
The Messenger

Valley Community Presbyterian Church January 2016

Sundays at Valley

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

January

3 Communion

10 Session Meeting with New Members, 11:15 a.m.
Extend the Table, 11:30 a.m.

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

24 Chili Cook-off Fundraiser for Youth Mission, 11:30 a.m.

31

February

7 Communion
Extend the Table, 11:30 a.m.



BIC Report



Building Campaign Update

extensive renovation to the south side of the church, when the weather permits. The unsightly trash bins and barrels will be removed and located at the end of parking lot. New siding, stair replacement, patio access, and a new entry way are slated on the south side of the building. They are making plans for improvements to the much-used east entrance, making it not only safer and wheelchair-accessible, but also grander and more welcoming to visitors and the congregation alike. New exterior stairs, which meet code, are being planned on the north side of the gym.

Continued on p. 3



Adult Spirit and Science Class Jan. 10, 17

Adult Education Class

Baird Smith leads 9 a.m. class January 10 and 17

Since classical antiquity and especially in the West since the enlightenment, we have had two perspectives on the nature of reality - one from the head and the other from the heart. In our culture now, we find science to be more persuasive than religion. But this has led to a modern disenchantment - the loss of the divine.

In this class we will present scientific perspectives on the origins of matter and life and mankind in which we find a force and a process much like God. The inspiration for this pursuit comes from two twentieth century scientists who were also deeply spiritual - Albert Einstein and Pierre Teilhard de Chardin.

Join us for this informative class led by Valley member Baird Smith on Sundays, January 10 and 17 at 9:00 a.m. in Armitage Hall.

Pastor's Column



Pastor Ben Paroulek

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

*"No need to recall the past,
no need to think about what was done before.
See, I am doing a new deed,
even now it comes to light, can't you see it?
Yes, I am making a road in the wilderness,
paths in the wild places." (Isaiah 43)*

Happy New Year! How many times have you said that to some during the last week, without thinking about it? And what do you mean by it? Do you believe that the new year will be a happy one, better for you than the last? What does 2016 mean for Valley Community Presbyterian Church?

Alfred Lord Tennyson wrote a poem 150 years ago, part of which might sound familiar:



*"Ring out wild bells, to the wild sky!
Ring out the old, ring in the new.
Ring, happy bells, across the snow.
The year is going, let him go.
Ring out the false, ring in the true.
Ring out the old shapes of foul disease,
Ring out the narrowing lust of gold:
Ring out the thousand years of old,
Ring in the thousand years of peace."*



Some believe that there will be nothing new about the new year. Some believe that humans will always be greedy, we'll never gain on disease, terror and war will maintain their hold on our world. But the Biblical witness challenges us with promises of new things.

If there is any strong Biblical message this is it: **Renewal, personal or global, is possible at any moment.**

May your New Year be filled with renewal, and joy of the unexpected!

THE MESSENGER

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PASTOR

BEN PAROULEK

NEWSLETTER STAFF:

SHIRLEY HERCHER AND ANGELA GRAHAM

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

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

Treasurer's Report

Last month I talked about how you can cause a small portion of the amount you spend at Amazon to be contributed to Valley by using *Smile.Amazon.Com* instead of *Amazon.Com* for your online purchases. Did you know that Fred Meyer Stores does something similar through Fred's Rewards Card program? Here is how you set it up:

- Go to FredMeyer.Com and click on "Sign In". (Follow the prompts to establish an account if you do not have one.)
- Click on "Rewards" on the next screen and then "Community Rewards", and then "Link your Rewards Card Now".
- Type "Valley Community Presbyterian" in the search box and then select our name from the list presented (we are organization number 81094).

That's it! I will report back in a few months to let you know how we are doing.

Frank Powers, Treasurer



Winter Adult Education Classes

Sunday 9:00 a.m. Schedule

January 3: No class.

January 10 and 17: Baird Smith leads a two-week class on Science and Religion. (See p. 1)

January 24, 31 and February 7: DVD lectures on Israel and Palestine with discussions.

All are welcome to join the learning and discussions, held in Armitage Hall before worship on Sunday mornings. Coffee is available.

Bible Book of the Month

The Bible Book for January is Proverbs. The Bible is not only concerned with “getting into heaven,” it is equally concerned with living on this earth. The book of Proverbs is part of the “Wisdom” literature, which gives practical advice on how to live our lives here and now. It is a book to be read in small sections and pondered thoughtfully. The 31 chapters are a great fit for January. Try reading one a day as part of your devotions.

Join ‘Dining for Women’ at Valley

Start your New Year right and meet January 17!

We meet every month on the third Sunday after worship and hear an educational presentation about a program featured that month. We have a potluck lunch and then consider making a donation comparable to what we might have spent going out to lunch. This donation will support the grant request made by the featured nonprofit group to Dining for Women.

Our chapter at Valley is three years strong and has contributed to many different nonprofit organizations that are making a positive change in the lives of women and girls in underserved areas around the world, one meal at a time.

On Sunday, January 17 after worship (11:30 a.m.), we will hear about Puente A La Salud Comunitaria in the Valles Centrales and Mixteca Alta regions of Oaxaca, Mexico. Their mission is to contribute to food sovereignty and advance the health and well being of rural communities in Mexico by promoting the cultivation, consumption and commercialization of amaranth.

Plan to join us on Sunday, January 17 at 11:30 a.m. in the Fireside Room. If you have questions, please contact Ruthann Marquis or visit the DFW website at www.diningforwomen.org.

BIC Report (cont. from page 1)

Interior plans are still on the drawing board, and they will be addressed as time, energy and yes, money, are available.

Rest assured, your money is in good hands, working hands. In October, 260 BIC pledge requests were mailed out to Valley members and friends. As of December 8, 133 responses have been returned, and \$496,131 has been pledged to building improvements as of that date. Those who sent money with their pledge cards enabled the BIC to get right to work.

Thank you to everyone who has already pledged, to everyone who is still considering what kind of pledge to make, and to those who will support Valley in the months to come, as we hold fund-raisers and support drives to reach our goal of \$600,000.

Keeping Valley vital and vibrant is also our goal. With the faithful help of everyone who worships at and attends Valley, we will succeed.

Session Updates Church Sexual Misconduct Policy



At the December session meeting, an updated sexual misconduct policy for Valley Community Presbyterian Church was approved. The new policy can be located in the church office for anyone to review. In addition to defining sexual misconduct, the new policy contains sections on training and prevention, a response plan, reporting of allegations of sexual misconduct, responses involving misconduct to both children and adults, and an acknowledgement of receipt of the policy for individuals in leadership roles as well as volunteers working with our children and youth to sign. The new policy also contains a report to be filled out in case of a suspected sexual misconduct encounter.

Habitat Receives Donations



On December 1 there was an event called #GivingTuesday. Willamette West Habitat for Humanity received \$29,600 from individuals, matching donors, and the Bank of America. This money will help build a home for a deserving family.

Chuck Falconer



Mission

Eye Glasses and Hearing Aids

Mission Committee collected and delivered 87 pair of glasses with cases, 31 pair of glasses without cases, 20 pair of prescription sunglasses, and four hearing aids to the local Lions Clubs.

All collected eyeglasses are then sorted by volunteers and sent to Coffee Creek Correction Facility in Wilsonville, where they are cleaned and calibrated through the Inmate Eyeglass Recycling Program. Processed glasses are then warehoused at the LERC in Northwest Portland and are available for groups (both Lions and non-Lions) to request for eyeglass missions. The Lions are committed to providing sight and hearing assistance to the residents in Oregon as well as to those in need in developing nations. Mission Committee thanks all who bring used glasses for this program. The yellow collection box is in the stairwell to the gym.

Mission Market Totals from November

Thanks to all who came to shop and support some of Valley's missions that day, including Habitat for Humanity \$135, Equal Exchange \$390.50 (more sold in weeks since), Heifer International \$620, Luke Dorf \$78, Knit for Kids \$25, Jars for Youth Mission \$828 (more sold in weeks since), CD sales for Living Waters \$15, and Beaverton High School Birthday Baskets \$65 + items. A total of \$2,156.50 was collected on November 15. Many thanks from Mission Committee.

St. Matthew Lutheran Food Pantry

Thanks to the monthly Cents-Ability Offering, Valley was able to send an additional \$1,000.00 to St. Matthew's Food Pantry, designated for food purchases only. Please remember to bring your canned and boxed food to the barrel by the Fireside Room. This food is delivered to St. Matthew's monthly, when Valley volunteers go to our volunteer shift. The food is also shared with the Raleigh Park School "Project Back" program.

Sunday Coffee Fellowship Hosts Needed for New Year



Supplies will be provided. Read more:

Coffee Fellowship in 2016 will be a little different. The Fellowship Ministry will provide juice and milk/creamer for the coffee hour

each week, and donations from the Cookie Ministry may be used from the freezer. Groups that sign up to do coffee fellowship will have *less* to do each week.

Hosts serving will set up the room, make coffee, plate goodies, pour juice, clean up and wash linens. The supplies will be provided. (Of course, if your group wants to bring things to add to what's already in the freezer that is A-O-K!)

We hope this inspires you to step up and offer to host coffee hour for a week or two or more this year. If you are so moved, please contact Wendy Jenkins, as she is the Fellowship Ministry member who is totally in the know about coffee fellowship. Many thanks!

Chili Cook-off for Youth Missions January 24



Valley Youth invite everyone to the Chili Cook-Off following 10:00 a.m. worship Sunday, January 24. This youth fundraiser supports both our summer youth mission trip as well as funding for travel to Presbyterian Youth Triennium, July 19-23 in Indiana.

You are invited to gather your family or friends together and form a team to fix your favorite chili recipe for the cook-off. We need all kinds of varieties of chili (Beef, Vegetarian, Chicken, Turkey, Gluten Free, etc.). Teams will name their chili, create a theme and decorate their serving table; costumes and visual aids are encouraged! The congregation can purchase tickets that will allow them to taste and vote on their favorite chili. We are looking for 8 to 12 teams. Please contact Stacy Luehr-Sele (503.590.0338) or tsitigard@comcast.net to sign up.



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



Christmas Cookies Came to Valley!



Thank you Valley members and friends for making the youth cookie exchange fundraiser such a successful event. Fourteen high school and middle school youth and their parents sorted 2,000 Christmas cookies donated by 41 master Valley bakers and friends. The youth wrapped 85 platters of delicious treats in cellophane. After the Pageant of the Holy Nativity on December 13, the sale of the donated cookies brought in a grand total of \$1,476 for the Youth Mission Trip and Presbyterian Triennium.

Children and Youth Music

Wednesday, January 6: Cherub Choir, King's Kids, and Royal Ringers resume regular Wednesday schedule for January

Sunday, January 10: Youth Choir and New Spirit Ringers resume regular Sunday schedule for January.

Valley Kids Events January 2016

3-Sunday Funday

10-Sunday Funday; Extend the Table after 10:00 a.m. Worship

17-Sunday Funday

24-Sunday Funday; Chili Cook-off after Worship

29-Youth lead our Kids' Night Out! RSVP to Laurel Cluthe by 1/27/15 by email; \$10/child, ages 4-12.

31-Sunday Funday



Valley Youth Events January 2016

3-Worship in the Balcony at 10:00 a.m. (bring your Bible for a breakfast treat!)

10-Worship + Extend the Table, begins at 10:00 a.m.

13-Wednesday Night Youth Group-7:00-8:30 p.m.

17-Youth Lunch after Worship; bring \$10

24-Chili Cook-off Fundraiser!

29-Youth lead Kids' Night Out, 5:00-9:00 p.m. with some prep at January 13's youth group night.



Valley Christian Preschool

Happy New Year from Valley Christian Preschool! We invite you and your interested friends and neighbors to our Preschool Open House on Tuesday, January 12, 2016 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. On this evening we open our classrooms and invite you to come in and check us out, ask questions of our teachers, and see how we play and learn at VCP. Join us!

We wish to thank everyone who contributed to our outreach to Christmas Family Adoption Foundation. We supplied scores of needed gifts to three young families, sharing in the Christmas Joy. We look forward to another great outreach effort in the spring as well: Proverbs 11:25 "A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed."

We are now registering our current students for Fall 2016, and in February will extend registration to new students and their families. VCP provides a quality, nurturing environment where children learn through a creative, play-based curriculum, and invite you to make inquiries about enrollment. Contact Kristina Kurtz, director at 503-292-3537 x 146 or by email to kristina@valleycommunity.org.

Upcoming events:

* In House enrollment January 4-January 31

* Open enrollment begins February 1

* No school January 18 in observance of Martin King Luther, Jr. Day

* Spirit Week! January 25-29. We wear our Spirit in different days each day of the week. Look for us!



Valley Christian Preschool still has openings for children ages 2 ½ - 5 years, and it's not too late to enroll your child! Contact Kristina Kurtz at 503.292.3537 or kristina@valleycommunity.org for more information. Join us!



The Angel of Annunciation and Mary's Angels stand with the Holy Family during the Pageant of the Holy Nativity.



The Hoffbeck Family light the Advent candles during Sunday worship.



The Sanctuary Choir's melodic voices are joined by cello and violins to present Haydn's "Run Ye Shepherds to the Light."



The youth and adult bell choirs play during Sunday worship.

Valley Notes

Opportunities

Christmas Tree Recycling - On January 3, 9, and 10 our high school youth are collecting Christmas trees in the neighborhood for a suggested donation of \$10/tree from 12:00-4:00 p.m. as a fundraiser for their trip to Triennium in July. Trees can be dropped off in the gray trailer in front of the youth house or if you received one of our flyers hanging on your front door December 20, those trees will be collected curbside.

Tai Chi at Valley ~Move as water flowing around the obstacles of life.~

Come enjoy the gentle, flowing movements of tai chi—a great way to practice balance, build strength, and improve mental and physical flexibility. Join us Tuesdays and/or Thursdays, 10:00-11:00 a.m., in Armitage Hall. Questions? Contact Diane Harris at dianeharris@mac.com, or 503.805.6011.

The Flower Calendar is ready for 2016; are you? It is located on the wall in the office entry room during the week and occasionally in the gym during coffee time. Flowers may not always be available in your garden, but you may sign up, purchase some and submit a receipt to be reimbursed. If you have questions, ask Pat Bryant, 503.292.4196.

Valley plans to do a Habitat group volunteer build day next spring. Those who would like to volunteer for a **Habitat Build Day** before next spring may go to Willamette West Habitat at www.HabitatWest.org and sign up for an available build day. The work place is Allen Estates in Beaverton. Contact Chuck Falconer at chuckf@clankeith.com or 503.645.3318 with questions.

Thanks

Thank you to all who participated in the Salvation Army Giving Tree program. Through your generous donations, Valley was able to provide a special Christmas for two deserving families.

Thank you one and all for helping and attending **Valley's Advent Fair** on December 6. It was wonderfully successful and lots of fun for everyone. If you have any thoughts or suggestions for next year, please feel free to let a Fellowship Ministry member know. We would welcome your feedback! Thank you.

Thank you to the wonderful people who brought **flowers for the front entry** in 2015. During the year the flowers welcomed all worshipers to Valley.

Thank you, Valley friends, for such a joyful success with the **2015 Kidz Mart**. Due to your generous donations of goods, this year's sales totaled \$284.43. All revenue goes to Children's Ministries. Children thoughtfully selected Christmas gifts for family and friends. Thank you to shop helpers Olivia Hoffbeck, David Caputo, Patricia Hope Goff, Gail Hope Brooks and Richard Gold. Let's do it again, next year!

Kay Hope Gold

Prayers

We pray for those with health concerns: Ashley Elisara, Gwen Burns



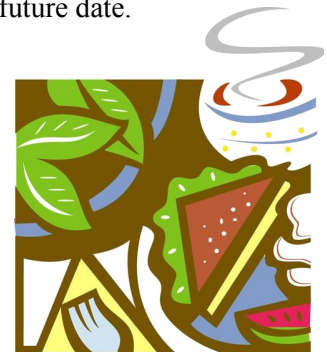
Gamble Library Book Group

The Gamble Library Book Group will hold its regular meeting on Friday, January 22, at 10:00 a.m., in the Fireside Room. The book for discussion this month is *The Boys in the Boat*, by Daniel Brown. It is the story of nine American rowers and their epic quest for gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics. It is an irresistible story about beating the odds and finding hope in the most desperate of times. All are invited to come and enjoy the stimulating discussion. Remember to bring your own coffee.



Extend the Table January 10—for All Ages

Please join us in Armitage Hall on January 10 at 11:30 a.m. for the next Extend the Table. Lunch will be served and we will be continuing our intergenerational Bible study by looking at Proverbs. Proverbs is the **Bible Book of the Month** for January. Feel free to contact Allison Carlson at 503.701.9853 or at 5beavs@comcast.net if you have any questions or are interested in helping out with set up or providing a lunch for a future date.



Valley Scrapbook



Shepherds stand watch during the Pageant of the Holy Nativity.



Combined children and youth choirs sing during worship.



The Angel of Annunciation brings good news to Mary during the Pageant of the Holy Nativity.



Three Kings with their Trainbearers at the Pageant of the Holy Nativity.



The Youth Choir sing at Doernbecher Children's Hospital.

January 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>3</p> <p>9:15a Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal 9:30a Early Coffee in the Library 10:00a Worship 10:20a Sunday Funday 11:00a Coffee Fellowship</p>	<p>4</p> <p>8:00a Women's Aerobics 6:00p Girl Scout Troop 7:00p Portland Highland Games Association</p>	<p>5</p> <p>10:00a Tai Chi Class 11:00a Staff Meeting 11:00a Women's Bible Study 1:00p Prayer Shawi Ministry 4:00p Communication and Social Media Comm. 5:30p Membership Comm. 7:00p Christian Nurture for Youth Meeting 7:00p Facilities Committee 7:00p Prayer Shawi Ministry</p>	<p>6</p> <p>8:00a Men's Bible Study 8:00a Women's Aerobics 5:00p Cherub Choir 5:00p King's Kids Choir 6:00p Royal Ringers Bell Choir 6:30p Wolf Den Meeting</p>	<p>7</p> <p>10:00a Alanon 10:00a Tai Chi Class 6:00p Christian Nurture for Children Meeting 6:30p Bear Den Meeting 6:30p Cub Scout Den Mtg. 7:15p Sanctuary Choir</p>	<p>1</p> <p>New Year's Day - Church Office Closed 8:00a Women's Aerobics</p>	<p>2</p>
<p>10</p> <p>9:00a Adult Education Class 9:15a Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal 9:30a Early Coffee in Library 10:00a Worship 10:20a Sunday Funday 11:00a Coffee Fellowship 11:15a Session Meeting with New Members 11:30a Extend the Table 4:15p Youth Handbell Choir 5:00p Valley Youth Choir</p>	<p>11</p> <p>8:00a Women's Aerobics 6:00p Girl Scout Troop 7:30p Girl Scout Troop</p>	<p>12</p> <p>10:00a Tai Chi Class 11:00a Staff Meeting 5:00p Worship and Music Committee 6:30p Cub Scout Pack 592 7:00p Session</p>	<p>13</p> <p>8:00a Men's Bible Study 8:00a Women's Aerobics 5:00p Cherub Choir 5:00p King's Kids Choir 6:00p Royal Ringers Bell Choir 6:30p Girl Scout Troop 7:00p Youth Group</p>	<p>14</p> <p>10:00a Alanon 10:00a Tai Chi Class 5:00p Music Selection Team Meeting 6:00p Tiger Scouts 6:00p VCP Board Meeting 7:15p Sanctuary Choir</p>	<p>15</p> <p>"The Messenger" Newsletter Articles Due 8:00a Women's Aerobics 6:00p Camp Fire Meeting</p>	<p>16</p>
<p>17</p> <p>9:00a Adult Education Class 9:15a Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal 9:30a Early Coffee in Library 10:00a Worship 10:20a Sunday Funday 11:00a Coffee Fellowship 11:30p Dining for Women Meeting 11:30a Youth Luncheon 12:00p Clippers Mariner Planning Mtg. 4:15p Youth Handbell Choir 5:00p Valley Youth Choir</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Martin Luther King Day - Church Office Closed 8:00a Women's Aerobics 10:00a Century Club Board Meeting 10:00a Meals on Wheels 6:00p Girl Scout Troop</p>	<p>19</p> <p>10:00a Tai Chi Class 11:00a Staff Meeting 7:00p Deacons Ministry</p>	<p>20</p> <p>8:00a Men's Bible Study 8:00a Women's Aerobics 5:00p Cherub Choir 5:00p King's Kids Choir 6:00p Royal Ringers Bell Choir</p>	<p>21</p> <p>8:00a Soup Kitchen 10:00a Alanon 10:00a Tai Chi Class 2:00p Mission Endowment Investment Fund Comm. 6:30p Cub Scouts Den Mtg. 7:15p Sanctuary Choir</p>	<p>22</p> <p>8:00a Women's Aerobics 10:00a Gamble Library Book Group</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>24</p> <p>9:00a Adult Education Class 9:15a Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal 9:30a Early Coffee in Library 10:00a Worship 10:20a Sunday Funday 11:00a Coffee Fellowship 11:30p Chili Cook-off Fundraiser 4:15p Youth Handbell Choir 5:00p Valley Youth Choir</p>	<p>25</p> <p>8:00a Women's Aerobics 1:00p Century Club General Meeting 6:00p Girl Scout Troop 7:30p Girl Scout Troop</p>	<p>26</p> <p>10:00a Tai Chi Class 11:00a Staff Meeting</p>	<p>27</p> <p>8:00a Men's Bible Study 8:00a Women's Aerobics 5:00p Cherub Choir 5:00p King's Kids Choir 6:00p Royal Ringers Bell Choir 6:30p Girl Scout Troop</p>	<p>28</p> <p>10:00a Alanon 10:00a Tai Chi Class 6:00p Cub Scout Pack 592 7:15p Sanctuary Choir</p>	<p>29</p> <p>8:00a Women's Aerobics 5:00p Kids' Night Out</p>	<p>30</p>
<p>31</p> <p>9:00a Adult Education Class 9:15a Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal 9:30a Early Coffee in Library 10:00a Worship 10:20a Sunday Funday 11:00a Coffee Fellowship 4:15p Youth Handbell Choir 5:00p Valley Youth Choir</p>	<p>BICC - Building Improvement Campaign Committee</p>					

THE MESSENGER



VALLEY COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

TIME DATED MATERIAL

Chili Cook-off

January 24 after
10:00 a.m. worship



Vote for your favorite
chili or enter your own
recipe!

Proceeds go towards youth
mission trips. See p. 4.

Extend the Table

January 10
11:30 a.m. in
Armitage Hall



Lunch provided!
Intergenerational Bible
study on Proverbs.
See p. 7

Adult Education Class: Spirit and Science

January 10 and 17
9:00 a.m. in
Armitage Hall



Led by Baird Smith,
this class will present
scientific perspectives
on the origins of matter
and life. See p. 1.