



Valley Community

PC(USA)

2023 Annual Report

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

As a faith congregation opening hearts, opening minds, and opening lives to God, Valley Community Presbyterian Church (VCPC) seeks to honor the important stories and lived experiences of its members and neighbors. VCPC sits on the ancestral and contemporary land of the Dakota people, for whom the land holds historical, spiritual, political, and cultural significance. We acknowledge the ongoing injustices that we have committed against the Dakota people and pledge to interrupt this legacy. We will educate ourselves about Indigenous history and recognize, support, and advocate for our Native neighbors.

VALLEY COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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437

New Members
Since 2003

464

Members in 2003

406

Members in 2023

1,092

Valley Worship
Services

4

Years of
Pandemic
Preaching

134

Infant Baptisms

21

Adult Baptisms

1,127

Pipes in New (2007)
Pipe Organ

7

Parish
Associates

\$378,000

Endowment 2003

\$1.7+Million

Endowment 2023

27

Valley Community
Garden Plots

3

Capital Campaigns

\$2+Million

Funds Raised

2008

Chaplain for
MN House of
Representatives

41

VCPC Member
Weddings

168

Memorial Services
for Valley Members

5

VCPC Pastors

5. Rev. Richard Buller
4. Rev. Deborah Fortel
3. Rev. Harry Maghakian
2. Rev. Marvin Hedberg
1. Rev. James Glassman

38

Years Ordained

Oak Lane
Presbyterian Church
1985

Retired as Pastor
at VCPC
2024

21

years of serving a
congregation with
open hearts and
open minds.

All Are Welcome

Open Hearts | Open Minds | Opening Lives to God

Pastor's Annual Report 2023

You have learned about hope through God's good news, which has come to you. This message has been bearing fruit and growing throughout the whole world.

I pray that you will live your life by giving thanks with joy to the Lord.

(Paul's letter to the Colossians Chapter 1)

Dear Friends,

In his letter to the Colossians, the Apostle Paul encourages the church to grow by bearing fruit. A life of gratitude and thanks is what Paul prays for as the church shares God's good news. Here at Valley, we call that ***paying our gratitude forward***. And we celebrate God's love for all people as we live out our call to love our neighbors.

Valley Has Had a Positive Year of In-Person Worship and a Wonderful Program Staff Team

As I completed my 21st year as your pastor on January 14, 2024, I feel the gratitude that Paul felt for his church. It is every pastor's blessing to see a congregation bear fruit joyfully and with gratitude. 2023 marked the year that the full impact of Covid-19 was finally starting to subside. How joyful it has felt to be with one another again. Unlike some congregations who found themselves in disagreement about the best way to return to the building, Valley used care and information through our Covid task force. We allowed choices for everyone in 2023. Because of our continued live-stream, those who were not feeling well or had symptoms of concern were able to worship from home and remain active participants in worship. Members also felt comfortable wearing a mask if they had been exposed but did not have symptoms.

Worship and Music

This fall marks a full year for our new design for Bell Choir and Adult Choir. Rachel Williams has been our music coordinator and pianist, including selecting the full array of musicians that continue to enhance our weekly worship. Her enthusiasm for new musicians and a variety of styles has made worship vibrant and alive at Valley. Janet Carlson is our director for both musical ensembles of Bells and Adult Choir. Janet brings a deep sense of worship as she guides our musicians through rehearsals. The result is uplifting music and a sense of accomplishment for all of our musicians. Jane Nienaber is the dedicated organist who gives our organ a wonderful work out every month. Her skills are unmatched, and she brings an inner joy of life with every note she plays. She is a blessing to all of us.

Sheila and Mariah Complete Valley's Enthusiastic Ministry Team

We are thankful for all our lay leaders who have returned and are giving Valley new energy and commitment. Sheila and Mariah are hard workers and have figured out many ways to engage our young families and youth in addition to all our educational offerings. The result is very encouraging, as we rebuild after three years of mostly on-line meetings. As Sheila continues her education to be a Commissioned Ruling Elder (CRE), I have been so blessed to work beside her and experience her growth in preaching and pastoral care.

Dr. Barbara Johnston's Estate Giving Has Paid it Forward in Lasting Ways

Dr. Johnston's estate will be donated to *Makoce Ikikcupi*, meaning Land Recovery, which is a project of Reparative Justice on Dakota land in *Minisota Makoce* (Minnesota). \$50,000 of unrestricted funds will be donated this January 2024 to help with their goals of recovering land for positive use by Dakota people. At the same time, Liberty Church in North Minneapolis has also received \$50,000 to continue their work for the healing of that community and the positive support of education of North Minneapolis children. These reparations are in keeping with Dr. Johnston's firm belief in racial justice.

Another exciting use of Dr. Johnson's funds is for Valley's Earth Care Goals and for Eco-Justice for all people. By installing solar panels that are up and running, Barbara's funds are contributing to climate control and decreasing our dependency on fossil fuels.

With an additional contribution to our Endowment Stewardship Fund, Valley is now in a position to receive around \$11,000 a year to help with our budget. Please read your annual report to discover all the ways that Dr. Johnston's funds are paying gratitude forward!

Rev. Jim Cochrane Has Been Chosen as Our Transitional Pastor

Valley is very blessed to have found a transitional pastor who brings energy and excitement to the process of moving forward. Staff have met Jim, and he begins his ministry on Feb 1st. Please remember to wear your name tags as he begins the challenge of learning new names!

Elders Susie Potter and Jay Tracy are prepared to begin welcoming the visitors who have been coming through our doors. If you recall, the two-minute drill is the idea that you should spend two minutes interacting with someone you do not know right after worship. This is how we can meet visitors and expand our welcome to new people. Susie and Jay are depending on help from everyone to identify new faces and extend the Valley welcome.

Joys and Thank You

I want to thank everyone who helped put together my retirement party on December 1st. The photos are lots of fun to show off and continue to bring me a laugh or a cry. All who participated felt the love of the Valley Family. I leave you feeling sincere gratitude for my time with you. You have been a blessing to me and my family. I will surely miss each one of you and pray for your positive future as you continue your life as God's people! I leave you knowing that God walks with each one of you daily. So, remember....

You are loved,



Educational Ministries Report 2023

Sheila Sheldon, Director

Last year I began my report with “2022 was a year of transitions.” Well, the joke is on me because 2023 had plenty and we know that more are on the horizon in 2024. But just as we stuck together and got through the pandemic, we will get through this together. I have no doubt!

Regular scheduled education programming returned to Valley in 2023! For our children age 3 through 3rd grade it meant the return of Vacation Bible Camp and Sunday school this fall in the Sunshine room with James Decker as the lead teacher. Our Youth and Teams groups met weekly on Sunday nights and participated in mission activities. Adult education offered twenty informative classes on a variety of topics on Sunday mornings in the Cornerstone room. It was a wonderful sight to see things back to our pre-pandemic schedules.

Here are just a few of the highlights from this past year from the Education and Family Ministries Team:

Education and Family Ministry Programs

- We said goodbye to Lindsey Carlson who moved back home to Elk River in June and welcomed James Decker as our new Sunshine room staff.
- **Youth Group** met on 10 Sundays in the Spring and 10 Sundays in the Fall from 4-6 PM.
- They participated in mission work, fellowship, worship services and helped with events such as the YES Tea and Trunk or Treat for PRISM.
- **TEAMS** met on 10 Sundays in the Spring and 10 Sundays in the Fall from 4-6 PM with leaders, Hunter Sheldon, Jessica Goslinga and Charlie Rudeen. They explored many different projects from solar powered cars to candy machines using problem solving skills, creativity and imagination.
- **Annual Easter Egg Hunt** had 70 kids attend from Valley and the surrounding community.
- **YES TEA** was back to full capacity with 15 tea tables and youth volunteers.
- **Parents Night Out** events and the **Open Eye Theater Puppet Show** connected families.
- **Vacation Bible Camp- *Compassion Camp***, a curriculum that focused on cultivating compassion for each other, ourselves, and the world.
- We welcomed **12 campers** and **7 volunteers** and **Rachel Williams** who led us in song each morning. The kids echoed their experience in worship, sharing the message of compassion and love with all.
- **Sunday School** programming returned in the fall following the Time with Young Worshippers the children gathered in the Sunshine room with James and parent volunteers.

- **Learning and Growing:** Kids explored stories from the Bible using *Growing In God's Love* story Bible and took home a color and learn story sheet from the Mini Revolutions curriculum from Illustrated Ministries. For families to continue the lessons, a monthly email was sent to families full of resources for them to continue faith formation at home.
- **Annual Christmas pageant** complete with a choir of angels and a Christmas chickens, and it truly was a blessing to see the children together, sharing the story of the birth of Jesus with the congregation as only children can do.

These are just the highlights! I could go on and on about all the wonderful things that happened this year in our education and family programs, but I'll let you read the full report by our amazing elders.

Beyond these programs Mariah and I worked with Hafi, a web design team to create a new and improved Valley website, giving us an updated look as we move forward. We also onboarded our new church management system Breeze, that will allow staff and members to have access to an online directory and volunteer calendar as well as improve the online giving experience. I'm so grateful to have Mariah on staff full-time as of this fall. There are many moving parts that happen behind the scenes, and it is her support that makes it possible to have such great programs. I can't forget to mention and give gratitude for William, the other part of our team, who keeps the office and daily rhythms of Valley running smoothly and with a smile.

This year I have continued to complete my classes with The Academy to become a commissioned ruling elder and I'm officially under the care of CPM (Committee on Preparation for Ministry) with the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area. I am excited about the new possibilities and ways that this will allow me to serve Valley and our community. I'm hopeful that I will go before COM (Commission on Ministry) by the summer of 2024 and complete the CRE process very soon. Thank you, Valley, for continuing to encourage and support me during this process. I am so grateful for our ministry together and all that is to come.

In closing, I want to acknowledge Rev. Richard Buller and thank him for being my mentor and colleague. It has been his guidance and care that have allowed me to grow in my ministry at Valley. I'll be forever grateful for our years together; he holds a special place in my heart, and I will continue to live out those things that he taught us. Being a friend to the friendless, giving care and compassion to those in need and living each day as the hands and feet of Jesus in our community. Thank you, Richard, you are loved.

So now together, Valley, we will continue to grow and be a light for others. Thank you for taking this journey with me and may you know how grateful I am for every one of you. You are loved!

Blessings,
Sheila Sheldon

Minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting of Valley Community Presbyterian Church February 5, 2023

The 70th annual virtual and in-person meeting of the congregation and corporation of Valley Community Presbyterian Church & Corporation was held on Sunday, February 5, 2023. The announcement of the meeting below was made during the church service for three consecutive Sundays and was listed in the bulletin. A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order with a greeting and prayer by Pastor Richard Buller at 10:45 a.m. The agenda was approved by consensus. The minutes of the 2021 annual meeting were included in the 2022 annual report. Members received an email that contained the report, and a limited number of copies were available at the meeting. Reports from all the various committees and groups were included in the report. The call for the meeting was as follows: *“The annual virtual and in-person meeting of the congregation and corporation of Valley Community Presbyterian Church will be held on Sunday, February 5, 2023 after worship.”*

Moved/Seconded/Carried (M/S/C) Richard not read the 2021 annual meeting minutes.
M/S/C to approve the minutes of the 2021 Annual Meeting.

1) Land Acknowledgement Statement - Jen Biggs

Jen read the Land Acknowledgement Statement to the congregation. She talked about the Oral History Project designed to learn about Native American experiences and histories related to Golden Valley. She stated that fourteen (14) interviews with written transcripts have been completed.

2) Clerk’s Report – Jan Fedora

Jan acknowledged that Session had been very busy with their teams and were developing creative ways to connect with members of the congregation and our community partners. Valley always keeps going forward to meet the needs of people. We are a Matthew 25 Congregation, and we do what is right because we can! Jan thanked the congregation for being supportive in connecting to our Valley family and keeping Valley strong! Her report describes the various teams and the work they have been doing in 2022 and can be found on pages 12-14.

Active Members as of 12/31/21	438
New Members:	
Letter of Transfers	0
Profession/Reaffirmation of Faith	15
Total New Members	15
Active Members Lost	
Death	7
Removed	22
Total Members Lost	29
Active Members as of 12/31/22	424

Special Services in 2022

Baptisms: 7 | Weddings: 0 | Communion Served: 14 | Memorials: 6

Valley members who passed away in 2022: Isabel Leaf, Gloria Ayshford, Bob Schon, Anne Reynolds, Barry Downs, Marian Michael, and Karen Pratt.

The Session met for eleven (11) stated meetings, two (2) special meetings and one (1) congregational meeting in 2022.

3) Report of Stewardship Team – Lisa Kummer

"Valley: Where Gratitude is Paid Forward"

We had a lot to be grateful for, and paying gratitude forward was a message that resonated with us all. Through this campaign, we asked the congregation to respond with a 4% increase in pledging. This increase would help us provide staff raises to recognize their dedication, and to increase our staff salary budget to allow for the revived increase in programming. The additional pledges would also help decrease our dependency on the Supportive Ministries Fund. In addition, the recent passing of faithful members means we will face a substantial giving loss moving forward, so the increase in pledges would start to bridge that gap.

We gratefully thank the Valley congregation for the 130 renewed and 10 new pledges received totaling \$423,900 which is 100% of our goal! Valley is blessed by the response of our members once again. Thank you to everyone who pledged for 2023!

The Breathing Life Campaign Wraps Up (2021-2022)

Over the past two years, members have donated over \$98,000 to the “Breathing Life” campaign, which is \$15,000 more than our original goal! The campaign funded projects that breathed new life into our congregation and our wider community. Half of the funds helped purchase a new HVAC system for Valley, while the other half of the funds were split evenly to support specific efforts for the following community partners:

- **PRISM’s Homelessness Prevention Program**
- **Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative's Emerson Village**
- **Presbyterian Clearwater Forest**
- **Liberty's Northside Healing Space**

Mission Giving for 2022 - Craig Gottschalk

Craig stated that our total Mission Giving for 2022 was \$212,299. The members of the Mission Possible: Peace & Justice Committee were thanked for all their time and talents on the various projects noted on pages 40-43 of the Annual Report. These activities include: Alternative Gift Catalog, Bridging, Clare Terrace, Presbyterian Clearwater Forest, Earth Care Congregation Task Force, Empty Bowls, Every Meal, Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery, Habitat for Humanity, Immigration Task Force, Land Acknowledgement Task Force, Meals on Wheels, Noble School, and PRISM.

4) Financial Report - Denise Kara

Highlights for 2022 include:

- Ending the year with a \$5,323 surplus.
- The roof repair with considerable help from the congregation (over \$70,000)!
- 99% of 2022 Stewardship pledges were collected!
- Ending of our two-year capital campaign for Breathing Life. We finished by raising \$98,592!

Of that, \$40,000 was sent to our four mission partners and the remaining went to our roof repair. She thanked the money counters and Chelsie Larson, Financial Secretary, for their hard work and dedication.!

Resource Team - 2022 Financial Report and 2023 Budget - Greg Rom

Receipts totaled \$492,600 and expenses were \$492,600 so net total was \$0

Budget for 2022

Revenue:

Regular Envelopes	422,350	
Non-Pledging Members	15,000	
Non-Member Giving	5,000	
Initial Offering	600	
Per Capita Envelopes	7,000	
Loose/Special Offerings	13,000	
Facility Usage	12,550	
Interest/Dividends	100	
SMF Funding	15,000	
Prior Pledges	<u>2,000</u>	
<u>Total Revenue</u>		<u>\$492,600</u>

Expenses:

Salaries	203,385	
Employment Allowances	126,240	
Administration	32,050	
Per Capita	16,465	
Communications & Technology	4,000	
Property Care/Improvement	64,060	
Stewardship	500	
Educational Ministries	8,250	
Worship & Music	8,400	
Fellowship	500	
Church Growth	750	
All Mission	<u>28,000</u>	
<u>Total Expenses</u>		<u>\$492,600</u>
<u>Net Expenses over Revenue</u>		\$0

Greg also presented the 2023 budget. Totals are shown below.

Budget for 2023

Revenue:	Regular Envelopes	423,900	
	Non-Pledging Members	15,000	
	Non-Member Giving	5,000	
	Initial Offering	600	
	Per Capita Envelopes	7,000	
	Loose/Special Offerings	10,000	
	Facility Usage	12,550	
	Interest/Dividends	300	
	SMF Funding	25,000	
	Prior Pledges	<u>2,000</u>	
	Total Revenue		<u>\$501,350</u>

Expenses:	Salaries	212,266	
	Employment Allowances	132,659	
	Administration	29,850	
	Per Capita	16,465	
	Property Care/Improvement	64,060	
	Stewardship	500	
	Educational Ministries	7,400	
	Worship & Music	8,400	
	Fellowship	500	
	Church Growth	750	
	Communications & Technology	3,500	
	All Mission	<u>25,000</u>	
	Total Expenses		<u>\$501,350</u>

Net Revenue over Expenses \$0

Further details of the 2022 Financial Results and 2023 Budget can be found in the annual report on pages 20-25.

M/S/C/ to approve the 2023 budget.

Greg thanked the members of the Finance Team. Richard thanked Greg Rom for his work as Treasurer. Chelsie Larsen will continue to be Financial Secretary. Richard also thanked the volunteers who counted the offering each week.

Per capita is \$37.50 per confirmed member. Valley's per capita amount is \$16,465.

5) Endowment Fund – Mike Pinter

Thanks to the generosity of Valley members, including three members' estates (Isabel Leaf, Bob & Shirley Schon & Charlotte Tripet), the VCPC Endowment received a total of \$116,759 in gifts in 2022. This brings the total amount of gifts received since the Endowment was established in 1984 to \$765,973. On December 31, 2022, the Endowment net asset value was \$1,216,961.

During 2022, grants were made to many community outreach efforts, for the enhancement and upkeep for VCPC property, and in support of Valley staff education, retreat events, music programs and the support of our Valley Youth. The 2022 grants totaled \$42,296 (see table II for a listing of these grants). This brings the total dollar value of grants provided by the VCPC Endowment since 1984 to \$565,473.

The Isabel Snyder Rice Building and Maintenance fund name was updated this year to “The Isabels Building and Maintenance Fund: Isabel Snyder Rice & Isabel Leaf” as the Leaf estate made a significant gift to this fund.

Mike thanked the committee for their hard work and dedication.

6) Pastor's Report - Rev. Richard Buller

Richard thanked all of the office staff, Elders, Deacons, Valley musicians, and Stream Team for their hard work and dedication to Valley. Richard thanked our Parish Associates: Rev. Bill Davnie, Rev. Jim Cook, Rev. Kate O'Brien-Soltau, Rev. Aron Wilterding and Rev. Rebecca Tollefson. He thanked Sheila Sheldon for all her ministry efforts.

He acknowledged the retiring Elders and Deacons.

A big thank you to our volunteers who collected, counted, and deposited the weekly offerings in 2022: Carolyn and Ray Anderson, Tom Day, Helen and Dave Dechaine, Roger Graphenteen, Ann and Bill Keen, Peggy Meyer and Mary Ann Winter, Brad Pleimling, and Greg and Mary Rom. Richard acknowledged Ann and Bill Keen who retired from their roles in December after many years of volunteering – THANK YOU

He thanked Valley for his 20th Anniversary Party!!

Richard also introduced the new Elders and Deacons

7) Approval of Terms of Call for Rev. Richard Buller

Ben Kummer presented the following 2023 Terms of Call to the congregation for approval. Voting was done through on-line, telephone ministry, and voting in the sanctuary.

Rev. Richard Buller Terms of Call for 2023

Salary	\$33,291
Social Security Offset	\$5,454
Housing	\$38,000
Annuity	\$22,387
Total Compensation	\$99,132
Professional Travel	\$2,000
Professional Development	\$1,800
Professional Expense	\$1,850
Total Expense Allowances	\$5,650
<u>Pension & Healthcare Costs</u>	
Healthcare (29% of compensation)	\$28,748
Pension (8.5% of compensation)	\$8,426
Death & Disability (1% of comp)	\$991
Temporary Disability (0.5% of compensation)	\$496
Total PC(USA) benefits	\$38,661
Total Cost to Valley	\$143,443

A motion was made to approve the Terms of Call for Rev. Richard Buller for 2023.

M/S/C to approve the motion. It was unanimously approved!

8) Personnel - Ben Kummer (filling in for Arlen Havrilla, Chair)

Ben thanked all the staff for their dedication and hard work for Valley Community Presbyterian Church. He thanked Richard for his leadership during COVID-19 pandemic.

Arlen Havrilla, Chair of Personnel stated in his report that "We are so thankful to the Valley Staff and Parish Associates for helping us as we transition to meeting in person with the gradual improvements in the pandemic that persists. We will look to them for their support and understanding of how to move forward."

9) Other reports of various teams not listed above included: Educational Ministries: TEAMS, Adult Education, Faith Formations and Family Ministries, Youth, Worship & Music, Fellowship, Church Growth, Nominating, Property Committee, Mission Possible, Memorials, Fridays in the Valley, Technology and Communications, Supportive Ministries Fund, Youth Education Scholarship Committee Report, Valley Community Garden, Financial Secretary's Report and the Treasurer's various reports (detailed above) and Board of Deacons.

M/S/C to adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned with Richard leading us in prayer/song. The meeting ended at 11:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Rev. Richard Buller - Moderator

1/11/2024

Date



Jan Fedora - Clerk of Session

Clerk of Session Report 2023

Jan Fedora, Clerk of Session

In 2023 Session has been very busy! With their hard work, energy, determination, creativity, and thoughtful and prayerful decisions, they have made many decisions for Valley for the present and future of Valley! Below are some of the highlights from the various committees:

The Technology Team was very busy live-streaming worship services, staff meetings, community events. Thank you, Stream Team, for your tremendous dedication to live-streaming events at Valley! It has been a wonderful way to keep Valley members connected during this year!

The Growth Team welcomed visitors to Valley by inviting them to coffee in the Fellowship Hall. Many of these visitors became members of Valley. They joined because of the welcoming atmosphere, wonderful church services, children's programs, mission-oriented focus in our community and beyond, and our wonderful staff!!

Educational Ministries Teams are composed of children, youth, and adult ministries. Some of the activities included:

- Faith Formation classes, Vacation Bible Camp, summer mission trips, Adult Education classes, TEAMS, Christmas Pageant.
- Trunk or Treat for Halloween, Valentine's Cookie Sale, Craft Days, First Annual Valley Night Out with a dinner and puppet show, Apple Orchard Outing, YES Tea, among others.

The Mission Possible Team continued to support and sponsor worthy mission projects, reaching out into the community and working with different agencies.

- Mission Sunday was held with our ten (10) partners participating in the service and the educational program after worship.
- Holiday Food Baskets for Thanksgiving and Christmas were distributed to PRISM.
- Holiday Toy Shoppe for PRISM was a huge success.
- Several Valley members built dressers at the Bridging event.
- Habitat for Humanity projects kept workers busy building houses.

The Land Acknowledgement Team wrote a statement for the Land Acknowledgement project. This statement is a living document which will honor the important stories and lived experiences of the Indigenous people. Valley sits on the ancestral and contemporary land of the Dakota people.

The Sustainability Group met to discuss the needs of the planet and our environmental sustainability and how Valley can contribute to this mission.

The Immigrant Task Force continued to assist in the needs of the Karwan family.

Fellowship Committee decided to host in-person: Fall Festival, Annual Christmas Dinners, Parent's Night Out, Puppet Show, Richard's Retirement Party, Men's Retreat, Chrysalis women's Retreat, among others.

The Worship/Music Committee kept busy with planning the Sunday worship services including vocal choir, handbell choir, soloists, and wonderful musicians.

- We were blessed to have wonderful Parish Associates and we have two (2) new Parish Associates: Rev. David and Rev. Nancy Phillips
- Fridays in the Valley concerts were well attended.
- Beautiful banners that hang in our church added so much to the spirit of the seasons!
- Poinsettia Tree and the Julie Tree were displayed in church to add to the spirit of the holiday.

The Properties Committee continued to keep Valley clean and in good shape. The completed projects included: solar panel installation, replacement of 260 light bulbs with LED bulbs, interior and exterior painting of our building, and carpet replacement. Clean-Up Day was attended by several Valley members which beautifies the outside of our church. Many other projects are being planned for 2024!

The Personnel Committee

- Chelsie Larsen will continue to be the Financial Secretary.
- Rachel Williams was hired to be the Music Coordinator.
- Greg Rom will continue to be the Treasurer.
- A motion was made to renew the following Parish Associates: Rev. Jim Cook, Rev. Bill Davnie, Rev. Aron Wilterding, and Rev. Kate O'Brien Soltau, and Rev. Rebecca Tollefson.

The major campaigns for 2023 included:

Stewardship Campaign: "Where Gratitude is Paid Forward" Kick-Off started in the Fall 2023. The congregation was asked to respond to this theme with a 3% increase in pledging.

The average weekly attendance for 2023 was 255 and communion was observed on a monthly basis. Session meetings are generally on the 4th Monday of each month starting at 6:30 pm.

Active members December 31, 2022:	424
<u>2023 New Members</u>	10
<u>2023 Total New Members</u>	10
<u>2023 Active Members Lost:</u>	
Death	7
Place on Inactive Status or Removed	21
<u>2023 Total Members Lost</u>	28
Active members December 31, 2023:	406

Special Services in 2023:

Baptisms	11
Weddings	0
Communion Served	14
Memorial Services	6

Valley Members Who Passed Away in 2023: Vicki Wheeler, Betty Brooking, Charles Mattin, Jeanne Reinhart, Barbara Johnston, Louise Driver, and Toshiko Nishida.

Session met for eleven (11) stated meetings and two (2) special meetings in 2023. Two (2) congregational meetings were held in 2023.

Nominating Committee Report 2023

Katie Decker, Chair

The Nominating Committee met during the summer of 2023. We followed the ‘Biblical Process of Call’ with guidance from 1 Corinthians 12:4-7:

*Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit;
and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord;
and there are varieties of working,
but it is the same God who inspires them all in every one.
To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.*

At the November 19, 2023, Congregational Meeting following the 9:30am service, the congregation voted to accept the following candidates:

Elders, Class of 2026

Kelsie Hagelin – Personnel Elder
Pat Daily – Stewardship Elder
Sarah Fadell – Mission Possible Elder
Susie Potter – Church Growth Elder
Denise Kara – Finance Elder

Deacons, Class of 2026

Kerrie Deef
Rick Carlson
Jackie Goiffon
Gwyn Lang
Roger Michael

Endowment Committee

Todd Decker (5-year term)

Financial Secretary

Chelsie Larsen
Bill & Ann Keen – Assistant Financial Secretary

2024 Nominating Committee

Mary Dunham – Chair
Tom Wasmoen – Vice Chair
Julie Westerlund
Myron Jones
Mike Pinter
Sue Tracy

Special thanks to this year’s committee for their dedicated efforts and commitment in choosing leadership for our church family. The 2023 committee included: **Katie Decker-Chair, Mary Dunham-Vice Chair, Brian Hole, Greg Van Heest, Melissa Gottschalk, Mary Ann Winter, and Rev. Richard Buller *ex-officio*.**

Personnel Committee Report 2023

Ben Kummer, Committee Chair & Ruling Elder

The Personnel Committee is pleased to review 2023 with our congregation. And wow, what a year it has been! We learned in late September that after 21 years of ministry at Valley, **Rev. Richard Buller** would retire on January 14, 2024. Richard has been a huge part of our identity throughout his 21 years as Senior Pastor and Head of Staff at Valley. His guidance through all of the peaks and valleys and church experiences over more than two decades leaves our church stronger than ever before, at a time when other churches of our size and kind are struggling. This church owes him a debt of gratitude as we continue to grow stronger despite having endured a pandemic. While 2024 and beyond will certainly feel very different without his leadership surrounding us, we are undoubtedly set up to continue to thrive as a place of mission, justice, and spiritual growth for years and decades to come. Thank you, Richard, for all you have done to help lead our staff and congregation.

The Personnel Committee was asked by Richard and Session to recruit for and hire Valley's Transitional Pastor. We were fortunate enough to interview three candidates for this role at a time when churches are struggling to identify even one candidate for transitional roles. We were honored and blessed to meet and select **Rev. Jim Cochrane** for the position of Transitional Pastor. Jim's time with Valley starts on February 1, 2024 and we look forward to getting to know him even better and seeing him work with the congregation through the important work of creating Valley's Mission Study and helping us bridge the gap between Richard and our next Senior Pastor at Valley.

In 2024, Valley's Nominating Committee will appoint a Pastoral Nominating Committee (PNC) which will be charged with leading the search, recruitment and hiring of Valley's next Senior Pastor.

That was more than enough work for this committee for one year, and we have been so fortunate to have a terrific staff continue to perform admirably every day and every week. Below is a short recap for each staff member:

- **Sheila Sheldon** continues her outstanding work as Educational Ministries Director. She continues to be a face we see every Sunday, during announcements, prayer, children's sermons, and occasional preaching from the pulpit. Her work of course continues on all day Sunday, through Adult Education after church and with our TEAMS Group (grades 4-5) and Youth Group (grades 6-12) on Sunday evenings. In her free time (ha!) she continues to pursue her certification to be a Commissioned Ruling Elder, which will allow her to perform most of the duties reserved for an Ordained Pastor. This additional education should be very helpful for both Sheila's and Valley's future.
- **Mariah Messer** continues in the position of Program and Communications Coordinator. Given the needs of the church and the youth, we identified a need to increase Mariah's status to a full-time employee working 40 hours/week, which she graciously accepted. She heads up our communications, newsletters, email programs, and is directly leading our Youth Group on Sunday evenings. We are so fortunate to have Mariah working with us on a full-time basis!
- Our Office Administrator William Glasper was our 'rock' for another year - you know when you come into Valley during the week, you will be greeted with a smile and warm

conversation. His work is vital throughout the week, making sure our bulletin comes together without a hitch while making sure the church operations just continue to go, go, go!

- **Janet Carlson** was a perfect fit for her new role during the role's first year, Director of Choir and Handbells. Our choir has been in great hands with Janet's leadership, and our handbell team continues to come back together and provide beautiful music for select Sundays.
- **Rachel Williams** completed her first full year as Music Coordinator. She works seamlessly with special guest musicians; her talents on the piano are quite evident, and when we get the chance to hear her sing it's breathtaking! Rachel has assisted in coordination of music selection for service and will continue to take on more in this capacity in 2024.
- **Hunter Sheldon** has continued throughout 2023 as our Custodian. When he's not helping to maintain the interior and the exterior of the church, you can find him moonlighting on Sunday evenings, helping with TEAMS projects with our 4th and 5th graders.
- **Ben Sheldon** began working as part-time Janitor earlier this year on an interim basis. With his mom and dad at Valley so frequently, it seemed natural to have Ben assume the job vacated by our friend Silab Karwan. Ben helps to keep the church spotless for our arrival on Sundays.
- **Jamese Decker** took on the role of Preschool/Faith Formation Assistant when our previous employee moved on. She started on an interim basis, but through building wonderful relationships with the kids and their parents, we were happy to convert Jamese to permanent status in September.

As always, we are eternally grateful to our "good-for-nothings"; our wonderful Parish Associates whom we get to see regularly in church, whether leading prayer, preaching, or simply worshipping in the pews among us. Thanks is due to each of them:

- **Rev. Jim Cook**
- **Rev. Bill Davnie**
- **Rev. Aron Wilterding**
- **Rev. Kate O'Brien Soltau**
- **Rev. Rebecca Tollefson**
- **Rev. Nancy Phillips**
- **Rev. David Phillips**

I have happily served the last year of Arlen Havrilla's three-year team in this Ruling Elder position. In 2024, the committee will be led by Kelsie Hagelin.

The Personnel Committee does a lot of important work to support our wonderful staff and Parish Associates, which ultimately helps make Valley the safe and inspiring spiritual home for each of us. Please reach out to any member of the committee if you'd like to learn more about what we do.

Valley Personnel Committee 2023

Ben Kummer, Chair

Cathy LaPoint

Deb Poynter

Sara Schiebout

Melissa Gottschalk

Kelsie Hagelin

Richard Buller, *ex officio*

Supportive Ministries Fund (SMF) Committee Report 2023

Ben Kummer, Chair

Established by the Session in 2006, the purpose of the Supportive Ministries Fund (SMF) was to secure the sustainability of ordained pastoral support and build this financial cornerstone through gifts, estate planning, and wills.

In past years, with the guidance of the strategic plan, the Personnel Committee submitted, and Session approved changes in the language of the SMF, "to create a source of supplemental funding for ordained and other staffing needs to support the VCPC ministry". When the SMF was created, VCPC had fewer staff and no parish associates. As VCPC has grown, changes in the SMF were identified to expand the scope of the SMF to include funding of non-ordained staff hours and training.

In 2023, VCPC elected to use \$25,000 of the SMF to supplement staff salaries and bonuses that were not covered by income received from pledges. We also received \$100,000 to the SMF as a one-time gift from the Barbara Johnston estate. This money will help us continue to support our staff salaries as needed well into the foreseeable future.

The SMF has both an investment account with Parnassus Funds and a separate SMF savings account at Citizens Bank. The SMF accounts continue to be managed by the Personnel Committee and the church treasurer, with guidance from the Endowment Committee when needed. Any contributions to the Supportive Ministry Fund to assist with ensuring payment to the Church's ordained and non-ordained staff salaries and training should be made to "VCPC – SMF". This will assist the church in directing the funds appropriately.

The financial activity in the SMF for 2023 is summarized as follows.

SMF Balance: January 1, 2023	\$180,088.34
+ Contributions Received in 2023	\$100,000
- Support Paid Out to Valley Budget	(\$31,000)
+ Interest Received on Certificate of Deposit	\$1,474.69
+ Investment Value Gain (Loss)	\$13,146.58
= SMF Balance: December 31, 2023	\$263,709.61

SMF Balance: December 31, 2023	\$263,709.61
Balance in Investments	\$101,187.72
Balance in Certificate of Deposit	\$71,474.69
Balance in Savings	\$91,047.20

If you have questions about the Supportive Ministries Fund, please contact Ben Kummer, Chair of the Personnel Committee or Greg Rom, VCPC Treasurer.

Treasurer's Report: Net Assets

Greg Rom, Treasurer

	<u>Dec. 31, 2023</u>	<u>Dec. 31, 2022</u>
Assets		
Checking/Savings Accounts	440,564	361,867
Money Market Account	12,649	43,763
Cert of Deposit SMF	71,475	0
Parnassus SMF Account	101,188	88,041
Total Assets	<u>625,876</u>	<u>493,671</u>
Liabilities		
Prepaid Pledges	<u>58,618</u>	<u>70,434</u>
Net Assets		
General Fund - unrestricted	50,750	49,220
Donor restricted	<u>516,508</u>	<u>374,017</u>
Total Net Assets	<u><u>567,258</u></u>	<u><u>423,237</u></u>

2023 and 2024 General Fund Financial Highlights

Description	<u>2023 Actual</u>	<u>2023 Budget</u>	<u>2024 Budget</u>
<u>INCOME</u>			
Regular Envelopes	405,222	423,900	409,701
Nonpledging members	25,071	15,000	22,000
Initial Offering	596	600	600
Per Capita Envelopes	5,365	7,000	7,000
Non-member giving	3,322	5,000	5,000
Prior Year Pledges	0	2,000	2,000
Loose Offering	3,412	2,000	2,000
Facility Usage	12,141	12,550	12,550
Interest/Dividends	834	300	700
Special Offerings	9,640	8,000	8,000
Funding from SMF	31,000	25,000	48,004
TOTAL INCOME	<u>496,603</u>	<u>501,350</u>	<u>517,555</u>
<u>EXPENSES</u>			
Salaries	208,814	212,266	231,911
Employment Allowances	134,119	132,659	132,659
Administration	28,790	29,850	28,250
Communications and Technology	3,450	3,500	3,500
Property Care/Improvement	62,697	64,060	62,360
Stewardship Campaign	356	500	500
Per Capita	16,425	16,465	16,325
Educational Ministries	7,174	7,400	7,400
Worship and Music	5,512	8,400	8,400
Fellowship	534	500	500
Church Growth	0	750	750
Mission			
Local Mission	5,150	6,000	6,000
PC (USA) Mission	9,000	9,000	9,000
Special Offerings Paid Out	9,640	8,000	8,000
Loose Offering-Designated	3,412	2,000	2,000
Total Mission	<u>27,202</u>	<u>25,000</u>	<u>25,000</u>
TOTAL EXPENSE	<u>495,073</u>	<u>501,350</u>	<u>517,555</u>
NET TOTAL	<u>1,530</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

**Treasurer's Report
2022 and 2023 Comparison**

Acct	Description	<u>2022 Actual</u>	<u>2023 Actual</u>	<u>2023 Budget</u>	<u>2024 Budget</u>
INCOME: General Fund					
ENVELOPE RECEIPTS					
20	Reg Envelopes-pledged	401,097	405,222	423,900	409,701
21	Nonpledging members	18,010	25,071	15,000	22,000
22	Initial Offering	310	596	600	600
23	Per Capita Envelopes	5,721	5,365	7,000	7,000
26	Non-member giving	2,364	3,322	5,000	5,000
27	Prior Year Pledges	0	0	2,000	2,000
	ENVELOPE RECEIPTS	427,502	439,576	453,500	446,301
NON-ENVELOPE RECEIPTS					
30	Loose Offering	1,530	3,412	2,000	2,000
31	Facility Usage	11,695	12,141	12,550	12,550
33	Interest/Dividends	283	834	300	700
34	SMF Funding	0	31,000	25,000	48,004
35	Special Offerings	7,816	9,640	8,000	8,000
36	Other Grants	0	0	0	0
	NON-ENVELOPE RECEIPTS	21,324	57,027	47,850	71,254
	TOTAL INCOME	448,826	496,603	501,350	517,555
EXPENSE : General Fund					
SALARIES					
111	Pastor	33,291	33,291	33,291	33,291
132	Office Administrator	43,697	45,008	45,008	46,359
153	Hand Bell/Choir Director	4,572	9,191	10,091	10,394
154	Music Coordinator	3,600	12,875	15,600	16,068
156	Organist	0	2,400	2,400	2,400
157	Guest Musicians	0	1,550	7,966	6,966
181	Educational Ministries Dir.	47,540	50,210	50,210	51,717
191	Custodian	10,448	10,920	10,920	11,248
192	Janitor	4,140	4,746	4,820	4,965
184	Contract Custodial Services	0	0	300	300
185	Nursery Attendant	325	1,780	1,800	1,800
186	Non-worship childcare	300	0	500	500
180	Preschool Assistant	900	1,250	1,800	1,800
190	Program/Comm Coordinator	19,780	35,593	27,560	44,103
	SALARIES	168,593	208,814	212,266	231,911
EMPLOYMENT ALLOWANCES					
211	Housing-Pastor	38,000	38,000	38,000	38,000
212	Annuity-Pastor	19,500	22,388	22,387	22,387
221	Travel-Pastor	1,915	2,539	2,000	2,000
231	Pension-Pastor	8,141	8,553	8,426	8,426
261	Prof. Development-Pastor	1,458	1,811	1,800	1,800
281	Medical-Pastor	27,470	30,212	30,235	30,235
271	Prof. Expense-Pastor	1,470	1,897	1,850	1,850
213	Pastor-FICA Offset	5,454	5,454	5,454	5,454
223	Travel-Ed. Min. Director	99	0	100	100
225	Prof. Dev.-Ed. Min. Director	502	801	950	950
663	Prof. Dev.-Director of Music	0	0	500	500
251	Social Security Tax	9,740	12,367	10,500	10,500
226	Employee Benefits	5,364	7,639	6,207	6,207
294	Temporary Staffing	0	0	250	250
292	Personnel Committee	875	1,308	1,500	1,500

**Treasurer's Report
2022 and 2023 Comparison**

Acct	Description	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2023 Budget	2024 Budget
295	Pulpit and Music Supply	2,900	1,150	2,500	2,500
EMPLOYMENT ALLOWANCES		122,888	134,119	132,659	132,659
ADMINISTRATION					
312	Internet Expense	3,944	4,289	4,000	4,000
393	Office Subscriptions	3,650	2,864	2,500	2,500
362	Copy Machine	8,784	7,609	8,000	6,500
323	Offering Envelopes	682	542	700	700
313	Paychex	4,576	3,226	5,100	4,500
331	Postage	1,871	1,858	2,000	2,000
322	Office Supplies	2,241	2,325	1,000	1,500
392	Session	273	479	400	400
395	Deacons	25	181	400	400
311	Telephone	863	1,057	950	950
371	Bank/Online Fees	4,630	4,360	4,700	4,700
469	Background checks	0	0	100	100
ADMINISTRATION		31,539	28,790	29,850	28,250
COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY					
325	Technology Upgrades	2,119	2,777	3,500	3,500
803	Website and Education	0	673	0	0
COMMUNICATIONS/TECHNOLOGY		2,119	3,450	3,500	3,500
PROPERTY CARE AND IMPROVEMENT					
511	Bldg and Equip Maintenance	4,136	4,269	7,000	6,500
521	Grounds Maintenance	4,801	4,685	6,000	5,500
551	Electrical Service	13,777	13,934	12,000	9,000
541	Gas	11,969	12,297	10,000	13,000
561	Water/Sewer/Disposal	8,672	8,453	10,000	9,000
581	Insurance	13,309	14,365	15,000	15,000
582	Sprinkler Monitoring	2,553	2,458	1,360	1,360
572	Kitchen Supplies/Equipment	724	950	800	1,000
571	Custodial Supplies	2,348	1,286	1,900	2,000
PROPERTY CARE & IMPRMNT		62,289	62,697	64,060	62,360
391	STEWARDSHIP CAMPGN	500	356	500	500
941	PER CAPITA	16,462	16,425	16,465	16,325
EDUCATIONAL MINISTRIES					
412	Education Ministries	972	1,181	1,200	1,500
415	TEAMS Ministries	574	690	800	800
417	Youth Ministries	1,392	1,716	1,800	1,800
422	Family Ministries	1,628	1,410	1,500	1,500
423	Adult Ministries	1,678	2,177	2,100	1,800
EDUCATIONAL MINISTRIES		6,244	7,174	7,400	7,400
WORSHIP AND MUSIC					
620	Special Music	1,850	300	1,500	1,500
621	Choir Supplies	71	551	500	500
622	Choir Enrichment	3,500	2,600	3,500	3,500
623	Worship License	1,155	1,212	1,200	1,200
632	Banners	570	73	400	400
631	Worship Supplies	992	776	1,000	1,000

**Treasurer's Report
2022 and 2023 Comparison**

Acct	Description	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2023 Budget	2024 Budget
661	Piano Maintenance	150	0	300	300
	WORSHIP & MUSIC	8,288	5,512	8,400	8,400
MISSION POSSIBLE					
965	Loose Offering-Designated	1,530	3,412	2,000	2,000
966	Local Mission	5,350	5,150	6,000	6,000
968	Special Offerings Paid Out	7,816	9,640	8,000	8,000
967	PC (USA) Mission	9,000	9,000	9,000	9,000
	MISSION POSSIBLE	23,696	27,202	25,000	25,000
711	FELLOWSHIP	417	534	500	500
CHURCH GROWTH					
801	Advertising & Evangelism	468	0	750	750
	TOTAL EXPENSE	443,503	495,073	501,350	517,555
	NET TOTAL	5,323	1,530	0	0

Treasurer's Report
Income and Expense Summary - Dedicated Accounts
December 31, 2023

Acct	Description	Beginning Balance	Receipts	Expense	Ending Balance
Ongoing Offerings					
40	One Great Hour	0.00	3,014.07	3,014.07	0.00
43	Maundy Thursday	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
47	Peace and Global Witness	0.00	465.00	465.00	0.00
51	Easter Envelopes	0.00	1,725.00	1,725.00	0.00
52	Thanksgiving Envelopes	0.00	1,045.00	1,045.00	0.00
53	Christmas Envelopes	0.00	1,743.65	1,743.65	0.00
56	Ash Wednesday	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
57	Christmas Joy	0.00	859.25	859.25	0.00
58	Pentecost Offering	0.00	788.00	788.00	0.00
	ONGOING OFFERINGS	0.00	9,639.97	9,639.97	0.00
Other Giving					
41	Crisis Nursery	670.00	6,117.75	5,642.55	1,145.20
45	Habitat for Humanity	0.00	585.00	585.00	0.00
46	Home Free	0.00	1,255.00	1,255.00	0.00
48	Clearwater Forest	0.00	4,145.00	3,800.00	345.00
55	PRISM	1,329.06	24,539.99	23,783.59	2,085.46
68	Empty Bowls	0.00	632.00	632.00	0.00
74	Liberty Community Church	465.00	2,851.00	0.00	3,316.00
86	Presbyterian World Mission	411.00	4,149.25	4,560.25	0.00
93	Noble School / Every Meal	2,399.53	4,949.04	1,122.34	6,226.23
108	Clare Housing	1,942.47	5,104.67	1,106.39	5,940.75
110	Bridging	0.00	1,774.00	1,550.00	224.00
114	The Father Project	0.00	2,541.00	2,541.00	0.00
121	Meals on Wheels	0.00	25.00	25.00	0.00
	OTHER GIVING	7,217.06	58,668.70	46,603.12	19,282.64
Youth Accounts					
62	Mission Trip Stock sales	6,000.00	0.00	0.00	6,000.00
66	Annual Youth Pledge	1,795.00	490.00	0.00	2,285.00
72	TEAMS Programming	1,861.38	0.00	416.82	1,444.56
73	Jr/Sr High Mission Trips	3,938.96	2,750.00	4,503.20	2,185.76
88	Youth Fundraisers	1,940.72	4,014.00	3,420.52	2,534.20
	TOTAL YOUTH ACCTS	15,536.06	7,254.00	8,340.54	14,449.52

Treasurer's Report
Income and Expense Summary - Dedicated Accounts
December 31, 2023

Acct	Description	Beginning Balance	Receipts	Expense	Ending Balance
Other Dedicated Accounts					
49	Church Directory	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
60	Memorials	16,369.00	5,745.68	9,859.37	12,255.31
61	Fall Festival	642.68	7,732.59	8,375.27	0.00
64	Donuts	100.00	2,560.69	2,660.69	0.00
65	Valley YES Fund	11,421.50	4,601.50	3,120.56	12,902.44
67	Funeral Lunch Gratuity	742.53	1,125.00	991.91	875.62
69	Hand Bell Choir	71.48	1,419.00	348.76	1,141.72
70	Men's Retreat	855.75	2,722.00	2,487.05	1,090.70
75	Wisecres Senior Group	666.26	0.00	145.69	520.57
78	Pastor Discretionary Fund	790.97	31,923.06	30,128.81	2,585.22
80	Wildflyer Coffee	214.83	0.00	0.00	214.83
83	Alternative Gift Catalog	0.00	2,539.00	2,539.00	0.00
84	Fridays in the Valley Concerts	5,529.39	9,086.00	8,940.99	5,674.40
85	Endowment Funding	0.00	350,972.00	350,972.00	0.00
92	Unallocated	0.00	237,608.35	237,608.35	0.00
94	Community Garden	636.35	1,295.00	1,478.00	453.35
99	Z Hoge Landscape Fund	85.14	1,000.00	0.00	1,085.14
100	Library Fund	246.34	0.00	0.00	246.34
102	Sunday Flowers	0.00	2,471.04	2,471.04	0.00
103	Organ Maintenance Fund	1,417.73	0.00	0.00	1,417.73
105	Outside Sprinkler Fund	898.55	0.00	0.00	898.55
106	Sanctuary Piano Maint Fund	101.00	0.00	0.00	101.00
109	Children's Enrichment	3,579.04	4,640.00	5,863.41	2,355.63
112	Supportive Ministries Fund	180,088.34	128,282.16	44,660.89	263,709.61
113	Adult Mission Trips	34,682.58	0.00	500.00	34,182.58
115	Breathing Life	0.00	111.00	111.00	0.00
117	Building Contingency Fund	53,433.12	251,525.99	191,749.92	113,209.19
118	Land Acknowledgement	52.97	0.00	0.00	52.97
119	Immigration and Refugee	18,180.98	2,015.17	9,451.17	10,744.98
120	Presbytery Disaster Assistance	0.00	4,707.00	4,707.00	0.00
122	Boiler Fund	6,102.11	0.00	1,849.00	4,253.11
123	Roof Repair Fund	14,354.90	0.00	6,621.64	7,733.26
124	PRIDE	0.00	6,300.00	1,805.52	4,494.48
125	Solar Panels	0.00	131,100.00	131,100.00	0.00
126	Fridays in the Valley Mission	0.00	4,839.00	4,262.00	577.00
130	Barbara Johnston Estate	0.00	922,106.22	922,106.22	0.00
TOTAL OTHER DEDICATED ACCT		351,263.54	2,118,427.45	1,986,915.26	482,775.73
TOTAL DEDICATED ACCOUNTS		374,016.66	2,193,990.12	2,051,498.89	516,507.89

Financial Secretary Report 2023 Chelsie Larsen, Financial Secretary

General Envelope Pledges and Receipts	Pledges	Paid	Over/ (Under)
2023 General Envelopes	\$423,900	405,222	(18,678)
Less Prepaid 2023 pledges		(20,433)	
Plus Prepaid 2024 pledges		23,617	
Plus Contributions from Non Pledging Members		25,071	
Plus Contributions from Non Members		3,322	
Total General Envelope Receipts		\$ 436,799	

2024 Pledge Commitments

125 General Fund Pledges	\$ 388,518
Schon Estate 2024 Pledge	10,000
Endowment Stewardship Fund Contribution	11,183
	\$ 409,701

Finance Committee Report 2023

Denise Kara, Chair

Duties of the Finance Committee consist of:

- Overseeing the church's Operating and Dedicated Accounts.
- Meeting on a quarterly basis.
- Organizing the donation counting and deposits.
- Conducting the annual financial review (Book of Order).
- Reviewing risk management coverage periodically.
- Assisting the Stewardship Committee and other fundraising or financial activities as needed.

Highlights for 2023 include:

- Ending the year with a \$1,335 surplus.
- Receipt of large estate gift. See following page for details.
- Implementation of new giving management software (Breeze).
- Additional 2024 incoming funds (estimates):

○ Solar Panel tax refund	\$36,800
○ COVID tax credits	\$30,600
<hr/>	
○ TOTAL	\$67,400

A big thank you to our volunteers who collected, counted, and deposited the weekly offerings in 2023: Carolyn and Ray Anderson, Tom Day, Helen and Dave Dechaine, Peggy Meyer and Mary Ann Winter, Brad Pleimling, Greg and Mary Rom, and Sue and Jay Tracy. THANK YOU!

In 2023, Valley also received an estate gift from Dr. Barbara Johnston. Valley Community Presbyterian Church received 60% of her estate. Barbara joined the church April 16, 1960 and passed away at the age of 94 on March 13, 2023. Her request was for the church to use the funds to continue to emphasize peace and justice in the community and the world around us.

Thanks to all the members of our Finance Committee members for their time and talent:

- Denise Kara, Chair
- Jim Payne
- Mike Pinter, Endowment Committee Chair
- Brad Pleimling
- Greg Rom, Treasurer
- Lisa Tarbell
- Chelsie Larsen, Financial Secretary
- Rev. Richard Buller, *ex officio*

Barbara Johnston's Estate Distribution (Approx. \$1,500,000 Donation to VCPC)

- \$100,000 – Racial Justice (Reparations)
 - \$50,000 - Liberty Community Church
 - \$50,000 - Makoce Ikikcupi (Indigenous Land Recovery Project)
- \$100,000 – Poverty, Children, Women, Housing, and Elder Justice. Each of the following receives \$10,000:
 1. PRISM
 2. Liberty Community Church
 3. Presbyterian Clearwater Forest
 4. Crisis Nursery
 5. Clare Terrace
 6. Beacon - Emerson Village
 7. Habitat for Humanity
 8. Home Free
 9. Meals on Wheels
 10. The Father Project
- \$200,000 – Sustaining Stewardship Fund (Endowment)
 - Continue Barbara's annual commitment in perpetuity
- \$100,000 – Barbara Johnston Scholarship Fund (Endowment)
- \$100,000 – Supportive Ministry Fund
- \$135,000 – Eco-Justice: Solar Panel Fund
- \$100,000 – Disability Justice: Elevator Fund (ADA requirements)
- \$65,000 – Technology and Communication upgrades
- \$600,000 – Upgrades to sustain our physical building (breakdown in table below)
 - Invests in long-term upgrades needed to carry-out
 - Valley's vital community outreach and advocacy work

Upgrades to Sustain our Physical Building

- | | |
|---|----------|
| • 2023 (already completed) | |
| ○ Exterior and interior painting | \$28,000 |
| ○ Hallway/office abatement | \$24,000 |
| ○ Hallway/office carpet | \$30,000 |
| ○ Interior LED Lights | \$70,000 |
| ○ Interior wayfinding signage in hallways | \$5,000 |
| ○ Sump pump for office | \$7,000 |
| • 2024 | |
| ○ Sanctuary floor abatement | \$27,000 |
| ○ Sanctuary floor tile/carpet | \$45,000 |
| ○ Sanctuary pews removed/replaced | \$14,000 |
| ○ Sanctuary and cornerstone ceiling wood staining | \$60,000 |

• 2025 and beyond	
○ Peaked roof shingle repair and soffits (2025)	\$80,000
○ Fellowship hall floor replacement (summer 2025)	\$40,000
○ Parking lot resurfacing (2026-2027)	\$100,000
○ Building Maintenance Fund (2025 and beyond)	\$70,000
TOTAL UPGRADES TO SUSTAIN OUR PHYSICAL BUILDING	\$600,000

Stewardship Committee Report 2023

Lisa Kummer, Chair

Valley: Where Gratitude is Paid Forward

This year we continued with the theme of gratitude since it resonated with so many members last year. However, this year we focused on how grateful and blessed we are that Valley is set up for success as we enter 2024, which will be a year of transition for the congregation with Pastor Richard's retirement. Our messages reminded the congregation that Valley is in a strong financial position, has dedicated, active members who support each other and give of their time and talents on a regular basis, has a robust education program for members of all ages, and provides the opportunity for all to gather on Sundays for vibrant and meaningful services that allow us to worship God and connect with each other.

Through this campaign, we asked the congregation to respond with a 3% increase in pledging. This increase would help us provide staff raises to recognize their dedication, and to provide more support during this time of high inflation. The additional pledges would also help decrease our dependency on the Supportive Ministries Fund. In addition, the recent passing of faithful members means we will face a substantial giving loss moving forward, so the increase in pledges would start to bridge that gap.

The campaign materials and messages included quotes from members about why they are grateful for Valley. The messages included gratitude for our worship and music, fellowship, education and mission opportunities at Valley. By far, most of the messages included gratitude around the congregation members, and how we lift each other up in so many ways.

We gratefully thank the Valley congregation for the 119 renewed and 4 new pledges received totaling \$409,701 which is 94% of our goal. Valley is blessed by the response of our members once again. Thank you to everyone who pledged for 2024!

We are so grateful for the generosity of our members and their dedication to Valley by providing their gifts of time, talent and treasures to ensure we can carry out our mission.

Thank you also to the dedicated Stewardship Committee: Craig Gottschalk, Nancy Husnik, Brian Parks, Mariah Messer and Rev. Richard Buller, *ex officio*.

Endowment Committee Report 2023

Mike Pinter, Chair

The VCPC Endowment committee held 5 meetings during 2023 and received grant requests from various sources. We were able to award several significant grants within the framework of the Endowment formula.

Thanks to the generosity of Valley members, including Barbara Johnston's estate, Endowment received a total of \$364,234 in gifts in 2023. This brings the total amount of gifts received since the fund was established in 1984 to \$1,130,207. On December 31, 2023, the Endowment net asset value was \$1,739,164.

During 2023, grants were made to community outreach/mission efforts, for the enhancement and upkeep for VCPC property, support of Valley staff education, retreat events, Valley youth and music programs. The 2023 grants totaled \$48,904 (see Table II on page 38). This brings the total dollar value of grants provided by the VCPC Endowment since 1984 to \$614,377.

Thank you to all who have financially supported Valley's Endowment with gifts in 2023. All these gifts will leave a legacy. You have made the Endowment a vital part of our ministry at Valley and have assured that it will continue to support our Valley members and our outreach efforts for many years to come.

Gifts to the Endowment may be specified for any of the following funds, many of which have been set up in memory of a family member. Detailed descriptions of these can be found on the Valley web site. We are grateful to those who chose to remember their loved ones in this productive way. Where possible, the committee chair sends an annual letter to families who have created a fund to give them a detailed report of how their fund has performed and what grants were made possible due to the income from their fund. Unspecified gifts to Endowment will be allocated at 80% to the General Fund and 20% to the Mission Fund.

Thanks to Rick and Carole Martens who established 2 new Endowment funds this year for the support of Noble Elementary and the Valley TEAMS program.

Valley Endowment Funds

- General Fund
- Mission Fund
- Peteler/Van Beek Music Fund
- Ed Beck Evangelism Fund
- Coffin Family Bell Choir Fund
- Donna L. and Floyd A. Carlson Educational Fund
- Rice Child Development Fund
- The Barbara J. Johnston Scholarship for The Theological Education of Women
- Elizabeth V. Hnatko Hicks Congregational Life Fund
- The Isabels Building and Maintenance Fund: Isabel Snyder Rice & Isabel Leaf
- Wendell & Marcella and Dean Gilkerson Pipe Organ Maintenance Fund
- JacLyn Swanson Monroe Sicora Bodette Children's Ministry Fund
- Van Beek/Peteler VCPC and Community Military Personnel Family Assistance Fund
- Zorada Hoge Landscaping Fund
- Zorada Hoge Pastoral Care Fund

- Karla Parks Clearwater Scholarship Fund
- Pete Peterson Youth Mission Fund
- Helen Potter Webb Technology and Communication Fund
- Allyson Graphenteen Youth Scholarship Fund
- Valley Family Stewardship Fund
- Do Justice Fund
- Martens' Noble Vision Fund
- Martens' Addison TEAMS Fund

Members of the 2023 Endowment Committee are:

Mike Pinter, Chair
Juliana Vogel
Greg Van Heest, Secretary
Rick Martens
Norm Chervany
Greg Rom, Treasurer, ex officio
Denise Kara, Finance Chair
Richard Buller, Pastor, ex officio

I thank these committee members for their important work and devotion this past year.

We welcome all requests for grants and there is a link on the Valley website to contact the Endowment chair to request a grant. Please contact any member of the committee if you have questions regarding gifts or grants, or if you are interested in including the VCPC Endowment in your will.

Mike Pinter, Chair

TABLE I Gifts Received, Grants Made and Current Value of Funds

Name of Endowment Funds	Beginning Year Fund Value 2023	Gifts Received in 2023	Grants Made in 2023	Gifts since Inception (1984) through current Year 2023	Ending Year Fund Value 2023
General Fund	\$375,055	\$1,592	\$16,186	\$202,668	\$424,631
Mission Fund	\$55,828	\$397	\$2,410	\$35,162	\$63,256
Peteler/Van Beek Music Fund	\$27,811	\$30	\$1,038	\$13,644	\$31,538
Ed and Joyce Beck Evangelism Fund	\$16,844	\$0	\$727	\$8,797	\$18,951
Coffin Family Bell Choir Fund	\$32,890	\$0	\$1,419	\$13,230	\$36,951
The Isabels Building and Maintenance Fund: Isabel Snyder Rice and Isabel Leaf	\$169,905	\$0	\$5,053	\$114,750	\$193,900
Donna L. and Floyd A. Carlson Educational Fund	\$45,142	\$0	\$1,948	\$21,395	\$50,845
Rice Child Development Fund	\$66,069	\$0	\$2,851	\$33,597	\$74,321
The Barbara J Johnston Scholarship for The Theological Education of Women Fund	\$25,143	\$100,030	\$1,085	\$110,030	\$128,329
Elizabeth V. Hnatko Hicks Congregational Life Fund	\$69,865	\$135	\$3,015	\$46,963	\$78,753
Wendell & Marcella and Dean Gilkerson Pipe Organ Maintenance Fund	\$23,173	\$500	\$1,000	\$13,895	\$26,607
JacLyn Swanson Monroe Sicora Bodette Children's Ministry Fund	\$39,191	\$0	\$1,691	\$20,970	\$44,075
Van Beek/Peteler VCPC and Community Military Personnel Family Assistance Fund	\$18,184	\$0	\$0	\$10,020	\$21,305
Zorada Hoge Pastoral Care Fund	\$29,892	\$250	\$1,290	\$20,310	\$33,858
Zorada Hoge Landscaping Fund	\$29,993	\$0	\$1,294	\$20,000	\$33,837

Karla Parks Clearwater Scholarship Fund	\$27,830	\$1,000	\$1,201	\$24,459	\$32,392
Pete Peterson Youth Mission Fund	\$18,383	\$0	\$793	\$16,492	\$20,695
Helen Potter Webb Technology and Communication Fund	\$8,047	\$0	\$347	\$7,347	\$9,062
Allyson Graphenteen Youth Scholarship Fund	\$12,017	\$300	\$507	\$11,258	\$13,828
Valley Family Stewardship Fund	\$116,987	\$200,000	\$5,049	\$315,220	\$331,804
Do Justice Fund	\$8,712	\$0	\$0	\$10,000	\$10,226
Martens' Noble Vision Fund	\$0	\$50,000	\$0	\$50,000	\$50,000
Martens' Addison TEAMS Fund	\$0	\$10,000	\$0	\$10,000	\$10,000
TOTAL	\$1,216,961	\$364,234	\$48,904	\$1,130,207	\$1,739,164

Table II List of 2023 Grants

Grants Made to Community Outreach

Clearwater Dump Station	\$2,000
PRISM Holiday Food Boxes	\$1,400
Golden Valley Pride Sponsorship	\$1,300
Bridging Dressers	\$1,050
Liberty Church Scholar Tuition	\$1,000
Minter Mission Travel	\$850
Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery	\$750
PRISM School Supplies	\$700
Empty Bowls	\$500
Total:	\$9,550

Grants Made to Valley Church Ministry

Valley Stewardship	\$5,049
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	\$3,048
VCPC Bell Choir	\$1,419
Rev. Fortel Transportation and Lodging	\$1,085
Donuts for Sunday Fellowship	\$1,040
Sheldon CRE Assessment	\$1,000
VCPC Summer Programs	\$1,000
Youth Mission Trip	\$800
Youth Mission Trip Van Rental	\$750
Synod School Tuition	\$600
Clearwater Men's Retreat	\$600

Clearwater Summer Camp Scholarships	\$500
Easter Musicians	\$400
Winter Chrysalis Scholarships	\$400
Total:	\$17,691

Grants Made to Valley Church Projects

Richard Buller Retirement Dinner	\$6,678
VCPC Tree Removal	\$4,800
VCPC Web Site Consultant	\$3,500
Sunshine Room Nursery Update	\$2,000
Pipe Organ Tuning	\$1,228
Valley T-Shirts	\$1,000
Valley Logo On Doors	\$825
Dishwasher Repair	\$722
Valley Playground Update	\$500
VCPC Piano Tuning	\$410
Total:	\$21,663

GRAND TOTAL: \$48,904

Table III - Value of Endowment Investments at 12/31/2023

Cash On Hand Citizens Bank	\$367,568
Securities:	
United States Treasury Bill	\$104,300
Parnassus Fixed Income Fund	\$239,160
Parnassus Core Equity Fund	\$309,430
Parnassus Mid Cap Growth Fund	\$230,233
Parnassus Mid Cap Fund	\$207,735
Pax World Small Cap Fund	\$141,480
Trillium Global Equity Fund	\$139,258
Total of Endowment Investments at Year End	\$1,739,164

Educational Ministries Committee Report 2023

Carolyn Anderson, Katie Decker, Mariah Messer, Co-Chairs

Educational Ministries Team

The Educational Ministries leadership team consisted of elders **Mariah Messer, Katie Decker,** and **Carolyn Anderson**. Staff supporting the team are Sheila Sheldon, Educational Ministries Director and Mariah Messer, Program/Communications Coordinator.

Adult Education

- We held 9 classes in the spring and 9 classes in the fall, all offered both in-person and online.
- An average of 22 people attended in person and 5 viewed online.
- Topics included peacemaking, travel, sustainability, antisemitism, Beacon Interfaith Housing, Indigenous topics, living with autism, immigration, Christian values and national interests, Valley's new website, mental health, land acknowledgement updates, Bread for the World, white nationalism, anti-racism, and learning about our mission partners.
- We continue to be grateful to our community partners, Valley members and staff who help create meaningful conversations for us at these events.

Friendship Group

- Resumed meeting every other week in the fall
- **2-3** Friendship Group members attended each meeting
- **5** church members volunteer regularly on a rotating schedule to lead the group
- **Rev. Jim and Diane Cook** continue to celebrate birthdays with our friends and send a special gift and message to them on their big day.

Faith Formation and Family Ministries

- As the year went on, activities and attendance rose steadily to near pre-pandemic numbers. This shifted staff and committee member attention and time from virtual options and communication to in-person.
- Weekly emails were sent to families Jan - June 2023, at which point it was decided that, with more families attending in-person worship and activities, bi-weekly or as-needed email newsletters would be sufficient.
- During the *Time with Young Worshippers* on Sunday mornings Sheila and other special guests provided meaningful lessons for children of all ages within the service.
- Lindsey Carlson led Faith Formation in the Sunshine Room on Sunday mornings from January through mid-June 2023. Activities were largely kid-led and the majority of time was dedicated to kids enjoying fellowship time together after being apart for so long.

- In late summer 2023 Lindsey Carlson let staff know that she would not be able to return and James Decker was hired as the Sunshine Room teacher. James has provided a more structured, class-like environment that focuses on the scripture lesson for the week. An average of 15 kids are in the Sunshine Room each week.
- VBC 2023 was held in-person June 13-15 and 17 and followed the Illustrated Ministries Compassion Camp curriculum.
 - Highlights: singing accompanied by Rachel Williams, Welcome Wagon (an airstream camper with mindfulness activities) with Gwen Rouleau, crafts (group and individual), group reading of Bible stories and discussion led by Sheila, game time, water fun on the last day
 - 12 kids signed up and attended
 - Sheila Sheldon and Mariah Messer planned and led the camp
 - Adult volunteers: Karen Harms, Andrew Pitan, Samantha Schellhaas, Gwen Rouleau, James Decker, Sara Perry, Rachel Williams, Katie Decker, and Susie Potter
 - Youth Volunteers: Gracie Perry and Samuel Sheldon
- 2023 Christmas Pageant was held during worship on Sunday, December 10th. Rehearsal was held on Saturday, December 9th from 9:00 - 10:30 AM. In total, 27 kids and youth participated in the pageant.
- During Advent, 10 Valley families volunteered to light the Advent candles throughout the Advent season.
- Approximately 20 youth and kids volunteered to speak and assist during the two Christmas Eve services.

TEAMS

In 2023 the TEAMS program for youth in fourth and fifth grade continued under the leadership of Hunter Sheldon and Jessica Goslinga. Through special projects using a STEM model they explored solving problems and completing projects as a team. They also explored their faith together through spirituality conversations that focused on current events paired with stories and scripture from the Bible. Working together and building relationships while having fun is the foundation of TEAMS. Creating a space that allows them to ask questions about faith and the world around them continues to help grow strong faithful youth who are committed to the mission of Valley.

- TEAMS program had 6 registered youth and welcomed 3 visitors.
- Projects include: stilt making, solar powered cars, baking cookies, wood burning art, fleece pillows and more!
- TEAMS families decorated cars and participated in Trunk or Treat for PRISM.

Youth

Youth in grades 6 -12 met on Sundays at Valley from 4-6 PM. They engaged in bible study and faith discussions, team building opportunities and fellowship. In the summer months middle schoolers participated in 3 different local mission days. They volunteered at organizations in the Twin Cities such as PRISM and Second Harvest Heartland. The senior high youth traveled to Kansas City, Kansas where they were graciously hosted by Village Presbyterian Church. The youth volunteered at Harvesters, a local food bank, as well as the food pantry and community closet at Central Presbyterian.

Youth Highlights from 2023:

- Annual Cookie sale in February raised \$1,937 to help fund the senior high mission trip.
- Youth helped with the Annual Easter Egg Hunt. Youth stuffed and hid over 2,000 eggs and welcomed over 75 kids at the event.
- 14 youth volunteered as servers at the 21st Annual Youth Education Scholarship Tea.
- Hosted Trunk or Treat for PRISM and collected over 300 pounds of food and had 50+ kids participate.
- Held the 2nd annual Friendsgiving dinner for Youth families and shared in a wonderful meal with 16 families.
- Closed out the year with a fun Christmas Party, playing games and sharing in fellowship.

We want to thank our adult youth leaders; **Andrew Pitan, Charlie Rudeen, Craig and Melissa Gottschalk, Jill Toering, Jennifer Malecha, Katie Decker, Jessica Goslinga and Hunter Sheldon**, staff, parents, and the youth for their dedication to nurturing our connections this year! We look forward to 2024 and the wonderful things to come from this great group of people.

Youth Education Scholarship (YES) Committee Report 2023

Sheila Sheldon, Chair

The twenty first annual Valley Youth Education Scholarship (Valley YES) tea was held at Valley on Saturday, May 6, 2023. A wonderful group of folks hosted 121 guests across 15 tables. Our amazing kitchen crew (Valerie and Scott Robinson | Larry and Mary Dunham) prepared all the sandwiches and freshly baked scones while 14 of our Valley Youth volunteered as servers.

The committee has awarded 64 scholarships totaling \$42,750 to Valley high school graduates since the committee's inception. This year we replaced some of the older equipment for brewing tea in hopes of making it easier for volunteers in the future.

The YES committee is grateful to everyone who supported the scholarship tea and is looking forward to continuing the tradition in 2024. Committee members: Valerie Robinson, Mary Dunham, Rachel Hole, Katie Decker, Carolyn Anderson, Mariah Messer and Sheila Sheldon.

Valley YES (account 65) Financial Report

Beginning of the Year Balance:	\$11,421.50
<u>Scholarship Tea</u>	
Tea Ticket Sales	+\$4,601.50
Sub Total	\$16,023
Expenses	-\$1,620.56
<u>2023 Scholarships</u>	
Scholarship given to Max Westerlund	-750.00
Scholarship given to Michael Vogel	-750.00
Year-end 2023 Balance	\$12,902.44

Church Growth Committee Report 2023

Susie Potter & Jay Tracy, Co-Chairs

The Church Growth philosophy at Valley states that successful growth is a function of all aspects of the church. Church Growth strives to help Valley create and maintain a vibrant, welcoming, and inviting church, opening our doors to members and visitors every day. New members have frequently mentioned how welcoming Valley members were when they first visited.

Valley Community Presbyterian Church is a community of folks who explore and embrace life's great questions. We enjoy seeing our building used for a variety of community meetings and events.

The Growth Team continues the work of attracting visitors and new members to Valley. New growth depends on **all of us** being ambassadors of God's love and sharing the Valley Vibe. We welcome **ALL** to join us in worship, spiritual growth, fellowship, service to others, and we embrace diversity with open hearts and open minds.

Growth Team 2023 activities:

- Welcomed and received 10 new members.
- Hosted two Valley Meet-Ups with our newest members and 'seasoned' members.
- Hosted, along with Mission Possible, a booth at the June 2023 Golden Valley Pride Fest.
- **Thank You** to Valley's Tech Team for continuing to make the YouTube live-stream services so seamless. These live-stream services have attracted many folks and keep us connected. In the past, new members have joined after participating in the YouTube services!

Thank you, Valley family, for being such a vibrant community that responds willingly to the needs of our members and the communities where we live. In 2023 we look forward to new opportunities to grow and reach out to our neighbors.

Mission Possible: Peace & Justice Committee Report 2023 Craig Gottschalk & Janet Triplett, Co-Chairs

This committee is blessed to have thoughtful and committed members and a number of willing helpers who come when called: Arlene Freeberg, Jan Sacco, Lotti Matkovits, Jennifer Biggs, Nancy Husnik, Andrew Pitan, Craig Gottschalk (co-chair) and Janet Triplett (co-chair). We are extremely grateful to the members who give so generously of their time and talent to the projects listed below and encourage anyone who would like to be involved in helping to please call the person listed after the report to find out more about what they can do. There are opportunities for any level of involvement!

In November we were able to surprise each of our mission partners with a \$10,000 check on Mission Sunday, thanks to a generous estate bequest from a Valley member, Barbara Johnston. Those receiving checks were Beacon: Emerson Village, Clare Terrace, Clearwater Forest, Father Project, Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery, Habitat for Humanity, Home Free, Liberty Church, Meals on Wheels, and PRISM.

Below is a summary of the many activities in which we have been involved during 2023.

Alternative Gift Catalog: The Alternative Gift option continues to be one of the programs that interests members as a way to give a gift to a special person that will enjoy a donation to a charity that is close to their heart. In 2023, \$2,204 was donated to various agencies that Valley supports. (Arlene Freeberg)

Bridging: On Dec 2, 2023 we built 13 dressers. We built the 10 dressers we purchased plus 3 dressers that were purchased by another group who didn't finish them. We were able to purchase the dressers with help from an endowment grant of \$1050 to go with what we had budgeted for the year. We had 14 volunteers help which is our greatest turnout since we have been building dressers with Bridging. (Andrew Pitan)

Clare Terrace: With no coordinator in place, outreach to Clare Terrace was limited in 2023. A few people took the initiative to prepare individual “goodie bags” to bring to the residents for Valentine’s and a social afternoon was organized in August playing Bingo and serving pie with ice cream. Ingredients for residents to fix their own sandwiches were set out. As has been a longstanding tradition, Holiday cards containing a \$15.00 Hy-Vee gift card were delivered in mid-December.

Jan Sacco faithfully continues to put together “Welcome Baskets” for new residents. Four were needed this year to welcome new move-ins and items for the baskets were auctioned off at the Fall Festival. A gift of \$10,000 was given to Clare Terrace during our Mission Partner Sunday on November 12, 2023.

We are pleased to announce that Sarah Fadell has agreed to be the new coordinator for Valley’s outreach to Clare Terrace and look forward to more frequent interactions with the residents in the year ahead. (Lotti Matkovits)

Clearwater Forest: We were thrilled and grateful to receive one of the surprise \$10,000 checks at Valley this fall, part of a member's generous estate gift. Thank you!

2023 has been a year of new growth at Clearwater, most especially in the hiring of our wonderful executive director, Erin Anderson. She has hit the ground running, making connections with churches, Presbyteries, and individuals; overseeing a successful summer camp; starting a day camp option; creating multiple new events at Clearwater; and more. The board is using input from a consultant to re-evaluate and reorganize, situating camp for the future. Because of storm damage, we were able to use insurance to replace 29 roofs at camp! Things will look better than ever as we prepare to celebrate 70 years in 2024.

Camp continues to thrive and grow and has a great year ahead. Summer camp registration is opening. Make this the year for you or your child to go. As always, thank you for your support of this vital place we can call ours in God's Woods and Waters. (Pat Daily)

Earth Care Congregation Task Force: The Earth Care Congregation application approved in 2022 was recertified by the national office in February. With task force members and staff supporting increased levels of activity throughout the church programs, Valley continues to make progress in protecting our earth through education and action. Youth participated in earth care education and service projects throughout the year. A highlight for many in the congregation are the imaginative and informative children's sermons given by Julie Westerlund that focus on earth care. Also, the adult ed planning committee presented several programs on the topic of sustainability with the expert guidance of Carolyn Anderson. Though not initiated or led by the task force, we are thrilled by the replacement of all lights in the church with LED bulbs and the installation of solar panels this fall. All of those contribute to our recertification for next year. (Janet Triplett, Julie Westerlund, Andrew Gillett, Carolyn Anderson)

Every Meal: A local nonprofit that delivers weekly supplemental food to District 281's students. Each bag of food includes about 5 pounds of food. At the request of Noble's Principal and staff, Every Meal continues to support Noble students this school year, serving about 20 students. As partners with Noble, we organize and hand out bags at Noble, and provide financial support.

Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery: Thanks to Mission Possible for the \$10,000 check to GMCN! Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery - Valley Church is a long-time supporter of GMCN in South Minneapolis. GMCN provides 24/7 support to parents who request parenting help during a crisis. Childcare, housing and meals are provided for children, ages newborn to 6 years old, up to 3 days/nights. Parents are offered guidance and counseling. Volunteers assist the Nursery with childcare, meal preparation/serving, educational opportunities and outreach. In 2023, Valley hosted a table at the GMCN's Formula for Hope fundraiser and received donations from a Music in the Valley concert, totaling \$5,800. (Nancy Husnik)

Habitat for Humanity: On January 16, 2023, MLK Day we were able to once again help work on a house in Minnetonka after a two-year absence. We had 8 volunteers who helped with a variety of tasks. (Andrew Pitan)

Immigration Task Force: Since November 2021, a team of Valley volunteers have supported the Karwan Family in their journey to find safety in the US. And their journey has become a journey for many of us as well. We have continued to navigate healthcare, social services, and legal hurdles. Their 2-year-old boy has an atrial septal defect that will need to be surgically repaired in the next few years. The pediatric cardiologist from the U of M has assured the family that this is fairly easily repaired, and the child will have a normal life without restrictions. Due to past experience, this situation is very anxiety producing, as normal childhood illnesses cause extreme concern. On the other hand, their newest child arrived in February and is the picture of health. Our volunteer team has been outstanding in their support for rides to appointments and drivers' tests. The family is most grateful to Valley for support, both emotionally and financial. We continue to encourage them to participate in Early Childhood Education and other activities to assist in their adjustment to American life.

Milestones in 2023:

- Silab got his driver's license. Thank you to everyone for supporting this.
- The family updated their work permit status with Immigration Services.
- Silab's birthdate has been corrected on all records, Social Security, medical, and USCIS.
- Asylum was applied for and granted.
- Special Immigrant Visa was applied for and accepted, which means they are now applying for green cards.
- The family now has an SUV with room for 3 safety car seats.
- Silab established his own bank account, obtained a credit card, and is building his credit score. He is very responsible with his resources.

Each time we feel frustration, we are reminded of the enormous difficulties that this family must face every single day and the sacrifices they and their family made in service to the USA in Afghanistan. As we travel this journey with the family, we are reminded that we have had the privilege to take many steps of their journey with them. We will continue to do this while encouraging their independence. (Arlene Freeberg)

Land Acknowledgement Task Force: Convened in April 2021, the Land Acknowledgement Task Force has had a busy and productive 2023 focused on completion and extension of the oral history project initiated in 2022. We look forward to continuing to live out our commitment within the Land Acknowledgement Statement with new initiatives in 2024.

Milestones in 2023:

- Completed the oral history project transcripts, which are available in hard copy and online through Hennepin History Museum.
- Published 15 podcasts of the oral history recordings in partnership with Hennepin History Museum on Spotify, YouTube, and wherever you get your podcasts. The episodes have been played more than 680 times!
- Successfully completed the Legacy Amendment grant with more than 450 volunteer hours dedicated towards the oral history project.

- Contracted with Tiana LaPointe (Dakota) to produce a pronunciation video for Ḥḥa Wakpadaṅ with additional support from the City of Golden Valley’s Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Commission. The video has been viewed more than 420 times, and it’s become the most popular video on VCPC’s YouTube channel.
- Hosted Adult Education on April 23 led by Jim Rock (Dakota) and Roxanne Gould (Anishinaabe) about Native Perspectives.
- Participated in a work trip with Makoce Ikikcupi in Mountain Lake, Minnesota on August 5.
- Hosted Adult Education on October 8 led by Jim Rock, Roxanne Gould, and Tiana LaPointe for Indigenous People’s Sunday.
- Helped organize the first annual Ḥḥa Wakpadaṅ Water Ceremony led by Jim Rock, Roxanne Gould, and Bradley Blackhawk (Ho-Chunk) for Indigenous Peoples’ Day on October 9. Received media coverage from the Star Tribune, Sun Post, and CCX Media.
- Partnered with Hennepin History Museum in a project funded by the St. Anthony Falls Heritage Board (SAFHB) focused on building awareness of Ḥḥa Wakpadaṅ. This included a kickoff and capstone event at VCPC with multiple “book club” events.
- Commissioned artist Wóokiye wiṅ (Sisseton Wahpeton Dakota and Ojibway) to create a land acknowledgement logo for VCPC.
- Designed the new VCPC Land Acknowledgement webpage and created a dedicated YouTube playlist.
(Jen Biggs)

Meals on Wheels: Meals on Wheels continues to be an important community mission for our church, meeting the needs of the elderly and homebound by providing nutritious meals and human contact. There has been an increase in awareness of these needs recently with public service ads on television. This is a national program, and thousands of people benefit every day. 2023 was a busy year. VCPC delivers meals twice a month. Gail Smith organizes the third Thursday of the month with a quota of 6 routes, and Marge Thurston has the fourth Thursday with a quota of five routes. In total, we have a pool of 22 drivers to fill our quotas. From this pool, we have used 143 drivers this year, and served approximately 1,144 meals.

Noble School: Valley is well represented at Noble Elementary. There are volunteers to help students with math and reading and volunteers to help teachers with prepping for future lessons, organizing and copying. Volunteers can also be found in the office helping the staff. Valley has provided leggings, mittens, and blankets in the nurse’s office to help the kids in need. There remains much to be done. More volunteers would be welcomed.

PRISM: (charter member since 1970): Valley volunteers participated in weekly support and delivery of donations. In March, Pack the Pews was a major effort for food donations. Valley returned to Taste of the ‘Burbs in person and received the “Celebrate the Light of PRISM Award” for Valley’s commitment to partnering with PRISM. It was a special evening celebrated by 50 Valley members who were in attendance. The school supply drive continued in 2023, and Valley donated many backpacks and other school-related supplies. Valley Youth volunteered time and effort in the summer to organize all the school supplies (including all the backpacks donated from Valley’s own backpack drive) for distribution. Valley members continued to support the Shop for Change thrift shop by donating items as well as purchasing from the shop.

This year, Valley collected and donated 3,894 lbs. of food which amounts to over \$6,600 in groceries! Donations totaling \$1400 allowed Valley to purchase 40 boxes of food at Thanksgiving (20) and Christmas (20) from Fare for All, the retail arm of The Food Group. This food was picked up and delivered to PRISM by Valley volunteers for distribution during Thanksgiving and Christmas weeks. Monetary donations totaled \$17,000, including a \$10,000 gift from the Barbara Johnston estate on Mission Sunday.

The PRISM Toy Shoppe returned once again to Valley, helping parents select toys and gifts for their children to unwrap on Christmas morning. Valley members donated toys that amounted to over \$4,000 in toys. Over 350 families were served this year, and over 20 Valley members volunteered to help out at the event. What a wonderful year of generosity to our neighborhood partner, PRISM! (Craig Gottschalk)

Mission Giving Report 2023 (\$346,436)

Mission Possible Budgeted Giving	Amounts	Total	
1.) Unified Giving to PCUSA (account 967)	9,000	9,000	17% General Assembly, 17% Synod, and 66% to Presbytery
2.) Mission Giving (account 966)			
<u>Youth</u>			
PRISM School Supplies	500		
Joint Religious Legislative Coalition	200		
Noble / KidPack	250		
Youth	950		
<u>Housing</u>			
Bridging	500		
Habitat for Humanity	400		
Clare Terrace	300		
Housing	1,200		
<u>Domestic Aid</u>			
Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery	500		
Liberty Community Church	500		
Home Free	500		
Domestic Aid	1,500		
<u>In-House</u>			
Presbyterian Clearwater Forest	500		
In-House	500		
<u>International</u>			
Rev. John McCall - PC(USA) Taiwan Missionary	1,000		
International	1,000		
Mission Giving	5,150		
3.) Loose Offering (account 965)	3,447	3,447	
Total Budgeted Mission Possible Giving		17,597	

Special Offerings			Offering Given to:
One Great Hour of Sharing	2,914		PC(USA)
Pentecost	685		Every Meal
Easter	1,425		Crisis Nursery
Thanksgiving	1,020		Pastor's Discretionary Fund
Christmas	1,719		PRISM 50% Every Meal 50%
Christmas Joy	859		PC(USA) World Mission
Peace and Global Witness	465		Home Free
Total Special Offering Giving		9,087	

Other Mission Giving		Amounts	Total
Crisis Nursery		5,307	
Bridging		1,550	
Home Free		1,255	
PRISM		19,784	
Empty Bowls		632	
Meals on Wheels		25	
Noble Vision (Every Meal)		1,087	
Clearwater Forest		3,800	
Fridays in the Valley		5,288	
Presbytery Disaster Assistance		4,780	
Pastor's Discretionary Fund		28,070	
Clare Housing		1,106	
Immigration Refugee		9,451	
The FATHER Project		2,541	
Alternative Gifts		2,204	
		86,880	
Total Other Mission Giving			86,880

Alternative Gifts by Agency	
Bridging	224
Clare Terrace	290
Clearwater Forest	145
Crisis Nursery	135
Disaster Assistance	165
Habitat for Humanity	185
Heifer Project	130
Home Free Shelter	120
Interfaith Power & Light	50
Liberty 21st Century	265
Pastor's Discretionary	155
PRISM	240
Every Meal	100
Total Alternative Gifts	2,204

Youth Mission Support	
Fundraisers	1,977
Total Youth Mission Support	
	1,977

Endowment Giving to Mission Projects	
See Endowment report for complete list of grants	48,904
TOTAL ENDOWMENT MISSION GIVING	
	48,904

Barbara Johnston Mission Giving	
Beacon Interfaith Housing	10,000
Clearwater Forest	8,100
Clare Terrace	8,000
Crisis Nursery	10,000
Habitat for Humanity	10,000
Home Free	10,000
Liberty Church \$50,000 Reparations	60,000
Meals on Wheels	10,000
PRISM	10,000
The FATHER Project	10,000
TOTAL BARBARA JOHNSTON MISSION GIVING	
	146,100

ALL MISSION GIVING \$: 310,545

Item Donations	
Non-Cash PRISM: Food & Clothing	21,731
Other Supplies to PRISM and Noble Elementary	6,310
PRISM Christmas Shop donations	7,850
TOTAL ESTIMATED DONATIONS	
	35,891

TOTAL MISSION + DONATIONS \$: 346,436

Worship & Music Committee Report 2023

Jan Fedora, Chair

Valley Community Presbyterian Church is grateful to Rev. Richard Buller for his leadership, commitment, energy, and compassion for guiding us and sustaining us on our faith journey. His preaching has been the cornerstone of our worship. Thank you, Richard, for being our guiding light at Valley!

We were blessed to have wonderful Parish Associates (Rev. Jim Cook, Rev. Bill Davnie, Rev. Kate O'Brien Soltau, Rev. David Phillips Rev. Nancy Phillips, Rev. Rebecca Tollefson, and Rev. Aron Wilterding). Thank you for your outstanding service!

Our wonderful and talented Stream Team (Myron Jones, Brandon Novy, Roger Graphenteen, Larry Johnson, Joel Larsen, Janet Triplett, Katie Decker, and Kurt Wheeler) has enabled Valley to bring Sunday morning church services and other special services to members, non-members, and visitors. We are grateful for their commitment, time, and energy in bringing us together as a church! Thank you, Stream Team!

The ushers and greeters added to the spirit of welcoming and inclusiveness at Valley. A smile, a handshake, and a word of gratitude contributed to the feeling of community! Thank you to all who participated in these important roles at Valley!

Valley's church membership has evolved this year which includes all different age groups, different cultures, and different talents. This reflects our Mission Statement of Open Hearts, Open Minds, and Opening Lives to God! Valley is grateful for everyone!

The Sacrament of Baptism has been important to Valley! It has brought us closer together as a community of worshippers and has given us all a connection with those little ones! We walk with them in their faith journey! Likewise, when the Lord's Supper (Communion) is celebrated, the Church bears witness to Jesus Christ, the Living Word, and proclaims the mystery of faith.

Memorial services have been extremely powerful in valuing the lives of our wonderful Valley members and we are grateful for all they have done in their years of commitment to our church family!

Music has been and always will be a large part of our faith community! The talents of our musicians have gifted us with their special abilities to bring us the Word of God. Thank you to the vocal choir, handbell choir, instrumentalists, special musicians, soloists, organ and piano players, harp player, Fridays in the Valley concerts, and our wonderful music staff, Rachel Williams, and Janet Carlson. Thank you!

Advent came with anticipation for the coming of the Christ Child. Valley was beautifully decorated with the hanging of the greens, Poinsettia Tree, Memory Tree, Julie Tree, beautiful banners, Nativity scenes, and Advent wreath candles. Music of all kinds added to our wonderful services each week. The sermons guided us and illuminated our faith and love that we received during this special time of the year.

Christmas services have been outstanding and have been attended by so many members and their families along with non-members and visitors to our church. The beautiful Christmas Eve candlelight service has added to the glory of the coming of the Christ child. Thank you all for your participation in these special services!

Thank you to ALL who volunteered this year in Worship and Music. Your talents and commitments made this year a wonderful and memorable time at Valley!

Fellowship Committee Report 2023

Rachel Hole and Mary Dunham, Co-Chairs

Fellowship Committee Members: Ray Anderson, Jean Ann Buller, Margie Deutsch, Larry Dunham, Arlene Freeberg, Marilyn Merino, Susie Potter, Karen Ripley, Val Robinson, Margaret Sandberg, Samantha Schellhaas, and Sue Tracy.

The Fellowship Committee met a limited number of times during 2023 to plan various events at Valley. These included:

February 4, 2023:

Annual meeting – Meat and cheese trays, along with vegetables were served in the Narthex while the annual meeting was held. This allowed members to stay involved with the meeting while having a light snack. Coffee and lemonade were also served.

March 22, 2023: Served Lenten Meal

June 4, 2023: Church Picnic

June 18, 2023: MN Twins game

September 15-17, 2023: Men's Retreat at Clearwater Forest

October 14, 2023:

Fall Festival – The Fellowship Team invited everyone to “Come on Down” to Valley to participate in our fun game show inspired event. The event was free to enter and then required tickets to buy Carnival inspired food (pizza, hot dogs, chips, vegetables, ice cream bars, etc) and for children to participate in activities (face painting, bouncy house, cake walk, etc). Five-dollar tickets were also available for purchase to be entered into a chance to play one of the pricing games. Prizes were won by the contestants and winners of the extra prizes were drawn from the raffle. We had a fantastic turn-out and are excited about future Festivals. Approximately \$7,300 raised from the auction, donations, and tickets were used to pay for painting and lighting in Fellowship Hall.

The Annual Christmas dinner was not held this year so that we could all thank and honor Rev. Richard Buller upon his upcoming retirement. The Christmas dinner will return in 2024.

A big THANK YOU to all who helped with coffee hour during the past year. New folks are always welcome to help with a shift. Please talk to anyone on the Fellowship Committee if you'd like to help. We are implementing a new sign-up application that will remind those who have signed up about their upcoming volunteer opportunity. Thank you also to everyone who helped in many other ways during the year. Your help made Valley's Fellowship events fun & successful.

Several other groups at Valley that participated in fellowship opportunities during the year include but are not limited to: Bible Study small group sessions, Men of Valley Retreats, Brew Crew, Y.E.S. Scholarship Tea, Golf Outing, etc.

We would like to personally thank the Fellowship Committee members who made this year's events fun & who have been a joy to work with. Thank you all!

Property Committee Report 2023

Tom Wasmoen, Chair

2023 has been a year of accomplishments for the properties team. Members have traditionally included Ray Anderson, Dave DuChaine, Hunter Sheldon (Our very capable Valley property manager), Richard Buller and an array of as needed volunteers.

1. This year we have rebuilt the Hardhat Team and have leaned on their expertise and strong muscles to provide much of the work for both the Spring and Fall clean ups events on the church grounds.
2. This past Summer I set up an account with Site One so that moving forward we will be able to order mulch, dirt, etc., on a non-tax basis through our relationship with them.
 - a. The website is <https://www.siteone.com/en/store/416/>
 - b. Contact me for additional login information.
3. Project accomplishments around our Mission Headquarters:
 - a. All flat roofs were replaced with TPO roof membranes. Additional insulation was also added. This work continued from last year to finalize some details and prep for solar panel installation.
 - b. Drainage from the flat roof areas was corrected in a couple of spots to combat any further water intrusion especially around the rooftop equipment mounted over the church Narthex. This has been a perennial issue which should finally be resolved. This repair was completed in 2022.
 - c. New and refurbished rooftop equipment was installed at the time of the roof replacement, adding a new level of efficiency to our overall heating and cooling systems.
 - d. Rotted wood was replaced at the Southwest corner of the Sanctuary prior to the exterior painting of the building.
 - e. The exterior of the building was painted, and the wood frame of the stained glass repaired and repainted.
 - f. All the fluorescent light fixtures in the church have been replaced with highly efficient LED light fixtures, improving the light quality and control throughout the building. This action further reduced our energy/carbon footprint.
 - g. The lower-level interiors were painted this fall as well to freshen the hallways, cloak closet, offices and gathering spaces of Valley.
 - h. The offices for the Pastor and the office staff received an additional makeover as part of the solution to water intrusion at the base of the lower-level walls in that area. The floor was abated, and a new carpet installed as well as a fresh coat of paint on all wall surfaces.

4. We went SOLAR in 2023. Solar panels were installed in arrays over a large portion of the flat church roof area. If you haven't done so, the array over Fellowship Hall is observable from the windows in the nursery. Please check them out. They will provide energy production year-round and during the summer months we will likely be selling energy back to the grid. This action by Richard Buller and Session further reduced our carbon footprint, ensuring our whole church goal of becoming more sustainable and resilient to future climate changes.
 - a. Going solar includes an annual Xcel rebate of \$1,500.00 and an initial Federal Tax Rebate of \$36,000.00 that partially covered the initial installation cost for the system. The remainder came from a generous gift from the Barbara Johnston Estate.
5. Prior to the New Year's break, the lower-level hallways and cloak closet were abated as a contractor removed the worn and bubbled up carpet and the tile and glue which had been encapsulated under the carpet with the prior installation. You may have had a chance to see the "naked" and sealed floors that were a result of this work. A new carpet was laid the week of January 2nd, 2024, and now the hallways and cloak closet feel brand new! Thanks to Richard and Sheila for acting as the general contractors on this project, coordinating with the sub-contractors and scheduling them to accomplish the work between important church events.
6. All the wayfinding signage in the church has been replaced with ADA compliant signage that included raised lettering and braille making our church more accessible for our congregation and guests.
7. Hunter Sheldon has done an exemplary job of taking care of the building on a week-to-week basis. He completed a myriad of small projects, performed janitorial duties, and supported me as the Properties Elder on Session to keep up with emerging issues in real time so they can be reviewed and addressed quickly. I couldn't do this job without him!
8. Kudos to the volunteers who show up to help Hunter on snowy Sundays get the sidewalks shoveled and swept, most notably Dave Dechaine and Ray Anderson! Thank you!

Valley can be proud of the good work accomplished in 2023 to restore and maintain our building for the next generation. Additional projects are on the horizon for 2024 including a complete refreshment of the sanctuary ceilings and floors. The Properties team appreciates all the volunteer time our congregation has dedicated to Valley! Watch for more volunteer opportunities as we move into our 2024 project schedule!

Properties report offered with Gratitude!

Technology & Communications Committee Report 2023

Brandon Novy, Chair

While 2023 may have seemed like a quiet year for the technology committee, a lot was happening behind the scenes. The biggest task was replacing the member database with a cloud-based system. Now, everything at Valley is cloud based which reduces the risk and support time required from staff and volunteers.

Other items completed this year:

- Replaced the streaming computer with a more powerful machine.
- Moved the telephone ministry and audio connections from the streaming computer to the sound board to improve quality and consistency of the audio for these applications.
- Supported the Presbytery to allow remote members to speak to people attending the Presbytery meeting in-person at Valley.
- Configured Zoom to allow Rev Bill Davnie to be on camera and interact with Presbytery remote members and in-person members at Valley simultaneously while he was remote.

The 2023 Committee consisted of Tim Grosshuesch, Myron Jones, Chris Marshall, Larry Johnson, Joel Larsen, and Brandon Novy.

Board of Deacons Report 2023

The Board of Deacons at Valley have been inspired by Paul’s Letter to the church in Rome:

“Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. Romans 12:9–13:”

While all Christians are called to care for persons in need, the ministry of Deacons is the light that guides the way. Deacons are a reflection of the heart of Christianity. Deacons are called to model and extend the love of Jesus Christ.

You will find them on Sunday mornings at all our entrances welcoming members and visitors to Valley Community. Our Deacons continued to reach out through cards and phone calls. They also continued to pray for the members of their Care Circle and for the ministry of Valley.

Class of 2024	Class of 2025	Class of 2026
Ann Roach	Samantha Schellhaas	Jackie Goiffon
Andy Freeman	Jan Sacco	Gwyn Lang
Renee Desarmeaux	Margie Deutsch	Roger Michael
Jeanine Miakotina	Jessica Goslinga	Kerrie Deef
Sara Perry	Jennie Minter	Rick Carlson

As they finish their three-year terms, we want to thank **Jay Perry, Karen Harms, Vivian Bi,** and **Bellinda Nti** for their ministry on the Board of Deacons!

THANK YOU FOR CARING

When someone takes the time to listen,
When someone reaches out,
When someone does a thoughtful thing that
makes you warm throughout.

When someone lends a helping hand,
Finds ways in which to share,
When someone makes you feel secure by
always being there.

When someone senses there are times when
you have special needs,
When someone gives you inner strength
through words as well as deeds.

When someone seems to take an interest in
just how you’re faring,
It’s time to tell that special someone thanks
so much for caring!

Valley Community Garden Report 2023

Sheila Sheldon, Garden Coordinator

We had a wonderful year again in the garden with all our plots filled. Inside the garden we currently have 19 full plot garden spaces, which were divided this year into 27 individual plots of various sizes to fit the needs of each garden member, as well as 3 community raised beds. These raised beds are on the outside of the garden and folks from the community who walk by are welcome to take something they need. Our hope is that this will help to nurture relationships within the garden as members work together to care for them and provide fresh food to our neighbors.

The Garden community was made up of 31 community members and 9 Valley members. With spouses and children all lending a hand, we had over 40 folks participating in the Garden community.

Valley's community garden has continued to be an important outreach to our community, bringing church and community members together in fellowship. We enjoyed hosting monthly potlucks, and great conversations around the tables.

Once again dedicated members of the garden worked at maintaining the perennial flower/plant garden and clearing displaced plant species to help the native plants flourish. A special thank you to Ann Sessoms, Ann Roach, Karen Nemchik, Al Watchuka, Katherine Kolles and Steve Beseres who gave time each week to help keep the memorial garden looking beautiful.

Last fall members laid a fresh layer of woodchips on the paths and completed some repair work of the main gate. In 2024 further repairs are needed to the other gates and a few fence posts will need replacing as well.

Most of our gardeners do return year after year and we continue to be so grateful for them and the work they put into the garden. The excitement for the Valley Garden continues to grow each year as requests come in midsummer for the next garden season. We are thankful for the garden and God's blessings on our community.

Fridays in the Valley Concert Series Report 2023

Sue Ruby, Concert Series Coordinator

Fridays in the Valley (FITV) Series was created by Vicki Wheeler and Sue Ruby in 2012. Twelve seasons of 111 concerts involving well over 350 different musicians were coordinated from the Wheeler dining room table over innumerable pots of tea. This June however, Vicki lost her battle with cancer and FITV lost its Number One Community Advocate and Cheerleader. In addition to her title of Co-founder, Vicki holds the distinction as FITV's most generous musician, performing over 20 times in the history of the series. Although we continue to mourn the loss of her physical presence, Vicki's spirit, passion, and legacy of generosity remain as Vicki arranged for a portion of her will to be reserved for Fridays in the Valley musicians' honorariums for many years to come.

This year marked the performance of four ensembles new to Fridays in the Valley including 10th Wave, Crossroads String Duo, the Carleton Woodwind Quintet, and the Open Pages Cabaret. In fact, over half of the 35 musicians who performed this year were new faces on the FITV concert stage. Our "seasoned" ensembles were also represented through the repeated participation of The Incidental Trio, Flutespiration and perennial favorite, the Above Average Tuba Quartet whose concert once again boasted our highest in-person attendance for this season.

Following our Series' mission, each month's concert freewill donation was devoted to a designated charity. The choice of charity and contact with charity representatives was the work of Rev. Jim Cook and Rev. Richard Buller, who also served as concert hosts. For the second year in a row, we hit a new record for total collected donations: \$9,708.00. This total was greatly helped by the collection of \$1,953.00 raised for domestic violence toward And So She Rises, our September charity. Our generous FITV audiences increased the average monthly donation to over \$880 per concert! This brings the grand total amount of money raised during our full Fridays in the Valley Series' existence to \$73,348.00.

Special thanks to William Glasper for program design and logistical aid as well as the web and social media presence provided by Mariah Messer and Sheila Sheldon. Each concert was live-streamed thanks to our Dream Stream Team of Kurt (Wheeler) and Kurt (Modert). Finally, a huge thank-you goes to Greg and Mary Rom whose funding makes the Series possible.

An impressive lineup of familiar faces returned to the FITV stage to finish our 2023-2024 season. Don't miss the premier performance of the Lochan String Quartet featuring Steve Staruch and Valerie Kahler and a return visit from those Marimba Bullies! Every Fridays in the Valley concert promises an evening of amazing music. Plans for the 2024-2025 season are already underway so mark your calendars today.

Date	Ensemble/Artists	Charity	Donations	Attendance In person/Total
January 13, 2023	Gail O & Julie Johns	Northside Healing Space	\$816.00	47/75
February 10, 2023	The Three Ladies (vocal group)	District #281 Empty Bowls	\$821.00	45/67
March 10, 2023	10th Wave	MN Food Share	\$761.00	45/73
April 14, 2023	Incidental Trio	Refugee Resettlement	\$620.00	48/68
May 12, 2023	Flutespiration	Greater Mpls Crisis Nursery	\$745.00	52/58
June 11, 2023	Open Pages Cabaret (Wagner/Aldrich)	FATHER Project	\$631.00	59/69
July 9, 2023	Chris Becknell/David Crittenden	PRISM/District 281 School Supplies	\$910.00	56/66
September 8, 2023	Crossroads String Duo	Every Meal— District #281 (Robbinsdale)	\$542.00	46/68
October 13, 2023	Pavel Jany & Dean Harrington, guitars	And Now She Rises (Domestic Violence)	\$1,953.00	50/62
November 10, 2023	Carleton Woodwind Quintet	Clare Terrace	\$617.00	43/55
December 8, 2023	AATQ	PRISM Holiday Shoppe	\$1,292.00	72/82

Fridays in the Valley Vision Statement

Valley Community Presbyterian Church has long enjoyed a rich musical heritage. Building on this tradition, Fridays in the Valley was created for local musicians to showcase their talents while providing a benefit for local charities. Fridays in the Valley is an eclectic mix of quality musicians performing in an intimate setting, making fine music accessible to our community. Funding for Fridays in the Valley is made possible by a generous donation from Greg and Mary Rom.

Memorials Committee Report 2023

The Memorial Committee's regular responsibilities include: acknowledging monies received, consulting the honoree's family about projects, working with session committees who spend memorial monies, helping to arrange a dedication, and maintaining the memorials book. In this process the session plays the role of developing a list of suggested memorials to enhance the ministry of Valley. The family may suggest an alternative project, but all such alternatives require session approval.

Honoree	2023 Beginning Balance	2023 Increases	2023 Decreases	2023 Ending Balance
Anne Reynolds	0	236	0	236
Barty Amundson	719	0	211	508
Betty Brooking	0	1,495	0	1,495
Bill Davis	325	0	0	325
Bill MacWhirter	1,095	0	1,095	0
Charlotte Tripet	308	0	0	308
Isabel Leaf	385	0	385	0
Jeanne Reinhart	0	550	0	550
Julie Lund	690	0	0	690
June MacWhirter	1,055	0	1,055	0
Karen Pratt	20	0	20	0
Len Frame	835	0	0	835
Letta Swedelius	1,000	0	203	797
Louise Driver	0	1,185	0	1,185
Marian Michael	7,915	0	4,000	3,915
Mary Vannucci	395	0	395	0
Richard Reinhart	615	0	0	615
Sherill Mixer	50	0	0	50
Shirley Schon	656	0	0	656
Tim Thorbus	325	0	325	0
Vicki Wheeler	0	1,685	1,685	0
Total Memorials Activity	16,388	5,151	9,374	12,165

Annual Meeting Agenda
Congregation of Valley Community Presbyterian Church
Sunday, February 11, 2024 | 10:45 am

Opening Prayer	Rev. Jim Cochrane
Land Acknowledgement Statement	Jen Biggs
Clerk of Session Report	Jan Fedora
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approve February 5, 2023 Annual Meeting Minutes	
Stewardship Committee Report – Time, Talent, Treasures	Lisa Kummer
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stewardship Campaign 2024 (Treasures)• Mission Giving for 2023 (Time & Talent)	Craig Gottschalk
Finance Committee Report	Denise Kara
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2023 Financial Report• 2024 Church Budget• Per Capita: \$38.50 for 2024• Barbara Johnston Estate	
Endowment Committee Report	Mike Pinter
Personnel Committee Report	Ben Kummer
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Contractual Agreement with Rev. Jim Cochrane• Next Steps of the Interim Process	
Transitional Pastor’s Report	Rev. Jim Cochrane
Other Business	
Adjournment and Closing Prayer	

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"Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'"
— Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
.....

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

Valley Community Presbyterian Church sits on the ancestral and contemporary land of the Dakota people, for whom the land holds historical, spiritual, political, and cultural significance. We acknowledge the ongoing injustices that we have committed against the Dakota people and pledge to interrupt this legacy. We will educate ourselves about Indigenous history and recognize, support, and advocate for our Native neighbors.