

VENICE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ANNUAL REPORT

2018



Connect, Grow & Go

“May the favor of the Lord our God rest on us; establish the work of our hands for us – yes, establish the work of our hands”.

Psalm 90:17



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To know Christ and to make Christ known

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Letter from the Senior Pastor

REV. CHRIS ROMIG

2018 began with the presentation of our church's new vision statement:

To glorify God as a disciple-making outpost of kingdom life.

In the pages of this annual report, we give glory to God for the many ways that we are making disciples. Through this annual report, we give glory to God for the many ways the Holy Spirit continues to shape us into an outpost of kingdom life that welcomes people to experience spiritual refreshment as we connect, grow, and go together.

We thank God for a very special year. Together, we offered soaring praise to our Lord through so many meaningful times of worship. We received a record number of new members, even as we grieved the passing of many dear loved ones into the Church Triumphant. The generosity of this congregation enabled us to meet our 2018 budget and to bless our mission partners here in Sarasota County and throughout the world. We shared in the joy of Carolyn Wilson's call to VPC and her ordination as our

Associate Pastor. We also marked the retirement of VPC's longest-serving staff member, Cris Anderson, whose 22+ years of faithful ministry we will celebrate at this year's annual meeting.

As I marked my 15th anniversary as your pastor, I'm especially grateful for the 2018 gift of a sabbatical. After a summer of wonderful and unexpected joys and challenges in our family's life, I returned with a refreshed body, mind, and soul after three deeply rejuvenating months with God and my family. I re-entered ministry with you, not only greeted by a beautifully re-designed office, but by a congregation and a staff that had grown even more into a disciple-making outpost of kingdom life. Now that says a lot about the people who are VPC, and about the amazing God we worship and serve!

With joy, I thank our Lord Jesus Christ for every one of you who – in your own special way – gives glory to God as part of this disciple-making outpost of kingdom life.



*"...we give
glory to
God for the
many ways
that we
are making
disciples."*



Rev. Chris Romig and Guatemala children

MINISTRY OF MUSIC & WORSHIP

The music and worship ministry of Venice Presbyterian Church exists to point the believer and non-believer to the cross through community worship services. 2018 proved to be a year of wonderful God moments. Our church installed a brand-new custom-designed Allen 4 manual hybrid digital/pipe combination organ. This has allowed us to be more versatile in the repertoire we can perform, accompanies many wonderful anthems our choir sings, helps our congregation enthusiastically lift their voices to God through hymns, and has also allowed us to perform great concerts.

One of the highlights of 2018 was our Holy Week services. On Maundy Thursday, our choir performed works by Mendelssohn and Sir John Stainer with full orchestra. Good Friday, Craig

Williams, Organist and Choir-Master at West Point, performed an organ recital followed by a moving service of Choral Anthems, scripture readings, and prayers. Easter Sunday, we welcomed over 2,000 people and worshiped God with brass, organ, choir, and a stirring sermon by Rev. Christopher Romig.

During the summer, Pastor Chris took a much-needed sabbatical. We welcomed guest preachers and musicians from all over the nation to participate in the summer Festival of Worship. Each week was new and different and allowed our church to hear from new and familiar guest speakers. We even hosted a July 4th picnic and pie bake-off. Ending this festival, our Minister of Music and Worship offered a soul stirring service centered on music of the African American Church.



Finally, many thanks to our handbell choir for the amazing music and also to our handbell choir director, Laurie Olsen. Laurie Olsen displayed a passion for handbells and has done a wonderful job in leading this portion of the ministry.

Jamal Sarikoki
Minister of Music & Worship



*"...our
congregation
enthusiastically
lift their voices
to God through
hymns..."*

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

The Children's Ministry hosted a wonderful summer Vacation Bible School with 40 children attending from the Venice area! Cedarkirk Day Camp is already scheduled this summer for two weeks, June 10-14 and July 15-19.

The Children's Ministry hosted a Fall Festival in October that attracted over 300 families to witness the Bible characters in action. Venice Presbyterian Church members decorated their trunks in Biblical themes for families to visit and get treats. We fed families, played games, and enjoyed a wonderful evening!

Operation Christmas Child was able to provide Christmas joy to 300 children in different parts of the world because of the generosity of Venice Presbyterian Church. Boxes were collected in November. We then delivered them to a local distribution center to be sent to children who otherwise would not receive a gift for Christmas. This was a project the church rallied behind with their prayers, finances, and the filling of boxes!

Genna Sarikoki
Children's Director



THE HUB YOUTH MINISTRY & A/V

Our youth area has benefitted greatly from the 2018 Orange Conference. We have established a curriculum that has the kids independently reading scripture. We reinforced the study with Camp Anderson and, while there, had several baptisms and recommittals to Christ!

Conrad Knepp, Youth & A/V Director



In the year 2018, our A/V Department was able to take their impact to a new level. We installed a brand-new live sound and recording system in the sanctuary, moved our cameras to better locations, and boosted the performance and numbers of our personnel.

COMMUNICATIONS

In the past year, there have been a lot of changes in how we communicate information pertaining to church activities and news. It was a lot of creating, revamping, tweaking and learning, not only internally for the staff but for the congregation as a whole. Thank you for your graciousness and patience as we implemented these new changes.

2018 included the adoption of the new church management software, Realm. Realm is considered a leader in the industry but that doesn't mean it was easy. There has certainly been a learning curve but overall, we feel this allows for better financial record keeping, access to statistics and will help facilitate group communication and event organization. We believe that as we grow, this platform will grow with us and those in church leadership feel it was a good and necessary investment. Our hope is to provide the necessary training to all who want to be actively involved in the VPC community. Expect to see Realm and technology workshops pop-up on the calendar on a regular basis.

Our monthly event bulletin, Connect, Grow & Go has proven to be a popular resource for activities at VPC. As its popularity grows, we hope to be able to "Tell the Story" of VPC. We want to share how God is working within our various ministries, Sunday worship services, and musical programs. Expect to see more human-interest stories that explore the spiritual impact of events like Family Promise, Day 4 Hope, Immokalee and Guatemalan mission trips and the Venice Community Concert Series.

Our weekly email blasts have a higher 'open' and 'click' rate than industry average. We receive the distinction of being recognized as a '2018 All Star'. This annual designation is something only 10% of Constant Contact customers receive for their excellence in building better customer relationships. This tells us that the VPC community is involved and invested in the activities of the church. The weekly emails seem to be striking a balance of sending pertinent information without cluttering inboxes.

In 2018, our website, www.venicepres.org, had over 21K unique visitors. These visitors looked at the site over 27K times and we had over 64K page views. Not bad for the first full year! Why is this important? The goal of our website is three-fold, 1) to provide an online resource for our members. 2) to further "tell the story" of God's impact on our church community and 3) to inform those searching for a place of worship what they can expect at VPC. We hope that our vision of *Glorifying God As A Disciple-Making Outpost Of Kingdom Life* is communicated to those longing to develop and grow their relationship with God.

We are very excited for 2019 as we further develop existing communication channels and explore and implement new ones.

Kelly Wensley
Communications Director



MISSION REPORT



2018 VPC

MISSION REPORT

The mission focus is to Make Christ Known not only here but throughout the world. We support Missions in our Local Community, State, Nation and Internationally. Total amount donated in 2018 was \$240,855.36 (\$92,474.44 from the budget and \$148,380.92 from the congregation over and above giving). In addition, \$21,840.74 was received in December from the Alternative Gift Market. VPC is an incredibly loving and giving congregation, for which we are truly grateful. Following are snippets of the activities in the missions we support.



Agape Flights Vision: A world where missionaries never lack resources to share the unconditional love of Christ.

MISSION HIGHLIGHTS

“Commit everything you do to the Lord. Trust him, and he will help you.”

Psalm 37:5

Agape Flights will celebrate its 40th anniversary in 2020 as an independent ministry committed to "Serving Christ by Serving His Missionaries" throughout Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Cuba, and the Bahamas. Headquartered in a newly re-roofed hangar at the Venice airport, they fly food, clothing, medical supplies, textbooks, and even mail to various outposts in the Caribbean. Each week, cheerful and hardworking volunteers assist the staff in preparing for a Thursday flight. Everything must be inventoried, weighed, and carefully loaded to maintain the plane's balance. This vital organization truly represents the embodiment of the hands and feet of Christ (along with the wings of His angels) as God's people work together to change and save lives both physically and spiritually.

Center of Hope is committed to meeting the needs of the Venice community using as their motto from 1 John 3:18: "Our love should not be just words and talk, but it must be true love which shows itself in action." Center of Hope moved in 2018 from Nokomis to Shamrock Drive across from the Senior Friendship Center. Center of Hope provides food, clothing, free medical and dental care, financial help with rent payments and utility bills, and is the connection point for Sarasota County to provide temporary housing for those in need. Bag lunches are provided daily and once a month there is a free dinner and a family-friendly movie. Finally, it assists individuals in obtaining identification cards from the county. Center of Hope is truly a place where shattered dreams and broken lives are restored.



MISSION & OUTREACH

Day 4 Hope: This mission serves children in our local school system who are homeless or in economic need so they can begin school on an even playing field with other children. VPC serves over 100 kids by providing free medical, dental and eye exams, haircuts, portraits, backpack full of school supplies, personal care bag, gift cards for shoes and clothes and groceries for the whole family. Over 300 local volunteers give of their time and money to accomplish this Day 4 Hope in late July.

Family Promise of South Sarasota County was established in 2014 and seeks to help families with minor children who are in sudden need of temporary housing. We, along with 12 other churches, house the families four times a year, providing them with all their needs as they move from church to church. This allows them to save their money and return to permanent housing. Each time the families are at VPC, over 50 volunteers are involved in setup/teardown, hosting, food, activities and staying overnight with the families. By offering Christian hospitality, resources and hope, we are changing lives one family at a time.

Fellowship of Christian Athletes is touching millions of lives, one heart at a time. Since 1954, FCA has been challenging Christian coaches and athletes on the professional, college, high school, junior high and youth levels to use the powerful platform of sport to reach every coach and every athlete with the transforming power of Jesus Christ. FCA focuses on serving local communities on the Gulf Coast by engaging, equipping and empowering coaches and athletes to unite, inspire and change the world through the Gospel.



Guatemala Medical Clinic:

When the Feugo Volcano erupted in Guatemala on June 5, 2018, Dr. Erick Estrada, a Guatemalan Christian who operates the holistic Clinica Medica Salvatore in El Cortijo with 12 staff members, immediately took half his staff to assist in the relief effort. The volcano killed 69 people with hundreds unaccounted for, and 3000 people evacuated. They worked long days for over a month, attending to the needs of the injured and now homeless survivors. We know from personal experience working with Dr. Estrada that he shares his faith with those he is treating. He is continually “making Christ known”.



Habitat for Humanity: South Sarasota County, operating on Christian principles, seeks to put God’s love into action by bringing people together to build homes, communities, and hope. “We are God’s hands and feet, here to serve others and show them His love.” Habitat welcomed eight families to affordable housing in 2018, including the family of Debbie Jones. Debbie and her son Ben came before the VPC congregation in 2017 to ask for help in building their Venice home. Debbie and Ben returned in 2019 to thank the people of VPC for their help after the completion of her home that is designed to accommodate the needs of her disabled children. 2018 witnessed the commencement of the Faith Build Project. Members and friends of VPC, in partnership with fourteen other Venice area churches, have successfully funded and almost fully constructed a Faith Built Home in Venice for Ashley Mitchel and her son Jaxon. The Mitchel home should be completed and prayerfully dedicated in May or June of 2019.

*"Let us not grow weary
in doing good"*

-Galatians 6-9

MISSION & OUTREACH

Haiti Institute Univers:

Because of improper conduct on the part of some staff members and their unwillingness to acknowledge their mistakes and leave their positions, this mission was removed from funding. We are currently researching four other missions in Haiti to provide help for education of the children.

Helps International: VPC sends teams to Guatemala installing water filters and stoves in homes and a public school. The stoves are insulated, raised off the floor, vented, and 70% more efficient than an open fire, saving one tree per month per stove. More importantly, they reduce pneumonias and dysentery which take the lives of 20% of children by age five. We also deliver knitted items for babies and medical supplies for the local clinic. After each stove installation we have a precious time of prayer with the family and give them a copy of the Gospel of John in Spanish. As a team we enjoy morning devotions, singing, and a Sunday service together.

Laurel Civic Association:

The Adult Program provides a holistic approach to improve the lives of the working poor, the disenfranchised and needy through education and social support. The goal of service is to increase family stability through retained housing, secured employment assistance, parental mentoring, decreased hunger, elderly aging-in-place, and safe drug-free activities. The Empowering Youth Program serves at-risk youth in K-12 primarily living in South Sarasota County. The program provides year-round activities and focuses on intervention and prevention to provide children with the skills they need to succeed. Activities reinforce and complement regular academic programming and include after-school tutoring, Kids Café, Summer Camp, Teen Empowerment and Earning by Learning.

“Offer sacrifices in the right spirit, and trust the Lord.” Psalm 4:5



Mision Peniel Immokalee, Florida, Serving Migrant Farm Workers: Gifts from VPC have helped provide a much-needed walk-in refrigerator and freezer that will better accommodate the large amount of food necessary to serve weekly meals. Gifts from VPC have helped provide a projector system that has already been put to use with educational events and worship opportunities. Gifts from VPC have helped support new initiatives, including a mission garden, women's fellowship and community outreach. Volunteers from VPC have helped make it possible to distribute essential food and clothing along with Bibles in Spanish and Creole. VPC's ongoing support has enabled Pastor Miguel Estrada to return to full-time ministry as the mission's pastor/director, beginning in January 2019.

Peace River Presbytery: VPC supports Jodi & Jim McGill in their work in Niger; Cedarkirk; Mision Peniel and Beth El through the Presbytery. Our Christmas Joy offering contributes to the PCUSA pastoral retirement fund.

Pregnancy Solutions empowers men, women, and youth with Christ-centered, life-affirming options and support. These goals are accomplished through prevention for youth, intervention for fathers and mothers facing unexpected pregnancy, and restoration for those who have faced an abortion decision. In 2018, Pregnancy Solutions served nearly 750 new clients, shared in 1100 spiritual conversations, conducted 700 pregnancy tests, 500 ultrasounds, and helped 50 clients who faced an abortion decision find hope and healing.

Salvation Army Bell Ringers: Their mission is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and to meet human needs in His name without discrimination. One way this is accomplished is through the The Red Kettle Campaign. The money raised goes toward their food pantry, rental assistance, utility help, after school programs, providing Christmas to those who may not have one otherwise, and more.



MISSION & OUTREACH

South County Food Pantry, CAM, Center of Hope and Laurel Civic: By utilizing food drives, weekly donations. Three Cents-a-Meal and designated gifts, we collected approximately 10,000 packages of food and donated funds to these organizations to help our hungry neighbors in the Venice area.



TCM International (Training Christians for Ministry) serves over 1600 pastors in 44 countries in Europe, Asia, Middle East and Africa by providing Master of Arts and Master of Divinity education to these local pastor-missionaries so they can be highly effective in their congregations. VPC supports Jakob Rimmel (Estonia) and Murat Bagir (Turkey) by assisting with their education expenses.

Trinity Presbyterian Church Community Assistance Ministry (CAM): One of CAM's greatest strengths is its Christian outreach to their clients. A worship service is offered each day they are open. Prayer is offered, first with the volunteers, and then again with the clients before serving lunch. Stephen ministers are on duty to provide comfort, a listening ear, and prayer. The volunteers and the clients are part of what is termed the "CAM family" and all are treated with dignity and respect. CAM served 25,000 hot meals and 45,000 take-home meals in 2018.



All the VPC supported missions have grateful hearts with VPC's encouragement, as well as financial and prayer support. Many thanks to the Mission team of Richard Gilbert, Christine Hart, Tom Hoffman, Karen Norwood, Jim Sager, Laura Saye, Bruce Smithson, Jim Turner and Lois Weeks.



"And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased" Hebrews 13:16



"It is a great honor and privilege to have been called to this church to serve our Lord and Savior..."

Rev. Carolyn Wilson's

ORDINATION



My ordination was one of the most important events of my entire life. It was the culmination of so many things that are deeply significant to me, all wrapped up in one huge, beautiful gift from Venice Presbyterian Church, Church of the Palms, and Peace River Presbytery.

It was a major milestone in God's call on my life to full-time ministry, a calling by his grace alone. It was the purpose of and highlight of the completion of four hard, hard years of seminary as I poured my heart and soul into my studies while working full time in ministry, experiencing many times of tears and exhaustion, wondering if I would make it through.

It was a very special time with members of my family who were able to attend, especially my dad who was declining in health as a result of stage four cancer. I cannot even convey how grateful I am that he was able to be here.

And it was also the beginning of a new chapter in my journey as Associate Pastor of Connection and Outreach at Venice Presbyterian Church. I am so very grateful to God, to this special church staff, and to this exceptional congregation, who gave me the warmest and most loving welcome imaginable. It is a great honor and privilege to have been called to this church to serve our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ as Minister of the Word and Sacrament.

VPC LEADERSHIP TEAMS & NOMINEES

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Judy Thornton Holmes (*Chair*)

Kay Bannon

Wil Berstein

Judy Thornton Holmes

Elaine Liming

2018 scholarship recipients

- Steven Estrada
- William Harwell
- William Romig
- Gael Jennie Fleurant
- Caren Pare

HUMAN RESOURCE COMMITTEE

Dick Edmunds (*Chair*)

Carlene Painter

David Schoenthaler

Anna Marie Brummett

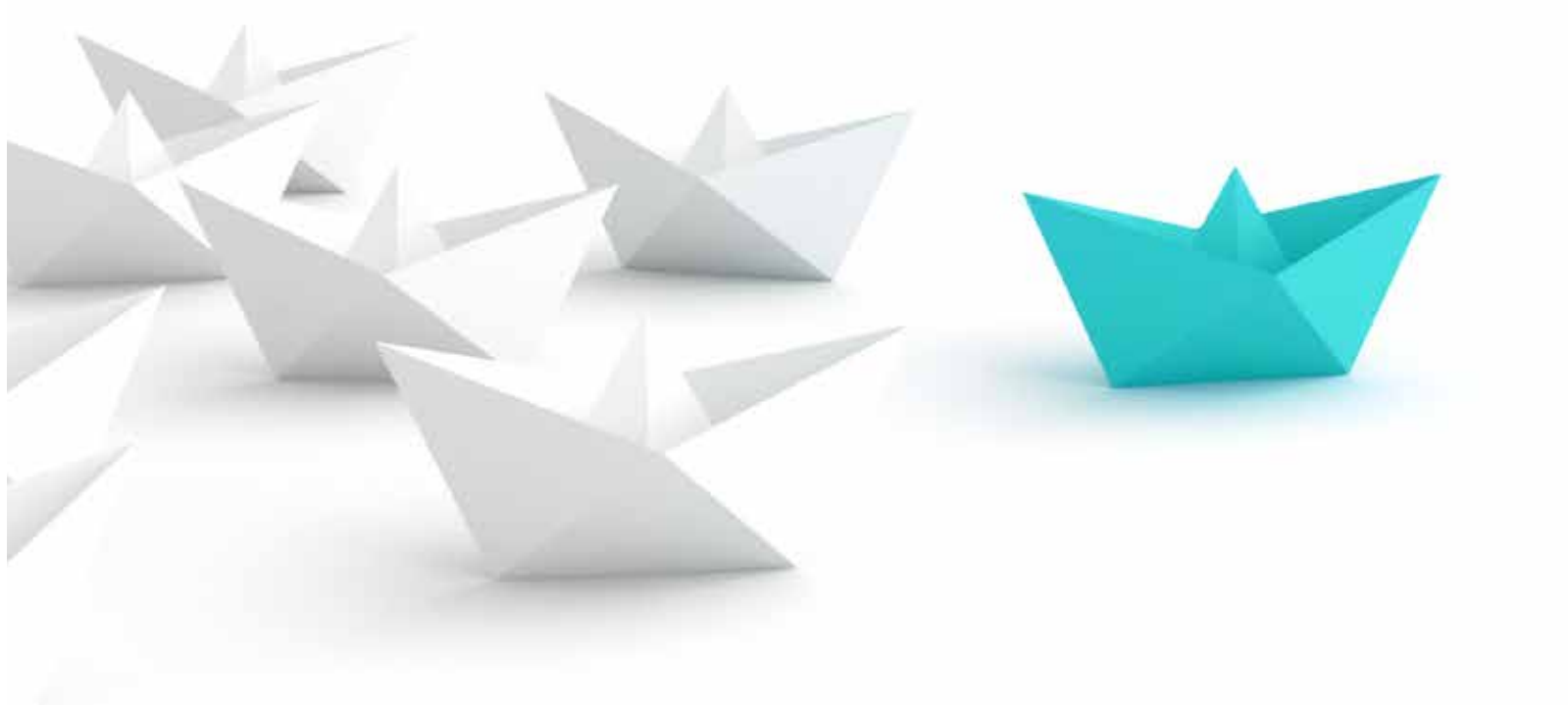
Bob Jelenchick

Sydna Zeliff

Nick Clemmer

Diane Sharp

Carol Dickinson



SESSION

Session is a Christ-centered community of men and women called to serve as spiritual shepherds of our church's vision. A highly-committed group of servant leaders, the VPC Session meets monthly for spiritual discernment as led by the Sr. Pastor. Session provides oversight to all ministries of the church, including the Board of Trustees, Human Resource Committee, Nominating Committee, and Mission Committee. This Committee is appointed by the Nominating Committee.

TEACHING ELDER

Christopher Romig
Carolyn Wilson

CLERK OF SESSION

Laurie Wright

CLASS OF 2019

Jack Perkins
Carolyn Stephens
Laurie Wright

CLASS OF 2020

Cris Anderson
Dick Edmunds
Tom Hoffman
Bob Painter

CLASS OF 2021

Bob Allen
Nick Clemmer
Sheryl Morford

SESSION NOMINATIONS



Jim Weeks

Since 2007, Jim and his wife Lois have been residents of Venice/Nokomis. They still escape summers on an island in Minnesota but this is home. This is where all the aspects of the slogan Connect, Grow, and Go perpetually interconnect through the camaraderie, Bible study and accountability of Turbo (weekly men's group), the development of faith and wonder through corporate worship, and opportunities to serve on Session (2012-2015) and as a Guatemala team leader (2009-2019).

One of the things Jim enjoys most is connecting people to one another and ultimately to God. Serving on Session is another opportunity to do just that.

SESSION NOMINATIONS



Jamal Sarikoki

Jamal has been a member of VPC since the beginning of 2018. He came to VPC in June of 2017 as the Minister of Music and Worship. He is currently involved in the music and worship ministry, concert series, Friday morning men's Bible study, the children's ministry with his beautiful wife, and the preaching team. One of his favorite parts of VPC is the importance it plays in reaching people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This has been accomplished through unapologetic biblical preaching, our focus on community and world-wide missions, our focus on creating community amongst members and people in our community, as well as strong evangelical and God-honoring worship services. VPC is a place where all who know Christ and all who wish to know Him can find a place of refuge, warmth, family, and love.



Jennie Chaplain

A resident of this area since 1974, Jennie Chaplain became a member of VPC in 2016 following a 20-year career as office manager of a small Presbyterian church. Since coming to VPC, Jennie has been serving as a Stephen Minister, communion server, church library volunteer, and volunteer at Day 4 Hope. She also enjoys participating in a small group Bible study and being part of the adult coloring crew. Jennie believes God has worked in the circumstances of her life to bring her to the VPC community and is humbled by his leading her into this new opportunity for service.

SESSION NOMINATIONS



Carolyn Stephens

Carolyn Stephens and her husband Jim joined Venice Presbyterian Church in 2007. Her church involvements are volunteering in the church office, facilitating a Bible study group, playing the piano at the Wednesday morning communion service and currently serving on Session. Her mantras are Philippians 4:13— “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me” and words from the hymn—“Oh, Jesus, I have promised to serve Thee to the end.” Being elected to continue serving on Session is another way to live out her commitment to serve and be faithful to that promise.



Shelly Wharton

As long-time believers, Shelly and her husband Mark joined in fellowship with VPC in 2016 after a detailed search for a church that was the right fit for both parties. What a blessing VPC has been for them! They have/are participating in Day 4 Hope, Family Promise, Mision Peniel in Immokalee, a Stove Team mission trip to Guatemala, Ushering, Greeting, Communion element preparation, Salvation Army Bell Ringing, Kingdom Fellowship, Pastor Chris' Wednesday Night Bible Study. In addition, Shelly is enjoying nourishment from the Jennifer Speer Bible study program as a small group facilitator. Mark and Shelly are delighted to be in fellowship with a spiritually mature church which has so many opportunities to grow, serve, and love.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees is responsible for overseeing the annual financial plan of the church, review and recommendation of capital projects, buildings and grounds, and oversight of the Scholarship Committee. The Trustees are the Officers of the Corporation for Venice Presbyterian, Inc. This committee is overseen by Session and is appointed by the Nominating Committee for Session approval.

COMMITTEE CHAIR

Bob Allen

CLASS OF 2020

Skip Sayers

CLASS OF 2019

Glenn Breitzig

Ann Woody

CLASS OF 2021

Bob Allen

Richard Gilbert

TRUSTEE NOMINATIONS



Fred Francis

Fred is a long time member of Venice Presbyterian Church. He and his wife Bobbie were married at VPC in 1992. He was born in Prestonsburg, Kentucky and was introduced to Venice in his high school years. Fred relocated to Florida after college where he owned and operated several clothing stores in Sarasota and Venice. Fred has been part of many community boards. Fred and Bobbie are the parents of four children and grandparents of nine. Fred served on the Usher Team for Venice Presbyterian Church.

TRUSTEE NOMINATIONS



Ann Woody

Ann moved to Venice in May 2015 and visited several churches in the area. She said that after hearing Pastor Chris deliver the message her first Sunday, she decided that VPC was where she wanted to worship and to serve. She became a member in February 2016. Ann has served at the Welcome Desk, as a dinner host for Family Promise and a table facilitator for Beginning the Journey. Ann plans to lead a team to welcome first and second time visitors to VPC. She enjoys the friends she has made and the Wednesday afternoon Bible study with fifteen other women.



Mary Gregory

Mary began attending Venice Presbyterian in 2006 following her retirement and joined the church officially in 2013.

She has participated in the Im-mokalee Ministry, Buddy Break, Trunk or Treat and assisted with the church communications department doing publicity for church events. She currently chairs the Book Club, serves on the Day 4 Hope Leadership Team and as a Sunday morning Greeter. Serving the church and its community and worldwide outreach is gratifying and provides connection with the wonderful members of VPC— young and old.

Mary loves Pastor Chris' sermons and the incredible music ministry found here.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee is responsible for prayerfully recommending servants to each of our leadership teams for election at our Annual Meeting. This group must understand what each leadership team is responsible for, the time commitment, the rotation of each team, and they must discern carefully the gifts of those they are recommending. They are helping to make sure our church is always under strong leadership. Those placed on the Nominating Committee are recommended by Session.

COMMITTEE CHAIR

Dennis Mock

SESSION REPRESENTATIVES

Bob Painter
Laurie Wright

EX-OFFICIO

Christopher Romig

CLASS OF 2019

Susie Gottschalk
Donna Wainright

CLASS OF 2020

Dennis Mock
Marika Fries

CLASS OF 2021

Lois Schmoe
Kathy Wood

NOMINATING COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS



Donna Wainright

I was born, raised and educated in Halifax, Nova Scotia. In the early 1980's, I married and moved to the U.S. where I lived in several different states based on my husband's and my careers. Following my husband's death, I retired from JPMorgan Chase in September 2004 after a 21-year career in Human Resources. I relocated from Houston, Tx to Venice and joined VPC in 2006. Since that time, I have served two terms as a member of the Human Resources Committee and I am currently a facilitator for the Transitions Support Group. Additionally, I have volunteered at the Venice Women's Resource as a peer counselor and mentor.



Susie Gottschalk

After attending VPC since 2005 and realizing how welcoming and supportive its members and staff are, it was easy for Susie to be enveloped and swept away by the kindness and love displayed at this most caring church. As a Stephen Minister, she learned skills that were hidden in her heart. As the Communion Servers Coordinator, she learned individual personalities and how these personalities respond to God's calling. As a member of the Nominating Committee, she and the other members prayerfully connect these personalities together as God leads them to serve. She feels more than blessed to be a formidable part of this church and more than blessed to be able to call VPC home.



2018 MEMBERS, AFFILIATES AND FRIENDS WHO HAVE JOINED THE CHURCH TRIUMPHANT

Berniece Abrahamson	Pit Johnson
Gary Allen	Vern Jones
Jim Atkins	Gladys Manley
George Beaudry	George McLaughlin
Don Blair	Freda Miller
Stuart Blood	Bob Murphy
Evelyne Blount	Caroline Murphy
Bill Burgher	Betty Murray
Carol Carpenter	Rich Nicholas
Lou Citro	Shirley Phillips
Lois Copper	Mary Price
Anne Crandall	Richard Prince
Larry Cushman	Anne Rommel
Helen David	Kenneth Smith
Jim DeBoer	Ruth Smith
Jim Dedrickson	Joyce Splitt
Dick Downing	Joyce Thompson
Molly Gockley	Kaye Tyler
Fran Godley	Ralph H. Wagner
Jessie Hall	Vonda (Mike) Walma
Colleen Herdrich	Bob Wichser
Bob Johnson	

2018 NEW MEMBERS

Bill Allen	Russ Duffey	Nick Kavounas	Linda Reimer
Sandy Allen	Marge Flynn	Bill Kegel	Jane Salandi
Ann Bass	Jerry Francis	Sandra Kenny	Genna Sarikoki
Gary Bass	Judy Francis	Susan Klein	Jamal Sarikoki
Marie Becker	NoVelle Franklin	Tom Klein	Dorothy Shea
Robert Becker	Bob Fullerton	Karen Langlais	Daniel Shugars
Judy Brand	Jim Fullerton	Richard Langlais	Susan Sims
Phyllis Breeden	Rose Fullerton	Libbye Larance	Lois Sinclair
Robert Brigham	Valerie Fullerton	John League	Norman Sinclair
Susan Brigham	Dot Gorman	Trig Lucken	Cynthia Smith
Robert Brisotti	June Gunn	Robin Maher	Holly Studd
Barbara Calder	Sandy Gunn	Anita McCarroll	Larry Studd
Carol Carlson	Joey Gurl	Isaac McDonald	Jill Sullivan
John Carlson	Jim Hale	JoAnn McDonald	Sally Swango
Steve Cecil	Suz Hale	Jerri Mishko	Stan Swango
Twyla Cecil	Jackie Henry	Lynn Misselt	Judi Theofanous
Cindy Clark	Joan High	Christy Misselt	Kathleen Treni
Tom Clark	Ron High	Larry Mitchell	Mike Treni
Don Clem	DeVon Hobby	Rebecca Mitchell	Dan Vaughn
Pat Clem	Myrna Hollander	Susan Mitchell	Linda Vaughn
Joann Crotty	Claudia Holmes	Dorothy Mohr	Claire Vauzanges
Rod Crotty	Walter Holmes	Lynne Monteith	Jean Waldron
Andy Dall	Jack Howser	Gretchen Moyer	Ron Waldron
Lois Dall	Nancy Howser	Jan Nascimbeni	Victor Weiss
Jim DeWeerd	Bernice Hubbard	Cynthia Nickell	Susie Wilkey
Roxanne DeWeerd	Ann Improta	Bill O'Brien	John Wilkin
April Dowler	Clo Improta	Christine O'Brien	Matthew Wilkin
Cooper Draper	Barb Isaacson	Marcia Panzo	Shirley Wilkin
Teresa Draper	Carol Jones	Bill Poole	
Linda Duffey	Cathy Kavounas	Diane Poole	



MISSIONAL BUDGET

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.”

Philippians 4:6



FINANCIAL REPORT

Venice Presbyterian Church created a plan of ministry to live out our vision of Glorifying God as a Disciple-Making Outpost of Kingdom Life. We celebrate a wonderful past and commit to living generously in the coming year. We continue to engage in deepening our walk with Christ and connecting with the community of Venice and beyond. To do this we worked hard to ensure all areas of Venice Presbyterian Church, as well as the budget, align with what it means to Connect, Grow, and Go in the name of Christ.

HIGHLIGHTS

We strive to Glorify God through excellent Worship every week of the year.

Last year we held over 200 worship services including Sunday Worship, Wednesday Communion, Memorial Services, Easter, Christmas, and special services.

Our average attendance in Sunday worship was 714 per weekend. We hosted a range of 20 to 120 visitors at those Sunday worship services. Some of the visitors, as well as some who have attended for years, became members through the working of the Holy Spirit. In 2018 we welcomed 125 new members!

Last summer we hosted a Festival of Worship enjoying a number of guest worship leaders. The music ministry during the Festival of Worship continued to be unique and beautiful. We are blessed with an outstanding choir, Minister of Music and Worship Arts, fantastic instruments, and a pastoral team who look to God every moment for guidance. To help us understand how to be better, we sent a survey in October of 2018 asking what you enjoy most about attending Venice Presbyterian Church. Hands down, music, worship, and friendliness were the number one answers.

We added a security component to our Sunday morning experience. Our off-duty officers have added a sense of safety to our congregation as our world struggles with uncertainty. Our desire is for those who walk in the doors of Venice Presbyterian Church to feel welcome, safe, and prepared for the Holy Spirit to work through the ministry of music, preaching, hospitality, and community. A service our security officers provide is to call for medical help if needed. They assisted in medical emergencies 8 times last year. They are professional, courteous and a great addition to our Sunday mornings.

We worship God every day of the week at Venice Presbyterian Church, not just Sunday. We exist to Glorify God in all we do. Much time, effort, and resources are invested helping others know Christ. To God be the glory!

TOTAL BUDGET \$550,352

(This number includes a percentage of pastors' and staff salaries, a percentage of the Worship, AV, Communication budgets, Building and Grounds, and Operations budgets)

To connect people in their faith journey through making disciples for Christ.

In 2018 Venice Presbyterian Church called Pastor Carolyn Wilson as Associate Pastor of Connection and Outreach. This was an exciting time for Venice Presbyterian Church as we not only called Pastor Carolyn but ordained her!

Last year we had over 700 people involved in discipleship opportunities. These studies ranged in size from small group Bible studies of 12 – 15 participants to Pastor Chris’s study and Jennifer Speer Women’s Bible Study with 150 – 200 participants. These were all fantastic opportunities of individual growth in communion with others.

We have leaders like Ann Woody who saw a need for women to connect. Ann heard God’s call and started a Bible Study from other groups she facilitated. This study is still strong today and is helping women grow in their faith together. This is one example of many groups that began because of God’s intervention. Another example would be the Monday Night Men’s study that continues to meet to connect and grow together in faith as only men can.

Pastor Carolyn works diligently to find opportunities for connection. Looking into 2019 you will be excited for the opportunities to grow deeper in your faith through intentional connection!

We cannot talk about connection and discipleship without mentioning our Youth program. Last year our youth spent a week at Camp Anderson growing together in Christ, as a group of young adults, longing for Jesus to know them better. Under the careful guidance of Conrad Knepp, our youth director, 10 kids re-affirmed their faith by either being baptized for the first time or renewing their vows. We are hopeful to double the number of youth joining the trip this year!

We host the Venice Community Concert Series, a ministry of Venice Presbyterian Church, each year. This is a fantastic outreach of our church! The concerts begin with prayer, are hosted by members of our congregation who show the love of Christ to all. We sold 1,975 tickets in 2018 to the four concerts we hosted. That is 1,975 people entering our doors, once, twice, or multiple times to experience Venice Presbyterian Church and the love that grows here.



Community and connection are imperative in growing in Christ. Praying about the ways to connect is sometimes the first step in finding your place. Having the resources to help people connect and then accommodating that connection is a blessing. To God be the glory that Venice Presbyterian Church is blessed with such resources!

BUDGET TOTAL: \$537,302

This number includes a percentage of pastors' and staff salaries, a percentage of the Connection and Outreach, Care and Compassion, Youth, Communication, Building and Grounds, and Operations budgets)

To be an Outpost of Kingdom Life while we spread the good news of Jesus Christ to the community, nation, and world.

To be an Outpost of Kingdom Life spreading the gospel to the world is what Christ has called us to do through our work in the mission field. While we continue to pray for more children and families to find our church, we know we are reaching children and families in our community. We served 120 families through Day 4 Hope last year. This ministry provides needs for the first day of school to kids who otherwise would not have had the necessities to start school. The joy came when a child walked into the sanctuary and looked at his volunteer to say, "Wow, is this church?" What joy to introduce a child to Jesus! This is only one example of the many stories from that day!

We hosted a Family Night Out inviting families to our campus to enjoy a meal together, and an evening as a family, learning about Jesus. Fathers, mothers, and children ate together

and engaged in Christ-centered activity. One volunteer stated, "They just kept coming and coming, it was so emotional to see the dads show up and be excited." We hosted several parent date nights. This gave parents the opportunity to leave their kids in a safe place while they had two hours to reconnect as parents while their kids learned about Jesus. Overall we served over 100 families in this ministry!

Our Missions Committee is always hard at work making quarterly visits to Immokalee under the direction of Laura Saye. Meals are served to the workers and they are overjoyed to receive the clothes and food Venice Presbyterian Church sends. The volunteers come back tired after a 12-hour day. Over and over we hear how fulfilled they are from their experience.

Kingdom Life comes in different forms for different people. Sometimes it is in the simple gifts God provides. When

hearing the monthly mission updates from those traveling around the nation and globe, bringing the good news of Jesus Christ, how can we deny God's blessings. If you read the updates from the Missions Committee you will see how God is changing lives through Venice Presbyterian Church.

BUDGET TOTAL \$537,120

This number includes a percentage of pastors' and staff salaries, a percentage of the Children's, Missions, Communication budgets, wider church support, Fellowship Community, Building and Grounds, and Operations budgets)



2018 BUDGET BY THE NUMBERS*

<i>Source</i>	<i>Actual Income</i>
Church Income	\$1,481,714
Other Income	55,718
Concert Series Income	62,645
Total Income	\$1,600,077

<i>Ministry</i>	<i>2018 Budget</i>	<i>2018 Actual</i>	<i>2019 Budget</i>
Connection & Outreach	\$64,600	\$80,186	\$63,600
Missions	\$111,800	\$92,474	\$110,000
Youth Ministry	\$12,575	\$7,068	\$10,000
Children's Ministry	\$12,600	\$5,531	\$9,000
Worship & Music	\$52,750	\$57,581	\$50,500
Care & Compassion	\$2,500	\$4,547	\$1,600
Human Resources	\$950,898	\$907,926	\$983,728
Operations	\$242,800	\$200,735	\$236,125
Buildings & Grounds	\$104,000	\$122,203	\$107,250
Communications & A/V	\$31,250	\$29,382	\$35,000
Wider Church Support	\$39,000	\$39,000	\$39,500
Total Budget	\$1,624,773	\$1,546,633	\$1,646,303

**2018 financials are available
in the church office.*



VENICE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, INC

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