

# 2023 Annual Report



# Mission Statement

*Adopted February 2023 by the Session.*

## **Our Mission**

Cultivating a community of followers who embody Jesus' message of grace and love for all people.

## **Our Core Values**

### **Anchored in Worship**

We anchor our life together in the vibrant worship of God.

### **Community and Celebration**

We joyfully celebrate milestones and our life together in Christ.

### **Engagement with Scripture and the World**

We cultivate thoughtful, reflective faith through regular engagement with Scripture and the world, with a commitment to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God.

### **Welcoming and Serving All People**

We respond to the grace and love we have received by opening our hearts, hands, and church in service to all people.

### **Next Generation**

We intentionally invest in the next generation so that it may set its hope anew on God.

## **Our Three-Year Vision**

In response to the grace and love we have received, during the next three years (2023-2025) we will intentionally invest in the cultivation of authentic and supportive relationships with neighboring next generation children/youth and their families and community partners that they might flourish.

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# Pastoral Letter

## Renewed Energy: New Beginnings

“So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation...” – 2 Corinthians 5:17

Dear beloved saints of Valley Community Presbyterian Church,

Not long ago, a member of our church family asked me, “As a transitional pastor, how do you know when you have completed your work?” I suppose an obvious answer might be, “When the new pastor arrives.” But that’s not my answer. **Simply put, I know my work is complete, or at least nearing completion, when the congregation is investing the best of themselves...imagination, time, energy, and resources...in new beginnings.** 2023 was a year of both **renewed energy** and **new beginnings!**

As you remember, 2022 was a year of hard work and discernment on the part of your session. They invested much time and energy into discerning a renewed mission, vision, and core value for Valley which reflected an understanding of our rapidly changing culture and will guide us into the future.

In 2023, we began to live into our renewed mission and vision and invested considerable energy in new directions. Here are some examples of the **new beginnings** we, by God’s grace, initiated in 2023:

- Launching a beautiful new church website!
- Completing a major sound system upgrade that enhanced our vibrant music, worship, and online presence.
- Hiring a new Director of Community and Family Engagement (Leslie Hanscom!)
- Conducting numerous joy-filled, family-oriented community outreach events.
- Forming a Pastor Nominating Committee.
- Pledging to be an outward-focusing Matthew 25 congregation.
- Developing a thriving community partnership with Raleigh Park Elementary School.
- Welcoming five new members into life and ministry at Valley.

In 2023, we evidenced renewed energy in several areas of ministry.

Here are some examples:

- Increasing our worship attendance (online and in-person) by 14%.
- Continuing the diversification of our music styles in worship.
- Increasing numbers of kids participating in dramas, choirs, and Music Makers.
- Conducting a life-changing international youth mission trip to Puerto Rico.
- Expanding our recycling events to include a number of new community partners.
- Hosting an “8 Habits of Evangelism” workshop featuring the Rev. Dr. Ray Jones.

What a wonderful year 2023 has been! I thank God daily for the privilege of serving as your Transitional Pastor during this season of **renewed energy** and **new beginnings**. May we continue in 2024 to live into our renewed mission of: ***Cultivating a community of followers who embody Jesus’ message of grace and love for all people.***

Joyfully in Christ,



Pastor Robin

# Church Information

## Church Officers

### Session

Christian Nurture for Youth..... Kevin Killian  
Facilities ..... David Marquis  
Fellowship/CONC ..... Ruthann Marquis  
Community & Family Engagement.... Wendy Jenkins  
Communication/Clerk of Session ..... Carol Powers  
Membership..... Ann Johnson  
Mission ..... Andrea Murdoch  
Personnel ..... Amy Dee  
Worship and Music ..... Debbie Purcell  
Moderator..... Rev. Robin Garvin

### Deacons

Wendy Archibald  
Kathy Bach  
Jan Bellis-Squires  
Michelle Blair, Moderator  
Janet Budke  
Allison Carlson  
Angela Graham  
Edie Leland  
Diane Meyer  
Phil Miller  
Roger Rothrock  
Anne Searce  
Charlene Stansbury

### President of the Corporation

Sam Connell

### Treasurer

Frank Powers

## Church Staff

Pastor	Rev. Robin Garvin
Pastoral Associate	Rev. Jenny Pratt Hale
Director of Youth Ministries	Jenn Souders-McGuffin
Director of Community & Family Engagement	Leslie Hanscom
Director of Music	Thomas Rheingans
Assistant Director of Music	Siena Hertafeld, Kimi Davies
Director of Youth and Children's Music	Amy Rheingans
Preschool Director	Kylie Cole
Publication and Office Administrator	Angela Graham
Business Manager	AmyAnn Green

# Worship & Music

We lived into our first stated Core Value as we anchored our life together in the vibrant worship of God. We offered both in person and livestream worship.

## **Music**

We enjoyed blended music, a combination of traditional and modern styles. Our Music Director, Thomas Rheingans, graced us with amazing performances on piano, keyboard, and organ. We were sad to say goodbye to our Sanctuary Choir director and cantor, Siena Hertafeld, when she moved to the east coast in June. We welcomed Kimi Davies as our new choir director and cantor in August. Several excellent vocal soloists and section leaders gave our volunteer Sanctuary Choir the foundation it needed to shine. Amy Rheingans directed our Melodia and Armonia choirs, the bell choirs, and dramatic performances with children.

## **Sermon Series**

Several sermon series have been presented during the year. These have included a worship component, with sermons, liturgy, and music following the theme. They have also included an educational component that provided a deeper dive into the scriptures. The educational component typically had both daytime (in person) and evening (online) options. Series for 2023 were “The Sermon on the Mount” in January, “Meeting Jesus at the Table” during Lent, “Psalm 23” in the summer, “Becoming the Good News: the 8 Habits of Evangelism” in September, and “From Heaven Above” during Advent.

## **Liturgical Arts**

There were beautiful and meaningful visual enhancements for worship, including colors for wall hangings that change with the church calendar, themed banners in the chancel and narthex, flowers, and more.

## **Audio-Visual**

Following the major equipment upgrade in 2022, the AV team focused on fine tuning components to improve audio quality. Thomas Rheingans engaged audio engineer Cole Ottum to evaluate our sound environment and make recommendations. Following his recommendation, new microphones to amplify the choir were acquired, the previous ones redeployed for the piano, and area microphones deployed to better pick up organ audio for livestreaming. Cole continues to work with the sound team to optimize use of our digital mixer. In the balcony, a custom table for the livestreaming PC and video equipment was built by Steve Rees to replace a makeshift table previously used. Cable molds were also installed to better organize the A/V area. Funding for these updates was made possible using the last balances from the Stained Glass Window project fund.



## Special Events and Holidays

- April, Spring Concert with Thomas Rheingans and Friends.
- May, Usher training and new protocols for medical emergencies.
- May, Pentecost Sunday.
- June, Listen Everywhere hearing assistance system installed.
- September, Valley Church became a Matthew 25 Congregation. Marcia Sanderman quilted a banner for this.
- September 10, Rev. Ray Jones preaches first of sermon series on the “8 habits of evangelism.”
- November 5, All Saints Sunday with electric candle lighting.
- November 12, Kirkin’ o’ the Tartan Sunday with Scottish harp and fiddle.
- December, Advent candle lighting for four Sundays.
- December 10, Nativity Play with Melodia and Sanctuary Choirs.
- December 24, 10:00 a.m. (Fourth Sunday of Advent) and 4:00 p.m. candlelight service.

## Worship and Music Team

Rev. Robin Garvin, Debbie Purcell (Elder), Thomas Rheingans (Music Director), Amy Rheingans (Youth and children’s choirs), Steve Rees (Head of A/V, Head Usher), David Marquis (Facilities Elder, Liturgical Arts), Diane Meyer (Head Usher, Pew Restocking), Jim Sandberg (Head Usher, AV), Dan Rueff (A/V), Raoul Bellis-Squires (Choir section leader), Donna Rueff (Liturgy/Communion servers), Marcia Sanderman (Liturgical Arts), Michelle Blair (Liturgical Arts), Cheryl Hoffbeck (Liturgical Arts), Angie Graham (Liturgical Arts), Mark and Leslie Hanscom (Greeters), Greg Russell (preparer of slides for live-streaming).



# Memorial & Gifts

Contributions to Valley's Memorial & Gifts Fund are received in memory of deceased members and friends of the church. These gifts are used to enhance the life of the church and its buildings and grounds.

The Memorial & Gifts Committee oversees the distribution of these gifts. The Committee serves as a ministry of the Finance Committee of the Session.

## Approved Requests in 2023

- MG2023-01; Senior Quilts. \$1,200
- MG2023-02; Water fountain replacement \$0 (Request withdrawn)
- MG2023-03; CPR/AED class for ushers. \$720
- MG2023-04; Youth House Reunion. \$1,275
- MG2023-05; Laptop for Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC); \$800
- MG2023-06; Davis Hall replacement water fountain. \$1,900

**Total 2023 approved requests: \$5,895**

(Note: Actual expense may differ from the amount approved. In most cases the amount spent is less than the amount approved.)

## Memorial & Gifts Account Balances

- Memorials (Account 2971) \$27,021
- Ben Clanton Seminarian Fund (Account 2972) \$689
- Designated Gifts & Bequests (Account 2975) \$9,702
- Special Projects Reserve (Account 2976): \$8,307

**Total M&G Balance: \$45,719**

## Committee Members

Jim Sandberg (chair), Ann Johnson, David Marquis, John Purcell, Frank Powers



# Facilities

Valley's Facilities Ministry is responsible for maintenance and security of our church campus. This includes the main church building, Youth House, residence, grounds, three rental houses on Cedar Street, and the TriMet parking lot on Laurelwood Street. Proactive maintenance and necessary upgrades are our primary objectives.

Significant 2023 projects included:

## Youth House Flood

Our 2023 disaster project was in the Youth House basement. A broken water heater left several inches of water throughout the basement compounded by a blocked floor drain which backed-up sewage throughout. Several months of decontamination and restoration was required. It gave us the opportunity for a long overdue purge of project materials and activity equipment. There was even a waterlogged piano discovered out of sight behind storeroom shelving.



## Patch, Seal & Stripe Parking Lot

Our church parking lot gets high traffic use each day as well as intense sun exposure. The alley and lot were cleaned, patched and sealed. Parking slots were adjusted and striped. The crosswalk was moved to a more convenient location. This was a welcomed "facelift".

## Fireside Room Flooring

Valley Foundation provided funding for long needed flooring in the Fireside Room. Modular high-wear carpet was installed replacing the original orange carpet, which had irreparable seams, stains and wear areas. More pleasing and practical.





**New Playground Fence**  
Wood fencing on the west end of the playground was overdue for replacement. Loose and falling boards were not safe. It was replaced with long-life chain-link and privacy slats. A huge improvement for the safety and welfare of our preschool students.

### **A few other projects:**

There was on-going repair to our boiler circulating pump, and new AC zone-actuators were replaced.

Our elevator required considerable electrical and mechanical maintenance. A new dedicated emergency phone line was installed.

Extensive tree and brush overgrowth was removed in the in the TriMet Park and Ride lot. Bamboo and brush removal took place at our corner rental house.

Facilities works in tandem with the Worship & Music Committee on all sanctuary projects especially sound and AV upgrades.

There are numerous pop-up demands that occur regularly. They may concern issues such as lighting, doors, plumbing, flooring, windows and more that we all face in our own homes. This is just our “bigger home” with compounded maintenance needs.

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

**Committee Members:** David Marquis (Elder), Carol Powers (Secretary), Steven Rees, Karen Yakymi, Ed Sanders, Ed Chadwick

# PNC

The Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) began work on June 1<sup>st</sup> with our first meeting and a dinner prepared by Ruthann Marquis. The evening began our transition from a committee to a real team focused on discerning the will of God for our church by building on the foundation set by Session. The team was oriented to its work by representatives from the Presbytery. The PNC also met with Session for a retreat to further investigate and understand the renewed mission, vision and values for Valley that emerged from the work of our Elders over the last year.

The roles each person assumed on the PNC are as follows: Sarah Martin serves as our secretary. Jan Bellis-Squires accepted responsibility for publicity and serves as the communications specialist. The technology team consists of Amy Rheingans, Harry Reeder, Tina Teed and Jim Sandberg. Hospitality responsibilities go to Tina Teed and Jim Sandberg. Amy Rheingans, Jan Bellis-Squires, and Sarah Martin wrote the responses to the narrative prompts on the new Mission Discernment Profile (MDP) which was formerly known as the Mission Information Form (MIF). The entire PNC team provided edits and comments that resulted in the finished product. The MDP serves as one of the primary ways prospective candidates are introduced to Valley and its mission, vision, and values. Amy Dee takes on the remaining responsibilities that come with the role of PNC Chairperson.

The narrative section of the MDP is active on the Church Leadership Connections website where prospective candidates search for pastoral calls. The PNC has defined leadership competencies and skills needed in our next pastor who will lead us into the future where church and society look very different from what they did just a short time ago. At this time, the PNC team has read numerous applications and held introductory meetings with potential candidates. At this time, we have held two formal interviews and have others scheduled.

The PNC team prays regularly for each other, for our church family, and for our future pastor. Please continue your prayerful support for the PNC.

## **Pastor Nominating Committee**

Amy Dee (chair)

Jan Bellis-Squires

Sarah Evans

Amy Rheingans

Harry Reeder

Jim Sandberg

Tina Teed

# Valley Foundation

Valley Community Presbyterian Church Foundation funds are managed by a national firm using a balanced investment strategy to protect and grow the balance over time. The firm recommends the amount to be made available to support mission, education, music, worship, and capital projects. Foundation bylaws regulate the Foundation's Board of Trustees. All Foundation Trustees are members of Valley Community Presbyterian Church and are elected by the congregation.

By rules set forth in the bylaws, the principal must be kept separate from the general fund. The interest and donations the Foundation receives fill specific financial requests from Valley programs and committees. Each year, the amount provided depends upon the interest available.

In 2023, Valley's Foundation funded seven requests for financial support amounting to \$37,028.

- \$4,500 was paid to install new carpeting in the Fireside Room. This money was requested by the Facilities Committee.
- \$3,000 was paid for adult airline tickets, traveling with our youth mission trip to Puerto Rico. This money was requested by the Youth Committee.
- \$1,300 was paid for the Youth House reunion meals. This money was requested by Rev. Kris Moore and Rev. Ken Henry.
- \$5,900 was paid to repave the east parking lot. This money was requested by the Facilities Committee.
- \$15,328 paid to repair HVAC system. This money was requested by the Facilities Committee.
- \$4,000 was paid to revamp the church website. This money was requested by the Communications Committee.
- \$3,000 was paid to purchase tickets to the Matthew 25 Summit in Atlanta. This money was requested by the VCPC.

Since its beginning, over \$160,543 has been granted for the benefit of Valley and its membership. Past funding has been used for church improvement projects, support for our youth and staff traveling to Presbyterian events, and to update and replace items used by the church.

The Board of Trustees encourages members of the church to provide for the Foundation in their wills and trusts, and to establish committees and or activities for the raising of funds and investments that will increase the principle. Principle growth allows for investments which will result in more projects funded.

## **Board of Trustees**

Andrew Dee, Valley Foundation President, Janice Viestenz, Cathy Bernhard, Sam Connell Joy McNeal, Wally Phillips, Stephen Rees, Daniel Rueff



# Mission

On behalf of the Mission Committee, I am overwhelmed by what we accomplished in 2023. We are no longer the church of our parents.... “Come, come see what we have to offer”; we are now a church who “Goes, goes into the world to share”. Thanks to the generosity of you, the congregation, who donated money and items we were able to contribute over \$57,000. Here are some 2023 highlights.

## PC(USA) Mission Programs

Valley again participated in our denomination’s four main yearly collections: **Joy, Peace, Pentecost** and **One Great Hour of Sharing**. We take a monthly **Cents-Ability** offering where half of the coins collected go to the **Presbyterian Hunger Program**. Thank you for sharing your change. Through our budget we donated \$8,000 to the **Presbyterian Partnership Giving** and \$500 to the **Theological Education Fund**, which supports future clergy. We supported **Second Home** with over twenty \$25 gift cards from our portion of the Pentecost offering. And we continued our on-going support of the **Presbyterian Disaster Relief** in Maui and the floods/fires both nationally and internationally.

## Food Outreach

We’ve continued to collect food on first and third Thursdays and sent over 2,200 pounds of food to the **St. Matthew’s Food Pantry**. They are now serving around 500 families a month. Valley volunteers work at the pantry every third, fourth, and sometimes fifth Wednesday nights, coordinated by Diane Meyer.

Another monthly project was the third Thursday Soup Kitchen at **Transition Projects Doreen’s Place** (formerly known as Bud Clark Commons). Where we prepared and delivered a full dinner for their clients; post Covid they went from 30 men per month to over 75; and are now at full capacity of 90 men. Our Mariners ships and other church groups were regular contributors to this ministry.

In April, Valley hosted its third **CROP Walk** here in Raleigh Hills and sent over \$1,300 to Church World Services. Our **Summer Produce Table** was again a great success, and the funds were sent to the **Oregon Food Bank**. October saw delicious cakes and bread sold during our Bake Sale, with proceeds to **Bread for the World**.

During Advent, we focused for the fifth year on giving back to the community through our Reverse Advent Calendar, collecting donations that go to the **Good Roots Food Pantry** in Milwaukie, in memory of Bill Kruchek. This year we provided close to 500 pounds of food, household products and clothing.

## Additional Mission Efforts

Here's to the knitters of the **Prayer Shawl Ministry** who made and delivered shawls locally and across the country. I can see you now in the Fireside room, knit three, pearl three, "Father, Son and Holy Ghost". Most of these women are also **Nine-Patch Quilters**, sewing quilts to wrap our High-School graduates in love and prayers as they transition into adulthood. Our **Together Women Rise** chapter has continued with monthly in-person lunches in the Fireside Room. This group is now in its eleventh year. Attendees donate the cost of a lunch out and the funds go to support non-profit organizations that empower women and children worldwide.

We participated in the **September School Supply Drive** for Raleigh Park, delivering two full carloads of pencils, pens, notebooks, and crayons to name a few items. We also collected several carloads of toys for the **St Matthew's Christmas Toy Drive**. Our November **Mission Market** brought back our beloved projects: **Equal Exchange** supporting third world farmers, **Heifer International**, our **Youth Mission** and **Second Home**. The **Mission Endowment Grants** disbursed over \$21,000 to support local, national, and worldwide projects.

These are just some of the things we did. There was much more as we respond to this ever-changing world, please remember WE continue to be the hands and feet of Christ. Our committee is always looking for new members, so if you are interested in this very satisfying work, please let Andrea know. Or, if you have an organization we can contribute to, please make that known. We are a congregation re-envisioning a new normal. Your Mission Committee thanks you from the bottom of our hearts for your on-going and generous giving.

## Mission Committee

Andrea Murdoch (chair), Connie Brenner, Janice Viestenz, MaryKay Rodman. Honorary members: Diane Meyer, Ruthann Marquis, Carol Powers, Leslie and Mark Hanscom, without whose help we couldn't do what we do. Thank you for your faithful service.



*With God's help.... We have a giving that knows no end. Thank You!*



# Mission – Earth Care

Valley's Earth Care Team was established in early 2019. Activities that year focused on actions that allowed our church to apply to be an Earth Care Congregation within PCUSA. We have maintained that status for the past four years through annual re-application for certification. Our team strives to be examples of being good stewards of our earthly resources through education and actions. Here's what we did in 2023.

## Education

A monthly article was written about sustainability, recycling and reusing for the Messenger under the Earth Care Corner. The bulletin board outside of the Gamble Library was kept updated and informative, including showcasing the current Earth Care Congregation Certificate.

## Actions

Styrofoam and #6 plastic items were collected twice each month and taken to Agilyx for recycling. In addition, there was a post-holiday collection of Styrofoam and #6 plastic in December.

New recycling bins were obtained and placed next to each trash bin on Valley's campus, with new and clear pictorial labeling about what goes in each bin.

Valley's sponsored two different Community Recycling Events, one in April and the other in October. It included community partners that collected electronic recycling, batteries, plastics #1, #2, #4, #5, and #6/Styrofoam, plastic film, corks, cans/bottles, textiles, books, athletic shoes and usable household goods. We collaborated with the West Slope NAC who provided volunteers and a shred truck for our October event. We also established a partnership with the Raleigh Hills Business Association for future April events.

Earth Care Sunday was celebrated in April, which included the availability of native plants for interested Valley members and friends.

A battery audit was done at the end of the year to plan for a church-wide switch to rechargeable batteries.

## Earth Care Team

Ruthann Marquis (team leader), Wendy Archibald, Jan Bellis-Squires, Connie Brenner, Amy Henning, Carol Powers



# Mission Endowment

Our Mission Endowment team was delighted to award grants to twelve organizations totaling \$23,000 in 2023.

Grants are given twice each year in May and November. These grants support housing, education, medical needs and social services here in the Portland area and around the world. Funds are made available from investment income. Please see the Mission Endowment Investment Fund's report for additional information on this process.

## Spring Grants

**Seeds of Learning – \$1,800**

Provide student scholarships at Nicaragua University.

**Corvallis Sister Cities – \$2,000**

Hygiene kits and musical instruments for Ukrainian refugees in Uzhhorod.

**Valley Youth Mission Trip - \$2,750**

Support the summer youth mission trip to Puerto Rico.

**Project Ethiopia – \$1,300**

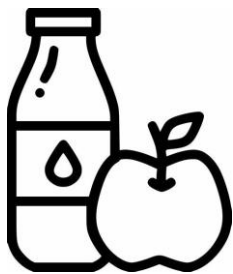
Help rural Ethiopian women and families access primary and university education, healthy housing, and microloans.

**Transition Projects - \$1,900**  
shelter to permanent housing.

Create move-in kits to support individuals moving from the

**Impact NW - \$2,000**

Keep vulnerable Portland families safely and stably housed.



**Food & Drink**



**Housing**



**Education**

## Fall Grants

**Janus Youth Programs – \$3,000**  
for runaway and homeless youth.

Supports their Yellow Brick Road street outreach program

**EMO Second Home – \$2,500**  
Portland Metro area.

Supports gatherings for volunteer home providers in the

**Open Arms International – \$2,000**

Build a mobile medical/dental clinic in Mllango, Kenya.

**Moon Catcher Project – \$1,600**  
to go to school.

Fund creation of 260 menstrual kits to allow girls to continue

**Hogar Violencia Domestica – \$1,500**

Repair and restore the facility in Puerto Rico so it can  
continue to support victims of domestic violence.  
This organization was also our Youth Mission partner.

**Ignite the World – \$650**

Build clean water wells in remote Asian villages.

## Mission Endowment Committee

Carol Powers (chair), Jan Bellis-Squires, Ernie Bootsma, Donna Carlson, Robert Hayes,  
Pam Kessinger, Janet Adkins, Mission Committee Liaison

# Mission Endowment Investment Fund

## **The Fund: History and Performance**

Valley's Mission Endowment Fund began in 1979 with a gift of over \$200,000 in stock by a Valley member couple. The donors 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 to which the original donor hoped that "the gift itself would inspire others to add to this fund." Since 2007, a total of \$20,478 has been contributed to the fund by various other donors.

Current investments are broadly diversified in the market traded assets with 64% in the equity sector. On December 31, 2023, the balance in the Endowment fund was \$442,393.

Semi-annually, the MEF Investment Committee determines the dollar amount under the gifting formula: 2.5% of the fund's nine quarter rolling average, a 5% annual payout. Mission requests are reviewed by the Mission Endowment Committee and then recommended to Session for final approval. In 2023, the Fund awarded gifts of \$23,000 and has given out \$522,141 since the year 1999.

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

## **Mission Endowment Fund Investment Committee**

Lyle Chadwick (Chair), Don Sowers, Frank Powers, David Balk (Broker, Steward Partners Investment Solutions)

# Membership

In 2023 as church attendance in the U.S. continued to decline, Valley remained focused on the church's future vision by identifying needs in Valley's neighborhood, developing connections and carefully building relationships. This rewarding process continues to emphasize outreach and not necessarily church attendance or membership.

Valley now has a strong presence at Raleigh Park School as classroom volunteers and reading coaches. Seasonally themed events planned by the Community and Family Engagement Committee have attracted attendees from the neighborhood and the Valley Preschool.

In-person worship attendance increased, online attendance remained strong, five new members joined by reaffirmation and one by certificate.

## Activities

Two New Member gatherings were held, inviting those who regularly attend but are not Valley members to consider membership. The Membership Committee will continue to welcome and support new members.

## Membership Committee

Ann Johnson (chair)



# Fellowship

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 for those who we call our neighbors.

## **Activities**

Coffee hour fellowship time was coordinated for the year. Current Mariners and various church groups hosted the weekly coffee hour after worship for a month at a time, providing sweet treats and beverages during the time after worship set aside to socialize. Fellowship ministry oversaw the care of the kitchen and purchased necessary supplies, including coffee, tea, juice and coffee creamer.

Fellowship coordinated a cake and punch reception following worship in June to say goodbye to Siena Hertafeld and wish her well as she relocated to pursue her musical career.

A congregational picnic was served indoors in August. A sandwich and salad assortment were the lunch fare, with frozen treats for dessert.

Fellowship provided lunch in October to celebrate Commitment Sunday. Deli sandwiches, vegan potato soup and an extensive brownie bar fed those that attended.

## **Fellowship Committee**

Ruthann Marquis (Elder), Charlene Stansbury, Wendy Jenkins, Marcia Sanderman, Renn Sanderman



# CONC (Nominating Comm.)

CONC (Church Officer Nominating Committee) is a committee that is mandated by the constitution of the Presbyterian Church. It is composed of a representative selected by 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, which means without a vote.

Near the start of each calendar year the committee convenes to begin its search work for potential candidates who are church members that participate regularly in the life of Valley. In addition to the customary duties of this committee, this year a Pastor Nominating Committee was needed. This involved preparing an application for the candidates, developing an interview process and selecting seven nominees to serve on the PNC. CONC presents the nominees to the church body at a congregational meeting. When these elections occur, there is an opportunity for nominations from the floor. The following were elected in 2023:

## Ruling Elder

Ruthann Marquis	Two year term/extension, class of 2025
David Marquis	Two year term/extension, class of 2025
Carol Powers	Three year term/extension, class of 2026

Note: There are three unfilled openings in the class of 2026 and 9 current ruling Elders.

## Deacon

Phil Miller	Two year term/extension, class of 2025
Angie Graham	Three year term/extension, class of 2026
Wendy Archibald	Three year term, class of 2026
Janet Budke	Three year term, class of 2026
Roger Rothrock	Three year term, class of 2026
Charlene Stansbury	Three year term/extension, class of 2026

Note: There is one unfilled opening in the class of 2024 and 14 current Deacons.

## Church Officer Nominating Committee for 2024

Ruthann Marquis, Elder representative/chair, Allison Carlson, Deacon representative, Shirley Anderson, Laura Sanders, Frank Powers

## Pastor Nominating Committee

Amy Dee, chair, Jan Bellis-Squires, Amy Rheingans, Tina Teed, Sarah Martin, Harry Reeder, Jim Sandberg

*Praise God for those that have accepted the call to serve as Valley's leaders  
as our church does the work of Jesus on this earth*

# Youth Ministries

## 2023 Highlights

This was a year that explored new relationships and adventures. Jenn Souders-McGuffin was the Youth Leader for the entire year, but reduced her position from part-time to quarter-time in September. She brought passion to the position through relational ministry with the youth, culminating with a mission trip to Puerto Rico. The Youth were in Puerto Rico for a week and physically supported a local community. In turn, they were shown how His love can transform lives.

Like many ministries, this requires time, dedication, and funding. Coming out of the pandemic, this ministry survived without a leader as volunteers stepped up to keep the Youth connected to the church. Many of those volunteers continued to show dedication by volunteering many hours and continued to assist Jenn as part of the Youths' spiritual family. Some of the fundraisers that helped our ministry grow were:

- Pie Sales (twice)
- Chili Cookoff
- Concert by Thomas Rheingans
- Pancake Breakfast
- Ongoing BottleDrop Fundraiser
- Car Wash in the back lot

As we look forward to 2024, we look forward to growth, not only in the number of youth but in each person's relationship with God. As a committee, we strive to show each youth how they can grow in their connection to Him as a two-way bond. Not only will they grow through our nurturing of them, but we, in turn, will grow by discovering the clues of His love, compassion, and guidance that we all find along this beautiful journey.

## Youth Committee

Kevin Killian, Elder (2021-24), Jenn Souders-McGuffin, Director of Youth Ministries, Amy Rheingans, Director of Children's and Youth Music

Committee Members: Kathy Bach, Lyn Bedsaul, Cheryl Hoffbeck, Wendy Jenkins, Renn Sanderman, Karen Mitchell-Yakymi

# Community & Family Engagement



## Outreach Events

Easter Egg Hunt – 165 guests/30 volunteers

Valley Christian Preschool Graduation –  
200 guests/25 volunteers

Splish Splash – 50 guests/21 volunteers

Bike Rodeo – 65 guests/16 volunteers

Pumpkin Patch – 150 guests/28 volunteers

Tree Lighting – 120 guests/17 volunteers



Our three-year vision propels us to step outside our doors to connect with and cultivate authentic relationships with the next generation so that they might flourish.

We experimented in new ways to offer community and connection to young families by hosting:

- Family Events
- VCP Coffee | Connection | Conversation
- Morning Family Music Class
- Second Sundays

We expanded our community partnership with Raleigh Park Elementary with 13 volunteers helping with Camp Achieve this summer and 14 volunteers stepping into classrooms this fall.

We gave out 95 Advent Devotional kits as gifts providing an opportunity for families to engage with scripture in a hands on, easy to use, intergenerational format.

**C&FE Committee:** Wendy Jenkins, Evan Martin, Karen Yakymi, Allison Carlson, Lizz Brown, Amy Rheingans, Leslie Hanscom, Bev Hubbard

# Valley Christian Preschool

As I reflect on 2023, the best word to summarize this calendar year is “community”. Community has been actively cultivated within the walls of our classrooms at Valley Christian Preschool, the congregation, and our surrounding community. It’s been fantastic to watch our preschool families and community grow and flourish together, especially after being so isolated in prior years.

A few highlights from 2023:

- In January, we opened registration for the 23-24 school year and were met with lots of excitement about the new offering of week-long summer camps! Our rosters filled quickly for the 23-24 school year.
- In our 3’s class, we celebrated the Lunar New Year with the help from the Choi family.
- In January/February, we upgraded our indoor gym equipment and office food prep area.
- For Valentine’s day, we provided donuts for each parent at drop-off as a thank you for entrusting us with teaching their kids and a reminder of how much we love having them in our community!
- In April, the preschool families very much enjoyed the Easter egg hunt and brunch put on by Leslie Hanscom and her team. The bunnies and brunch were a huge hit!
- Toward the end of May, we hosted our “Someone Special Tea” for our Kindergarten, 4’s and 3’s classes. A “special someone” such as mom, dad, grandparents, aunts or uncles, came to celebrate all that the students have accomplished. Special activities were provided in the classrooms and they enjoyed a beautiful tea and snacks up in Armitage hall.
- To commemorate the end of our school year, we held a beautiful graduation ceremony for our Kindergarten and 4’s classes, followed by a school-wide graduation party. A huge thanks to Leslie, her team, and the boy scouts for putting on this wonderful event!
- Our first full year of Kindergarten was a huge success. The 2023-2024 Kindergarten class was full with 10 kids!
- Over the summer, we held five popular summer camps. The parents were beyond thrilled to find something for this age group. There aren’t many drop-off summer activities for five and under. Our camps were exclusive to VCP families. Camp Make Believe was our fairytale themed camp complete with a giant cardboard castle and lots of costumes! Our Superhero camp included a special visit from real life super heroes - Firefighters! Our Under the Sea and Dinosaur camps were tons of fun as well. Little Chef camp was by far the favorite. Each student made their own homemade jam, ice cream, a mini-loaf of bread, and muffins!

Coming out of summer, we had anticipated a fully enrolled school year at 100% capacity but unfortunately lost quite a few students in the two weeks leading up to school starting. Despite smaller numbers than expected, the first few months of the 23-24 school year have been wonderful so far. Our staff is top-notch and have built fantastic relationships with our students and their families. Our preschool families have loved the opportunity to be a part of community events at Valley this fall including the Pumpkin Festival and Christmas Tree Lighting. We look forward to nurturing these relationships as we continue this school year!

## VCP Staff as of 12/31/2023

### Admin Team:

- Kylie Cole (Director)
- Danielle Ames (Assistant Director and 4's assistant teacher)
- Tiffany Goldader (Operations Manager & Specials Teacher)

### Teachers:

- Shelby Parrott (Kindergarten Lead)
- Laura Carlson (4's Lead)
- Maria Abrahamson (4's)
- Danielle Ames (4's)
- Karen Broome (3's Lead)
- Malia Paulsen (3's)
- Annalisa Stavley (3's)
- Lisa Garpestad (2.5's Lead)
- Jennifer Stewart (2.5's)
- Rachel Lambert (2's Lead)
- Meg Fields (2's)
- Cheryl Duncan (2's)



# Personnel

The Personnel Committee at Valley Community Presbyterian Church serves and cares for our pastor, those on staff and the Valley Christian Preschool employees. With three active members, and Pastor Robin Garvin, individual responsibilities are substantial. The committee's agenda includes regular topics on staffing as well as current personnel issues needing immediate attention. The Personnel Committee works to make Valley an exemplary employer who keeps Christian values and equity as the foundation of decisions.

The Personnel Committee is accountable to the Session, with authority and charge to conduct 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.

In 2023 we hired Kimi Davies as the choir director.

We also reinstated employee recognition and appreciation events. The Personnel Committee provided a luncheon in May of Mexican food. In November, we expressed our gratitude with a luncheon consisting of a baked potato bar and a pumpkin dessert. Finally, with help from Finance, we were able to offer a year-end bonus to fulltime employees.

## **Personnel Committee**

Amy Dee (chair), Jan Bellis-Squires, Ann Johnson, Robin Garvin (pastor)



# Board of Deacons

## **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)*

## **Major Activities**

**Home Communion:** Deacons served communion on 90 occasions in 2023 to members and friends of Valley who 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) who have special needs or were unable to attend worship services. Baptism banners were presented to three people who were baptized in 2023.

**Outreach:** Deacons sent 57 get well, sympathy and thinking of you cards in 2023 to members and friends of Valley who were facing health problems or lost a loved one. 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 11 memorial services in 2023.

**Coffee Fellowship:** Deacons hosted Coffee Fellowship after Sunday worship in August and December.

**Communion Preparation:** Deacons provided and prepared the communion elements each month.

**Blood Drives:** Deacons worked with the Red Cross to obtain donors and volunteers to assist with Valley sponsored blood drives. We collected 90 units of blood that represents 270 lives saved.

**Prayers of the People:** Deacons presented prayers of the people on the third Sunday of each month.

## **Board of Deacons**

Michelle Blair (Moderator; class of 2025), Angela Graham (secretary; class of 2026); Class of 2024: Kathy Bach, Jan Bellis-Squires, Anne Scarce, Edie Leland, Phil Miller; Class of 2025: Diane Meyer, Allison Carlson; Class of 2026: Janet Budke, Roger Rothrock, Wendy Archibald, Charlene Stansbury.

# Clerk's Report

**Total Membership as of 12/31/2023: 261**

Membership by Year – Ten Year Trend									
2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
378	368	341	329	317	316	301	275	269	261

## 2023 Membership Detail

Gains: 6 (Letter of Transfer: 1; Profession/Reaffirmation of Faith: 5)

Losses: 14 (Letter of Transfer: 1; Death: 12)

Net Membership Change in 2023: Loss of 8

## In Memoriam

**Thanks be to God for these faithful servants!**

Name	Date
Marjorie Russell	February 5
Margaret Triplett	April 11
Dr. Paul Schaff	May 20
Patricia "Trish" Gerlach	June 15
Merle "Pepper" McGranahan	August 14
Mary Stapleton	September 20
Phyllis Patterson	September 26
Bob Peterson	November 10
John DeVries	November 26
Anita Cobb	November 26
Estelle Massengill	October 30, 2022 (reported in 2024)
Bland Simmons	August 15, 2023 (reported in 2024)

**Clerk of Session: Carol Powers**

# Finance

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. Finance also provides support to Session as needed for assessing financial implications of issues being considered.

In 2023, Valley received \$395,713 in adult giving contributions. This was a decline of 9% versus 2022. As you may have noticed in recent bulletins, giving from pledged amounts decreased last year, while Valley received more non-pledged giving than expected. The Finance Committee remains grateful for this congregation's support of the many ministries at Valley. Nonetheless, the lower giving in 2023 impacted our 2024 budget assumption for giving.

Looking back a year, our budget entering 2023 forecasted a larger than usual deficit of \$119,248. At the time of session's approval, points for consideration were multiple previous years where the forecasted deficit turned into a surplus, with repeated spending below budget.

Net operations for Valley in 2023 yielded a smaller loss than forecasted of \$59,254. Points contributing to the smaller than forecasted loss were higher rental property net income, and lower than budgeted expenses for staff positions, pastor nominating committee work, and operations.

The finance committee has budgeted for 2024 to be at or near "breakeven." Based on pledge status at the end of 2023, adult giving is expected to decline another 1-2% for the coming year. Use of an expected one-time grant as well as gifts and bequests generously given to Valley help make up the rest of the 2024 funding sources.

As of the end of December 2023, the Stewardship Campaign has received 77 pledges for 2024 totaling \$296,393. The previous year, Valley received 75 pledges totaling \$289,892.

The church remained debt-free in 2023 and has good asset balances.

End of year Statements of Accounts and Income Statements for 2022 and 2023 Valley operations are located on the following pages.

## **Finance Committee**

Eben Jenkins (Chair), Sam Connell, Lyle Chadwick, Evan Martin, Don Sowers, John Purcell, Frank Powers (Treasurer)

**Valley Community Presbyterian Church Summary Balance Statement (Selected View)**

<b><u>Current Assets</u></b>	<b><u>As of</u> <u>Dec 31, 2023</u></b>	<b><u>As of</u> <u>Dec 31, 2022</u></b>
Operating Cash Account	\$129,894	\$124,282
Investment Account	\$798,156	\$850,767
Online Accounts / Petty Cash	\$7,940	\$6,222
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>\$935,989</b>	<b>\$981,272</b>

## Valley Community Presbyterian Church Summary Income Statement

Income:	Actual 2023	Actual 2022
Adult Giving	\$ 395,713	\$ 434,370
Miscellaneous Income and Donations	\$ 41,087	\$ 19,627
Utilized Gifts and Bequests	\$ 54,693	\$ 48,000
Rental Houses Net Income	\$ 32,006	\$ 3,652
Children's Ministries (incl. Music)	\$ 4,925	\$ 1,550
Youth Ministries Income	\$ 33,182	\$ 16,788
Valley Preschool Income	\$ 348,441	\$ 345,289
Mission Income	\$ 49,526	\$ 46,095
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 959,573</b>	<b>\$ 915,371</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>		
Pastor's Comp. and Benefits	\$ 119,153	\$ 113,568
Music, Support Staff Comp. & Benefits	\$ 246,956	\$ 214,917
Pastor Nominating Committee	\$ 380	\$ 0
Facilities (Net Result)	\$ 87,023	\$ 55,652
Finance/Administration	\$ 107,086	\$ 107,422
Adult Education (Net Result)	\$ 933	\$ 89
Small Groups	\$ 0	\$ 0
Library (Net Result)	\$ 292	\$ 246
Children's Ministries (Incl. Music)	\$ 7,301	\$ 3,075
Valley Christian Preschool	\$ 336,850	\$ 307,208
Youth Ministries	\$ 34,247	\$ 18,569
Deacons	\$ 430	\$ 431
Mission	\$ 58,714	\$ 54,038
Worship (Net Result)	\$ 2,752	\$ 1,814
Music (Net Result)	\$ 7,052	\$ 3,825
Community and Family*	\$ 6,693	\$ 0
Communications (Net Result)	\$ 1,411	\$ 1,354
Fellowship (Net Result)	\$ 1,085	\$ 1,101
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 1,018,827</b>	<b>\$ 883,555</b>
<b>NET INCOME OVER EXPENSE:</b>	<b>(59,254)</b>	<b>31,816</b>

Note, 2022 categories restated to ease comparison with 2023

\*For 2023, Community and Family expenses were offset by using part of a one-time gift; this amount is included in the Utilized Gifts and Bequests section of Income.

**Valley Community Presbyterian Church**

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[www.valleycommunity.org](http://www.valleycommunity.org)