

# **Connect, Grow & Go**

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



***Foundations in Genesis***

***Here's What's Going on at VPC in October 2021***

***Annual Meeting***



***Derek Estrada***

# Our Vision in Action

*To Glorify God As A Disciple-Making Outpost Of Kingdom Life*

## Church Leadership Session

### Teaching Elders

Christopher Romig  
Carolyn Wilson

### Clerk of Session

Laurie Wright

Bob Allen  
Jennie Chaplin  
Nick Clemmer  
Susie Gottschalk  
Tom Hoffman  
Judith Holmes  
Sheryl Morford  
Carlene Painter  
Jamal Sarikoki  
Carolyn Stephens  
Jim Weeks

### Board of Trustees

Bob Allen (Chair)  
Fred Francis  
Jim Fullerton  
Richard Gilbert  
Mary Gregory

### Nominating Committee

Stan Cupery  
Susie Gottschalk  
Bill Morgan  
Lois Schmoie  
Donna Wainright  
Kathy Wood

Bob Allen (Session Rep)  
Tom Hoffman (Session Rep)

Board member contact information is available through the Realm app via your phone or signing in to [www.onrealm.org](http://www.onrealm.org)

## VPC Staff

### SENIOR PASTOR

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[cromig@venicepres.org](mailto:cromig@venicepres.org)

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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### PASTOR OF CONNECTION & OUTREACH

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### DIRECTOR OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT & A/V MANAGER

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### MINISTER OF MUSIC & WORSHIP ARTS

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### FACILITY MANAGER

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[nclemmer@venicepres.org](mailto:nclemmer@venicepres.org)

### BOOKKEEPER

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[mlechlitner@venicepres.org](mailto:mlechlitner@venicepres.org)

### FACILITY & A/V

Gary Youngberg  
[gyoungberg@venicepres.org](mailto:gyoungberg@venicepres.org)

## Church Info

### OFFICE HOURS

Mon through Thurs  
9 am - 4 pm  
Friday, 9 am - 12 pm

### WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, 10 am

### ONLINE SERVICES

[www.venicepres.org](http://www.venicepres.org)  
[Facebook](#)  
[YouTube](#)  
[Podcast](#)

### STEPHEN MINISTRY DROP-IN CENTER

Mon through Thurs  
10 am - 1 pm, Room 11  
Friday, 10 am - 12 pm

## Easy Ways to Give

**GIVE ONLINE:** Click the "Give Now" option on the top right corner of our website.

### GIVE FROM THE APP:

download the REALMCONNECT App from your phone's App store and give easily on your phone.

### ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFER (EFT):

Automatically withdraw your gift from your checking account each month. Contact church office.

**GIVING BOXES** are mounted on the wall by exit doors in the church to receive your gifts.

**CASH AND CHECK:** We gratefully accept cash and checks in the mail or dropped off at the office.

## What's Happening in the Library

### *The VPC Library is getting a facelift!*

Jane Clemmer is leading the way for the revamp of the library. The library is temporarily closed while Jane's team works hard to pack books, clean out the space, move the book shelves and give the library a whole new look and feel. We decided to make these changes for many reasons. We wanted to ensure the library glorifies God. We also wanted to move the children's area from the back of the room to



the front. Most of all, we want the VPC Library to be a community resource that cannot be resisted. We want it to be a place you can feel the presence of God and be able to go rest a while. When the revamp is complete we will let you know. If you want to help please contact Jane Clemmer at [grandysj@yahoo.com](mailto:grandysj@yahoo.com).

### *Thank you to ABC, Island Bookshop*

Since the church library is renovating and no longer will be selling books by church authors, Jane Clemmer contacted all local authors asking them to pick up their unsold books. Once the books were removed, there were many unused acrylic book and poster holders. As Clarissa (Lissie) Thomasson has been in contact with Aimee Odette and



Michael Rank, owners of the new ISLAND BOOKSHOP on Miami Avenue, she suggested we offer them for sale to the new bookshop, which was thrilled with the idea.

When Lissie contacted her author group, ABC Books—where Aimee and Michael are now honorary members—their president, Brenda Spalding, suggested a “Bring One, Buy One” sale at their September meeting. Using the money already accrued from the Island Bookshop purchases and adding sales of equipment and books bought by members, the total amount of \$237.00 was then tallied by the ABC treasurer and the amount presented in a check to Venice Presbyterian Church—with a memo for the VPC Library. WIN, WIN, WIN for ABC, Island Bookshop, and V.P.C. and a wonderful new local relationship!

# Desk of Executive Director

## *Dear Church Family,*

We are reaching the home stretch of 2021. October 1, we begin the fourth quarter of our year.

In 2020 the Trustees decided to not have a pledge campaign for 2021 due to the complexities of COVID. We did not have Consecration Sunday and we did not ask for your commitment. We asked that you work your giving out with God. We have one quarter to go, but your gifts continue to bless VPC. We are running positive numbers and glorifying God in all we do.

*Income as of August 31. \$1,219,088*  
*Expense as of August 31 \$908,106*  
*Net as of August 31. \$310,982*

Praise be to God for the way He has worked in your hearts. Some ways your dollars have supported the ministry of VPC include the ability to begin ministry again in a very meaningful way by offering more opportunities for Bible Study both in-person and online.

We are able to have hybrid meetings due to your generosity in continuing upgrades to our AV system. This means the work of the church is not stalled but continues full force. As you know we Livestream our worship services each week. This service continues to have an impact. In August we received a note from a person at Towers of Venice saying that 12 residents gather each week to watch worship together. We gave them Worship at Home kits to enhance their time together. They are so grateful that we have this outreach to those who cannot physically get to

the church. The blessing is they have formed their own community centered around Christ.

We are revamping the library to be a great resource for you and the community as you look to grow deeper in your relationship with God. We are updating the area, books, and technology to better serve you.

Recently the Trustees made the decision to change landscaping companies. We now contract with Blue Heron Landscaping. Their first Friday morning on the property, a gentleman stopped mowing and met me on the sidewalk. I was a little startled and thought I may have gotten in his way. He was smiling from ear to ear, removed his hat, and said, "this is a joyful place and we are grateful to be here." He continued to say he finds himself praying while working here. The gentleman is from Haiti, that we just supported through your gifts during the earthquake. I shared with him how glad we are that they are here and how we just sent a large check to help his country. He was so incredibly touched he had no words. God is at work in places we cannot even imagine.

Organizations, churches, homes, and countries rise and fall on leadership. VPC is blessed to have a Nominating Committee that works hard to uphold the value of Christ-centered strong leadership. We will hold our Annual Meeting on November 7 right after church to talk about the business of the church and to elect our new leaders for Session and Trustees. I



### Mary Gregory

I began attending Venice Presbyterian in 2006 following retirement and joined the church officially in 2013. Having grown up in the Catholic faith, I found a personal relationship with Christ during a difficult period in my married life and soon after joined the Presbyterian Church. I have found that personal relationship with God has sustained me through the last 45 years of my adult life and has greatly influenced my worship, my work life and my family life. Finding VPC as snowbirds gave my husband (now deceased) and I a church community where we could serve and love. I am the mother of two wonderful married sons and their wives and a toddler grand daughter, all of whom live outside of Buffalo, New York where I grew up and spent most of my life until moving to Venice full-time six years ago. In my professional career I enjoyed work as a School Administrator where I could focus on families and learning. After retirement I was dedicated to serving for nine years at an

international not-for-profit organization that had greatly impacted my life serving on its Board of Trustees, its Executive Committee and eventually fulfilling a stint as that organization's Executive Director. So much for retirement! As part of Venice Pres, I have enjoyed and participated in the Immokalee Ministry, Buddy Break, Trunk or Treat and on the Day4Hope Leadership Team. Some years back, I assisted with the church communications department doing publicity for church events. I am currently a member of the VPC Board of Trustees, chair of the Book Club, co-chair of Grief Share and a smiling Sunday morning Greeter. Reading, golfing and painting are favorite pastimes – as is enjoying food! Mary loves Pastor Chris' sermons and the incredible music ministry found at VPC. Serving the church, its local and worldwide community is gratifying and provides connection with young and old in the Venice community. She finds that VPC is a place to give, grow and follow a spirit-filled life.

would encourage you to review the following bios. This will help you get to know who will be our leaders in the next years. Each person nominated has been carefully selected, prayed over, and asked if they would accept the nomination. God has blessed us with strong leaders!

In closing, I encourage you to consider coming back to in person worship if you have not already done so. The sanctuary is a beautiful place to receive the invitation from God each week to worship as a community.



*Christine Brun*

## ***Diane Sharp***

My husband and I moved to Venice in 2001 after spending most of my adult life in Atlanta. We had short business stints living in the Cleveland area and in Dallas. I have worked most of my life, other than when having my three children, and have spent time both in the fields of education and in the business world. When we first came to Venice, we spent a couple of years in other churches. (My husband was a “dyed-in-the-wool” Methodist!) When friends brought us to Venice Pres, we knew

we had found our church home! Chris’s wonderful inspirational messages, and the beautiful music were all so special and Christ-centered! Since being at VPC, I have been on the Guatemala HELPS stove team mission trip. I have recently served six years on the Board of Trustees, and six years on Human Resources. I work with the Children’s Ministry and teach Sunday School. I have been an ambassador each year (until Covid) with Day for Hope, and have been a Mentor Mom with MOPS since it started. I

am a communion server, and have attended Chris’ bible studies. I was ordained as an Elder at Eastminster Presbyterian Church in Stone Mountain, Georgia in the mid 1970s. When asked to serve as an elder here at VPC, I felt very humbled. I prayed long and hard about it, and then felt this was where God wanted me to serve. Hopefully, I can be of service to God on our VPC Session, as I feel my own spiritual life will be greatly enriched by this commitment.

## ***Richard Langlais***

I was a lifelong resident in Massachusetts before retiring and becoming a resident of Florida approximately five years ago. My wife, Karen and I are kind of snowbirds, spending seven months in our home in Venice and the remaining time at our cottage in MA. I am a graduate of Gordon College Theological Seminary, receiving my master’s degree in religious education. Over the years at our local church, I served in multiple roles including leading a Divorce Recov-

ery Workshop; Marriage Ministry with my wife; two pastoral search committees, Sunday school and ministry to the youth. We came to VPC as part of our initial search for a vibrant Christ-filled ministry near our home and a recommendation by a friend. Of course, once in the pew we became excited over the outstanding preaching of Pastor Chris and the multiple ministries VPC was involved in. I became involved in the Monday evening and Tuesday morning Bible

studies. Both my wife and I volunteer with the Immokalee outreach, Family Promise, Laurel Civic Center and the new members programs, Karen as a table leader while I serve in the kitchen. I was drawn to the opportunity to become an Elder at VPC because I consider its importance as a spiritual leader and its challenge to continually study and deepen ones own personal faith. I look forward to growing and going in this position.



## ***Sheila Cunningham***

Shelia was born in Binghamton, NY, and at the age of 6 was baptized into an American Baptist Church. She and her family moved to Illinois and then to Grosse Pointe, Michigan where she spent the rest of her youth. After finishing High School and College, Shelia and her husband, Gary, were married in a Presbyterian Church near Grosse Pointe, MI. They resided in Grosse Pointe 37 years where they raised their two daughters and were members of the Grosse Pointe Congregational American Baptist Church. They retired to Florida in 2007.

After visiting Venice Presbyterian Church a few times, Shelia realized that this church felt like home. The Pastors messages were delivered with understanding, Spiritual wisdom and love. With God's encouragement, she decided to join the church in November, 2013. Shelia started volunteering in the Church office right away, since she had enjoyed being a secretary in an elementary school for 12 years. She also participated in Ushering, Greeting, the All Things Beautiful group, Beginning the Journey leader, Family Promise, started

a small Women's Bible Study group in 2016 and recently became a Shepherd. VPC offers so many opportunities to be of service that it is difficult to decide which ones to participate in. Shelia also enjoys being grandmother to Gracie, her one and only grandchild!

When the opportunity arose to become an Elder at VPC, the Spirit moved her to accept, in that this would be an opportunity to grow in her faith and also to glorify the Lord as one of His Disciples.

## ***Trustee Nominees Biographies***

### ***Ryan Norwood***

When we moved to the Venice area, Karen and I were very interested in finding an Evangelical Church. Our good friends, Jim & Lois Weeks already had invited us to VPC, and we enjoyed the teaching of Pastor Chris and the wonderful music.

Since joining the church in 2012, I have become involved with the small group Bible Studies, and just last year I decided to join the chancel choir. Having been involved with the Guatemala Missions work several years ago, both Karen

and I are planning to join the stove team at the next offering. I feel very blessed and privileged to be asked to join the Trustee Board of VPC, and praying that God will use my gifts to serve at Venice Presbyterian.



## **Richard Gilbert**

Richard Gilbert is a native Floridian and along with his wife Bobbie have been members of VPC for over 10 years. They have lived in the Venice area for over 40

years and are blessed to have their daughter, son in law and 4 grandchildren live within 10 miles. Richard has served in several areas within the church to include Elder,

Human Resources and Mission Committee. He is currently involved in Stephen Ministry, Family Promise, Day 4 Hope and Men's Bible Study.

## **Bob Allen**

Bob Allen is finishing his three-year term on VPC Session. He has served as a member of the HR committee for three years. Bob is a member of the Turbo Men's Study Group and Monday Night Men's Bible study. Bob is currently the Chair of Trustees. Bob's passion is to quietly support and help in areas that

just seem to develop. It may be a project or an individual situation that needs attention. "Most of the summer months we spend on a lake and farm in Pennsylvania. We enjoy sailing, water skiing and farming. I receive great joy on the farm tractors and gators doing projects." Bob is married to Marilyn

Meub Allen. "Many of the members, affiliate members and winter parishioners of VPC know that Marilyn Meub and I married in the VPC Chapel March 2, 2019. What you may not know is Marilyn and I met in November 2016, serving Communion at VPC. It is amazing what can start in God's house."

## **Mary Gregory** *(Please refer to previous biography on page 5)*

### **Grief Support Group**

Help and encouragement after the death of a spouse, child, family member, or friend.



GriefShare is a special weekly seminar and support group designed to help you rebuild your life after losing a loved one. Our group is led by caring people who have experienced grief and want to help you through the difficult days ahead. We know it hurts and we want to help. Contact us today

### **Women's GriefShare**

Tuesdays 9:30 am - 11:30 am  
October 13 - January 4  
VPC Room 8

Contact Mary Gregory 716-984-3613  
\*Men may contact Nick Clemmer  
267-218-5609

### **Will you consider becoming a GriefShare leader?**

The Lord has a desire to take our difficult experiences, turn them and use them for His glory. This is seen in the experience of the Apostle Paul: "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we have received from God." (2 Corinthians 1:3-4). Please contact Pastor Carolyn, [cwilson@venicepres.org](mailto:cwilson@venicepres.org), if you are interested in learning more.





# Care & Compassion Ministry



*"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."*

MATTHEW 11:28

## Stephen Ministry News

You may not be aware that over the summer we opened a Drop-In Center in Room 11 (next to Fellowship Hall). Weekday mornings we are staffed with Stephen Ministers eager to help you sort through a life situation in a confidential setting. Whether you just need a few minutes to air a thorny issue, or you're looking for someone to walk with you through a more lengthy process of healing, we are here to help. Drop in and let's get connected.

### **Are you Experiencing Pandemic Fatigue?**

Are you feeling exhausted from all the disruptions to life brought on by the pandemic? Are you or someone you know struggling with challenges like:

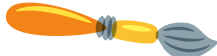
- Isolation and loneliness
- Anxiety over health
- Grief due to many different kinds of losses
- Tension from juggling work, childcare, and schooling
- Financial strain or job loss
- Uncertainty about the future
- Other unexpected life challenges?

If so, you don't have to face it alone. Our Stephen Ministers are ready to listen, care, encourage, and provide emotional and spiritual support.

A Stephen Minister will meet with you privately—by phone, by video chat, or, if safely possible, in person—to offer care and support.

It's free and **completely confidential**. For more information, call our church office.

### **Volunteers to Paint**



**Are you a frustrated artist? Do you long to beautify drab, dreary spaces? Do you see potential in rooms long abandoned?** We may be able to help!

We have worked hard to create a warm and comfortable space for our new on-site office in Room 11. We would like to paint the entire office to freshen up the space, if you have a talent for painting or desire to help, please contact Richard Gilbert, [richbobbiegil@comcast.net](mailto:richbobbiegil@comcast.net)

### **Commissioning of Stephen Ministers**

Please join us for the commissioning of the 2020 Stephen Ministry training group on Sunday, October 24 during the 10am service. We had introduced them virtually last April due to Covid restrictions but we would like to formally recognize them in person during our worship service. We encourage you to join us in the Glass House after service for a celebration.

# Worship Ministry

*Save the Dates!*

## **Annual Meeting**

The annual meeting of Venice Presbyterian Church is set to be held after worship on **November 7**. We will be making a very exciting announcement at the meeting that we think you will want to hear. We will also vote on some very important information.

## **Reformation Sunday**

Sunday, October 31

## **Baby Jeremiah Sarikoki Baptism**

Sunday, October 31

## **Food Drive Bag Distribution**

October 31 (pick-up is November 7)

## **All Saints Day Celebration & Communion**

November 7



## **Communion on the Lawn**

Beginning October 20 at 9AM, we will resume **Communion on the Lawn**. Bring a lawn chair, sunglasses, sunscreen and a wide brim hat as we celebrate the Lord's Supper on the front lawn and patio.

## **Listen to Sunday Sermons on an APP on Your Phone**



We are so blessed at VPC to have such dynamic, well-spoken and engaging speakers as Pastor Chris Romig and our preaching team. With so many opportunities for spiritual insight in just one sermon, it can be difficult to remember and reflect on them throughout the week. For those who feel they could benefit from revisiting the sermons or have missed the Sunday service, we offer audio sermons **on-the-go** through the Kingdom Life Podcast. The VPC sermons are now available on your phone with any podcast APP such as Spotify or Apple Podcast.

Sermons are also available on our YouTube Channel at [www.youtube.com/venicepresbyterianchurch](http://www.youtube.com/venicepresbyterianchurch)

VENICE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
825 THE RIALTO, VENICE, FL 34285



FOUNDATIONS: A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF  
**GENESIS**

WITH PASTOR CHRIS ROMIG

Pastor Chris will lead us through an in-depth, life application study of the first book in the Scriptures. Genesis is not just the first book of the Bible; Genesis is a foundational book for the rest of the Bible – as it lays the foundations for everything that follows.

Pastor Chris will lead us through the opening chapters of Genesis – both in the Sunday morning messages and a Wednesday night Bible study. The Sunday messages will begin on October 3, and the Bible Study will begin on October 6 (each Wednesday evening at 6 pm). All the teachings will be live-streamed and posted on the VPC YouTube channel.

You're encouraged to take notes in your own Bible – and for those who would like them, Genesis Scripture Journals (like ones we've used for recent studies of Luke, Acts, and Philippians) will be available for purchase in late-September.

*Begins October 6*

**WEDNESDAYS AT 6 PM IN THE SANCTUARY**

# Connection Ministry

**Group Schedule** All are welcome to participate.

## MONDAY

### **Knit One, Pray Too**

**BEGINS:** October 18

**WHEN:** Meets weekly,  
11:30am – 1pm

**WHERE:** Room 9

**WHAT:** Bring a sandwich  
and join us as we knit  
shawls and other items.

**WHO:** All women are  
welcome

**CONTACT:** Peg Moffett,  
[canfieldpm@aol.com](mailto:canfieldpm@aol.com) or  
(941) 468-2126

### **Monday Night Men's Bible Study**

**WHEN:** Meets weekly,  
6-7:00 pm

**WHERE:** Glass House

**WHAT:** Discussions on  
the current sermon  
series

**WHO:** All men are  
welcome

**CONTACT:** Alan Penick,  
[adpenick@comcast.net](mailto:adpenick@comcast.net)  
or (941) 480-9053

### **Monday Night Women's Bible Study**

**WHEN:** Meets weekly,  
6-7:15 pm

**WHERE:** Room 9

**WHAT:** Currently using  
the Disciple Fast Track  
series, an in-depth study  
of the Old and New  
Testaments.

**WHO:** Open to all women  
**CONTACT:** Pastor  
Carolyn Wilson, [cwilson@venicepres.org](mailto:cwilson@venicepres.org), (941)  
488-2258

## TUESDAY

### **Men's Bible Study**

**BEGINS:** Nov 2 - May 31,

**WHEN:** Meets weekly,  
9-10 am

**WHERE:** Glass House

**WHAT:** Study will be  
Paul's Epistles

**WHO:** All men are  
welcome

**CONTACT:** Dick Edmunds,  
[kcid1961@gmail.com](mailto:kcid1961@gmail.com) or  
(941) 488-8949

### **Nomads**

**BEGINS:** Jan 11 - Apr 1,

**WHEN:** Meets weekly,  
9:30-11 am

**WHERE:** TBD

**WHAT:** a book study  
using Christian Character  
by Andrea Sterk and  
Peter Scazzero..

**WHO:** All women are  
welcome

**CONTACT:** Anna Marie  
Brummett, [amdrbrum@gmail.com](mailto:amdrbrum@gmail.com) or (847) 309-  
8005 or Karen Langlais,  
[kolanglais@verizon.net](mailto:kolanglais@verizon.net) or  
(978) 500-7571

### **Elizabeth Circle Bible Study**

**BEGINS:** Oct 5 - May 3

**WHEN:** Monthly, 1st  
Tuesday, 11 am-12:30 pm

**WHERE:** VPC Patio

**WHAT:** Study will be  
Pastor Chris' book on  
The Beatitudes.

**WHO:** All women  
welcome

**CONTACT:** Niki Steitz,  
[nsteitz33@comcast.net](mailto:nsteitz33@comcast.net)  
or (941) 493-7628

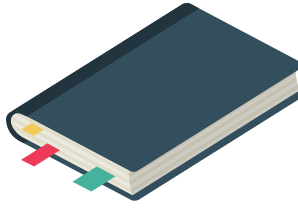


### **Dorcas Bible Study**

**BEGINS:** Oct 19- May17  
**WHEN:** Meets monthly on the 3rd Tuesday, 10 am-12 pm  
**WHERE:** Room 9  
**WHAT:** Study will be Pastor Chris' book on The Beatitudes.  
**WHO:** All women are welcome  
**CONTACT:** Beth Tieman, [bethtmn@comcast.net](mailto:bethtmn@comcast.net) or (941) 564-6304 or Connie Householder, [connie1282@cs.com](mailto:connie1282@cs.com) or (941) 882-3469

### **Women's Tuesday Fellowship**

**WHEN:** Meets weekly, 7-9:30 pm  
**WHERE:** Room 6  
**WHO:** All women are welcome  
**CONTACT:** Kim Jason, [kljason@comcast.net](mailto:kljason@comcast.net) or (941) 806-9804



## **WEDNESDAY**

### **Coloring Crew**

**WHEN:** Meets weekly, 2-3:30 pm  
**WHERE:** Zoom  
**WHAT:** Fellowship & Coloring  
**WHO:** Everyone welcome  
**CONTACT:** Jennie Chaplin, [jchaplin9@gmail.com](mailto:jchaplin9@gmail.com) or (941) 716-0388

### **Foundations: A Study in Genesis**

**WHEN:** Meets weekly, 6:00 PM  
**WHERE:** Sanctuary  
**WHAT:** Bible Study, in tandem with Sunday's sermon series  
**WHO:** Everyone welcome, no reservations required.  
**PRESENTER:** Pastor Chris

## **THURSDAY**

### **Disciple Fast Track Bible Study**

**BEGINS:** Oct 21 - May 5  
**WHEN:** Meets weekly on Thursday, 10-11:30 am  
**WHERE:** Room 9  
**WHAT:** The Disciple Fast Track series is an in-depth study of the Old and New Testaments.  
**WHO:** Everyone is welcome  
**CONTACT:** Led by Dr. Eileen Reamy and Pastor Carolyn Wilson, [cwilson@venicepres.org](mailto:cwilson@venicepres.org), (941) 488-2258

We encourage you to save this page for easy reference.



### **Book Club for 2021-2022**

Room 8, 1 pm

#### **NOVEMBER 3**

The Woman Who Smashed Codes by Jason Fagone

#### **DECEMBER 1**

The News of the World by Paulette Jiles

#### **JANUARY 5**

The Midnight Library by Matt Haig

#### **FEBRUARY 2**

The Four Winds by Kristin Hannah

#### **MARCH 2**

The Water is Wide by Pat Conroy

#### **APRIL 6**

The Splendid and the Vile by Erik Larson

#### **MAY 4**

The Lemon Tree by Sandy Tolan

**CONTACT** Mary Gregory, [mgregorysmiles@gmail.com](mailto:mgregorysmiles@gmail.com)



## ***Study Bible Recommendation & Bible Translations***

The following information and recommendations were made to the Monday Night Women's group as we begin a 24-week study of the Bible, 12 weeks in the Old Testament and 12 weeks in the New.

### ***RECOMMENDED STUDY BIBLES***

It is very difficult to recommend the top study Bibles because there are so many, each with its own theme, and it is impossible to evaluate them all. Having said that, you cannot go wrong with any of these:

1. Life Application Study Bible (from Tyndale) in either the NIV or NLT
2. ESV Study Bible (from Crossway)
3. Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible (from Zondervan) in either NIV or NRSV

### ***RECOMMENDED BIBLE TRANSLATIONS***

These are my (Pastor Carolyn's) five recommended translations for a study Bible. The UK Bible Society website has this type of information on other translations, as well.

#### **New International Version (NIV)**

- **Date first published:** 1978 (updated in 2011)
  - ◊ What kind of translation? Attempts to adopt a midpoint between staying close to the original text and communicating its meaning in a way that is easy to understand
- **Sample verse:** 'If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person?' (1 John 3.17)

#### **English Standard Version (ESV)**

- **Date first published:** 2001
  - ◊ What kind of translation? Literal, staying close to the original sentence structure but changing it where meaning is compromised. Has tried to keep some of the best-loved passages in a translation that is close to the KJV
- **Sample verse:** 'But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him?' (1 John 3.17)

## New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

- **Date first published:** 1989
  - ◊ **What kind of translation?** Formal equivalence – literal, staying close to the original sentence structure but changing it where meaning is compromised. Tried hard to avoid 'male-only' language.
- **Sample verse:** 'How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?' (1 John 3.17)

## New Living Translation (NLT)

- **Date first published:** 1996
  - ◊ **What kind of translation?** Dynamic equivalence – still a translation but is often very colloquial and renders the original language loosely.
- **Sample verse:** 'If someone has enough money to live well and sees a brother or sister in need but shows no compassion – how can God's love be in that person?' (1 John 3.17)

## New American Standard Bible (NASB)

- **Date first published:** 1971 (updated in 1995)
  - ◊ **What kind of translation?** Very literal, as close to the original sentence structure as possible. Considered by many to be the 'most literal' translation
- **Sample verse:** 'But whoever has the world's goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him?' (1 John 3.17)

## **BEST ADVICE: READ MULTIPLE TRANSLATIONS**

There are so many Bible translations. Which one should you choose? I personally like the advice in an article on The Gospel Coalition's website by Andy Naselli, "How Not to Argue About Which Bible Translation Is Best." Andy is associate professor of systematic theology and New Testament for Bethlehem College & Seminary in Minneapolis and one of the pastors of Bethlehem Baptist Church.

Andy's recommendations are:

1. **Regularly benefit from the strengths of multiple translations.** It is not a question of either/or but both/and. There is much to be gained by reading in multiple translations.
2. **Don't overestimate your ability to translate the Bible into English.** There are subtleties and connotations in every language that make it impossible to translate exactly. (Thus all translations are also interpretations).
3. **Thank God for good Bible translators and translations.** Bible translation is complex, and high-quality translation requires a massive amount of training

and skill and experience. Respect the major translation philosophies and enjoy the benefits of multiple translations.

4. **Be careful when you criticize a translation.** Here Naselli displays a cartoon that shows someone speaking to a group of people. He says to them, “90 scholars with 11 PhD’s apiece spent 25 years translating this passage, but today I’m going to tell you what the original Greek REALLY says.”
5. **Recognize your monolingual bias (if you have one).** Andy tells about Dave Brunn, who spent more than 20 years in Papua New Guinea serving the Lamogai people through church planting, literacy training, and Bible translation and he notes: “God speaks in languages other than English.”
6. **Recognize how similar English Bible translations are.** Every version translates thought for thought rather than word for word in many contexts. Every version gives priority to meaning over form. Every version steps away from the original form in order to be grammatically correct in English.

### RECOMMENDED BIBLE STUDY WEBSITES

There are about a zillion Bible and Bible study websites. The best way to know if you can trust any one of them is to be like the Berean church and search the Scriptures yourself “to see if these things are so.” Here are four that I (Pastor Carolyn) recommend and personally use all the time.

[www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com)

Designed to allow easy reading, listening, studying, searching, and sharing of the Bible in many different versions and translations, including English, French, Spanish, and other languages. Easiest to use to search by word or phrase. Easiest to use for an entire passage.

[www.biblehub.com](http://www.biblehub.com)

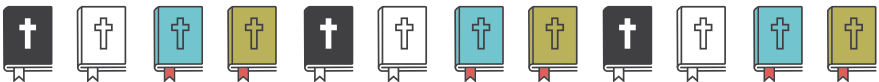
Features topical, Greek and Hebrew study tools, plus concordances, commentaries, dictionaries, sermons and devotionals. When a Bible verse is displayed, click on “Interlin” in the heading and you will get the original Greek or Hebrew along with the grammatical construct. Then click on any word in the verse and it will go to a page that shows more detail including where all that word shows up in the Bible, bible dictionary, commentaries, etc. It can get pretty technical, but explore!

[www.blueletterbible.org](http://www.blueletterbible.org)

Blue Letter Bible provides powerful tools for an in-depth study of God’s Word through a free online reference library, with study tools that are grounded in the historical, conservative Christian faith.

[www.youversion.com](http://www.youversion.com)

Website plus Bible App for Your Smart Phone. Many translations, innumerable devotions, verse of the day, etc.







## ***Beginning the Journey – Fall 2021***

***Tuesdays, Oct. 19 – Nov. 16, 6–8 pm, Fellowship Hall***

Are you ready to take the step to become a member of the Venice Presbyterian Church family? If so, please join us for our new member class, Beginning the Journey (BTJ), for 5 weeks beginning October 19.

Every church is different and so this is a great opportunity to learn about the VPC Vision, Mission, Values, and ministries. It's also a wonderful way to get to know others and begin building friendships with ministry leaders as well as others who are also new to VPC.

Each week we will gather at 6:00 for teaching and Q & A, followed by a break for snacks, and then small group discussion time. Our schedule and themes each week:

- |    |         |  |
|----|---------|--|
| 1. | Oct. 19 | BTJ: <b>Our Mission and Vision</b>     |
| 2. | Oct. 26 | BTJ: <b>Disciples of Jesus CONNECT</b> |
| 3. | Nov. 2  | BTJ: <b>Disciples of Jesus GROW</b>    |
| 4. | Nov. 9  | BTJ: <b>Disciples of Jesus GO</b>      |
| 5. | Nov. 16 | BTJ: <b>Covenant Ceremony</b>          |

Contact Pastor Carolyn to find out more and/or to sign up:  
[cwilson@venicepres.org](mailto:cwilson@venicepres.org) or 941-488-2258.

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## ***Passion Play is Happening! Join us in Oberammergau***

VPC is excited to announce we are now receiving applications.

- Brochures can be picked up at the Welcome Center
- Applications will be accepted at the Welcome Center October 10.
- First-come first-served until the 42-seat coach is filled. Few stand by applications available.
- Only full applications will be received and no holding of seats in a group.
- Pastor Carolyn Wilson and Elder Tom Parlette will be the Spiritual Leaders.
- The US Government requires all international travelers to be fully COVID vaccinated and tested at time of travel, no exceptions.
- \$500 per person deposit due early December. We will collect and hold all applications until mid-December when the applications and deposit checks must be submitted to Treasured Escapes and Travel and Ed-Ventures.
- We recommend that each traveler purchase trip insurance.

For questions, please contact the hosts below by email. Hosted by Fred & Cindy Gossman [fredandcindy89@gmail.com](mailto:fredandcindy89@gmail.com)

## Presbyterian Women (PW)

### *Greetings, Ladies!*

Our PW Gatherings will resume in Oct., 2021. For starters, we have Dorcas Circle's Bible Study resuming the 3rd Tuesday in Oct. at 10:00am. Elizabeth Circle's Bible Study resumes the 1st Tues. in Oct. 2021 at 11:00am. Both Circles meet monthly and will use Pastor Chris Romig's Book on **The Beatitudes** (*contributing writer Pastor Carolyn Wilson*). Bible study books can be purchased at church and are \$10.00. Anyone interested in joining a PW Bible Study, please contact Niki Steitz at nsteitz33@comcast.net or call (941) 493-7628.

On Tuesday, Oct. 19, 2021 we will see a Surprise Chick Flick in our Fellowship Hall at 2:00pm. This Chick Flick will warm your hearts-I look forward to seeing it again! Please wear your masks and bring your bottled water. Bring your lawn chair and socially distance yourself. We will also have our Thank Offering (one of our Mission Givings which

benefit the lives of Women and Children). The Grant recipients are selected from our 50 States as well as world wide. At one time, Lois Weeks received a grant for the Guatemala Stove Team which she and husband (Jim Weeks) lead.

Our next Gathering will be Tues., Jan. 18, 2022 presenting Bob Sloboda from **Meals on Wheels** (MOW) who is Office Manager on Fridays and on board as Public Relations Officer. My husband (Steve) has a MOW route (11 years now) on Fridays and has been known to say, "Guess who gets us to the clients and who chats them up?" All answer correctly as I join him on Fridays.

Tues., Feb. 15, 2022 we will have one of our very own presenting a new Woman of The Bible (Chris Dowden)-truly a professional! We will also have our Birthday Offering.

Tues., April 19, 2022 will be our final Gathering of the season. Our

Honorary Life Member (Woman of The Year) will be awarded at this Gathering. There will be a collection of The Least Coin which is one of our Mission Givings.

PW is looking for ways to fund raise since there was no yard sale or Christmas Tea due to the pandemic, and this year is iffy. I am asking each lady to bring 1 and buy 1 (something new or something nice you no longer need). The bringer puts a starting price on her item on the papers provided upon arrival on Oct. 19 at 2:00pm for our Chick Flick.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to Pastor Carolyn Wilson (our staff Liaison) who is a strong support to our PW!

God Bless and Stay Well!  
Niki Steitz  
(PW Moderator)

P.S. We'd like people interested in being Moderator in the fall of 2022, Secretary, Treasurer or Historian of PW to please get in touch with Niki Steitz. It would be a 2 year commitment.

### *Save the Dates*

*PW Christmas Tea  
Dec. 4, 2021, 2pm*

*PW Garage Sale  
March 4 & 5, 2022*

# Family Ministry

## Operation Christmas Child

Operation Christmas Child is a ministry that allows children across the world to receive a Christmas Gift. There are many stories of salvation through this ministry. Valerie Fullerton is involved in Operation Christmas Child and can tell some of those stories. Valerie and June Gunn have taken the lead on this ministry, and we could not be more excited.



Last year we packed 95 boxes to be distributed through Operation Christmas Child. This year we hope to exceed that number. Things you should know:

- Operation Christmas Child Boxes and information will be available on the Patio beginning **October 24**.
- Pick your child and fill the box with gifts. Please include variety.
- Please do not pack toothpaste, chocolate, anything liquid, or that can melt.
- Please do not pack candy; toothpaste; gum; used or damaged items; war-related items; seeds; food; liquids or lotions; medications or vitamins; breakable items or glass containers; aerosol cans.
- Include a check written to Venice Presbyterian Church for \$9.00 to cover shipping. You may also include cash but know we do not have change. Please include the exact amount.
- The last date for collection will be **November 15**. After this date, you will need to deliver your filled box yourself to the collection organization.
- Pray over your box and who might receive it. God's grace extends very far, and you can be part of it!

If you have questions, please reach out to Valerie Fullerton: [valbf18@gmail.com](mailto:valbf18@gmail.com) or June Gunn [junegunn050@gmail.com](mailto:junegunn050@gmail.com).



### **Buddy Break Schedule, 2021-22** (from 10am-1pm)

Oct. 16	Mar. 19
Nov. 20	Apr. 16
Dec. 18	May 21
Jan. 15	June 18
Feb. 19	

Families with children with special needs contact Bobbie Gilbert at [richbobbiegil@comcast.net](mailto:richbobbiegil@comcast.net).

Volunteers contact Flora Hughes at [hugjf@yahoo.com](mailto:hugjf@yahoo.com)

**Pregnancy Solutions** is dedicated to Moms and Dads experiencing unexpected, unplanned, or unwanted pregnancies in Venice and Port Charlotte, FL. Our mission: To empower men, women and youth with life affirming options and support.

We do this through: Pregnancy Testing, Limited Ultrasounds, Pregnancy Options, Adoption Referrals, Support for Men through Rookie Dads, Material Support, Parenting Classes, and Support After Abortion.

For more information or to volunteer, contact Karen Norwood, [karenp630@gmail.com](mailto:karenp630@gmail.com)



### **2021 Banquet and Luncheon** **Seen. Known. Loved...Bridging the Gap**

Please plan to attend "Seen. Known. Loved. Bridging the Gap" with Pregnancy Solutions. We can't wait to celebrate LIFE with you and share some of the amazing stories that have unfolded at Pregnancy Solutions this year.

This year, we will be hosting our 19th Annual Fundraising Banquet, and—for the first time ever—we will be holding a dinner banquet at Isles Yacht Club in Punta Gorda on Tuesday, November 2nd, as well as a luncheon and dinner banquet on Tuesday, November 9th, at

Plantation Golf and Country Club. This will allow for a more intimate gathering and will make it possible for more of our Charlotte County community to attend.

The meal is complimentary; an opportunity to make a financial gift will be extended. If you are unable to attend and would like to make a financial gift, please go to [www.venicepres.org](http://www.venicepres.org) and click "GIVE NOW" then select "Pregnancy Solutions".

*Thank you for your support!*

#### **Dinner Banquet**

Tuesday, November 2

#### **Isles Yacht Club in Punta Gorda**

1780 West Marion Avenue  
Punta Gorda, FL 33950

Dinner

7:00–9:00pm

*(Doors open at 6:30 pm)*

#### **Luncheon and Dinner Banquet**

Tuesday, November 9

#### **Plantation Golf & Country Club**

500 Rockley Boulevard  
Venice, FL 34293

Lunch

11:00am–1:00pm

*(Doors open at 10:30 am)*

Dinner

7:00–9:00pm

*(Doors open at 6:30 pm)*



#### **For Reservations:**

<https://secure.ministrysync.com/ministrysync/event/home.php?e=22053>

## *Preganacy Solutions' Impact*

Recently, one of our Rookie Dad volunteers was taking out the trash when he noticed a man in our parking lot. At seventy-something years of age, this man didn't look like our usual clientele. Our volunteer greeted the gentleman and asked if he could be of any assistance. They entered the center exchanging pleasantries and made their way to the Rookie Dad room. The conversation shifted to the reason for his visit. This gentleman had a fifty-year-old secret and was buckling under the weight of it. When he was a very young man, his girlfriend had chosen to abort their child. For all this time, this had weighed on him, casting shadows of grief, anger, guilt and shame on his otherwise happy life. How wonderful that in this moment, out of all of our volunteers, the one who was present that day was one from the same generation, who had experienced life through a similar lens. How humbling it is when we see God's hand in our work. This man's visit served as a powerful reminder of the devastating and lasting effects of abortion and the importance of our work in ending the demand for abortion in our community. What an honor it is to walk with our clients, sharing in their burdens and shepherding them to the one who can heal every wound! This gentleman is now walking through healing.



This year already, we have opened two new centers, 34 babies have been saved, 164 moms and dads have participated in our Earn While You Learn Program and 614 clients have walked through our doors! Every one of these numbers represents an individual's life that has been forever changed. We continually pray the Prayer of Jabez over our centers and God truly is blessing us and expanding our borders. Our goal is to continue to meet the need by expanding our office hours, expanding our reach to the youth in our communities, expanding our reach within our Rookie Dads Program and opening up a new location in Arcadia in 2022!

Six years ago, a client walked into our center feeling completely defeated. She did not feel she was prepared to be a mom, was not sure who the father was and was actively drinking and smoking. Through many hard appointments and conversations with our client advocates, our client chose life! Shortly after choosing life, she moved out of state where she had more family support. This past month, this client walked back into our center to thank us for helping her see the miracle of birth. She has since rededicated her life to Christ, married the man of her dreams, and her husband is in the process of adopting her son. Each day we get to celebrate these wins because of your support!



## HELPS Stove Team

VPC partners with Helps International and the people of Guatemala to foster hope and health through the placement of water filters and and safe, efficient stoves in homes and schools.

For centuries, people in third world countries have cooked using open fires on the floors of their small homes. This is the cause of medical and environmental problems:

- burns
- severe respiratory problems
- air pollution
- rapid deforestation

The Onil stove was developed in recognition of these problems. Being raised off the floor and vented, it drastically reduces the risk for burns and smoke inhalation. Ecologically, it is 70% more efficient than an open fire thereby decreasing deforestation

and greenhouse gases, plus saving money or time spent in gathering firewood.

If you would like to join the stove team, dates are March 12 - 21, 2022. It is possible that Covid will again interfere with our going. We just cannot know but we are becoming fully prepared including fulfilling the requirement for each team member to be fully vaccinated.

In addition to the joy of installing stoves and water filters in homes, we will deliver small gifts to the children at the Helps school supported by members of our congregation, knitted goods from Knit One Pray Too for newborns and infants, and medical supplies to the neighboring clinic.



For information about the stove project, contact Jim or Lois Weeks.

[jimloisweeks@yahoo.com](mailto:jimloisweeks@yahoo.com)

- Jim, 941-914-4188
- Lois, 320-250-3363

To sponsor a student, contact Cheryl Weeks-Rosten. [cwros-ten@gmail.com](mailto:cwros-ten@gmail.com)

## Save the Dates

Alternative Gift Market, December 5 & 12



## Only 3 Cents a Meal

**Help feed our local families.** Simply drop off your donation at the church using any container you choose anytime during office hours. Or you can also give online using the "GIVE NOW" button on the website or send a check to the church office. Thank you for continuing to feed the needy in our area during the pandemic.

## Get to know our Scholarship Recipients

*I'm so grateful to God and to Venice Presbyterian Church for being such a blessing to my life. Ever since the day I started helping my father in various clinics, and proceeding to help Frank Ebetino with the ophthalmological patients, I knew God had shown me that helping people with illnesses and testifying about the love of Christ at the same time was my calling. My goal is to continue studying medicine with a residency in surgery in Guatemala, and then neurosurgery. I want to be able help in the clinic because of the*

need for procedures that often can't be afforded by people of low income. My family is very important in my life. They are very loving and supportive to me and have been so helpful to many groups of people. God has had my back whenever I go to and from the hospital and during my time there. He has taken care of my family when I am not around. This is how I know that the path that I'm taking is the correct path. I would be truly grateful if you



Dereck Estrada



could pray for my family, my career, and my personal spiritual life. With best regards,  
*Dereck Estrada*



Dr Estrada and his son Dereck standing in front of the clinic.



After a difficult few years of Covid and natural disasters (hurricanes and a volcano), Dr Erick and Cynthia Estrada are celebrating God's goodness. Their son, Dereck, who is completing medical school, is being allowed to complete his residency at the **Clinica Medica Salvatore** –the clinic started by VPC's supported missionaries, the Estradas.

Dereck's return home has been a great blessing to the Estrada's ministry. Dereck's working in the clinic has allowed his father to travel once a week to nearby villages

devastated by the Fuego volcano several years ago that destroyed homes and roads and caused great loss of life. People living in these villages have not had access to medical treatment for over a year and there exist a high rate of newborn death.

Please commit to praying for the Estrada's ministry as Dr Estrada and his son Dereck reach out to not only meet the people's physical needs but also pastor churches in Cortijo proclaiming God's love to the people.

2021  
2022

# VCCS EVERYTHING IS NEW AGAIN

VENICE COMMUNITY CONCERT SERIES\*

## JAMAL & FRIENDS

November 19, 7 pm

*Farewell  
Concert!*



## TIM ZIMMERMAN & THE KING'S BRASS

December 4, 3 pm & 7 pm



## THE DEPUÉ BROTHERS

February 18, 7 pm



## KEN MEDEMA

January 2

7 pm



## ROMIG FAMILY

March 5

7 pm



*Tickets on sale now!*

**\$25**

available online at

[www.VeniceCommunityConcertSeries.com](http://www.VeniceCommunityConcertSeries.com)  
or Venice Presbyterian Church's office  
during regular business hours.

*\*A ministry of Venice Presbyterian Church*