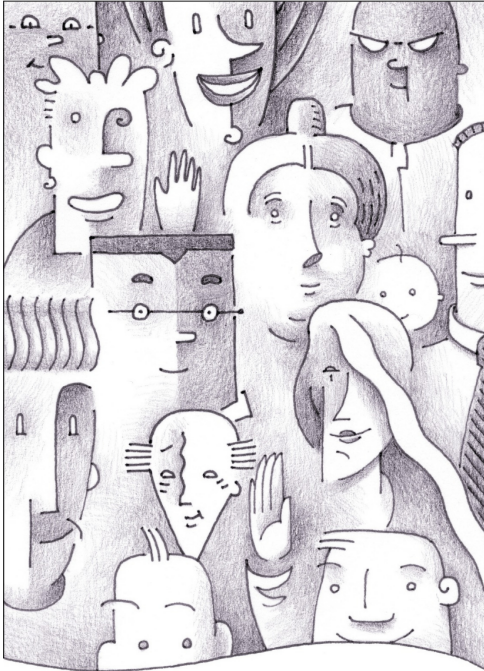


Ministry Report

North Valley Friends Church

August 2026



Greetings, Friends!

As we gathered around Lisi Jones for a “going off to college, so don’t forget us” photo on Sunday, August 23rd, I was once again mindful of the importance of community in shaping faith and character. Lots of us have had the privilege of watching her (and many others!) grow into fabulous young adults right before our eyes.

This kind of formation doesn’t happen by accident. Instead, it is the result of persistent and intentional love, support, mentoring, wisdom-sharing, and prayer. And—it is some of the most important work a church provides, because of the impact it can have on any one life and because the entire world is richer for it.

~ Colin Saxton
Clerk of Ministry

Elders Report

Paul Bock, Joel Mayward
Co-Clerks

The North Valley elders have a sense that we’re entering a new season. With a change in leadership (Thank you, Jim Sanders, for your faithful, insightful, and encouraging leadership!) and some significant administrative work behind us, we are redirecting some of our attention.

The elders had a half-day retreat recently. During the retreat, we discerned we need to more intentionally

put time and energy into attending to the spiritual health of the meeting and where Christ might be leading us. This is a change from working on immediate needs calling for immediate attention. We are encouraged by the current health of our meeting and grateful for the work of our released ministers, but also sense that Christ may have some new opportunities of growth and challenge for North Valley Friends. As we discern what those opportunities might be, the elders are hoping to encourage the North Valley community to lean into them.

One area the elders focused on during the retreat was our outreach as a community. We are aware that folks at North Valley are very much involved in ministry situations at places of work, in their families and neighborhoods, and through various volunteer opportunities. With that awareness, we spent time discussing the place of community outreach in the life of our meeting. We have a sense that community outreach may be an important step in the spiritual growth of our community. We didn't have any clear leadings of what that might look like, but we did have a leading that we need to do intentional discernment around this matter.

The elders also decided to try meeting once a month, rather than twice a month. Again, this points to a lighter "immediate need" load, but we're hoping that this will allow the elders to be more available to friends in our community who might have an interest in spending time with one of the elders sharing about any concerns you might have.

Minister Report: Youth Program Update

Stephanie St. Cyr

Minister to Youth

This has been a rich season of youth ministry, and my heart is full when I think of how our community keeps showing up for young people.

The Big Sale stands out as a highlight. It was more than a fundraiser. It became a living picture of generosity: folks let go of what they no longer needed, others found treasures and donated, and our students discovered what it means to serve with care and gladness. Watching it unfold was beautiful, and every dollar raised went toward camp scholarships, easing the load for families.

Camp at Suttle Lake carried that same spirit. Fifteen students, four leaders, and no shortage of adventure and silliness. I loved watching friendships deepen out there, forged in the ordinary chaos of shared days.

Our weekly rhythms held their own quiet gifts too. Sunday mornings brought Donuts and Divina, a simple space for conversation and belonging. Tuesday evenings gave us summer youth group, easy and unhurried, working through Old Testament stories in Manna and Mercy by Daniel Erlander and playing lots of soccer in the gym. Additionally, we were able to paddle in canoes from Newberg down to Champoege, and twenty-five of us descended on In-N-Out and the Enchanted Forest for a day of fun.

Recently, our students came to consensus on why they come to youth group at all, and their words are worth

sitting with: community, safe space, to have fun, to be part of church, to be creative, to open our minds, to learn, to laugh and enjoy people, trips and camp, to make new friends, to grow character, and mentorship from wiser people.

That list is its own kind of gift.

I'm grateful for this whole season, but mostly, I'm grateful for the students. They bring energy, honesty, humor, and life, and they remind the rest of us that faith isn't something we hold alone, but something we live out together. Walking alongside them remains one of the great privileges of this work.

Thank you for continuing to make young people a priority here.

With gratitude,
Stephanie

Minister Report: Children's Worship Update

Gina Ankeny

Minister to Children

This Summer (June - August), our theme was "Let your LIGHT shine!" We read/learned different verses in the bible that talked about light and how we can shine God's light and share God's love with those around us. Alongside our Bible verse study, we learned lots of fun facts about God's incredible creation of the sun, the moon, and the stars.

In September and October, we will explore Jesus' parables and how we can use Jesus' stories to help us learn how to live our lives.

In November, we will do a weekly gratitude practice together using our five senses (sight, sound, touch, and smell/taste). Each week, we will focus on a different sense and use it as a way to notice things around us that we are grateful for.

Minister Report

Lisa McMinn

Minister of Pastoral Care and Spiritual Formation

Early in the summer, the Spiritual Formation Council met to evaluate, discern, and plan educational/formational small group opportunities for fall and winter, which were made available to the community in mid-August and begin in September. We are particularly excited about Touchpoint Groups, an effort to help everyone not in some kind of supportive small group to be able to join one. Those in a

Touchpoint group will determine how to connect and how often, as they hold each other in prayer, celebrate joys, and carry each other's burdens. We're hoping to highlight small groups and First Day Conversations at our Fall Kick-off Potluck in September.

New and newish people continue to make their way into our NVFC community, and I'm grateful for what they bring and who they are. I continue to see pastoral care rippling out in our community in satisfying ways, through the ministry of community care ministers, a healthy leaning in our community toward nurture and care for each other, and my own opportunities to connect.

Submitted with gratitude for the opportunity to be in community at NV with you all, and for this season, to be serving in this role.

Minister Report

Lynn Holt

Minister of Stewardship and Communication

I had the joy of participating in the August sermon series. I focused on our priority of Generous and Sustainable Use of Resources, giving us time to reflect on the gift and responsibility we have to steward our time, talent, and finances as followers of Jesus rooted in the LOVE of God. Specifically, highlighting how in this season of our ministry, North Valley is invited to consider the entrustment of our land and buildings.

Speaking of buildings! We lack storage space at NV, and it is a challenge to find places to put "things." As our ministries and building use has changed and we are repurposing parts of the building, I spent time walking through each room in the church, opening all the closets and cabinets, with the intention of a good "spring cleaning." I want to have the eyes and openness to reimagine the spaces. I met with Building and Grounds and helped facilitate the clearing, disposing of, and cleaning necessary for repurposing different areas in our building.

I continue to research and work toward helping to update the North Valley Employment Manual and to prepare new Letters of Employment for all staff members. Changes are necessary based on current requirements from the State of Oregon and new directions from the Elders.

Preparations for Lyssa's maternity leave are now front and center. The administrative and financial duties are a part of this position, so we are exploring ways to meet our needs. This will involve finding and training a temporary person/s to be in the office while she is away.

I prepared a narrative G/F budget report for fiscal year 2025-2026. A summary of this report can be found below in the finance committee ministry report, and the full report will be included in the materials for the business meeting.

Minister Report

Colin Saxton

Clerk of Ministry

As we begin to move into Fall, our Sunday morning focus will shift to "Listening." Especially after revisiting our five priorities during the month of August, paying attention to how we listen for God's leading, both on an individual and collective basis, may help us lean into each of these in a more faithful way.

We continue to work on finding ways to strengthen our structures and systems, update our policies, and effectively manage the resources in our care. Lynn gives primary leadership to this good work, and I have been trying to support her in this often-unseen work. It feels especially important right now as we prepare for Lyssa to go on leave and as we continue to tinker with a staff structure that will sustainably serve us into the future.

I plan to lead an 8-week class during the Sunday morning "First Day Conversations" time on "God and Money: Exploring Faithful Stewardship." This will begin November 1st, starting at 9:15 am.

Our community has been blessed by several new individuals and families who are becoming part of this fellowship. If you are one of them--please let us know how we can best encourage and support your faith journey and in finding a home here.

Fellowship Committee

Jessica Baker

Clerk of Fellowship Committee

The Fellowship Committee consists of Jessica Baker, Nancy Funk, and Candice Sigfried. Jenny Headley Hobbs rotated off in July. We are hoping to accept another member soon. We typically meet via Google Meet at 7 pm on the first Wednesday of the month.

In June, the Fellowship Committee hosted Fellowship Sunday and the Kickoff Summer BBQ. There was a lot of food at the BBQ, and our Friends at 2nd Street were a welcome addition! We utilized the bell tower lawn for some seating, and that went very well. Also, our Shower sub-committee threw a wedding shower!

In July, the Fellowship Committee hosted our monthly Fellowship Sunday, and Ruth Pentecost organized Picnic with Friends. Both were well attended. The Showers subcommittee also threw a baby shower! We made a few purchases of high chairs and began researching the purchase of an industrial coffee maker. We also sent out a survey to the body to see which events we host are important to people, and which aren't really. We received 31 responses.

In August, the Fellowship Committee threw a Cereal Potluck for Fellowship Sunday. It wasn't well attended, and we are thinking of taking this event out of rotation. The Showers sub-committee threw another wedding shower!

In September, the Fellowship Committee is going to host the Fall Potluck. We are also looking into how to make the fellowship hall more accessible for people with hearing aids (they cannot hear well when it is full of people), as it is hard to fellowship with people when you can't hear them.

Buildings & Grounds Committee

Scott Burg

Clerk of Buildings and Grounds

Refurbishment of classroom space - popcorn ceiling/asbestos abatement is complete. Larry and the B&G committee are working on painting and window replacement for this space, making it ready to rent to Barclay Press for office space.

New Youth Space (former Rethreads building): Upgrades are continuing; this includes work on electrical and heating/cooling.

There is a focused workday on 08/29/26 to spruce up the outside of the Preschool entrance. We will be scheduling Fall carpet for some of our higher-traffic areas.

GFU Serve Day is on 9/16 this year. This is a great opportunity for us, as a congregation, to meet and work alongside the college student while accomplishing needed tasks.

Staff Report: Buildings & Grounds

Larry Hampton

Buildings & Grounds Coordinator

We have been working on the remodel of the red annex building into a new youth space. An interior wall was removed, and new electrical service has been roughed in. HVAC units were installed in August. We hope to complete the wiring upgrades soon, and then will start on finishes. We are working with Stephanie on preferred finishes.

The forming Story Room in the children's wing is undergoing a transformation. Asbestos ceiling material has been abated, and the ceiling was patched and textured. Walls and ceilings are being painted, as are the built-in cabinets. Soon there will be new windows installed, and all new trim. This is in preparation for

Barclay Press (or another organization) to use as office space.

The tiny homes were both sold and removed (thanks to Steph for doing the deals).

Preparations are under way for Serve Day in early September. A list of projects is being compiled, and helpers from the church are being recruited.

A work day is scheduled for Saturday, Aug. 29, to clean up the outdoor entrance area for the Preschool. Red Bucket is recruiting parents to help.

Finance Committee

Lynn Holt

Minister of Stewardship & Communication, Trustee

The 2025–2026 fiscal year was marked by intentional investments in a new approach to pastoral leadership, increased building rentals, and generous financial giving from the congregation.

Entering the fiscal year, NVFC planned a strategic surplus of \$45,127.38 to explore adding three part-time ministry staff members and a worship coordinator in place of a full-time pastor. Through careful planning and higher-than-expected income across all categories, we adopted the new ministry model (accounting for ~\$35,000 in expenses) while **finishing the year with a general fund surplus of \$34,123.46.**

At the June 2026 Business Meeting, the congregation approved designated transfers within the budget and the allocation of the remaining surplus (\$34,132.46) to 3 dedicated funds: rental house long-term maintenance, fellowship goods, and capital projects. This resulted in us closing the 2025–2026 fiscal year with a fully balanced \$0 profit-and-loss statement and positioning our facilities and ministries for long-term sustainability.

Lynn's full report on the 2025- 2026 fiscal year is included in the 9.2.26 business meeting handouts, or is available upon request.

Trustees Report

Regarding the sale of a small strip of land along the driveway, all payments have now been received by NVFC from Bill Rourke. This adjusted the property lines between us and the new housing development to allow them to move ahead (you might notice the new fence along the driveway!).

Land Use Task Group (LUTG)

Colin Saxton

LUTG Member

The Land Use Task Group has a few updates, which could change between now and the September 2 business meeting.

1. Thanks to Stephanie St. Cyr, we were able to sell the two tiny homes to very happy families. One was purchased by a family who plans to use it for affordable housing for students attending Corban University. Each home was sold for \$6000, and the funds have been placed in reserve until a plan is created for their use.
2. Barclay Press has communicated their intent to lease Classroom 101 in the Children's Wing beginning November 1st. Work to upgrade the space has (mostly) been accomplished.
3. We continue to wait on Chehalem Valley Soccer Club's proposal regarding their interest in purchasing a section of our land. We will update the Meeting as soon as we hear something definitive from them.
4. Work continues on renovating the new Youth Annex.

Gifts & Leadings Committee

Jody Jones

Clerk

We are prioritizing finding an Assistant Clerk and Recording Clerk for monthly meetings, and a Treasurer. We have asked Elders to provide us with job descriptions for these roles, which will be a great help to us in understanding what we are asking of people, and also help potential candidates as they consider serving. We have also asked if it is possible for the Recording Clerk position to be solely for the Monthly Meeting and not the AC, as that will make it easier to find someone willing to do this job.

Staff Report

Lyssa McConaughy

Office Manager, Bookkeeper

As I enter the 3rd trimester of this pregnancy, this is a season of preparing for the months ahead... as I

anticipate both becoming a new parent and having my role(s) here at North Valley covered while I am away on parental leave. If all goes according to plan and I deliver in mid-November, I will be away from the office for the remainder of November and all of December 2026, and may start easing back into work as early as late January 2027. The state of Oregon grants me 14 weeks of paid leave that I can use within 12 months. With that leave time, I likely won't return to my full responsibilities and schedule until sometime in February 2027 at the earliest.

We will be accepting applications soon to find one or two (or maybe even three!) people to cover various positions/responsibilities while I'm away - including office admin and bookkeeping. If you or someone you know may be a good fit and are interested in applying for any of these roles, we'll be posting more information soon!

Thank you for all of the ways this community has supported, encouraged, and prayed for Jered and me as we have walked this journey towards parenthood.