

Connect, Grow & Go

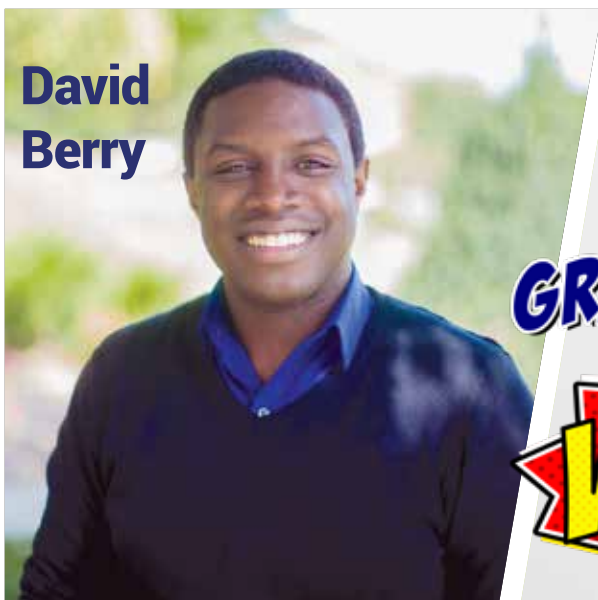
To Glorify God as a Disciple-Making Outpost of Kingdom Life



PW Garage Sale

Here's What's Going on at VPC in February 2019

**David
Berry**



To Glorify God as a Disciple-Making Outpost of Kingdom Life

Worship Service Hours

Sunday, 9am & 11am
9am Wednesday Communion

Office Phone

941-488-2258

Library Hours

Monday - Thursday, 10-12pm
Sunday, 8:30-11:30am

Regular Office Hours

Monday - Thursday, 9:00am - 4:00pm
Friday, 9:00am - 12:00pm

Living Generously

Woven Grace

We have heard it said,
God, full of grace.
To His spirit it is traced.
Sanctified in us as a
virtue,
A gift ever so true.
It has component parts,
Issued from our hearts.
Love, the virtue above all,
Bonding us together for
the sake of all.
Gladness fills us with joy,
Happiness it does deploy.
Kindness, we give to
each other,
An act uniting us
together.
Generosity, helping
others through life's toil,
Giving hope as we stroll.
Compassion reveals our
caring spirit,
Taught us by the Lord's
spirit.
Gratefulness, the ability
to say "Thank You."
Especially the blessings
granted me and you.
Woven grace has merit,
It is a noble act.
Pass it on in
contentment,
Lord, help us to weave it!

-Roger Goodman,
Poet, VPC Member



We would like to warmly welcome May Williams to the Venice Presbyterian Church staff family! She will begin her role as Office Manager February 4th!

May comes to us from Morton's Gourmet Market as their Accounts Payable Specialist. She lives in North Port and was ready for a change. She is married to Justin and has an eleven-

year-old son Anthony, who recently received his first Black Belt in Tae Kwon Do.

May enjoys spending quality time with her family, and you can usually catch her in the kitchen cooking up a feast. She likes reading, working out with her husband, boxing, and great comedy shows.

May will oversee all activity in the church office as well as the welcoming environment we offer on Sunday morning in the Narthex and Glass House. If you see May, Justin, and Anthony please give them a warm welcome!

City of Venice honors VPC as a Serve Florida Pillar of the Community



If you have a Christ-Centered Event that you believe follows Our Vision and Beliefs and would like it to be included in this bulletin, please submit your request on the website at www.venicepres.org/host-your-event-here and select the button, Connect, Grow & Go. You may also visit the office for a Promotion Submission Form.

Goodbye Cris!

*Cris Anderson served Venice Presbyterian Church on staff the past 23 years in various positions. She and her husband Jim recently decided to retire and enjoy life. This is Cris's second retirement from VPC! Her first one took place a little over two years ago. She came back part time and decided this time she wanted to retire altogether. December 31, 2018 was her last day in the office. We celebrate the next chapter in Cris and Jim's lives as they move to Tennessee later in 2019! For now Cris continues to serve as an Elder on Session and both she and Jim volunteer at VPC. Below is a profile written by Cris about her journey through the years at VPC. We are very happy for Cris and Jim and wish them well. We pray for them and love them as they follow their dreams! **Celebrate Cris Anderson and her 23 years of ministry at VPC with a reception in the Glass House after the 4:00pm Annual Meeting, March 24.***



*Cris Anderson served Venice Presbyterian Church on staff the past 23 years in various positions. She and her husband Jim recently decided to retire and enjoy life. This is Cris's second retirement from VPC! Her first one took place a little over two years ago. She came back part time and decided this time she wanted to retire altogether. December 31, 2018 was her last day in the office. We celebrate the next chapter in Cris and Jim's lives as they move to Tennessee later in 2019! For now Cris continues to serve as an Elder on Session and both she and Jim volunteer at VPC. Below is a profile written by Cris about her journey through the years at VPC. We are very happy for Cris and Jim and wish them well. We pray for them and love them as they follow their dreams! **Celebrate Cris Anderson and her 23 years of ministry at VPC with a reception in the Glass House after the 4:00pm Annual Meeting, March 24.***

My journey with VPC has been the last quarter century. In 1993 I moved to Florida from Atlanta, Georgia. I had worked as an Office Manager at a small manufacturing plant until they closed. After moving to Florida, I visited our local college, Florida State College (then Manatee Community College) looking for art classes. I saw a flyer on the window in the administration building stating..."if you are a displaced manager, you could be eligible for a paid two year degree in Computer Science. I took the bait! While attending one of my classes, a guy who was a member and on staff at VPC approached me and said "you need a part-time job? You would be perfect working at Venice Presbyterian Church." That's how it all got started. After a couple years at VPC, I became the full-time communication/publication secretary.

I enjoyed working in a Christian environment at VPC and working with Arabella Fry, a retired statistician with United Way. She was in her 80's at the time I started. Working with Arabella on a DOS based computer and a monitor the size of a portable TV was

challenging! But in a year or so we got our first Windows based computer. How far we have come in technology!

Through the years, I was inspired by Pastor Lyn Olson. She encouraged me to use my knowledge, initiative and self-direction in many of the women's ministries. We worked well together. I can recall her telling me "you dot my I's". I enjoyed the administration of Women of Faith events and our annual women's retreat.

I am only in my first month of retirement. When Monday mornings come, I enjoy sitting on our lanai with my cup of coffee while reading my devotions. No more Monday morning rush, traffic and meetings! Of course, there is always time to walk the dogs. Jim and I are active at VPC. We are involved with volunteering in different areas. I am still an Elder on Session.

Jim and I plan to move sometime this year after he finishes his monthly clinical trial with Moffett. I will miss the members of VPC the most. So many of them have become such faithful good friends. The one thing I won't miss is the deadlines!

Worship Ministry

Communion Sunday, February 3

9am & 11am Service

Communion will be served in the pews. Please hold the bread until all have been served so we may partake together. The bread is now gluten-free.

Wednesday Communion, 9am

Communion service is offered Wednesday morning in the chapel. All are welcome.



Retirement Community Communion Gatherings

Village on the Isle – February 14 and March 14 @ 11 am (2nd Thursday)

Aston Gardens – February 8 and March 8 @ 9:45 am (2nd Friday)

Jacaranda Trace – February 8 and March 8 @ 1 pm (2nd Friday)

Upcoming Special Guest Worship Leaders

March 3

We will celebrate the ministry of Rev. Graham Hart, who is retiring from an 18-year ministry as the General Presbyter of Peace River Presbytery. Graham will bring us the message this morning and assist our pastors in the Celebration of the Lord's Supper.

March 10

We welcome back Dr. Winfred Neely, preaching professor at Moody Bible Institute. Dr. Neely gave a dynamic message last summer at VPC's Festival of Worship, and he will be preaching as part of our series "Jesus the Storyteller."



Dr. Winfred Neely

Ash Wednesday, March 6

Please join us for a time of scripture, prayer, music, meditation, and Communion as we begin the Lenten season. Service will be held on Wednesday, March 6 at 6pm in the Sanctuary. May this be one of many impactful moments as you contemplate the ministry, death, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.



Annual Meeting, March 24, 4pm (Church Sanctuary)

The Annual Meeting of the VPC Congregation is more than a business meeting; it's a joy-filled time of celebrating how God is at work in our church! (Just ask anyone who came to last year's Annual Meeting, where we proclaimed the light of Christ even in the midst of an unexpected power outage!) At this year's Annual Meeting, you will have an opportunity to meet the nominees for Session, the Board of Trustees, and the Congregational Nominating Committee. Pastor Chris will offer a visionary look forward, and we will include interactive time for questions. We will also celebrate Cris Anderson and her 23 years of ministry at VPC with a reception in the Glass House after the meeting. An annual report will be available on March 17 (both in print and on the church website), which will include budget information and the full list of nominees for church office. Full members are eligible to vote, but everyone is invited to be part of the meeting.

Lynne Peter's Ordination

The VPC family is invited to celebrate the Ordination of Lynne Peter to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament on Sunday, March 10 at 3 pm at Oak Pointe Presbyterian Church, 1215 Bayshore Gardens Parkway, Bradenton. Pastor Chris will be offering the sermon at this joyous event.

A member of VPC, Lynne discovered our church in 2008 after the death of her husband. She was baptized on Pentecost Sunday 2009, and she became involved in the music, missions, and small group ministries at VPC. During this time, Lynne completed a Bachelor's Degree at Eckerd College and began studies through Dubuque Theological Seminary – even as she continued working as a respiratory therapist at Venice Hospital. VPC was privileged to support Lynne during her

preparation for ministry, through the church scholarship fund and our prayers. As part of her ministry field education, Lynne served at Whitfield Estates Presbyterian Church (now called Oak Pointe Church) in Bradenton. By God's grace, Lynne will now continue serving at Oak Pointe as the Assistant Pastor for Outreach Ministry.

"The ministry context of my calling," Lynne describes, "consists of missional outreach to the Presbyterian Villas senior HUD independent living apartments located in the Bayshore Gardens community across from Oak Pointe Church PC (USA). I have been developing a program for spiritual nurture, pastoral care, and ongoing spiritual, physical, and emotional support for the residents."

Screwtape and Wormwood

The Screwtape Letters is a satiric masterpiece by the Christian writer C. S. Lewis. The book contains thirty-one letters from Screwtape to his nephew, Wormwood, who is Screwtape's underling in fiendishness. Screwtape is an upper-level functionary in the complex bureaucracy of the underworld. The "Screwtape Letters" are friendly advice from this elder demon to a front-line tempter on how to interfere in the spiritual development of humans.

"The Bible Study Resource Center states, "The Screwtape Letters is fiction. This book plays out in our lives every day."

The Drama Ministry of VPC will be bringing these two characters to life with the goal of focusing upon the issues we confront in our everyday lives during the sermon series, **Jesus The Story-Teller**.

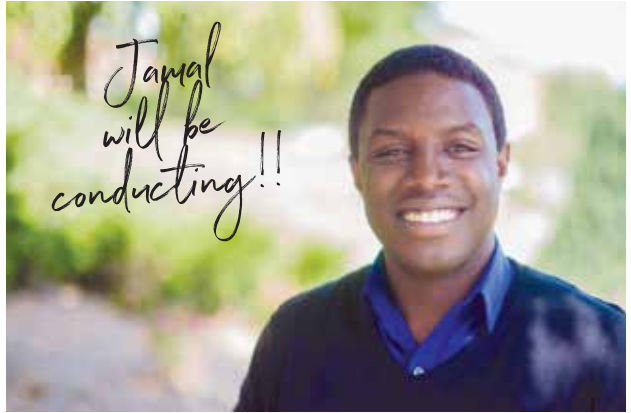
Music Ministry

David Berry

Sat. Feb 16

3pm

In celebration of the new Concert Grand Steinway at Venice Presbyterian, we welcome pianist, Dr. David Berry, for an explosive concert of works for piano and orchestra. The concert includes Piano Concerto No. 5 "The Emperor Concerto" Beethoven's final piano concerto. Ending this concert is Rhapsody in Blue by George Gershwin. Jamal Sarikoki, Minister of Music and Worship at Venice Presbyterian Church is conducting this concert.



David is currently Assistant Professor of Music at Eastern Mennonite University and is the president of the Harrisonburg Music Teachers Association.

Choir Practice

Wednesday, 7:00-8:30pm

Handbells' Rehearsal

Tuesday, 3:30-5pm



Canadian Brass, Sat., March 30, 3pm & 7pm



Tickets available online at

www.venicecommunityconcertseries.com

or at the VPC Box office in the Narthex, Mondays, 10-12,

Thursdays, 10-12 and Sundays after all services

941-488-5525

Care & Compassion



Cognitive IMPAIRMENT

FIVE, ONE-HOUR LECTURES ON
LATE LIFE COGNITIVE IMPAIRMENT



Dr. Robert G. Robinson, Professor of Geriatric Psychiatry and Neuroscience at Johns Hopkins Hospital and Univ. Iowa Hospital, author/editor of 10 books and 360 research publications, will be giving a series of five, one-hour lectures during Jan. and Feb. on "Late Life Cognitive Impairment". Dr. Robinson winters in Venice and attends VPC.

This five-week series starts Tuesday, Jan. 29 at 2PM. The following dates are February 5, 12, 19, and 26 and will take place at Venice Presbyterian Church's sanctuary. This series is sponsored by Stephen Ministry at VPC. There is no charge and the public is invited.

Planning the Party

Pre-planning your Christian funeral or memorial service is one of the best ways to help your family during their difficult time of grief and loss. By leaving them specific information regarding your own personal desires, you will greatly ease your family's burden of making decisions and trying to guess what you would have wanted. We have a booklet available to make your preferences known and preplanning easy for both you and your loved ones.



This five-week series started Tuesday, Jan. 29 at 2PM but is still welcoming new people. The following dates are February 5, 12, 19, and 26 and will take place at Venice Presbyterian Church's sanctuary. This series is sponsored by Stephen Ministry at VPC. There is no charge and the public is invited.

Memorial Service/Receptions

Memorial Services are a special way to remember those we love. After services, it is common for the family to want to spend time visiting and reminiscing with each other. VPC offers a reception in the Glass House serving cookies and coffee after each memorial service so that families are able to visit with their loved ones. Volunteers are currently needed to assist in the reception area.

Contact **Connie Sayers** at csayers@venicepres.org for more information or to sign up

the Hub! Youth Ministry

Grandparents Gone Wired is a 3 hour free event that will take place in Fellowship Hall from 12:00-3:00 on **March 3rd**. We will offer 3 levels of smart phone training as well as a basic navigation and setup course on Facebook. Sign ups in the Narthex, February 3 after worship and following in the Glass House.



church. His parents were founding members of VPC and his grandfather served as a civil engineer in the design and construction of Venice as a city, working alongside architect John Nolan starting in 1925! Gary worked in Ohio for 39 years, owning half of a business called Associated Chimney Sweeps, before retiring last year and moving back to his beloved town and returning to his family church. His interest in the AV area of the church and friendship with youth director Conrad Knepp eventually led to a volunteer position with the youth as well. On Sundays, Gary arrives at the church at 7 am, leaves well after 12, comes back at 5, and stays until almost 9 every week tying up many of the details that make our youth and AV programs what they are. The kids love him and we thank God that such a happy and willing servant chooses to spend his time here with us at VPC.

The Hub @ VPC is a made up of a very special group of people who work tirelessly behind the scenes to make each week a success. We would like to take the time, this month, to publicly recognize one specific individual of invaluable worth to the mission of VPC.

Gary Youngberg is the newest volunteer added to the roster of The Hub and has deep roots here at the

Youth Hibachi Night, Feb. 24th 6-8 pm

We will be having a Youth Hibachi Night at Kumo, located in Jacaranda Plaza at 1657 U.S. 41 Bypass, Venice, FL 34293. *Kids bring \$20 per person.*

Contact Conrad Knepp at cknepp@venicepres.org for more information or to sign up

Children's Ministry

Shoe Drive for Venice Elementary



During the month of February, the Children's Ministry Team will be collecting shoes for the students of Venice Elementary School. Many students visit the nurses office in need of properly fitting shoes and it is a

blessing for them to be able to give them exactly what they need. Please consider taking a paper shoe from the narthex that tells a specific size the school needs and bring in that pair of shoes during the month of February.

Our Children's Church and Nursery

will be available during the 11:00am services going forward.

Children's Church meets every week except Communion Sunday. Children are dismissed during the offering at the 11:00am service. We are excited to studying parables (*stories used to illustrate spiritual lessons that Jesus taught in the Gospels*) as we seek to parallel some of the lessons and topics Pastor Chris' will be teaching from the book of Luke. Children are challenged to memorize a verse together each month. February's memory verse is Luke 18:1, "*And he (Jesus) taught them a parable that they ought always to pray and not lose heart.*"

Nursery for ages birth to 5 years is provided every week beginning at 10:45 in Room 5—right at the end of the sidewalk.

Operation Christmas Child Update

VPC sent a total of 195 boxes to the distribution center this year! It was an exciting time of packing and collecting.



For more information on signing up for Children's Ministry, contact Genna Molitor, gmolitor@venicepres.org, (217) 480-1216



THANK
YOU!

VIP's, buddies, parents, and friends enjoyed a wonderful afternoon pageant during the December Buddy Break. It was a blessing to hear the scripture account of Christ's birth, as well as seeing the children enter in character. They did such a great job! This pageant is the highlight of many children and workers in the program as they dance, sing, and praise the Lord together.

A big 'thank you' goes out to Sheryl Morford and Laurie Wright for their coordination of the pageant programming and Christmas gifts for the VIP's.

If you are interested in sharing in the joy of this ministry by being a buddy on the third Saturday of the month, please reach out to Flora Hughes at 941-321-8180 hugjf@yahoo.com.

The next Buddy Break is February 16.

February Monthly Mission Partner (MMP)

CLINICA MEDICA SALVATORE/ORPHANS

Guatemala

The Medical Clinic, located in the small village of El Cortijo, Guatemala, is directed by Dr. Erick Estrada. This is a country with significant health problems due to poverty and lack of government aid.

Spearheaded by VPC Elder Frank Ebetino, this facility has grown over the past 10 years to include the 2 story medical clinic, a 2 story chapel (2013) and most recently a pediatric wing built in the memory of Madelyn Ebetino Shumaker (2017). Funds for the latter 2 buildings were raised by the extended Ebetino family. However, equipment, supplies and operational expenses are totally dependent on contributions, of which VPC is a major source. Currently, a surgery unit is being built on site (see photo above).

This Christian, holistic health facility, staffed by local practitioners, operates under the umbrella, "Salud Que Transforma" - "Health That Transforms". Medical service includes:

www.saludquetransforma.com

1. PATIENT CARE

General medical needs, dental care, optometry, physiotherapy and counseling, available 24/7 at the clinic. Fees are very reasonable.

2. MEDICAL OUTREACH

Dr. Estrada and staff conduct 'Jornadas' or mobile clinics, delivering health care twice weekly to 8 different surrounding villages. Once a month a team travels to LaPerla - a 12 hour drive - to hold a clinic in the mountainous north where there are no medical services.

3. NUTRITION PROGRAM

Approximately 130 malnourished children are given a hot meal twice a week at the clinic, prepared by staff members and village ladies. The children are fed, helped with their school studies and taught about Jesus.



To support the Monthly Mission Partners, please add your donation to the yellow envelopes in the pews. Your continued support is a life-line to our Guatemalan brothers and sisters in Christ. We appreciate your support.

Surgery Center Construction

Dr. Erick Estrada



4. NURSING ASSISTANT PROGRAM

This 1 year diploma program equips graduates to return to their villages with medical skills. Some 25 - 30 students graduate every year. Dr. Estrada and staff do the teaching.

5. ORPHANS

The Estradas have adopted a family of 5 Mayan orphans who they are raising and educating. The family is usually joined by another 2 to 4 children annually whose parents ask the Estradas for their help. These children become part of the family, sharing in all the daily chores while studying. They witness God's love on a daily basis!

To see all the activities that the Estradas are involved in, please watch the 20 minute video that was filmed there this past year at

www.saludquetransforma.com on your computer then click on 'HOME'.

Dr. Estrada thanks you for your generous support and prayers.

Contact Information:

Bruce Smithson, 941-882-3909

Frank Ebetino, 715-600-4275

A Faith-Filled European Trip in 2020



A detailed brochure is available at the Narthex Welcome Center. Relatives and friends are welcome to join the pilgrimage! The total cost is \$3599 per person (which includes all land transportation, accommodations, professional tour guides, most meals and admission costs for group activities but excludes airfare). A \$500 deposit is due February 10, 2019. For more information, contact Fred and Cindy Gossman: fredandcindy123@verizon.net or (513) 836-6839.

Looking for a Short-Term International Mission Trip?

We are seeking six people to go to TCM International Institute's Haus Edelweiss in beautiful Vienna, Austria, September 8-20 this year, to provide hospitality to international seminary students. Check it out at tcmi.org.

Contact Fred & Cindy Gossman for more information about the trip (513-836-6839), and a meeting will take place on **February 19th at 4:00 PM** at Fred & Cindy Gossman home, 738 Fringed Orchid Trail, Venice to discuss details.

3 Cents A Meal

On Sunday, February 24, please visit Christine Hart at the table in the Narthex and exchange or pick up a food container. Every penny counts.



Connections

Monday

Holy Yoga

9am - 9:30 am, Fellowship Hall

Line Dancing

10:30am - 11:30am, Fellowship Hall

Knit One, Pray Too

12pm - 2pm, Rm 9

Pat Pitha, sunnypatpitha@aol.com

Martha's Circle

1pm - 3pm, Rm 6

1st Monday of the month

Pat Radcliffe, patwrad@gmail.com

MnM Men's Group

6pm - 7pm, Glass House

Alan Penick, adpenick@comcast.net

Tuesday

Men's Discussion Group

8:00am - 9am, Rm 11

Doug Brown, dodobrown252@gmail.com

Tuesday Morning Men's Bible Study

Starts January 8, 2019

9:15 - 10:15 AM, Glass House. The study

will be on the Gospel of Luke. Dick Ed-

munds, (941) 488-8949

kcid1961@gmail.com

Nomads Bible Study

9:30am - 11 am in Room 11

Carolyn Wilson, cwilson@venicepres.org

Rachel's Circle

10 am- 12am, Rm 6

1st Tuesday of each month

Shirley Blood, clarkespinkle@gmail.com

Dorcas Bible Study (Women's)

10am - 12pm in Room 6

3rd Tuesday of each month

Beth Tieman, bethtmn@comcast.net

Women's Tuesday Fellowship

7pm - 9pm, Room 6

Kim Jason, kljason@comcast.net



Wednesday

Jennifer Speer Bible Study

wordofjoy.org/calendar

for other locations

Full!

Adult Coloring Crew

12pm, Library

Ardith Pinner, apinner@venicepres.org

Book Club

1pm - 2:30pm, Rm 8

1st Wednesday of the month

Mary Gregory

mgregorysmiles@gmail.com

Pastor Chris' Midweek Bible Study

6pm - 7pm, Sanctuary

No reservations required

Thursday

MOPS (Mothers of PreSchoolers*)

8:30am - 12pm, Fellowship Hall

1st & 3rd Thursday

*Moppets (1st & 3rd Thursday)

8:30am - 12pm, Family Life Center

Friday

Holy Yoga

9am - 9:30 am, Fellowship Hall

Bible Study Fellowship (BSF)

9:45am to 11:15am, Sanctuary

Tracy Patsel, at tracyjae@gmail.com

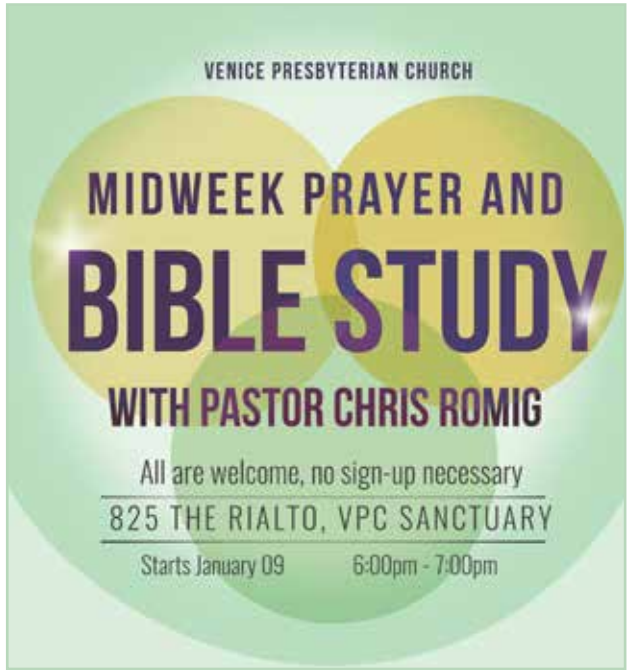
Mark Your Calendars

Book Club

- 1st Wednesday of the month, 1 - 2:30pm, Rm 8
- Feb. 6 The Girls of Atomic City by Denise Kiernan
- Mar 6 A Land Remembered by Patrick Smith
- April 3 When Breath Becomes Air by Paul Kalanithi
- May 1 River of Doubt by Candice Millard

Presbyterian Women

- Feb 19 God's Quilt, The Pieces of Our Lives by Peg Moffett, Potluck Lunch
- Mar 2 Annual Garage Sale
- Apr 16 Moravian Lady by Diane Penick, Potluck Lunch



Midweek Bible Study will **not** meet on Wednesday, Feb. 27 (*Pastor Chris is out of town*) or Wednesday, March 6 (*Ash Wednesday*).



Journeying with Jesus Through the Gospel of Luke

Our mission at VPC is “to know Christ and to make Christ known.” One of the ways we come to know Christ more deeply is to listen to His words and to reflect upon His life. The Sunday sermon series, Jesus The Story-Teller and Pastor Chris’ Midweek Bible Study will be based on a schedule of readings through Luke.

The daily readings are printed on a bookmark (*available at the Welcome Center and the Church Library*). Daily passages will be listed in the Sunday bulletin and on the church website.



Gospel of Luke Journals available in the library during regular library hours. Donation is \$5 per journal. Free bookmarks with the list of the daily readings from Luke will also be available for all.

Venice Presbyterian Church Presents

Presbyterian Women's
Annual Garage

SALE!

Saturday

MAR 2

8am-2pm

On-Site

BAKE SALE & FOOD COURT

Benefits Buddy Break

Donations will be accepted Sunday, Feb 24 - Wednesday, Feb 27th
in Fellowship Hall from 9 am - 2pm ONLY

PRESALE for congregation with church nametag
Thursday, February 28th from 9am to 2pm

VENICE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

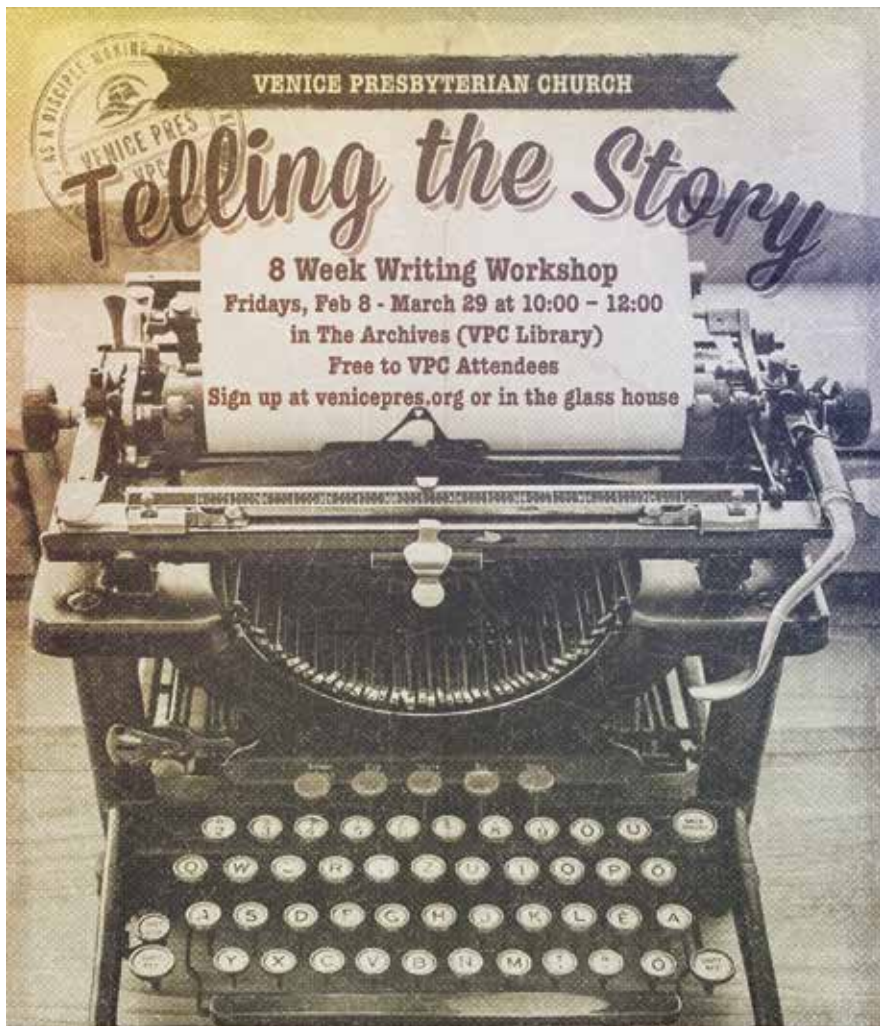
825 THE RIALTO, VENICE FL 34285, 941-488-2258

TOUCHED BY ONE OF OUR MINISTRIES?

We are looking for people who want to tell stories of the church, its members and events by writing or taking photos. Join the Communication Ministry for a brief meeting on February 14 at noon in the glass house. Be a part of this team of 'creatives'. Contact Kelly Wensley at kelly@venicepres.org

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WRITING WORKSHOP, FREE 8 WEEK SERIES



CLARISSA (LISSIE) THOMASSON

Clarissa Thomasson was born in Miami, Florida. She received her BA from Duke University and her MA from the University of Florida. Thomasson taught secondary English in Nevada and Maryland before returning to Florida. She's written eight novels, one local history, and two plays, and writes a monthly column for Eastside Venice Neighbors..

Venice Presbyterian Church

Two Ways to Connect

Participate in one or both!

Host a meal for 6 people and provide the main food item,
or attend a meal and bring an assigned food item.

LUNCH BRUNCH

Enjoy a casual lunch with friends, old and new
Saturday, February 16 at 1pm



Sunday Supper

February 24 at 5pm

DINNER IN THE HOME

Sign up for one or both in the Glass House, on-line at venicepres.org/events
or call VPC (941-488-2258) or Jean (941-484-6333)