


The Messenger

Valley Community Presbyterian Church May 2010

Worship Schedule

Worship Schedule

Informal Service 8:30 a.m.
Traditional Service 10:00 a.m.
Nursery care 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Children's Sunday School
10:00 a.m.

(no Children's Sunday School May 2)

Youth Sunday School
10:25 a.m.

Fellowship and Coffee, 11:15 a.m.

May

2 Communion Sunday
Children's Musical
Youth Mission Pancake
Breakfast

9 Mother's Day

16 Graduation Sunday
Informational Gathering
'Bread for the World' offering
of letters (see this page)

23 Pentecost Sunday
Prayer Shawl Ministry
recognized
Congregational Meeting to
elect officers

30 Trinity Sunday

June

6 Communion Sunday

More ways to help hungry families

Offering of Letters May 16

Valley members and friends will have an opportunity on May 16 to participate in a **Bread for the World** Offering of Letters to encourage our congressional representatives to help hungry families. Food assistance to hungry people is vital, but it is not enough. This year, a series of tax cuts enacted in recent years will expire. Bread for the World, and citizens across the country, will ask Congress to protect and strengthen key tax credits that can make a big difference for low-income workers and their families through tax credits and free tax preparation assistance.

More than 13 percent of Oregonians live below the poverty line (\$21,834 for a family of four in 2008), and 18 percent of Oregon children live below the poverty line. These numbers are very similar to the percentage of Oregonians who struggle to put enough food on the table to feed their families.

Continued on page 3

Prayer Shawl Ministry celebrates five years and 562 shawls

Mark the anniversary by wearing your shawl to church May 23.

If you, or anyone in your family, have received a shawl since the first one was given to Marie and Sophia Bird in 2005, we invite you to wear it to worship on Sunday, May 23 as we celebrate the fifth anniversary of this warm and loving ministry. We will look around to see the variety of colors and how many there are.

Continued on page 3

Children's Musical set for May 2



The King's Kids Choir will present a musical, "Table for Five Thousand," on Sunday, May 2, during the 10 a.m. worship service. This version of the famous story is based mainly on the narrative as it appears in the book of John where a young boy with five loaves of bread and two fish is the catalyst, not only for the feeding of the five thousand but for the crowd to want to proclaim Jesus as King, and for Jesus to tell his disciples, "I am the bread of life. Those who come to me will never go hungry."

This musical is worshipful, joyful, and at times humorous. It emphasizes the theme that even the most humble among us, especially children, can do great things with God's help. The congregation represents the "five thousand" in this play. Come be a part of this joyful event!

Children's Stewardship

Statements have been mailed to 27 kids. If you didn't receive one or have any question, contact Katie Simenson at katie@valleycommunity.org or the church office.



The Royal Ringers Bell Choir played "Festive Praise" for worship.



Earth Sunday at Valley

Green Team continues some earth-friendly changes.

- Since serving coffee, tea and juice in washable mugs and glasses on Earth Sunday, April 18, Valley continues to follow that practice, thanks to members of the Green Team, who volunteered to wash the cups. If you'd like to see this continue, please contact Kristina Kurtz to volunteer to wash cups on one Sunday. Donations of clean, gently used mugs are welcome, too.
- **Green Team:** Valley's new Green Team welcomes all who are interested in helping the church with education and some earth-friendly changes. Call Donna Russell to learn when the meetings are held.
- **After school club:** Donna Russell, who learned much about water needs on her two mission trips to Bolivia, has organized an environmental science oriented after school club, "Green Tigers," at Raleigh Park Elementary School. Programs are planned for every Thursday in May, from 3-4 p.m. at West Slope Library. All are welcome!



Left: On Earth Sunday, the Kurtz family, members of Valley's Green Team, shows available information and resources.

Left: Using washable mugs and glasses at coffee hour.



Right: Librarian Jan Falconer with display from the church library for Earth Sunday

THE MESSENGER

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BEN PAROULEK

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SHIRLEY HERCHER AND ANGELA GRAHAM
PLEASE SUBMIT ARTICLES VIA E-MAIL BY
MAY 15 FOR THE JUNE ISSUE:
messenger@valleycommunity.org

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

Music in May

The King's Kids Choir presents the musical, "Table for Five Thousand," during worship on May 2. It will be a treat, so don't miss it. On Mother's Day, May 9, the men of Valley's Sanctuary choir plan to sing "Sweet Hour of Prayer."

May 16 is a special Sunday to honor the high school seniors. A highlight will be "Prayer of the Children," to be sung by a combined group: Sanctuary Choir, Youth Choir, King's Kids Choir, and Oregon Episcopal School Chamber Choir.



Prayer Shawl Ministry

Cont. from page 1

We have shared shawls with 562 families residing in many different states - our own Valley friends and family and sometimes to complete strangers. We've sent shawls to the families of Virginia Tech students, families of Utah miners who were trapped in the mines, families of the firefighters who died in California (many were from Oregon) and most recently to families of miners lost in West Virginia. Our knitters are dedicated women who give their time and supplies generously to create a gift honoring God. To learn more about participating in this ministry, contact Marilyn Tuffs or Ruthann Marquis.

Gamble Library news



A big *thank you* to all who supported the church library book sale in March. Over \$200 was raised, and the remaining books were taken by Everett and Shirley Smyth to a small library in Molalla for their collection or to be distributed to local churches. We are always grateful for donations to our Gamble Library. The items are either added to our collection or

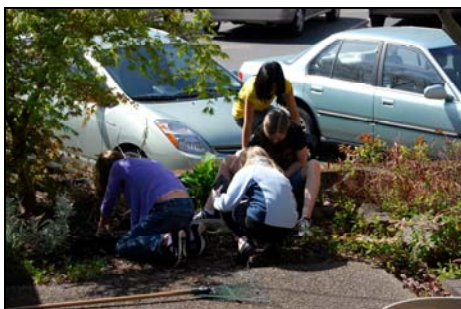
saved for the book sale. Also, thanks to Ginny Hanson who has agreed to follow up on overdue items.

Biographies at coffee hour May 23

The library table at coffee fellowship hour on May 23 will feature biographies. Our library has many books about people of faith and other interesting and important people. Be sure to visit during the coffee hour.

Book Discussion Group May 28

The book club meets at 10 a.m. on Friday, May 28 in the Fireside Room to discuss *Koenig's Wonder*, a first novel by Oregon author Linda Kuhlmann, who will join the group for discussion, thanks to arrangements by Linda Duncan. The book is a tale of brotherly love, brotherly hatred, and greed and redemption spanning several generations. All are invited to come and join this lively discussion group. ~ Jan Falconer, Librarian



Earth Day Clean-Up: The front of the Youth House and back patio look so much better thanks to the kids who helped rake leaves, pull weeds and sweep. Thank you!

Helping hungry families

Cont. from page 1

Senators Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley serve on the Senate Budget Committee, and Senator Wyden is also on the Finance Committee. Representatives Earl Blumenauer and Kurt Schrader serve on the House Budget Committee, and Rep. Blumenauer is also on the Ways and Means Committee. These lawmakers are in a position to help poor and hungry people in the U.S. and in Oregon, and our letters can help influence them to do so.

Moms' Study Group meets May 2

All moms are invited to join us for good conversation, food and support as we discuss the book *Living Above Stress and Worry*, part of the Women of Faith Study Series. The next meeting is Monday, May 3 in the Fireside Room at either 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. or 7-8:30 p.m. Choose which one fits your schedule the best or come to both! Books are available at no cost to you. To reserve your copy, please contact Katie Simenson at katie@valleycommunity.org or just pop in for one of the meetings.

Deacons' Corner

Grief ministries provided by Valley Deacons

People often receive a lot of care and attention immediately after a loved one dies, but within a few weeks the cards, letters, visits, and phone calls taper off. Just when the reality of the loss is beginning to sink in, grieving people often find themselves feeling very alone and forgotten.

Valley Deacons use "Journeying through Grief," developed by Stephen Ministries when contacting survivors of those whose memorial services were held at Valley. This booklet series provides a simple, meaningful way to reach out to a grieving person throughout that difficult first year. These books provide valuable and timely information to help the person better understand what he or she is going through, and contacts by deacons help the person feel valued and remembered all year long.

The booklets are available through Valley Deacons or the church office. For more information, contact Deacon Sue Koning.

Senior Adult Luncheon on May 26



Senior Adult Luncheon helpers (left to right): Julie Lawrence, Pat Bird, Sandy Cundiff, Terry Collier, Ann and Chuck Miller.

Session Highlights

Valley Session meeting April 13, 2010:

- Session called a meeting of the congregation for election of church officers following worship on Sunday, May 23 and set the date for ordination and installation of officers for Sunday, June 13.
- Elders for Personnel and Finance moved the congregational “town hall” meeting to June when more financial information will be available.
- Approved Bread for the World offering of letters on hunger for May 16, mission trip fundraising pancake breakfast on May 2, and sales of “stock” for the youth mission trip.
- FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) may be sent by email to either pastor (rene@valleycommunity.org or ben@valleycommunity.org) who will answer or refer them. Answers will appear in a future issue of *The Messenger*.
- Revised church office hours were announced: Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. and Friday 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

This year has gone by quickly, and on Wednesday, May 26 at noon we will have our last Senior Luncheon until next fall. It has been a wonderful year seeing so many of the “regulars” and having new faces join us for food, fellowship and some great speakers.

The speaker for May 26 is Kate Baumgartner, one of Valley’s high school students. She volunteers regularly at Blanchet House, which reaches out to the underserved in NW Portland. One dollar from each \$3 lunch will go to her cause. She will talk about what she is doing to help and what the Blanchet House is about. Please join us for lunch and hear how Kate is involved in service. Call Sandy Cundiff with questions.

NOTE: A volunteer to secure speakers for the luncheons next year is needed, beginning in the fall. To learn more, contact Sandy Cundiff.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to give \$500,000 for seeds of hope in Haiti

Seeds and tools will help Haitian farmers feed the country and build the economy

It is rainy season in Haiti. While that sometimes creates terrible challenges for those whose homes were destroyed in the earthquake, it is also good news. The rainy season is the growing season. And for thousands of farmers, it is both an opportunity for economic recovery and a chance for them to play an important role in their country’s healing process.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is partnering with the Presbyterian Hunger Program to provide funds and staff support for seeds of hope for Haiti. PDA has committed \$500,000 to purchase seeds and tools for farmers who are trying to feed the hundreds of thousands of displaced Haitians who have left Port-au-Prince, as well as the communities that are hosting the displaced.

To learn more, visit www.pcusa.org/pda, www.pcusa.org/hunger and www.pcusa.org/joininghands/haiti.



Middle School News



In May, we will spend time discussing some important teen issues: Rules, gossip and peer pressure. Do most teens view rules as being a barrier to freedom or can they be a positive influence on their lives? What does the Bible say about gossip? We hear a lot about how tough peer pressure is on kids. But peer pressure isn’t necessary always bad. We will explore ways to help the kids identify negative peer pressure in their lives and see how they can support one another in doing what is right. Join us for some games on the front lawn, wacky skits, amazing singing and cool treats. Friends are always welcome. ~ Karen Yakymi

Vacation Bible School

Plan to help out July 12 – 18; now is the time to volunteer

Chosen by the Children's Ministry Committee, theme for this year's Vacation Bible School July 12–18 is "Hero Headquarters, where kids join forces with God." Shannon Blair is VBS Co-Director this year and is looking for adult and youth volunteers for the snack, decorating, and drama teams as well as shepherds and junior shepherds to lead kids in Pre-K (four year olds as of September 1) through those entering the fifth grade (as of September 1) through the various worship and fun activities between 9 a.m. and 12 noon each day. There are full and partial week opportunities available. Nursery care will be provided for infants and toddlers of all volunteers. If your family did not receive the registration packet in the mail, please visit www.valleycommunity.org to download your form today. Classes fill early and registration deadline is June 11. To volunteer, please contact SLBLAIRrn@yahoo.com, or kay@valleycommunity.org.

Nursery care volunteers needed Sundays



Adults of any age who love children are needed as Nursery care volunteers during worship

on Sundays. Can you share one Sunday every three months? Caring for our children (infants through three years) is rewarding and fun. Please contact Donna Rueff at rueffhomes@att.net for more information.

Parents' Night Out

Next event June 19

Our very first Parents' Night Out event in March was a success. We plan to schedule at least four events each year for parents to bring their children to the church for fellowship and care under the direction of Holly Lewis with the help of Valley's teenagers between 6 and 9:30 p.m. Parents are free to take the night off! The next scheduled event is June 19. Details will be in newsletters or contact Kay Hope Gold in the church office or at kay@valleycommunity.org.

Non-Rush Hour to resume in Fall

Non-Rush Hour, when parents and guardians can unwind and relax, was hosted by Kimberly Smith with the help of Maddy and Wil in April. We look forward to offering Non-Rush Hour again next season from 5 to 6 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month, beginning in October. You'll enjoy spirited conversation with our pastors, and nursery care will be provided. To sign up as a future host, please contact kay@valleycommunity.org.

High School Ministry



Enjoying a snack at youth group.

As the school year quickly winds to a close, our high schoolers remain busy and active at Valley, in the community, and beyond. May will be a month of preparation, hard work, and celebration. Thank you to our Valley family for the various ways in which you continually join with and support us.

We begin the month with the traditional **Spring Pancake Breakfast** May 2, a joint effort between the youth and the Clippers Mariners. All proceeds will go toward the summer mission trip to Harambee Ministries in Pasadena, CA. We will also be selling "stock" investments in our mission trip during coffee hour on Sundays.

Throughout May, we will continue to meet on Tuesdays, 7-9 p.m. and will participate in our monthly Night Strike outreach in downtown Portland May 20. Special events this month include Graduation Sunday May 16 and the Senior Luncheon May 26 for which our own Kate Baumgartner will be the guest speaker. All are always welcome.

~ Jenny Pratt



A big thank you to Ed and Laura Sanders and the entire Navigators Mariner Group for the beautiful job in repainting Rooms 16 and 17. Children's Ministries Programs, Preschool, Piecemakers, Scouts and other groups who use these rooms will enjoy the fresh new look.

MAY 2010

APNC - Associate Pastor Nominating Committee
 L.I.F.E. - Living in Faith Everyday (Middle School)
 UTH - High School Youth Group

1
 10:00a King's Kids
 Dress Rehearsal
 Middle School Spring
 Explosion Retreat to 5/2

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>2 8:30a Worship 9:00a-12:30p Youth Mission Pancake Breakfast</p> <p>10:00a Worship 11:15a Coffee Fellowship</p> <p>4:00p New Spirit Ringers 5:00p Youth Choir</p>	<p>3 8:00a Women's Aerobics</p> <p>11:00a Mom's Bible Study</p> <p>6:00p Girl Scout Troop 6:30p Capital Improvements 7:00p Mom's Bible Study 7:30p Portland Highland Games Association</p> <p>7:30p Boy Scouts Troop 592</p>	<p>4 9:00a Tai Chi Class 10:00a Tai Chi Class 10:30a Women's Bible Study</p> <p>1:00p Prayer Shawl Ministry 7:00p High School UTH 7:00p Prayer Shawl Ministry</p>	<p>5 8:00a Men's Bible Study 8:00a Women's Aerobics</p> <p>12:00p Wed. Adult Education 4:15p Royal Ringers 5:00p King's Kids Choir</p> <p>6:30p Middle School L.I.F.E. 7:00p APNC 7:00p Liturgical Arts Comm.</p>	<p>6 10:00a Alanon 10:00a Piecemakers 10:00a Tai Chi Class</p> <p>6:00p Worship Committee 6:15p English Handbell Choir 7:15p Sanctuary Choir</p>	<p>7 8:00a Women's Aerobics</p> <p>3:30p Junior Girl Scouts</p>	<p>8</p>
<p>9 Mother's Day 8:30a Worship 10:00a Children's Sunday School</p> <p>10:00a Worship 10:25p Youth Sun. School 11:15a Coffee Fellowship</p>	<p>10 8:00a Women's Aerobics</p> <p>3:15p Camp Fire Meeting</p> <p>6:00p Girls Scout Troop 7:30p Boy Scouts Troop 592</p>	<p>11 10:00a Tai Chi Class</p> <p>7:00p High School UTH 7:00p Session</p>	<p>12 8:00a Men's Bible Study 8:00a Women's Aerobics</p> <p>12:00p Wed. Adult Education</p> <p>6:30p Middle School L.I.F.E. 7:00p APNC</p>	<p>13 10:00a Alanon 10:00a Piecemakers 10:00p Tai Chi Class</p> <p>5:30p Preschool Board 6:15p English Handbell Choir 7:15p Sanctuary Choir</p>	<p>14 8:00a Women's Aerobics</p> <p>3:00p Campfire Meeting</p>	<p>15 "Valley Messenger" articles due</p>
<p>16 8:30a Worship 10:00a Children's Sunday School</p> <p>10:00a Worship 11:15a Coffee Fellowship 11:30a Informational Gathering</p> <p>2:00p Boy Scouts 3:00p Cub Scouts Den 7</p>	<p>17 8:00a Women's Aerobics</p> <p>6:00p Girl Scout Troop 7:00p Personnel Committee 7:30p Boy Scouts Troop 592</p>	<p>18 10:00a Tai Chi Class</p> <p>6:00p Girl Scout Troop 40168 6:00p Mission Committee 7:00p Deacons Ministry 7:00p High School UTH</p>	<p>19 8:00a Men's Bible Study 8:00a Women's Aerobics</p> <p>12:00p Wed. Adult Education</p> <p>6:30p Middle School L.I.F.E. 7:00p APNC</p>	<p>20 8:00a Soup Kitchen 10:00a Alanon 10:00a Piecemakers 10:00p Tai Chi Class</p> <p>6:00p Youth to Night Strike 6:15p English Handbell Choir 7:15p Sanctuary Choir</p>	<p>21 8:00a Women's Aerobics</p>	<p>22</p>
<p>23 8:30a Worship 10:00a Children's Sunday School</p> <p>10:00a Worship 10:25p Youth Sun. School 11:15a Coffee Fellowship 11:15a Congregational Mtg.</p>	<p>24 8:00a Women's Aerobics</p> <p>3:15p Camp Fire Meeting</p> <p>6:00p Girl Scout Troop 7:30p Boy Scouts Troop 592</p>	<p>25 10:00a Tai Chi Class</p> <p>7:00p Children's Ministry Committee</p>	<p>26 8:00a Men's Bible Study 8:00a Women's Aerobics</p> <p>12:00p Wed. Adult Education 12:00p Senior Adult Luncheon 7:00p APNC</p>	<p>27 10:00a Alanon 10:00a Piecemakers 10:00p Tai Chi Class</p> <p>6:15p English Handbell Choir 6:30p Cub Scouts Pack 592 7:15p Sanctuary Choir</p>	<p>28 8:00a Women's Aerobics</p> <p>10:00a Library Book Club- "Fourth Friday Features"</p>	<p>29</p>
<p>30 8:30a Worship 10:00a Children's Sunday School</p> <p>10:00a Worship 11:15a Coffee Fellowship</p>	<p>31 Memorial Day Building closed</p>					

Valley Notes

Graduation season is here! Please send names and schools of graduates in your family to messenger@valleycommunity.org so that we can publish them in June. Thank you.

Thanks

Pastor René Minshew plans to rejoin worship in May and gives thanks for all your prayers and support following his surgery.

Thank you to all who contributed to **One Great Hour of Sharing**. This annual offering supports the Presbyterian Hunger Program, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and Self-Development of People all over the world. This year's total from Valley (so far) is \$6,206.78. Need is great everywhere; your contributions are welcomed.

Thank you to the Liturgical Arts Committee for paraments and lighting, Sunday School classes for handmade kites and those who donated lilies for the Sanctuary during the Easter season.

Thank you to **Cookie and Lance Clifford** for delivering Meals on Wheels to homebound persons with the Valley group on third Thursdays for about 10 years. Their faithful service is very much appreciated.

Opportunities

Valley information: If you are interesting in learning more about becoming a member of Valley or have an interest in hearing about Valley programs, please contact Katie Simenson at katie@valleycommunity.org or call the church office about the Informational Gathering, May 16.

Valley **Habitat for Humanity** build days are August 28 and October 16. Save the dates.

Prayers

In the last month the Valley community remembered in our prayers:

Pastor René Minshew, Richard Hegdahl, Don Mitchell, Reed Standlee, Gloria Schuch

Sympathy

- to Bill and Elaine Rea and family on the death of Bill's mother, Grace E. Rea, on April 3, in Bend.

Support

Valley Piecemakers; office volunteers; for our growth and understanding as we continue to learn to care for and create a healthy and sustainable planet for today and future generations, and the UMAVIDA network in Bolivia as they promote reciprocal solidarity.

Correction

Below are additions to the article, "The Piano," in the March, 2010 *Messenger* about the piano donated to Valley's choir rehearsal room by Larry and Janice Hawkins. We thank Larry and Janice again for the gift of the piano. *Ed.*

There was actually another Larry involved, who did all the work in re-stringing, regulating and tuning our piano. Through a series of events, we were put in contact with Larry Fisher, a Certified Piano Technician who lives in Vancouver, Washington. It was Larry Fisher who found the man in Texas who just happened to have a string chart for our unique piano. God provided an answer to our prayers in bringing Larry Fisher into our lives. We want him to get the credit for bringing our piano back to the magnificent condition it's now in today.

~ Larry and Janice Hawkins

Arts Exploration Camp

Arts Exploration Camp (AEC) will take place the week of July 16. Vacation Bible School is in the morning and AEC is in the afternoon of the same week. This year AEC will include children entering 1st-5th grades. Children will be grouped by age and will enjoy experiences in music, drama, and visual art. The camp will take place from 12-3:30 p.m. each day. For more information, contact Amy Rheingans at amy@valleycommunity.org.

Music & Drama Camp

This will be the 14th annual Music & Drama Camp! Each year, campers learn a musical in a week and perform the musical at the end of the week at a retirement home as well as in worship the Sunday following camp. This year's camp will take place the week of July 26-30 with the Sunday performance falling on August 1. This camp is for children entering 2nd-7th grades and will run from 9-3:30 each day. The play this year is "The Rock Slinger," the story of David and Goliath. An enormous puppet of Goliath, created by Daniel Bunten, will be featured. For more information, contact Amy Rheingans at amy@valleycommunity.org.



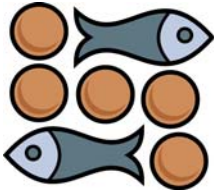
Middle School Super Hero Night - Super Heroes filled the Youth House, but we found out who our real Super Hero is! Jesus was at the top of the "A" list.

Children's Musical

May 2 during the
10 a.m. service

The King's Kids Choir
presents

“Table for Five Thousand”



Come be part of this joyful
event!

Pancake Breakfast

May 2
9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.



The High School youth
and Clipper's Mariner
Ship host the breakfast
to raise funds for youth
mission trips.

Graduation Sunday

May 16

High School Seniors
honored



‘Prayer of the Children’
by combined choir

- ◆ Sanctuary Choir
- ◆ King's Kids Choir
- ◆ Youth Choir
- ◆ Oregon Episcopal School
Chamber Choir

THE MESSENGER



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