

A blue banner with a white border and a white ribbon-like shape at the top and bottom, containing the year 2019 in white text.

2019

Two women are standing on a grassy lawn in front of a building. The woman on the left is wearing a red top and has blonde hair. The woman on the right is wearing a grey top and has long brown hair. Both are holding black microphones. In the background, there is a building with windows and a sign that says "Church Office".

# *Celebrating* **MINISTRY**

Three balloons are floating in the foreground. One is light blue on the left, one is yellow in the middle, and one is red on the right. They are tied with gold and blue ribbons.

**VENICE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
ANNUAL REPORT**



## Table of Contents



**FAMILY DEVELOPMENT MINISTRY** 6-9

**MUSIC MINISTRY** 10-11

**COMMUNICATIONS** 12 - 13

**MISSION & OUTREACH** 14-17

**MISSION PARTNER HIGHLIGHTS** 18-24

**CHURCH LEADERSHIP** 26-29

**NEW MEMBERS** 30-31

**CHURCH TRIUMPHANT** 31

**FINANCIAL REPORT** 32-37

**BY THE NUMBERS** 37

**MISSION STATEMENT** 38



## Letter from the Senior Pastor

One of my main responsibilities is to keep leading us all – beginning with our Session and staff – to live into the vision of a Christian community that glorifies God as a disciple-making outpost of Kingdom life.



Chris Romig, Senior Pastor

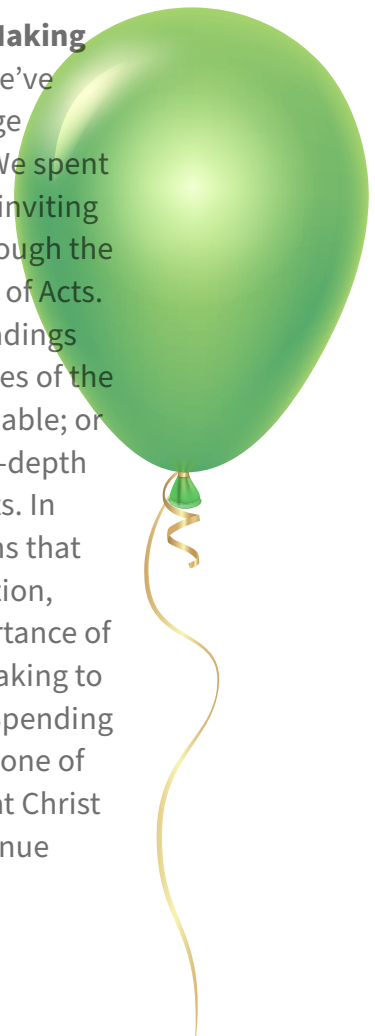
### CELEBRATING MINISTRY

We were originally set to publish this Annual Report in March, just prior to the Annual Meeting of our Congregation. And then came the coronavirus. We will look forward to having our Annual Meeting when we are gathering again for in-person worship. During this time when we have remain separated, Venice Presbyterian Church continues to glorify God as a disciple-making outpost of Kingdom Life. May the pages of this 2019 Annual Report remind us of God's love for us, our love for one another, the love we extend to others, and the precious gift we share as a community of faith.

At the heart of our life together is **Worship**. At VPC, we strive for our worship services to be creative, inspiring, and glorifying to our Lord Jesus Christ. I'm blessed to be part of a creative team that's committed to making every worship service

special. We want everyone to look forward to coming to worship, because we worship an amazing God!

At the heart of our vision is **Making Disciples of Jesus Christ**. We've been intentional to encourage everyone to read the Bible. We spent the first five months of 2019 inviting the congregation to read through the Gospel of Luke and the book of Acts. Many of you followed the readings chapter-by-chapter; got copies of the Bible journals we made available; or joined us for the midweek in-depth Bible studies of Luke and Acts. In providing Bible reading, plans that encourage reflective meditation, we've emphasized the importance of listening for what God is speaking to us through His living Word. Spending time with God in the Bible is one of the most important ways that Christ is formed in us. We will continue



being a church that's rooted in the Scriptures, and that helps people understand how to apply the Bible to everyday life. We continued to engage God's Word as we began 2020 in Paul's letter to the Philippians. Only God could have known that an epistle that Paul wrote from confinement would strengthen us as we would face our own season of confinement.

As we increasingly strive to be a disciple-making outpost, we are building on opportunities to connect with a wider audience through technology. Our internet livestream audience continued to grow in 2019, and enhancements in our cameras and technology have improved the quality of our broadcasts. (We had no idea how important our technology would be during COVID-19; but God led us to be ahead-of-the-curve, so that we could remain connected during these unprecedented times.) In 2020, we are planning to launch a podcast of our messages – another way of remaining connected with seasonal and homebound residents, and another way of equipping individuals with tools to grow as Christ's disciples.

At the heart of who are as Venice Presbyterian Church is the **Love of Jesus Christ**. I celebrate with you the many ways that Christ's love is expressed through our missional

outreach. We celebrate the kindness and warmth felt by so many guests and concert-goers. We celebrate the love demonstrated through the tender, personal care of Stephen Ministers and Shepherds – who work alongside Pastor Burke Johnson and the whole pastoral team. We celebrate the love of Christ that kept us growing stronger as a church family in 2019 – and that has sustained us even as we've been apart during these months in 2020.

One of my main responsibilities is to keep leading us all – beginning with our Session and staff – to live into the vision of Christian community that glorifies God as a disciple-making outpost of Kingdom life. The details within these pages of the 2019 Annual Report highlight many of the ways we are living into this vision. And, thanks be to God: the trying times of 2020 have only confirmed that God's vision is taking shape. For whether we are gathered together at the church campus or prayerfully connected in the Spirit while sheltered in our homes, Venice Presbyterian Church pulsates with Kingdom life!



**PASTOR CHRIS ROMIG**  
Senior Pastor



“

...it has impressed me that God has taken what I was least confident in and made it the most rewarding part of every week.



## Family Development



I would sum up 2019 as unexpected. As many of you know, last school year I was teaching kindergarten and had the honor of becoming full time staff in the Summer of 2019. While I was confident guiding a room-packed with 5 year olds, my strict policy used to be: I don't teach anyone taller than I am. God has changed that path so drastically! I find myself living out Isaiah 55:8, where the Lord says, "my thoughts are nothing like your thoughts and my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine". While the youth are only a piece of my job description and the blessings of the year, it has impressed me that God has taken what I was least confident in and made it the most rewarding part of every week. I look forward to seeing the youth every Sunday night and catching up with the details of their lives. I also have enjoyed spending time with the middle school kids who spend Wednesday afternoons on our campus. There have been countless teaching opportunities and moments to share the love of Christ mixed in with moments of ridiculous, but fun, activity. We are blessed with fabulous young people who are ready to serve and have been connecting more into the greater church community. It has been a wonderful year of seeing increased youth participation in much of our church outreach. We are also blessed with many volunteers who make ministry to the youth children possible. They are so faithful and go above and beyond to serve the next generation.

**GENNA SARIKOKI**  
**Director of Family Development**



#### NOTE ON TECHNOLOGY

Do you often see pictures of our youth on their phones? That's a GREAT thing! They are often asked to pull out their phones to look up scripture, find word definitions, and engage in the lesson. We have many Bible versions and resources constantly at our fingertips and it is a goal at the Hub to give our youth experience digging into Scripture and to study the Bible study firsthand. [www.youversion.com](http://www.youversion.com)







## Ministry of Music & Worship Arts

The year of 2019 proved to be a year of increase. I was encouraged by the involvement of many in our choral and handbell choirs. We have been blessed by the ministry of Laurie Olsen as the director of the handbell choir. Her expertise and passion have driven our handbell players to sound better than ever. I was also blessed with a dedicated choir who turned up for the many enthusiastically programmed concerts and services. In 2019, we were given a generous gift to supply new choir robes. You'll notice that there are several vibrantly colored stoles which can be coordinated with the church calendar. We would like to thank our donor for their support of the choir as an integral part our music and worship ministry.

The Venice Community Concert Series continues to thrive as it did in 2018. I had the privilege of directing Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue as part of the Masterworks concert. This was a lifelong dream of mine. We also hosted the Canadian Brass in their Venice debut. Both of these concerts proved to be the largest attended concerts in the last 3 years. Not only do we attract people from the community to come to our concerts, but many people have joined our congregation after having come through these doors for the first time to





hear music. Our concerts are a celebration of the musical gifts and talents God has graciously bestowed upon the performing artists. The Concert Series exists because of many dedicated volunteers; thank you to all those who help out!

Finally, our God is constantly at work through the music and worship ministry. I have been blessed to hear the personal stories of how people's lives have been transformed through it. While we strive for excellence, our main objectives are to teach the biblical truths of God, remind people of God's sovereignty, and to point both the believer and non-believer to Jesus Christ. Testimonies from those within our congregation show that these objectives are being met week in and week out. I have witnessed the powerful transformation only God can bring and am humbled to say He is working through the choral anthems, handbell music, special guest musicians, and congregational singing at Venice Presbyterian Church.

**JAMAL SARIKOKI**  
Minister of Music & Worship

Venice  
Community  
Concert Series  
(VCCS)



## Communication Department

As the Director of Communications, it is my responsibility to disseminate church information to the congregation and the community with the purpose of sharing God's word and encourage people to **Connect, Grow & Go**. I do this primarily through:

- Connect, Grow and Go event booklet
- weekly eblasts
- VPC website and a newly created online BLOG called VPC Happenings
- the announcement loop
- inhouse displays
- outside advertising
- Printed promotional materials

The challenge of this year has been to put systems into place to assure that information is both complete and accurate and then distributed in a timely manner. I realized early on I needed to put systems in place to assure that the scraps of paper put on my desk were not overlooked. In 2019, I created a Standard of Procedures for communications and an upgraded Online Submission Form to make mistakes and oversights less likely to happen.

There has been a learning curve for both me myself, the staff and the congregation and I want to thank you for your patience. I think the current online form is working well.

In 2019, I was blessed to attend the THAT Church conference in Atlanta, Georgia where I was able to see the most effective digital marketing platforms resulting in a plan to expand our Social Media presence especially as Genna grows the Family Ministry.

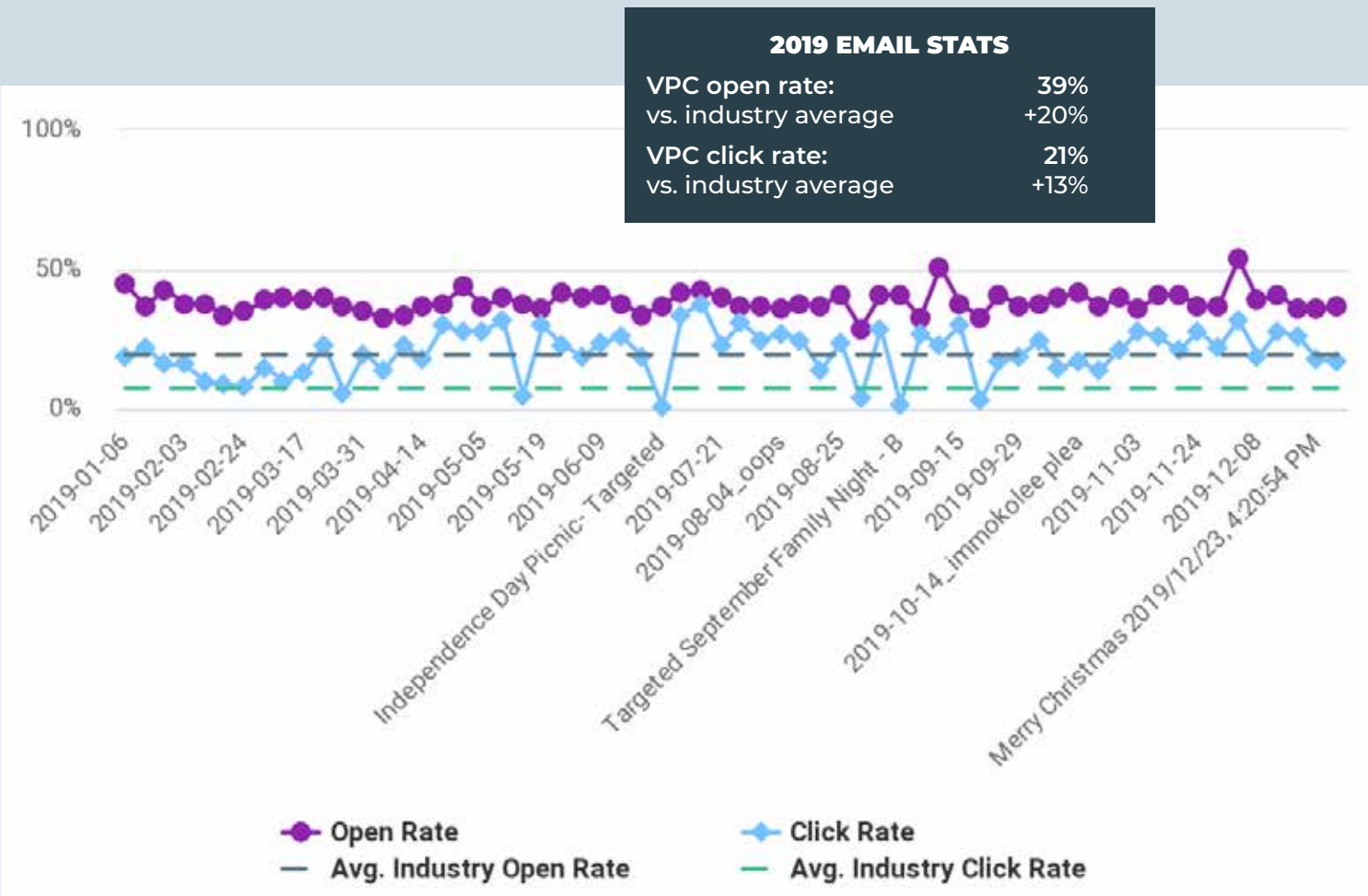
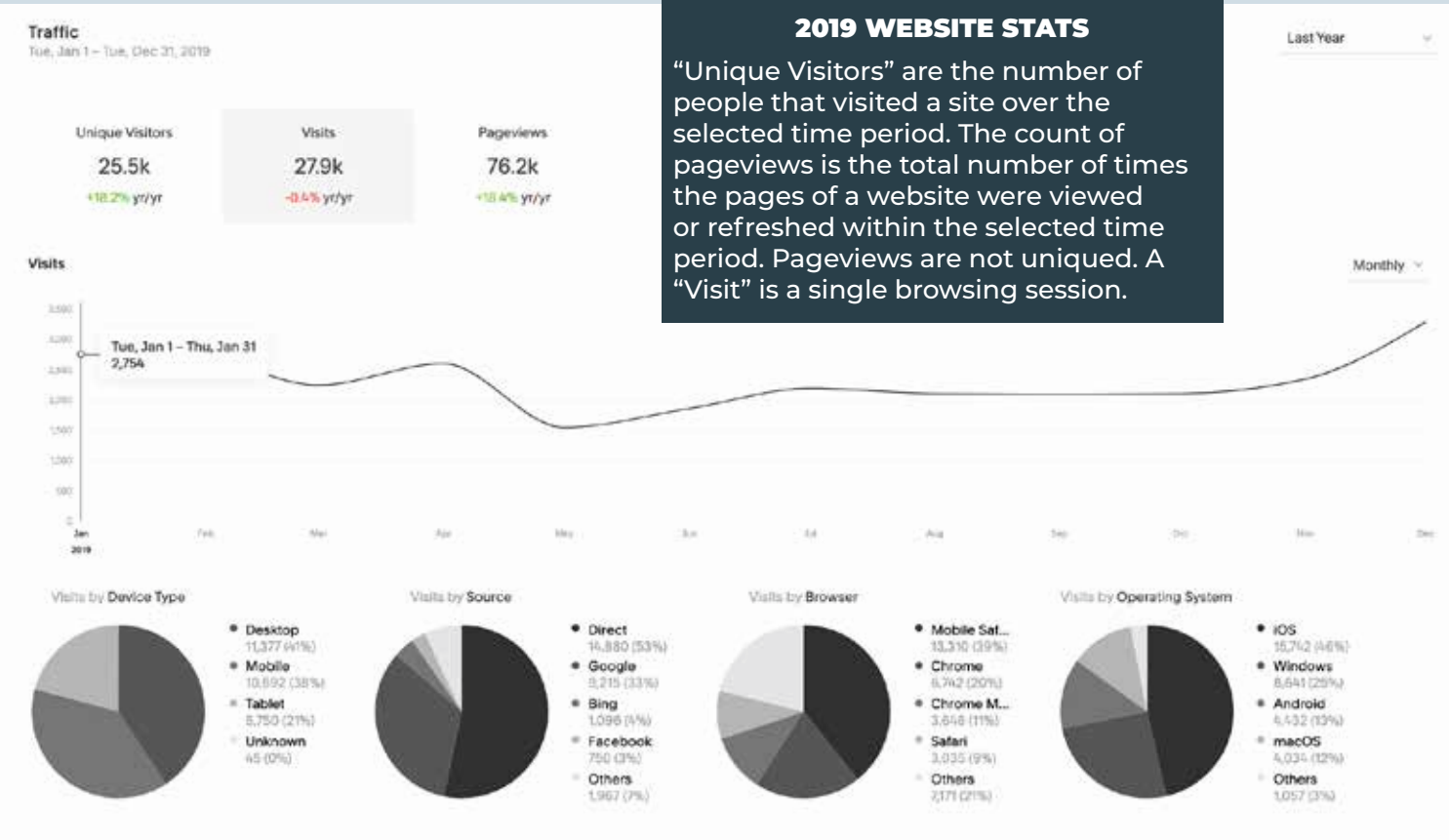
More than disseminating information, I see my job as Telling the Story of how Christ is working in our lives through VPC. I want to tell more thoroughly our personal experiences of Christ through our Bible studies, mission trips, on campus events, personal interactions, music programs and worship services.

My goal is to utilize the website, blog and eblast to more fully tell of our heartfelt experiences and how we are personally affected by Christ working through and for us.

But I can't tell the story of how Christ is changing lives if we keep our stories to ourselves! I encourage you to notice how Christ has worked in your own life and to share your story with us. There are so many wonderful and inspiring experiences happening every day here at VPC. We need to let people know that we are an active, vital, generous church thoroughly rooted in Christ's teaching and all are welcome to experience this. Telling our story of Christ is vital to our spiritual growth and the health of the Church.

**KELLY WENSLEY**  
**Director of Communications**





## Connection & Outreach

As the Pastor of Connections and Outreach, I love seeing how God is working in and through us in mighty ways: Worship & Pastoral Care, Connections, Discipleship & Missions.

### WORSHIP AND PASTORAL CARE

For Worship & Pastoral Care, 2019 was a year of exciting firsts for me personally:

- I officiated at my first wedding
- first three baptisms, and
- first full memorial service plus led a family memorial service for my Dad.

### CONNECTIONS

In our Connections area, we held two Beginning the Journey classes and welcomed 57 new members and affiliates.

One of my special joys is helping people get connected in places of growth and serving the Lord based on their gifts and passions. One of the special connections this past year was helping a member who loves to read to people connect to some of our members who can no longer read and so appreciate having someone read the Bible, books and prayers to them.

We added the “New Here” kiosk in the narthex with gift bags for first-time visitors and initiated a new guest follow-up ministry. It warms my heart most of all hearing from guests at our church how warm and welcoming all of you are. You make a difference.

### ADULT DISCIPLESHIP

In adult discipleship or how we grow, we welcomed over 160 women who were hungry for the Word of God in our annual Jennifer Speer Bible Study.

Dr. Tremper Longman III, a retired seminary professor, theologian and prolific author, presented a great lecture for us on Creation vs. Evolution.

We helped leaders form new Prayer, Bible study and support groups.

We also began a new Adult Sunday School class, “Current Events Through the Eyes of Faith,” where we look at modern events through the lens of Scripture and practice civil discourse over some pretty hot topics.



## MISSIONS & OUTREACH

It has been a huge year for Missions and Outreach for us at VPC. You knocked Missions giving right out of the park: between our budgeted, designated and Alternative Gift Market giving, over \$315,000 was given to Missions!!! Well done, YOU!

It was also a great year for mission trips and events. I treasure my time spent with Erick and Cynthia Estrada in their home in Guatemala City along with Fred & Cindy Gossman. We toured the clinic in El Cortijo, helped out one of the many “portable” clinics in a small, rural village, and got to know the Estrada’s own children and the orphans they have taken into their home.

My heart swells with emotion when I think about serving with the Guatemala Helps Stove Team under Jim & Lois Weeks. Our team installed over 80 stoves and water purifiers in remote, rural areas where most homes have dirt floors. The smile on Feliciana’s face, an elderly lady, who was overjoyed to finally have a stove will forever be emblazoned on my memory.

Here on our campus, we hosted some amazing missions events such as the Family Promise Dream Walk and four weeks of Family Promise. We had another hugely successful Day 4 Hope where the most awesome group of leaders you could ever meet, organized nearly 300 volunteers to serve 111 kids and 63 families. Nearly every person heard the gospel of Jesus Christ that day.

These are just the highlights that we accomplished together in Missions last year.

With all my heart, I thank you for the honor and privilege of serving our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ with you as one of your pastors.

**REV. CAROLYN WILSON**  
**Pastor of Connection & Outreach**





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 2019 was \$314,371.38 (\$100,408.68 from the budget, \$192,077.31 designated missions giving, and \$21,885.39 received in December for the Alternative Gift Market). VPC is an incredibly loving and giving congregation, for which we are truly grateful.





One of my special joys is helping people get connected in places of growth and serving the Lord based on their gifts and passions.



## Mission Partner Highlights



**AGAPE FLIGHTS:** In the aftermath of 2019's category 5 hurricane Dorian, Agape swiftly mobilized to shift into disaster relief mode. With generous donations of food, water, and supplies pouring in, they stepped up their flight schedule and rented larger planes to handle the increase, all the while maintaining their routine, yet essential, flights elsewhere in the Caribbean. The extraordinary response on the part of Agape and its supporters continues to be an inspiration, and VPC is honored to share in community commitment to this dynamic mission.

**CENTER OF HOPE** is committed to meeting the needs of the Venice community using as their motto 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 provides food, clothing, personal hygiene, 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 a free dinner and family movie. Finally, it assists individuals in obtaining identification cards and birth certificates from the county. Center of Hope is truly a place where Shattered Dreams and Broken Lives Are Restored.



**DAY 4 HOPE:** This local mission serves children in eight elementary schools 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 served over 115 kids by providing free medical, dental and eye exams, haircuts, portraits, backpacks full of school supplies, personal care bags, gift cards for shoes and clothes and groceries and fresh produce for the whole family. In late July over 300 local volunteers gave of their time and money to accomplish this Day 4 Hope.





### **FAMILY PROMISE OF SOUTH SARASOTA COUNTY**

is a faith-based, non-profit organization seeking to help families with minor children who are in temporary need of housing.

F.P. provides services to help families become and remain self-sustaining. Once in housing, F.P. provides rent subsidies of \$100-\$400 a month, paid directly to landlords-offsetting the rental costs.

VPC, along with 12 other churches, houses the families 4 times a year. When at VPC, 50 or more volunteers are involved in setting up, tearing down rooms, preparing and sharing meals, staying overnight, activities and laundry.

By offering Christian hospitality to these families in South County Sarasota, in 2019, 174 families, including 262 children, were housed.



### **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 sports 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.

VISION: To see the world transformed by Jesus Christ through the influence of coaches and athletes.



**GUATEMALA MEDICAL CLINIC:** 2019 has turned out to be a very difficult year since the creation of this Christian Medical Clinic Mission Partner in 2007. Salut Que Transforma (Health that Transforms) is Dr. Erick Estrada's mission to provide affordable medical care to the poor villagers of El Cortijo located near Guatemala City while sharing the message of God's love through Christ.

It is with prayer that we bring a recent crisis in funding to your attention. One of the chief benefactors has indefinitely cut his funding to the Clinic. Staff cuts have reduced some programs but weekly 'jornadas' (mobile clinics) to outlying villages continue; the Nutrition Program provides hot meals to over 100 malnourished children twice weekly and the Practical Nursing training program provides employability skills to the villagers.

Please pray that additional partners are found to support God's work in 2020.





**HABITAT FOR HUMANITY SOUTH SARASOTA COUNTY**

celebrated God's love by completing the first "House That Faith Built" for Ashley Mitchel and her son, Jaxon, who thanked the congregation during a June 2019 service. "Faith Build" invoices area congregations to raise money, provide labor, and prayer support in partnership with the family. The current Faith Build Family, the Beltrans (Dominick, Kaylene, Galilee and Josiah) shared this message: "We prayerfully decided to enroll in Habitat and seek the Lord in this opportunity to build our home together and serve our community. Thank you in helping us in our journey to build our home"



**HELPS INTERNATIONAL**



VPC teams to Guatemala install water filters and stoves in homes and a public school. The stoves are insulated, raised off the floor, vented, and 70% more efficient than open fires, saving one tree per month per stove, and reduces 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 Gospel of John in Spanish. We wish you could see their smiles!



**LAUREL CIVIC ASSOCIATION**

was founded 50 years ago and today provides services to low income families and at-risk children through activities that educate, provide positive social interactions, and led to self-sufficiency. Empowering Youth Programs support children from birth to high school graduation through Homework Assistance and tutoring, after school meal programs, Teen Empowerment summer workshops, and summer reading skills programs. Adult Programs work to empower and support families and individuals living on the margin through assistance with energy bills; assistance with rent and mortgages; USDA Food Distribution; assistance in applying for various federal programs and employment opportunities. Each year Laurel Civic programs provide services to more than 1,000 adults and 500 children, generating measurable results that help empower families and youth.



**MISION PENIEL IN IMMOKALEE, FLORIDA**, exists to address the isolation and injustice among migrant farm-workers and provides support to them through spiritual and material care. Mision Peniel has grown not only in the number of people served each week, but also in the ways through which “Peniel” (the face of God) has been shared by those who are served. Through generous donations from VPC and other churches,

Mision Peniel has been able to build and sustain ministries of worship, Bible study, counseling, fellowship, distribution of food and clothing, community gardening and the newest outreach mission of weekly prepared meal delivery, “Pan de Vida”,

to a growing number of homebound and homeless farm-worker community members.



**PREGNANCY SOLUTIONS** is a local ministry empowering men, women, and youth through four prevention, intervention, and restoration programs. Pregnancy Solutions empowers youth through healthy relationships and sexual risk avoidance education with the Thrive program; empowers women by providing free pregnancy tests, ultrasounds, information, and education; empowers men by engaging and equipping them to be the best dads they can be through Rookie Dads; and empowers individuals impacted by an abortion to find hope and healing through Support After Abortion.

**SALVATION ARMY BELL RINGERS:** The mission of Salvation Army 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 Red Kettle Campaign. The money raised goes toward helping those in need through the Salvation Army food pantry, rental assistance, utility help, after school programs, providing Christmas to those who may not otherwise have one, and more.

Venice Presbyterian Church won 1st prize for ringing our bells for hunger for 2019. What an amazing accomplishment!

Gross Total: \$151,893.25  
VPC Volunteers Total: \$16,419.55  
VPC Volunteer Hours: 217.3 Hrs

**SOUTH COUNTY FOOD PANTRY, COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE MINISTRY, 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** serves over 1600 Christian leaders in 44 countries in Eastern Europe, Central Asia, the Middle East and Africa, by providing Christian education to these local pastor-missionaries so they can be highly effective in their communities. VPC supports Jakob Remmel, Pastor and church-planter in Estonia, by assisting with his education expenses. Many of these disciple-makers serve in Muslim-dominated countries under threat of persecution at great risk to themselves, their families and churches.



## Church Staff & Leadership

### WPC Staff

**SENIOR PASTOR**

Rev. Chris Romig

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Chris O'Brien

**PASTOR OF  
CONNECTION &  
OUTREACH**

Rev. Carolyn Wilson

**PASTOR OF MEMBER  
CARE**

Rev. Burke Johnson

**DIRECTOR OF FAMILY  
DEVELOPMENT**

Genna Sarikoki

**DIRECTOR OF  
COMMUNICATIONS**

Kelly Wensley

**FACILITY MANAGER**

Nick Clemmer

**CHIEF FINANCIAL  
OFFICER**

Kim Curran

**BOOKKEEPER**

Megan Lechlitner

**MINISTER OF MUSIC &  
WORSHIP ARTS**

Jamal Sarikoki

**FACILITY & A/V**

Gary Youngberg

### Scholarship Committee

**CLASS OF 2020**

Judith Holmes

Elaine Liming

**CLASS OF 2021**

Dottie Pfaff

Pat O'Gorman

**CLASS OF 2022**

Kay Bannon

Wil Bernstein

### Human Resource Committee

**CLASS OF 2020**

Nick Clemmer

Diane Sharp

Carol Dickinson

**CLASS OF 2021**

Dick Edmunds

Carlene Painter

David Schoenthaler

**CLASS OF 2022**

Anna Marie Brummett

Bob Jelenchick

Sydna Zelliff



### Missions Committee

**CLASS OF 2020**

Christine Hart

Laura Saye

Karen Norwood

**CLASS OF 2021**

Tom Hoffman

Bruce Smithson

Jim Sager

**CLASS OF 2022**

Fred Gossman

Jim Turner

Lois Weeks

## Nominated Leadership Team

### 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 2020

Dick Edmunds  
Tom Hoffman  
Bob Painter

#### CLASS OF 2021

Bob Allen  
Nick Clemmer  
Sheryl Morford  
Carolyn Stephens

#### CLASS OF 2022

Jennie Chaplin  
Jamal Sarikoki  
Jim Weeks  
Shelly Wharton



JUDITH HOLMES

When we became residents of Sarasota County in 2003 our church home was quickly found at Venice Presbyterian, arriving at the same time as a new and dynamic minister, Chris Romig, arrived.

Prior to living in Venice, my long-time home was in the Atlanta area where my son and daughter were born. My career was as a teacher, school principal, and Deputy Superintendent. Following my retirement I found another career as a consultant working to turn around failing schools.

At VPC I chair the Scholarship Committee, am a MOPS mom, Sunday School teacher, Children’s Ministry member and Day for Hope volunteer.

Jeremiah 29:11 has special meaning for me following some personal losses. I now know God has a plan for my life. Attending Sunday services at VPC and Bible study classes are guiding my personal faith journey. I am honored to be asked to serve on the session at VPC.





TOM HOFFMAN  
2ND TERM

As we were settling in the Venice area Rae Ann and I attended a few different churches. Initially we were drawn to VPC by the teaching of Pastor Chris and the wonderful music. Since joining the church in 2014 we have come to appreciate VPC as a caring, vibrant and giving Christian community. Since then I have been a “Beginning the Journey” leader along with Rae Ann, youth mentor, Lenten Devotional contributor and communion server. I am a member of the Chancel Choir, the Missions Committee, the Guatemala Stove Team, the drama team and prayer team. I also enjoy a mens small group bible study. I feel blessed and privileged to be asked to serve a second term on Session and I can’t wait to see what God has in store for VPC in the coming years.

With a forward feeling of "there has to be more", I joined VPC in 2007. Previously ordained as a Presbyterian Elder in the early 1990's, it will be refreshing for me to be back working with such a talented group of people that I have found in this church. A resident in the Venice area for some years, I am now involved in several areas at VPC, Worship Team, Communion Server Coordinator, Nominating Committee, Stephen Minister, Bible Studies and Small Prayer Groups. I will continue to serve God daily while humbly connecting and growing through VPC along with this vast and diverse congregation where there is always "more" to be found with God's guidance as He starts me on another new and exciting path in my life.



SUSIE GOTTSCHALK



CARLENE PAINTER

After retiring from 30 years of teaching in the Pittsburgh area, we moved to Venice in 2003. Having been raised a Presbyterian and having attended a Presbyterian college, it seemed natural to seek out a Florida Presbyterian church. VPC “grabbed” me with its music program. Shortly after we began attending VPC, Pastor Romig joined the staff...that cemented our decision to become members. Over the years I have been a Shepherd, volunteered in Family Promise and Day for Hope. I play in the bell choir and can be found ushering at the early services. Participating in the search committee for a new pastor (Carolyn Wilson) taught me the complexity of our Presbytery. I have served on the Human Resource Committee for the last six years.

God has blessed me abundantly. I recognize that HE both guides me and challenges me at the same time. This new challenge is one that I am approaching in humility and with a servant’s heart.



## 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, nominated by the Nominating Committee, and elected by the Congregation.

### COMMITTEE CHAIR

Bob Allen

### CLASS OF 2020

Mary Gregory  
Skip Sayers

### CLASS OF 2021

Bob Allen  
Richard Gilbert

### CLASS OF 2022

Fred Francis  
Ann Stark

## 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 committed, Christ-centered leadership. Members of the Nominating Committee are nominated by the Session and elected by the Congregation.

**SESSION REPRESENTATIVES**  
(elected annually by the Session)

Bob Allen  
Bob Painter

### CLASS OF 2020

Marika Fries  
Dennis Mock

### CLASS OF 2021

Lois Schmoe  
Kathy Wood

### CLASS OF 2022

Susie Gottschalk  
Donna Wainright

## Nominating Committee Nominations



BILL MORGAN

Bill has been resident of Venice, FL since 2009; first as a snowbird, then became full-time resident in late 2014, at which time he established his full-time VPC membership. Bill presently serves as a communion server, a Sunday prayer corner team member and a youth confirmation mentor. He has made Immokalee Mission visits and served at the Day of Hope as a family ambassador. To advance his Bible knowledge, he is a regular participant of VPC Bible study groups. It is his belief that God directed him to VPC to enhance his spiritual growth. The opportunity to further serve VPC is both a privilege and welcome challenge. He looks forward to beginning this journey.

I was a family physician for 30 years in Beaver Dam, Wisconsin and also an associate professor at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine. My wife, Sherrill, and I retired to Florida in 2002. Shortly after our arrival we were privileged to hear one of Pastor Chris's first services and we were immediately "hooked"! VPC has been our church home ever since!

I have been involved in several activities including:

- Stephens Ministry
- Pregnancy Solutions
- Men's Bible study
- Communion server
- Communion server Acolyte
- Meet and greet table host

I am honored to be nominated for the Nominating Committee. I hope that I will be able to contribute in some small way to the mission of our church to meet, greet and go!



STAN CUPERLY

Welcome to VPC!



## 2019 New Members

Ken Altreuter  
 Pam Anger  
 Ralph Anger  
 Sandy Ausra  
 Kermit Blaney  
 Theodora Blaney  
 George Blinkinsop  
 Kelly Clingerman  
 Barbara Dickey  
 John Dickey  
 Bill Ernst  
 Joan Feldmeier  
 Gina Fevola  
 Glenys Frazer  
 Tom Frazer  
 Randy Frost  
 Diane Gagliardi  
 Ron Gagliardi  
 Joe Galasso  
 Lori Galasso  
 Brenda Galbo  
 Jim Galbo  
 Carol Gress  
 Paul Gress  
 Betty Herrick  
 Pam Hubbell  
 Diane Huller  
 Ed Huller  
 Dave Kennedy  
 Nancy Kennedy  
 Alice Linville  
 David Linville  
 Harris Luscomb

Susan Luscomb  
 Grace Mattes  
 Jim Mattes  
 Belva McNair  
 Tony McNair  
 Laura Ouellet  
 Diana Spears  
 Jerry Spears  
 Fred Sputh  
 Russ Struble  
 Susan Struble  
 Barbara Swan

Jerry Templer  
 Joan Templer  
 Cynthia Toth  
 Reta Vander-Molen  
 Larry Vander Wal  
 Doris Welch  
 Gwen White  
 Amy Wienand  
 Jim Will  
 Tessa Will  
 Sandra Yamarik

**Members, affiliates & friends of our church family who have joined the Church Triumphant in 2019**



Harriet Albert	Ruth Joelson
George Allen	John King
Laury Allen	Judy King
Peggy Beard	Carl Klopshinske
George Beaudry	Doris Kunkel
Tom Blank	Gary Kunkel
Bill Boehm	Cornelia Lawson
Dick Bolender	Jim MacCallum
Ralph Cook	Betty Murray
Jim Crandall	Rich Nicholas
Dale Crockett	William Orr
Stuart Crompton	Jack Perkins
Bob DeCook	Phil Peterson
Russ Duffey	Louie Pruden
Vern Duffy	Charlie Putnam
Betty McMillin Fox	Nora Schumacher
George Fram	Shelagh Spencer
Norma Garard	Jim Staley
Barbara Goebel	Kevin Stearns
Don Green	Adrian VandenBerg
Bernie Grootwassink	Rosemary Vauzanges
Scott Grover	Bill Walker
Lyle Hawkins	Bob Wienand
Bob Helmen	Guenn Winterbottom

## Financial Report

### 2019 MISSIONAL BUDGET

In 2019 Venice Presbyterian Church (VPC) focused on living out our vision of Glorifying God as a Disciple-making Outpost of Kingdom Life. We have three key components of our vision: Connect, Grow, and, Go.

The Connect and Grow components of our vision blossomed as we expanded the connection points at VPC. We hosted "meet and greet" sessions with our pastors on a quarterly basis. People attending were able to ask questions, meet the pastors, and start Beginning the Journey classes. Beginning the Journey is how a person makes the choice to join VPC as a full or affiliate member. Part of our churchwide goal, under our vision, was to add components to the class so attendees could get to know each other and form relationships. This continues to thrive as we offer a full meal with table talks before and during each class. New members truly know each other after spending five weeks with each other around a table talking to each other, sharing a meal, and connecting.

Current members serve as table leaders getting to know new members connecting in meaningful ways.

Another connection goal is to actively involve new members in the life of the church. To reach this goal, for the first year, new members are followed up with by a team of leaders who help

navigate a pathway they've created for themselves. In 2019, fifty-six new members joined VPC and are actively involved.

Other ways people are connecting and growing are through the many life groups and Bible studies offered at VPC. Those involved in life groups care for each other in troubled times, celebrate with each other life's wins, and are people others can call when in need. In 2020 these connection points will continue to grow and expand.

VPC strategically made our Venice Community Concert Series a connection point. We sold 2,010 tickets in 2019 to our concert series. This is a community event and allows us to connect with the community in a unique way through the kindness of our volunteers, the beauty of our church, and the choosing of the musical offerings. In our new member class we learn this is how some have learned about VPC, began attending, and eventually joined.

We connected with families in a deeper way in 2019 through family nights and events. VPC intentionally looked at what we can do to bring families together around the table and make Christ known. We offered family meals, time to learn about Jesus as a family and explored what it means to talk about Jesus together with mothers, fathers and kids. This has been a unique experience for both



VPC volunteers and the families who attended.

Our worship opportunities are a dynamic connection point. Last year our average worship attendance for Sunday worship only, equaled 702 Christ followers. The number of people who attended Pastor Chris's Wednesday night Bible study was approximately 200 during season and 100 in the summer months. We live streamed the summer Bible study and had more than 100 views per week. In 2019, we had 16,953 people view our live stream!

**TOTAL COST: 987,359**

VPC views the component of our vision to GO with passion. It is natural for VPC to be the hands and feet of Jesus. We work hard to stay fresh and improve each year. In 2019, we sent a team of people to Guatemala to install stoves and fresh water pumps.

We also visited the Guatemala Clinic to help Dr. Eric Estrada with his work as a physician in his clinic.

VPC sends teams to Immokalee on a quarterly basis to serve the migrant farm workers and their families. In 2020 our youth are beginning to engage in national mission opportunities that will grow them for a lifetime! VPC continues to engage in the many partnerships with our Mission Partners that our congregation learn about each month through updates.

VPC budgets money for missions but also collects designated gifts. In 2019 we gave, in combination with budgeted funds (\$110,000) and designated funds (\$199,563.57) a total of \$309,563.57 to serve people locally, nationally and internationally. These financial gifts have given Bibles, food, clothes, stoves, water, and most importantly given the gospel to thousands of people. Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

The youth participate in and run an after school program for the kids at Student Leadership Academy that feed the hungry minds of local youth and introduces them to Christ. There are so many ways we Go and make Christ known!

Venice Presbyterian Church strives to Glorify God as an Outpost for Kingdom Life as we send people off as disciples for Christ. What happens between Sundays is as important as what happens on Sunday morning. There are many opportunities to share the word of God outside the walls of VPC.

**TOTAL COST: 239,000**

VPC must care for the needs of the property we utilize for ministry. The property is occupied seven days a week, glory be to God! Much of our ministry happens away from our property but much of our ministry happens on our property. To quote Mary Gregory, one of our Trustees, "we have used your offerings to complete a number

of safety items on the campus, had new energy-efficient and cost-saving lighting installed in the sanctuary, addressed audio visual issues that are important to our worship, completed building repairs that needed attention and have overseen some important cleaning issues. We are monitoring the grounds to ensure that VPC presents itself as a church that maintains what it owns. We have closely reviewed expenditures so that we stay within budget and we have supported the missions of the church near and far. We created a solid budget that was adopted by the Session. In all of this, we trust that God's fruit is evident."

**TOTAL COST: 219,693.90**







## 2019 Budget By the Numbers\*

SOURCE	ACTUAL INCOME
Church Income	\$1,622,512
Other Income	56,950
Concert Series Income	51,139
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$1,730,601</b>

MINISTRY	2019 BUDGET	2019 ACTUAL	2020 BUDGET
Connection & Outreach	\$63,600	\$66,574	\$65,300
Missions	\$110,000	\$100,409	\$100,000
Youth Ministry	\$10,000	\$9,414	\$11,000
Children's Ministry	\$9,000	\$9,737	\$9,500
Worship & Music	\$50,500	\$50,013	\$51,800
Care & Compassion	\$1,600	\$390	\$3,000
Human Resources	\$983,728	\$969,152	\$1,029,926
Operations	\$236,125	\$208,420	\$218,150
Buildings & Grounds	\$107,250	\$147,345	\$108,000
Communications & A/V	\$35,000	\$28,222	\$38,000
Wider Church Support	\$39,500	\$39,500	\$39,500
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>\$1,646,303</b>	<b>\$1,546,633</b>	<b>\$1,674,176</b>

\*2019 financials are available in the church office.



*To glorify God as a Disciple-Making Outpost of Kingdom Life*



## Our Vision

### GLORIFY GOD

Saying this upfront reminds us that the church belongs to God, and everything we do is for God's Glory—not our own. Jesus said, "Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:16). It is a sad reality that many churches are not known for shining with God's love and light. We are committed to being people who invite others to experience fullness of life in the Kingdom of God!

### DISCIPLE-MAKING

Making disciples is the main business of the church. Disciples are people who are arranging their lives to follow Jesus. Over time, disciples are wonderfully becoming more like Jesus. We are passionate about the life-transition that happens as we intentionally follow Jesus! We encourage every disciple to pursue three main goals: 1) Connect with other disciples, to experience authentic friendship and support; 2) Grow in the habits of discipleship, so that Christ is being formed in our very selves; 3) Go to demonstrate the hope and healing of Jesus, so that others may experience the fullness of life that God intends

### OUTPOST

We want the church to feel like a home for people. But God never intended a church campus to be a destination, but a place of

gathering, equipping, and sending. The real measure of a church is not what happens on Sundays, or what happens on the church campus during the week - but what happens in and through the life of the church members in our daily lives. We believe the church is an equipping station, and are committed to sending our members as missionaries into our homes, neighborhoods, local community, and around the world. We share compassion in Jesus' name so that all will know that He is Lord and embrace the fullness of life Jesus offers. As a church in Southwest Florida with many seasonal residents, we recognize the unique opportunity we have as an "outpost" church where believers can be refreshed and equipped before being sent to other churches and communities.

### KINGDOM LIFE

When Jesus spoke about the Kingdom of God, He was not only referring to heaven; He was announcing that the actual experience of His gracious reign in our lives is available to anyone who follows Him. We are committed to being a church that shines with Kingdom Life, and we long to demonstrate that the local church can be a life-giving place of healing and hope for all who may have been wounded by life, or even religion.



VENICE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
825 The Rialto, Venice, Florida 34285  
941-488-2258 | [www.venicepres.org](http://www.venicepres.org)