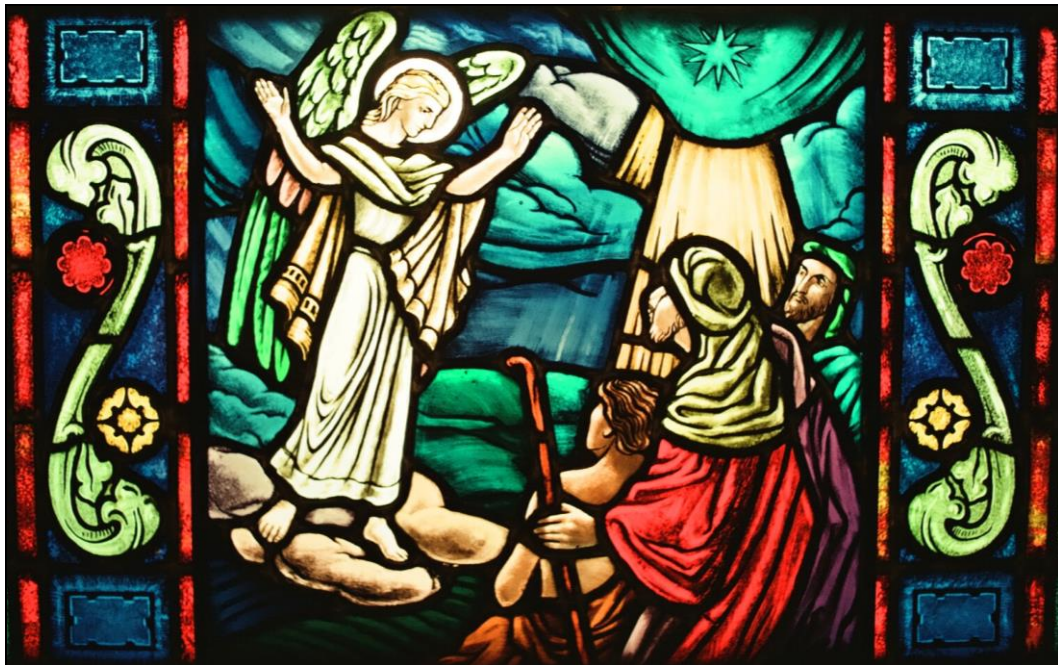
Valley Foundation has an investment account to use for our church's needs. All Foundation Trustees are members of Valley Community Presbyterian Church and elected by the congregation. This account sets aside money to be spent each year, while keeping the principle intact. By rules set forth in the bylaws, 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 2020, Valley's Foundation funded one request for financial support amounting to \$2,000.00

The following request was funded:

- \$2,000.00 was paid to the Stained Glass Restoration Fund. This money was used to refurbish the Church's stained glass windows.

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 (Ret.), Chuck Falconer (Ret.), Christine Danner

Valley's Mission Committee continued to meet the needs in the local area, the region, and around the world during this very challenging year. Thanks to the generosity of the congregation, money and donated items were collected throughout the year to meet local and far-off needs.

Our committee needs new members for some of our activities. If interested in participating in this very satisfying work, please contact Connie Brenner.

Items collected during the year included over 2,200 pounds of food for St. Matthew's food pantry and pickup and car loads of Styrofoam for recycling. A number of household items were collected for donations to Love, Inc. Because of the pandemic, Valley participated in no **Habitat for Humanity** builds this year but stay aware of opportunities in the coming months for this important activity! A number of volunteers helped distribute food at **St. Matthew's Lutheran Church/SCAT Food Pantry** to alleviate hunger locally on the 3rd, 4th, and 5th Wednesdays of each month. If you're interested in volunteering for this outreach, please contact Janet Adkins. Food and household items went to the **Grass Roots Church** for the Reverse Advent Calendar collection.

Other Mission endeavors around Valley include: The **Salvation Army Giving Tree** which was done on a remote basis in 2020. Valley continued to provide space for blood donations for the **American Red Cross**, and supplied drivers for **Meals on Wheels**. Valley provides office space to the **Rev. Jenny Hale** and **Second Home**. The **Earthcare Team's** previous activities qualified Valley as a PCUSA **Earthcare Congregation**, and we continue to look for ways to save resources. Several family groups participated in the SOLVE beach cleanup in August at Cannon Beach and Manzanita.

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 \$8,085. Portions of the Pentecost and Peacemaking Offerings are retained by Valley and used for work in our local community (including Second Home) or specified gifts to national/international projects from the Presbyterian Giving Catalog that support family nutrition, displaced students, and youth agricultural training.

Presbyterian Partnership Giving, to support denominational outreach, received \$8,000 from Valley's budget. The **Theological Education Fund**, supporting the education of pastors for reformed church congregations, received \$500. From Valley's Mission budget, \$879 was spent to support Care to Share (a local social service agency), and programs from the Presbyterian Giving Catalog. \$1,300 was received in the **monthly Cents-Ability offerings**, (\$800 less than 2019), with \$692 sent to **Care to Share**, and \$1,050 to the **Presbyterian Hunger Program**. Although we're unable to collect coins on the second Sunday of each month while not worshipping in person, Cents-Ability is one of the options on the Valley website's online giving page.

Two of our usual activities had to be cancelled for 2020: Mission Market and the Bread for the World bake sale. We did collect \$750 for Heifer Project International during December. Soup (or another hot meal) was provided monthly at the **Bud Clark Commons** in downtown Portland. Prayer shawls and purple hats for Providence Hospital newborns were knitted and contributed. **Dining for Women** continued to hold monthly meetings (by Zoom) to hear about and help support programs that work to improve the situation of women and girls around the world in underserved areas.

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

Mission Endowment Committee

Carol Powers, Chair
Jan Bellis-Squires, Ernie Bootsma
Robert Hayes, Pam Kessinger
Janet Adkins, Mission Committee Liaison

Funds available/awarded from the Mission Endowment Fund: \$23,500 (includes \$2,000 held from 2019)

Spring 2020 Grant Cycle recipients:

St. Matthews Lutheran Church SCAT - \$3,500

Provide initial inventory to add personal hygiene and household cleaning items to the pantry

Impact NW - \$2,500

Directly support two Portland families by addressing their immediate need for safe, secure shelter

Seeds of Learning - \$2,400

This grant sponsors four university students in Nicaragua.

Interserve: Jesse Montes Family - \$2,000

Jesse Montes grew up at Valley. This supported the family's permanent relocation back to Canada.

Corvallis Sister Cities Association - \$1,550

Provide furnishings, including desks, chairs, and a whiteboard, for a new first grade classroom at PS #14 in Uzhhorad, Ukraine. The school serves a low-income Roma population.

Ignite the World Ministries - \$800

Provide eight bicycles for Ignite the World evangelists in India for their work is in remote villages

Fall 2020 Grant Cycle recipients:

UN Foundation: Nothing But Nets - \$1,000

Provide bed nets to prevent mosquito bite transmission of malaria

YWCA of Greater Portland, Domestic Violence Services - \$1,500

Secure affordable housing and provide other services to survivors of domestic violence so that they can become self-sufficient

Willamette West Habitat for Humanity - \$1,700

Support construction of homes for low income families in the Denney Gardens Neighborhood

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon: Second Home - \$2,000

Create video training materials for home providers

Ripple Africa - \$2,100

Provide sustainable, low-tech fuel efficient cookstoves to rural households in northern Malawi

AHIVOY - \$2,450

Provide a scholarship for a Latinx vineyard worker to pursue continuing education allowing for professional advancement

Committee process:

Grant application deadlines remain April 1 and October 1. 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.

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, 2020, the balance in the Endowment Fund was \$497,983, an increase of \$41,645 (9.12%) 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 2020, the Fund awarded gifts of \$21,500 and has provided for gifts of about \$452,141 since the year 1999.

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

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.

The Membership Committee activities include the following when not under COVID-19 restrictions:

- Personal Greeters Program so people entering the church receives a personal greeting. Thank you volunteers at the front and East doors!
- Provides a First Time Visitor gift for each person identifying themselves.
- Each new worshipper who provides contact information was contacted by a Pastor and/or a Membership Committee member.
- Holds "Welcome to Valley" luncheons to answer questions about VCPC and how we can best serve their needs.
- Conducts New Membership Classes with Pastor Jeff to prepare people for the benefits and responsibilities of membership. This was done in 2020 via Zoom. We have people waiting for church services to resume to formally join the church.
- Calls special Session meetings to accept new members. New members are introduced to the congregation at a worship service and a reception following.
- Coordinates/writes the New Member feature articles in the Valley Messenger.
- Revises and maintains New Member Packets for those joining the church.
- Teams 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 Valley's Third Annual Outdoor Christmas Tree.

After retirement of elder, this committee assignment is not yet filled for 2021. Please review the activities above and see if God calls you to serve to welcome new people to Valley Community Presbyterian Church.

Communications (a Membership Subcommittee)

Glenys Craig, Elder
Sarah Martin, Pam Kessinger, Bob Rasmussen, Michelle Blair
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 public relations events. It administers the Valley website (valleycommunity.org), Facebook page and oversees the publication of *The Messenger*, twice 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.

2020 saw many of our regular church activities cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions so there were fewer activities to promote.

2021 will see a website update with a new format and updated graphics.

Angela Graham, Publication and Office Administrator/Webmaster now handles all Communication Duties in place of this committee. Anyone with a passion for communicating to our members and Christ to our neighborhood, please contact Angela Graham and/or Jeff Binder.



Vital Congregations Initiative Committee

Jeff Binder
Polly Dye, Liz Brown, Greg Russell,
Taylor Rawlings, Michelle Blair, Glenys Craig

“The goal of the Vital Congregations Initiative is to discern how to live into faithful actions that will increase congregational vitality through spiritual practices that take participants deeper into following Jesus Christ. As lives are changed, congregations are transformed — and the mission of God spreads throughout communities and the world.”

At Valley Community, the Vital Congregations Initiative committee is a seven-person team that meets once a month to assist Valley Community to evaluate its strengths and weaknesses and to evaluate how to best plan for our future inside the goal listed above.

Originally designed as a two-year process, the Vital Congregations Initiative calls for a time of prayer and thoughtful consideration. It is an opportunity to stop and evaluate our world, our local community, and our strengths and resources as a local Faith community. VCI provides a method and framework to evaluate and communicate our findings.

The Seven Key Traits of Vital Congregations are:

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



COVID-19 shut our church doors for the majority of 2020. However, the life of the church continued in a new and different format and the VCI team has continued to meet and plan, and to attend PCUSA online meetings to gather ideas. Note this is a pause and not an end. We will reset and begin again after we can worship and function more fully again.

What will 2021 bring to us? We pray for your health and safety during this unusual time and ask God to bless you and our church.

*“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)*

Virus Task Force

Members: Jeff Binder, Richard Bryant, Nels Carlson, Sam Connell
Kylie Cole, AmyAnn Green, Carol Powers, Debbie Purcell, Greg Russell
Former members: Carolyn Stennett, Glenys Craig, Anne Scarce

The COVID-19 Task Force began meeting in spring 2020 for the purpose of creating church policies and procedures that are in full compliance with the governor's orders and the Oregon Health Authority and that are tailored to the needs of Valley's members. The orders from the state are constantly changing, which requires ongoing adjustments from the committee.

Here are some examples of the decisions from the committee:

- 1) Having only live-streamed worship services at least until Washington County is out of the extreme risk category. Many steps have been taken in order to be prepared when it is time to resume in-person worship and other group meetings. There are signs that indicate maximum occupancy of various church rooms as calculated according to the OHA metrics. Hand-sanitizing stations are strategically located. Seating will be carefully spaced out and mask wearing is mandatory. The ventilation system of the church has been updated. Singing by anyone other than the designated worship-leading singers will not be allowed in the sanctuary.
- 2) The preschool is preparing to open in April; detailed procedures and policies, following all OHA Early Education Guidelines, have been approved by the committee.
- 3) The Youth Group and Confirmation Class are meeting in the gym, in groups with no more than 10 individuals, according to the OHA Guidelines for Youth.



Fellowship

Ruthann Marquis, Elder
Wendy Jenkins, Marcia Sanderman,
Laura Sanders, Beth Busch,
Diana 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 in 2020 were significantly reduced secondary to the restrictions on physical interactions placed on us by the COVID-19 pandemic. While we were able to meet in person, the Fellowship Ministry members coordinated Coffee Fellowship Hour after worship.

In July the Fellowship Ministry team sent either an electronic card or a physical card of greeting and encouragement to all members and friends listed in Valley's directory.

Activities that were not actualized due to restrictions were: All Church Picnic, Kick off Sunday and the Advent Fair.



Church Officer Nominating Committee (CONC)

Carol Powers, Elder
Karen Sandberg, Deacon
Gary Eaton, Joy Eaton, Jini De Vries, Steve Rees, Members at Large

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

Early each calendar year the committee convenes to begin the search for potential candidates. Officers must be church members who participate regularly in the life of the church. CONC presents nominees to the church body at a congregational meeting. When elections are held, there is an opportunity for nominations from the floor.

2020 Officers elected by the congregation were:

Ruling Elder:

Bev Hubbard	Three year term, Class of 2023
Greg Russell	One year, filling an unexpired term, Class of 2021
Dylan Blair	One year youth elder term, Class of 2021

Note that there are three unfilled openings in the Class of 2023

Deacon:

Cathy Bernhard	Three year term, Class of 2023
Christine Danner	Three year term, Class of 2023
Angela Graham	Three year term, Class of 2023
Amy Henning	Three year term, Class of 2023
Charlene Stansbury	Three year term, Class of 2023

Church Officer Nominating Committee for 2021:

Wade Askew
Wendy Jenkins
Donna Rueff
Janice Viestenz

Christian Nurture for Youth

Marshall Lauck, Director of Youth Ministry

Carolyn Stennett, Elder (2018-21)

Amy Rheingans, Director of Children's and Youth Music

Committee Members: Kathy Bach, Cheryl Hoffbeck, Hayley Lauck,

Carolyn Stennett, Terri Vermillion, Karen Yakymi

Youth Advisors: Hayley Lauck, Carolyn Stennett, Trent Sele, John Whitehurst, Karen Yakymi

Fundraising: Wendy Jenkins, Cheryl Hoffbeck

Youth Dinners: Roy Connor

Children's & 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.

2020 Activities and Accomplishments:

- January- Finals week care packages and note of encouragement distributed to all Valley high school students (19 care packages delivered).
- February 23- Youth Sunday: middle and high school youth participated in leading worship, Souper Bowl of Caring Collection, and Chili Cook-off
- March 8- Pancake Breakfast: middle and high school youth participated with the Clippers Mariners Group
- June 28- Graduation Sunday distribution of quilts to High School seniors (three students), during a virtual worship service
- Confirmation Class of 2021 began October 2020
- December 2019- Christmas Party for youth and advisors
- Regular weekly meetings on Wednesday: middle and high school youth group with dinner provided
- Meetings were held virtually during the COVID-19 pandemic returning to in person in September 2020

Fundraisers:

Souper Bowl Sunday- funds donated to Night Strike

Chili Cook-off

Pie Sales

Pancake Breakfast

Bottle fundraiser

Valley Presbyterian Cookbook-on going

Gross Receipts: \$3,698.97

Costs: (\$959.47)

Net Funds Raised: \$2,739.50



Valley Kids 2020 Report

From the Christian Nurture for Children's Committee

Elder: Bev Hubbard

Members: Lizz Brown, Evan Martin

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

Valley Children's Mission Statement

Using Christ's love as our example, we seek to INSPIRE, CELEBRATE & EQUIP children and youth as together we explore and live out our relationship with God.

We accomplish this through worship, education, fellowship, mission and service

Children's Ministry:

Kids-Night-Out - at Valley (K.N.O)

This indoor event is from 5:30-8:30 p.m. (pre-K-5th grade) once a month on a Friday night.

Involves: Indoor recreation, crafts, bible message, movie & dinner. coincides to a certain theme. Two KNO events happened just prior the COVID-19 shut-down. 30 children in January came and we had 23 children in February. 52 children are on our KNO Roster who started coming back in 2020 before COVID-19 hit.

Kids-Night-In - at Home (K.N.I.)

After March 2020 we changed up the program and prepped "Faith & Family Fun-Bags" for pick up at church under a decorated canopy – usually on a Friday and Saturday. Families RSVP'd and also had the option to have their bag(s) delivered as well. We welcomed our surrounding community to grab one when they were out as well! It was a hit and tapered off when school started.

532 KNI Fun-Bags were given out in 2020 which averaged out to 76 bags through our seven events. *April: 141, May: 84, July: 89, Aug: 71, Oct: 50, Nov: 59, and Dec: 21. 75-100 bags were usually prepped for each event with exception of April. Extra bags were given to our local apartment communities, shelters or fire stations to be handed out to children. Our Family Fun-Bags were a hit starting in the Spring and began to taper off as school got closer.

Sunday School

Five children (K-5th) were welcomed up through March 1 by our Children's Director and volunteer staff. Six children (Nursery-Pre-K) were welcomed by our Nursery Care Coordinator and volunteer staff.

Weekly Sunday School Lessons

Sunday School lesson plans have been going out in our Friday's e-blast since March 2020. This includes two Valley Kids Worship Bulletins for 1st through 5th graders, and one for children 3+ years. Also included is a weekly Bible message to the children, age appropriate Bible story video, craft, and/or a Bible story coloring book. All activities coincide with our weekly scripture readings from the Revised Common Lectionary.

Holy Week

Springtime Family Fun-Bags and Palms were given out under our bright canopy outside. 82 were picked up by parents, teachers and those within the community. 27 were delivered and 32 bags were dispersed between local apartment communities. *This figure is included above in the April KNI Fun-Bag count.

Children's Sabbath Sunday & Bible Presentation

Five children participated by leading prayer and reading scripture during the service. One child and his family also participated by leading us in song throughout the service. A children's Bible and devotional Bible storybook were presented. After worship, children and their families gathered in the Fireside Room.

Blessings of the Backpacks

In lieu of this we did a special video montage presentation for Sunday Worship. The video was called "Back to School Blessings". This consisted of educators, students from pre-k through higher learning i.e.; college and technical schools. We had 44 photos of individuals to show which also included special background.

Valley's Third Annual Fall-Festival Event

This was changed to a Fall-Festival "drive-through" event held on a beautiful Saturday afternoon for three hours. Vehicles crept through the back alley greeted with decorated scarecrows, carved pumpkins and all. Guests were greeted by nine youth and children in costume! Guests continued through to view seven decorated canopies greeted by many of our Valley members in costume. We had a total of 22 adult volunteers. Our mission table collected any canned food items for St. Matthews food pantry. 50 bags were given out. The other 50 bags that remained were given to local apartments with children as well as a few to a local fire station. All in all, it was a very successful event.

Christmas Eve Service

At years end, in lieu of our Christmas Eve Nativity Tableau, a four-minute video montage was shown. This included an assortment of fun family photos and those taken throughout Valley's past years' Christmas programs. We included this during our online Christmas Eve service and it provided all sorts of memories for everyone. This was exceptionally well received.

Valley Community Children & Youth Choir Groups:

We offer a leveled choir program designed to meet the needs of children pre-k through 12th grade. We care deeply about the children and strive to provide a loving environment where each child feels like an important part of the group. We believe in the power of singing to shape the child into someone with confidence, poise and leadership skills.

Choir Groups

Eight Melodia Choir students have participated in the Zoom rehearsals. Many families did not want their young children to do any more Zooming than necessary so opted to wait for in-person choir to resume. 14 Armonia Choir kids have participated in the Armonia Zoom rehearsals. Again, some families opted to wait for in-person choir rehearsals to resume. We are moving ahead to make group recordings in February. 15 Cherub Choir students are sent a weekly choir video to their families. 11 New Spirit Ringers have participated in this new group! \$469 in funds was raised for the choir groups scholarship fund. This was held in Armitage following the Youth's choir concert on February 1, 2020.

Choir Group Info:

Cherub Choir (Pre-K through 1st grade)

Weekly YouTube lessons started in October. This enables parents with younger children to watch a pre-recorded session at their own time where their children can participate in song and story time through weekly singing lessons. Lizz Brown leads as her husband Paul volunteers his time to assist with the proper lighting, video editing and sound. Children learn proper vocal technique and age-appropriate music theory. Emphasis is on joyfully making music.

Melodia Choir (2nd grade through 5th grade)

As of October 7, each Wednesday Amy Rheingans leads her Melodia choir group in a one hour Zoom lesson to develop their vocal technique and expand their music literacy skills through enticing games and activities.

Armonia Choir (6th through 12th grade)

As of September 20, after worship hour, Armonia has a one hour Zoom practice also led by Amy Rheingans to cultivate their vocal technique intonation, and music literacy skills. A variety of musical styles are experienced, including traditional, classical, folk, and contemporary pop songs. Confidence, leadership, and musicianship are nurtured through the choir singing experience.

New Spirit Ringers (a mix of youth and occasionally parents too)

This new group began COVID-safe in-person rehearsals starting on November 1, 2020 for a one hour session per week on Sundays. New Spirit Ringers performed live in worship on Christmas Eve and will do so again in March and May of 2021.

Valley Christian Preschool

2020 Annual Report for January-July 2020
Submitted by Anne Scarce, Former Preschool Director
Kylie Cole, Current Preschool Director

January

- Open Registration began for 2020-2021
- Mandarin language lessons began for 4s classes
- 2019-2020 Vaccination records submitted to Washington County Health
- Celebrated Chinese New Year and VCP Spirit Week

2020 was an unprecedented and unconventional year for everyone. Here is a recap of how the preschool navigated the first half of the year. Valley Christian Preschool had 77 students enrolled for the 2019-2020 school year, enrolled at 88% of capacity. In January 2020, Open Registration began for the 2020-2021 school year. School tours for new families were scheduled almost daily in January. Registration for the upcoming school year was going well with the 4 year-old classes, which are the largest, already close to full for the upcoming school year. VCP began Mandarin language classes in both of the 4s classrooms every Friday morning starting in January. This marked the second year that Mandarin had been taught at VCP by Qian Xiang, a VCP parent, as part of our regular 4s spring curriculum. The students enjoy these classes and learn the language quickly. Additionally, in January, VCP submitted vaccination records to the state on behalf of all currently enrolled students. The last week of January the whole school celebrated Chinese New Year and VCP Spirit Week with pajama day, crazy hat/hair day and super hero day.

February

- Successfully launched new afternoon Pre-K classes (2 days a week)
- Open registration continued, school tours for new families

In February, VCP began our new afternoon Pre-K classes two days a week for the 4 year-old students. Enrollment for this new Pre-K class began in the fall of 2019 and classes started in February. Students enrolled in this program stayed an additional 2 hours one afternoon a week. The idea for this program came from Susie Erdahl, the lead 4s teacher. She planned the curriculum and taught this class which focused on reading, writing, math and science. The smaller class sizes provided more one-on-one teacher support. This extended day program was a huge success! It provided additional challenge to students that were ready to learn more, provided extra support to students that were struggling to prepare for kindergarten, while generating new income for the preschool of approximately \$1,400 a month. We planned to offer this program for 2020-2021 starting earlier in the year, in November 2020.

March

- Munch for Men, March 4-6
- School closure due to Corona Virus begins March 15
- VCP Family Blog launched – provides links to teacher recorded videos

In early March there were rumblings that the Corona virus could soon impact the United States. The preschool held the annual **Munch for Men** brunch in Armitage Hall and the gym three mornings in a row, March 4-6. We revised the format of our brunch so that VCP staff served food and beverage to each dad and child to minimize spread of germs. On March 15, school closed per Governor Brown's direction. We all planned on returning to school by April 1.

In mid-March, developed a VCP Family blog website which provided preschool families with on-line links to videos of our teachers reading stories, doing art projects and leading students through other fun dances and activities which were accessible anytime. We added new videos to the blog several times week. Additionally, the blog included links to other online activities, curriculum and websites that were preschool appropriate and posted photos of what our students and teachers were doing at home.

April – May

- VCP Teachers lead live Zoom Preschool classes twice a week
- Researched salary options for VCP staff during COVID closure
- Reconciled pre-paid tuition for May 2020 due to closure
- Class activity bags distributed for all classes
- VCP staff assisted Children's Ministries with Easter and Spring goody bags
- 11 babies were born to VCP families during quarantine!

Each of the lead VCP teachers provided weekly live Zoom classes to both of their classes throughout the months of April and May. Zoom was an entirely new format for teaching preschool, and the VCP teachers did an amazing job of mastering the Zoom technology and reading, singing and dancing through 45 minute live classes online. Each student had a chance to interact. There were many technical challenges, but also some funny, silly live moments with our students!

I worked closely with Valley's Finance team to research best options to maintain staff salaries during school closure. We considered unemployment versus the Federal Payment Protection program and determined that applying for the Federal Payment Protection program was the best option. Receiving this financial aid allowed Valley to pay preschool staff salaries in full (10 employees) through the month of August 2020.

As part registration every year, VCP families pre-pay tuition for May, the last full month of school. Because VCP was not open in May 2020, we needed to reconcile this pre-paid tuition with each family. More than half of the VCP families decided to donate their pre-paid tuition to Valley, with donations totaling over \$12,000. Most remaining families decided to apply their prepaid tuition as a credit towards their 2020-2021 tuition. A small percentage of families requested a cash refund.

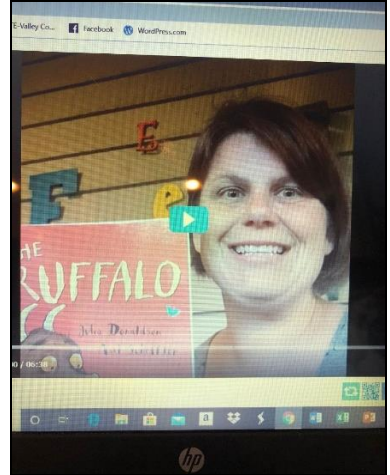
June – July 2020

- June 13 - Drive-thru graduation event for VCP's 4-year old class
- Memory books for each student
- Applied for Preschool COVID Grant through State of Oregon
- Applied to open as an Emergency Childcare Facility in September
- Planned restructure to operate within COVID state guidelines
- Hired new preschool Director, Kylie Cole

On June 13, VCP held the first drive-thru graduation to celebrate the 33 Dragonfly students moving on to Kindergarten with the entire VCP staff in attendance. Each student received a personal memory book made by their teachers, a graduation certificate, and took a photo from their vehicles with their teachers. It was a very special day and gave us a chance to say farewell to our graduating 4 year-olds.

As is VCP tradition, all 2s students received a photo memory placemat and all 3s students received a personal memory book. All students also received activity bags from their teachers with crafts and curriculum to do at home. VCP staff also assisted Donna Carlson and the Children's Ministries team with construction of Easter and Spring goody bags.

Over the summer months, several revisions were issued to the state guidelines for early childcare operations by the state of Oregon. New regulations included smaller class sizes, social distancing between staff/classes, no contact at drop-off/pick-up and required teachers to wear masks while teaching. Together with the teaching staff, we developed many scenarios to be able to open while meeting these guidelines. In early August, 'final' guidelines were released that were extremely involved and among other things, restricted parents from entering the building. Additionally, all K-12 public schools decided to close and offer on-line learning. Several of VCP's teaching staff had school age children of their own and others had health concerns. Many factors of the COVID-19 pandemic and quarantine made it difficult for VCP to reopen in September for the 2020-2021 school year.



Valley Christian Preschool

2020 Annual Report for August-December 2020
Submitted by Kylie Cole, Current Preschool Director

In August 2020, Valley Christian Preschool entered under the new leadership of Kylie Cole as Preschool Director. After much discussion and in partnership with the teachers, it was recommended to session that we do not open the preschool in September 2020 due to the increasing risk of the coronavirus. The teaching staff were furloughed as of September 1, 2020.

The next four months were spent preparing VCP for a hopeful reopening in April 2021.

- Created a beautiful new website and updated social media accounts.
- Reorganization of the library and office space with high-quality donated furniture.
- Reorganization of the resource room and storage closets.
- Creation of a warm and welcoming foyer featuring a seasonal tree and joyful décor.
- Implementation of a playground reservation program where families could sign up to reserve the playground for a few hours and visit our new lending library where students could borrow books while the public libraries remained closed.
- Sent bi-monthly newsletters, content, and videos to families.
- Creation of new lesson-planning and reporting procedures.
- Updated the staff handbook to reflect current guideline and restrictions.
- Established an extensive health and safety plan as required by OHA and the ELD along with our “Covid Handbook” which carefully and thoughtfully explained the new guidelines, restrictions, and possible scenarios that could arise during our reopening.
- Updated our registration and enrollment processes and paperwork to be streamlined, contactless and 100% online.
- Once it became clear we could not open safely in January, we created an additional reopening plan for spring of 2021 with a new spring/summer program in hopes to increase our revenue, rebuild our community, and encourage enrollment for the following school year.

As of December 2020, Kylie primarily worked remotely, focusing on rebuilding the VCPC website, communicating and touring with prospective families, finalizing reopening plans and budgets, and coordinating the credits, refunds, and donations from 2020-2021 students.

Personnel

David Jimerson (through April 2020), Amy Dee, Elder Ann Johnson, Jan Bellis-Squires, Tim Kurtz (Ret.), Rev. Jeff Binder

The Personnel Committee at Valley Community Presbyterian Church serves and cares for our pastor, those on staff and the Valley Preschool employees. Several members have recently retired from the committee bringing our number to the lowest in recent memory. With three active members, and Pastor Jeff Binder, the responsibilities each carries increased and we look forward to welcoming new members. Not only has the committee itself seen a reduction, but in the first quarter of the year Valley had 28 employees receiving compensation in some form and by the fourth quarter that number had dropped to 15 employees, predominantly due to the pandemic. We all look forward to a fresh start in the next year with renewed hope and enthusiasm. The committee meets monthly on the first Monday via Zoom, with a full agenda that includes regular topics as well as current personnel issues needing immediate attention.

Supporting our valued employees during a pandemic gave us an opportunity to examine how we make connections and allow for flexibility during a difficult historical event. One committee member has a passion for personalizing employee care and has initiated a system of recognizing each person with electronic birthday greetings. Each employee also has a personnel liaison who connects with them every month by phone or email. Prior to the COVID restrictions, the committee also celebrated staff with regularly scheduled appreciation events such as an employee luncheon. Finally, the committee takes seriously our responsibility to support our pastor personally, spiritually and professionally.

In the last year, three major personnel changes occurred within our church home. First, we welcomed Kylie Cole as the Valley Preschool Director. She joins us with some impressive credentials and qualifications and we look forward to supporting her as she builds the preschool and adds additional educational opportunities for the community. Second, Pastor Chuck Falconer retired as a pastoral associate ending a career that spanned decades. We consider ourselves fortunate that he remains here as a prominent member of our church community. Last, David Jimerson, who served our church as the Director Music Ministry, without accepting a salary, will retire mid-year. When that time comes, we will miss his talent and generosity. Like Chuck, he will remain a well-respected member of Valley. David's impending retirement prompted the formation of a task force to examine the future of the music program in a church that values its place in our sanctuary. The Personnel committee feels confident the work of the task force will bring a successor who will lead us forward in our appreciation for music as a form of worship.

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 and benefits.
- Conduct annual performance reviews.
- Develop and maintain position descriptions.
- Assist in interviewing and hiring staff.
- Encourage professional effectiveness and growth.
- Support the staff.

Goals for 2021:

- Collaborate with the Finance Committee to build a long-range plan for employee compensation.
- Provide increased support for the pastor as part of our regular work.
- Hire a Director of Music Ministry
- Update the Valley Personnel Handbook and employment policies.
- Conduct annual performance reviews for all employees.
- Collaborate with Jeff on a pastor evaluation.
- Reinstate regular employee events and celebrations.

Board of Deacons

Class of 2021	Class of 2022	Class of 2023
Kathy Bach	Roberta Hahn	Cathy Bernhard
Jan Bellis-Squires	Karen Miller	Christine Danner
Roy Conner	Jim Sandberg	Angela Graham
Valerie Conner	Karen Sandberg	Amy Henning
Debbie Purcell	Joyce Wood	Charlene Stansbury

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 (or Zoom meeting)

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.

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.

Summary of the Year

Due to the COVID-19 Virus, several of our ministries have been put on hold. We continued to send get well and sympathy cards, and grief ministry booklets to Valley members and friends that have experienced the loss of a loved one during the year. We also stayed in touch with members and friends of Valley that have special needs.

We worked with the Red Cross to obtain donors and assist with four (4) Valley sponsored blood drives this year.

Deacons continued to present Prayers of the People on the third Sunday of the month and a baptismal banner was presented to Joyce Wood's family.

Clerk's Report

Carol Powers, Clerk of Session

Total Membership on 12/31/2020: 301

Membership by Year							
2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
409	378	368	341	329	317	316	301

2020 Membership Detail:

Gains: None

Losses: 15

In Memoriam: 14

Name	Date
Frank Noonan	January 3
Ed Nokua	January 29
Ruth Fisher	February 19
Jini De Vries	March 29
Shirley Hercher	April 4
Hank Grootendorst	June 7
Virginia Johnson	August 1
Ellen Wilson	August 18
Beverly Simmons	August 19
Mikie Doolittle	August 22
Virginia Hanson	September 21
Ed Hanson	October 1
Rita Hammack	November 12
Terry Hercher	December 25

Other transfers and removals: 1

Net Membership Change in 2020: Loss of 15

Worship Attendance by Year							
2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
171	174	161	153	163	164	150	79*

(*) Note: 2020 worship attendance was reported as number of livestream connections starting on 3/15 with the COVID-19 shutdown. This does not provide a meaningful comparison to previous years.

Valley Community Presbyterian Church

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