

2020 Annual Report

2020 ~ A Year Unexpected



“We are not living in *fear*, we are living in *faith*.”





TO PROCLAIM—TO GLORIFY— TO EQUIP—TO SERVE

Our Vision (who we are called by God to be)
Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church is called by God and empowered by the Holy Spirit **to be a Christ-like presence in the world:**

A congregation

So **grounded in scripture** and **sustained by prayer**,

So **committed to spiritual growth** and **faithful discipleship**,

So **inviting, welcoming** and **inclusive**,

So **nurturing** and **healing**,

So **mission-minded**,

So **vibrant, energetic** and **open to opportunities** to **share the Gospel**

That **lives are transformed** by the love of Christ.

Our Mission (what we are called by God to do)
Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church is called by God and empowered by the Holy Spirit **to live like Christ in a broken world:**

To proclaim the gospel.

To glorify God in worship and in deed.

To equip our congregation for ministry.

To serve others in Christ's name.

*Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church is a member of the
Peace River Presbytery,
the Synod of South Atlantic,
and the Presbyterian Church (USA).*



PASTORAL & ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

The Rev. Rob J. Marrow, Pastor/Head of Staff
Jim Cochran, Director of Music
Michele Byrd-Gerlach, Assistant to Administration & Music
Heather Mikes, Director of Christian Education
Drake DeBaun, Christian Education Intern
David R. Dehnart, Business Administrator
Ruth Wade, Finance Manager
Barbara Bonavita, Office & Facility Coordinator/
Membership Secretary
Lisa Lloyd, Communications/Financial Assistant
Joyce Geary, Parish Nurse
Norman Barillas, Custodian
Cesar Guzman, Custodian
Jackie Elmer, Vanderbilt Learning Center, Director



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A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR—The Rev. Robert J. Marrow

Dear Friends in Christ,

“The Lord said, See, the former things have taken place and new things I declare; before they spring into being I announce them to you --- Sing to the Lord a new song, his praise from the ends of the earth --- Forget the former things, do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing!”

(Isaiah 42:9-10a & 43:18-19a)

If you are paying attention to detail, you may notice that this is the same Scripture passage that I utilized last year. (No, what follows is not the same!) However, this passage is fitting for the ministry of Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church the past year.

2020 began much like any other year. Well, that didn't last very long! The Coronavirus Pandemic altered nearly every aspect of our ministry over a very short period of time. We quickly learned that dwelling in the past would not be happening in 2020. I must say, I am pleased with how resilient we were! With God's guidance, VPC began doing a “new thing” in our ministry. The use of virtual worship, virtual meetings, and drive-thru ministry events marked some of our creative efforts at following God's lead through this difficult time. I would like to add that YOU responded wonderfully God's lead during this time of uncertainty.

As a result of your generosity, Vanderbilt was able to retain all of our staff members. We performed ministry and engaged in mission efforts as our building was either closed or restricted. Through YOUR generous support of the Session established COVID-19 Relief Fund, VPC provided aid to our neighbors dealing with hunger and housing difficulties during the pandemic. Overall, VPC provided over \$136,000 in Directed Mission Giving to our partner mission agencies. It has been a long time since Vanderbilt provided mission giving that was greater than ten percent of our operating budget! (See the Mission section of this document for further details on this achievement.)

I can state with all honesty and integrity, the leadership of VPC learned quite a lot about doing “new things” during the past year! I am also certain that our ability to do new things well will continue to be a useful skill for us in the future! Ministry will never be quite the same following the 2020 pandemic. It is becoming quite apparent that technology will continue to play a much larger role in our ministry in the days ahead. We are preparing for this reality. There are several improvements in the works to aid in this area.

Serving as your pastor continues to be a delight. Sure, the past year had its fair share of stress. However, none of us were journeying into this “new thing” on our own. TOGETHER, we served God! The Session, Deacons, members, EVERYONE! I would like to provide a special word of appreciation for the commitment and dedication displayed by the staff of VPC. Each day, every member of the staff gave their best efforts to ensure that the “new thing” being done at Vanderbilt was done exceedingly well! Thank you, staff members!

Doing “new things” will continue to require the involvement of each of us! My friends, God calls each of us to serve as we are able. On that note, I look forward to serving Christ with you in 2021! Pray for God's continued blessing on our ministry in the coming year. Let us continue in our efforts to follow God's lead in doing “new things”!

In Christ,

Pastor Rob





A WORD FROM OUR DIRECTOR OF MUSIC—Dr. Jim Cochran



Dear Friends: My parents always taught me to look at the bright side of any bad situation; there is always something to be learned or gained from whatever you are going through. So, when tragedy struck the world in March, I attempted to find a golden lining. It has not been easy. I miss the Chancel Choir singing, the Alleluia Choir ringing

and singing, the Pre-School children dancing, boom-whacking, and singing, and maybe most of all: YOU singing the congregational hymns, led by our magnificent Lively-Fulcher pipe organ!! The good things that happened are these: We created a monthly virtual concert series with some amazing talent from right here in our own backyard. Michele and I went through YEARS of collected junk in my office, choir room, library, and storage closet and THREW, THREW, THREW!!! I am so organized now, I hardly know where to look for things! Another great positive to come out of this mess is that I have had TONS of time to practice, and I have loved that! Now, I am praying that we will be able to sing again for Christmas 2021, and hopefully, before. I wish you all good health and a wonderful, peace-filled 2021. I keep you in my daily prayers.

Jim Cochran, Director of Music

PRAYING WITH THE CHOIR

Prayer is our way of communicating with God to ask for guidance, lift up our burdens, rest in His promises, and invite God into our midst. Through weekly emails from Bob Martin and Susie Hilton, we invite God into the work we do and lift up specific members' joys and concerns shared by the choir that helps build community among choir members.

Praying For Others We ask for wisdom and guidance and peace for choir members, family, and friends who've authorized requested prayer. "Be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people." Ephesians 6:18b.

Lifting Up Concerns We pray for those who are hurting, struggling, and in need of hope and healing. "Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you." Jeremiah 29:12. God calls us to pray without ceasing" (1 Thessalonians 5:17), "seek His face always" (1 Chronicles 16:11), and "pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests" (Ephesians 6:18a).

Our weekly published thought and prayer is always simple. "The fewer the words the better the prayer." – Martin Luther

Susie Hilton, Choir Communications Coordinator and Co-Prayer Leader



WORSHIP, MUSIC & LITURGICAL ARTS COMMITTEE

WMLA (Worship, Music and Liturgical Arts Committee) has been committed to working with the music department to assure that all worship experiences at Vanderbilt are positive for all who participate. Since March of 2020 the committee found its responsibilities and concerns greatly changed. The Session asked this committee to develop the criteria that could be used for in-person worship in light of the Pandemic we all experienced during 2020.

This year found worship services recorded for members to view; and then in November the determination was made to have in-person worship available. The numbers of people that can attend is limited; and all COVID-19 protocols are strictly enforced. The goal was to assure that the worship experience was a positive and safe event for all. Because the criteria to follow all protocols changed

the worship experience, and did not allow choral singing or congregational singing, the goal was still for a worshipful service.

Unfortunately, many of the programs that the WMLA committee has helped with in the past could not be held during this very unique year of 2020 – know that we are looking forward to the time when we can again make music together and share it with not only our members but our greater community.

Our prayer for our church and community is that we can all heal not only from the Pandemic but the social divisions in our country.

The members of the committee are:

Rev. Rob Marrow, Dr. James Cochran, Claudia Polzin, Andrea Daggett, Loren Dawley, Steve Kutler, Robert Martin, Nancy Miller, Judy Peabody, Tom Sletto and Sue Van Fossen.



REPORT FROM THE CLERK OF SESSION—Richard A. Hilton

As with everyone else, your Session began the new year full of hope for a busy, eventful season in Southwest Florida. Our first 2 meetings in January and February were rather normal as we looked forward. We were fortunate to be able to hold our Annual Meeting of the Congregation between March 8 services and elected all our officers for the coming year.

On March 13, at a Called Session meeting, your Session closed the church and suspended in-person worship until further notice. It wasn't until the third Sunday in October that we opened for in-person worship carefully following CDC and local guidelines.

Your Session had a total of 13 meetings this past year. There were 12 Stated and 1 Called meeting as well as 2 new membership classes. There were also 2 Congregational meetings. All meetings after the March 13 closure were virtual using the Zoom platform.

As the year began, we added 22 new members to our congregation but "losses" due to death, transfer and other reasons dropped our membership below the 2019 level of 699. We ended the year 3 below that with 583 Active members and 113 Affiliate members for a total of 696. It has been a difficult year for our church but some of our ministry teams were able to continue their work

throughout the year. Your church staff has been extremely busy this past year at not only doing all the usual work but adapting, in a very short time, to reach our congregation in a new, virtual world.

Once again, it has been a privilege to serve as your Clerk for another year as we look forward to a new year with a return to some degree of normalcy under the leadership of our beloved Pastor, Rob Marrow.

CLASS—2021

(term ends 5/31/21)

Gerald Lefebvre
Carolyn Magarro
Jody Nowry
Judy Peabody
Mike Smith
Mary Thompson

CLASS—2022

(term ends 5/31/22)

Dixie Bibb
Cherie Baines
Heather Mikes
John Miles
Jim Muir
Max Gould

CLASS—2023

(term ends 5/31/23)

Molly Godley
Tim Hall
Tom Hurley
Jean Rawson
Carol Schwiars
Jerry Warnken

SESSION



THE BOARD OF DEACONS—Jim Hawkins, Moderator

The ministry of the Deacons, as set forth in Scripture, is one of compassion, witness and service, sharing the redeeming love of Jesus Christ for the poor, the hungry, the sick, the lost, the friendless, the oppressed, those burdened by unjust policies or structures, or anyone in distress. Persons of spiritual character, honest repute, exemplary lives, brotherly and sisterly love, sincere compassion and sound judgement make up this ministry. It is a calling and a privilege for each member of the Board of Deacons to serve others in Christ's name by fulfilling the specific ministries of the Board of Deacons and by assuming the duties as may be delegated from time to time by the Session.

The specific ministries are: Bereavement Receptions, Blood Drives, Communion Preparation, Communion Serving, Service of Home Communion, Hospital Visitation, Sunday Letters of Joys and Concerns and Sunday Flower Delivery.

All Deacons have received training as to how to make hospital visits. Due to the current pandemic and the fact that we are not making in-person hospital visits at this time, the Class of 2023 has not undergone training by the hospital staff, but will receive it once those in-person visits begin again. This ministry has evolved over the last year. All calls to the NCH hospital chaplain's office are now made from the church by the office & facility coordinator. All Deacons are notified and the Deacon on call will then

take appropriate action.

All the in-person contacts of the other ministries mentioned above have been suspended at this time, and all contact is made by computer, mail, or phone with members, members' families and friends of the church that have been hospitalized. Deacons have signed up for each weekday of a given month. Deacons now know each month who is covering the hospital, and they are the primary contact person with the patient's family.

The Deacons have conducted five blood drives on the church premises. 92 units of blood were collected, which have had the ability to save 276 lives (One pint of blood saves three lives.) The five blood drives have been scheduled by the senior blood donor of NCH Blood Center, and have been approved by the deacons.

We look forward to continuing work with Pastor Rob, to the support of Rev. Dr. Lou, and Rev. Dr. Fred and to the activity of serving others in Christ's name.

Respectfully submitted, Jim Hawkins, Moderator

Board of Deacons

Class of 2021: Sterling Desorcy, Lois Ann Folliard (Vice Moderator) Larissa Gibson, Jean Lee, Jonas Rockhold, Todd Truax, and Marie Walton

Class of 2022: Linda Burwinkel, Jim Hawkins (Moderator) Toni Keefer, Eliza Nevin, Sarah Smith, Sue Van Fossen, Rebecca Wheat (Recording Secretary)

Class of 2023: Asia Elsbree, Debbie Hamilton, Janet Minch, Frank Schmitt, Cynthia Schock, Reggie Smith, Margaret Waters



THE BOARD OF DEACONS—Communion Servers

Luke 22:19-20 “And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, “This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.”

The purpose of the Communion Serving team is to provide the Lord’s Supper to the church body on the first Sunday of each month as well as other designated days. Communion is served on the first Sunday of each month and also on Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday. Forty Elders and Deacons volunteered to serve Holy Communion in 2020 during the months of January, February, and March. Sadly the Communion outreach program providing the Lord’s Supper to those unable to attend church had to stop during the COVID-19 pandemic. To ensure the congregants’ safety, Communion packets containing a wafer and juice were distributed the first Sunday in November and December rather than serving by intinction.

2020 Communion Servers for January, February, and March: Becky Wheat, Pete Rodino, Marie Walton, Larissa Gibson, Eliza Nevin, John Miles, Wayne Peters, Chuck Lewis, Michelle Yovanovich, Rick Yovanovich, Jean Lee, Mary Thomson, Dixie Bibb, Pete Schwiers, Carol Schwiers, Sterling Desorcy, Cherie Baines, Max Gould, Mary Lynn Myers, Jim Muir, Nancy Guthy, Bill Van Fossen, Sue Van Fossen, Eliza Nevin, Larissa Gibson, Ron Davis, Jim Hawkins, Bill Payne, Geri Payne, Dave Baines, Jerry Warnken, Mary Koppelkam, Bill Koppelkam, Pat Rose, Babs Brock, Jerry Warnken, Mike Smith, George Morton, Betty Taylor, Ron Taylor, and Ron Sieling.



BOY SCOUTS—TROOP 274

Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church chartered Cub Scout Pack 168 and Scouts BSA Troop 274 during 2020.

The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law.

Cub Scouting is fun for the whole family. Boys and girls start with hands-on learning and achievements that put them in the middle of the action and prepare them for life. The methods of Cub Scouting are: living the ideals, belonging to a den, advancement, family involvement, activities, serving the community, and the uniform.

Cubmaster Michael “Sparky” Meador indicates that the Cub Scouts ranging from 5 to 10 years old met at Our Savior Lutheran Church on Tuesday evenings at 6:30pm through mid-March. With the pandemic, meetings ceased. When school reopened, parents and youth that were still interested in Cub Scouts were directed to packs that were meeting at other locations.

Troop 274 met on Mondays at 7:00pm at VPC in the youth room. Scoutmaster Mark Sunyak was introducing the Scouts to new merit badges when the pandemic stopped in person meetings. The troop met weekly for several months on Zoom and has continued to meet in the parking lot at Our Savior Lutheran Church as weather and schedules permit. Two Scouts completed the requirements for their Eagle badges and have graduated from high school. Meetings and activities are continuing outside as weather and schedules permit.

VPC Chartered Organization Representative for 2020 was Thomas E. Hurley and as such is VPC’s voting member of the Southwest Florida Council, BSA and its local Alligator District.





BUILDING & GROUNDS TEAM

The Vanderbilt Presbyterian Buildings and Grounds Team oversees the maintenance and care of the church facility, property, and furnishings. This care includes the campus grounds, parking lots and the residential house at 1301 Piper Blvd.

The team is also involved with developing the annual operational budget, deciding capital replacement needs and recommending an annual capital budget allocation.

With the Covid-19 pandemic, 2020 after March was a year with no on-site activities until limited in person worship was restored in late October. During this period, some vendors helped the church with reduced billing and completing work that had been postponed. The absent and later limited activities on site held operating costs down, and in 2020 we had a nearly \$30,000 under budget condition for all facility operations.

Among the many projects and repairs conducted in 2020:

- Located and repaired a 7,000-gallon water leak under the playground surface.
- Repainted Manse, the residential house at 1301 Piper Blvd.
- Formulated and implemented Covid-19 sanitization protocols and bought requisite application equipment along with full safety gear and masks for our Custodians.
- Replaced or repaired seven (7) AC units including a 10-ton unit serving the Fellowship Hall.
- Repaired minor roof leaks at the West Spire and Library exterior door. Our Custodians had sufficient time to patch and paint areas throughout the buildings.

Capital expenditures and installations in 2020:

- Designed and installed a chain link fence surrounding the West side grass area to follow Department of Children & Families requirements for outdoor play for the Vanderbilt Learning Center.
- Converted all parking lot pole lights to brighter and longer lasting with LED lights for best illumination.
- Added one other light pole at Cochran Music Hall to eliminate the prominent and long-standing dark area there.

Plans and considerations:

- As approved in 2020, our fire protection panel and the associated detectors and devises will be upgraded, and all modules will be able to be accessed independently. Enhanced control and safety will result.
- With a \$10,000 “Virtual Church” grant for technology, we will complete the plan to install upgraded and live streaming audio and visual equipment in the Sanctuary.
- A new committee will evaluate existing equipment to prepare for a comprehensive digital upgrade for the church. Items to be considered: expand Wi-Fi nodes throughout; convert to fiber optic cable for internet; increase bandwidth for consistent Internet speed; replace telephone system with VOIP devices; obtain a security system for entire campus; and update exterior storefront doors with new locking mechanisms.

Tim Mitchell, **Team Leader**

Gerald Lefebvre, **Elder Liaison**

2020 Team Members: Dave Curtiss, Dan Westerlund, Steve Schock, Becky Wheat,
Doug Dunn, Ron Nowry

Ex Officio: Rev. Rob Marrow, David Dehnart, Administrator

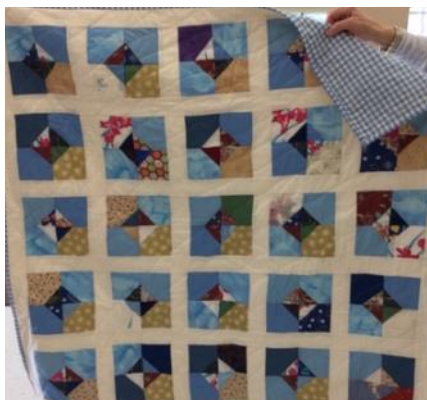




COMFORT QUILTERS

The VPC Comfort Quilters have been working together since 2005. Known as the Quilting Sisters, we enjoy both the process of making quilts and a warm fellowship with one another. Our 'stash' includes all the necessary components of quilt making plus we have working sewing machines available. New quilters are always welcome - we teach!

This year we are listed as contributing partners in the Habitat for Humanity Annual Report. We are grateful for the acknowledgement and are encouraged in the knowledge that each of our quilts will be enjoyed by a young person living in a Habitat home. This knowledge makes creating our quilts even more rewarding.



Amazingly, a brand new quilter can create a quilt!! Monday is our day - we begin at 10am, enjoy a bag lunch together and work until 2pm or 3pm. However, one may join us for a shorter time period or come in on a drop in basis to choose fabrics and take them to create a quilt at home. The Quilting Sisters extend a hearty welcome to anyone who is even remotely interested in creating a quilt.

Please come stitch with us!



NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The **Congregational Nominating Committee (CNC)** is charged with choosing members of our congregation to fulfill the responsibilities of the Session, the Board of Deacons, the Endowment Board, and the congregational members-at-large of this committee. It meets on a monthly basis, sometimes twice a month, until this important work is completed. The result of this work is shared with the congregation during the annual meeting in March when the formal nomination, vote and approval process of the individuals chosen takes place.

Purpose: In accordance with the Book of Order, the committee serves as the official nominating committee of the congregation, to provide nominees for all vacancies, either annually or when vacancies occur, on the Session, the Board of Deacons, the Endowment Board, and the Nominating Committee itself ("At-Large" members only). It is the committee's responsibility to prayerfully consider those individuals who possess those "Gifts of the Spirit" that are essential to the mission and the ministry of Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church.

Accomplishments: The Congregational Nominating Committee presented the list of nominees for the Session, the Board of Deacons, the Endowment Board and the congregational members-at-large of the Nominating Committee at the annual congregation meeting in March.

The members of the committee are: Rich Yovanovich (*Moderator and Member at Large*), Dixie Bibb (*Session Liaison*), Jody Nowry (*Elder Representative*), Sue Van Fossen (*Deacon Representative*). Members-at-large: Priscilla Kutler, John Monda, Kay Beernink.





EDUCATION & FAMILY MINISTRY TEAM

Called to Serve Families, Children, Youth & Adults
Our Purpose is to equip our congregation and our community:

**To know God's love *To grow in God's love *To share God's love with others.*

We are all God's children, growing together in Christ and answering God's call to love each other and to share God's love with the world. The EMT has focused on integrating our mission with other VPC teams for the benefit of all because we are all better together. The team is constantly assessing new programs based on the needs and wants of our congregation and our community. We are happy to offer any support that we can. We are a family — all of us together — young and old, near and far!

January 2020 ~ February 2020

- Offered weekly programming on Wednesday nights: Alleluia Choir (preschool and elementary students); Pastor Rob's all-church Bible study; Middle School Music (middle school students); Middle School Youth @VPC; Chancel Choir (adults). Nurturing a smaller group of faithful siblings to middle school students called Mission: Kids.
- Completed SUNDAY SEMINAR, an adult education class taught by Dr. John Braun studying some of the so-called "lost scriptures" — early Christian writings that were not included in the Bible.

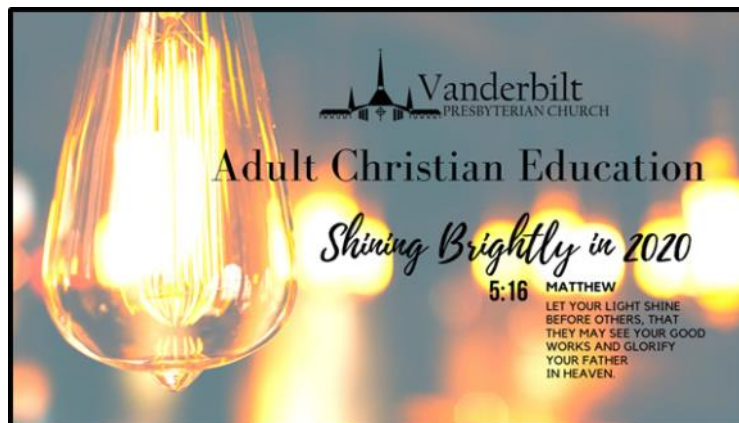
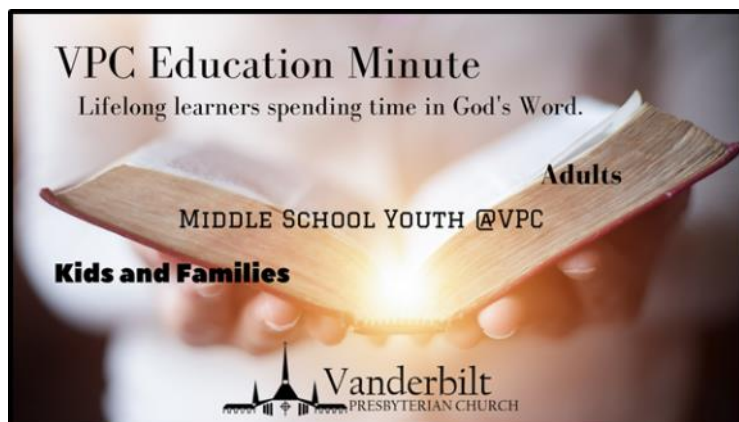
March 2020 ~ December 2020

Throughout this pandemic, the EMT has worked tirelessly to deliver creative and meaningful ways to serve our church family, the community and our missions under safer-at-home orders. Our goal is to continue to nurture the spiritual growth of our congregation, preschool and community by offering the resources, support and encouragement needed to extend teaching from God through the church into the home and beyond!

- Sharing weekly educational resources for all of God's children in the VPC Education Minute.
- Creating and resourcing devotionals, seminars, workshops, children's lessons and Bible studies available for free to the community for all sharing platforms, in order to ensure we are providing public materials to the community, as well as church members.

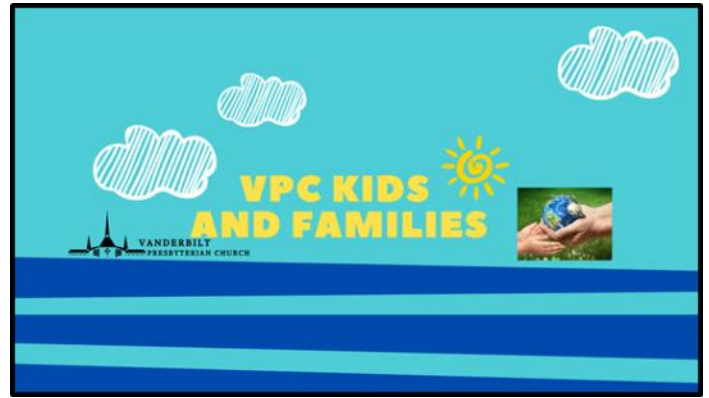
ADULT EDUCATION

- Participated in "Jesus Christ and the 'Dividing Wall': Race and God's Mission" offered by Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.
- Formed new book discussion group with Carol Schwiers and Reggie Smith on topical social issues — Wisdom Seekers. Read and discussed "How to Be an Anti-racist" by Ibram X. Kendi.
- Facilitated five-week Zoom class with Jill Peterson and Sterling Desorcy - "Don't Sing Songs to a Heavy Heart".
- Continued Adult Bible study via Zoom on Wednesday evenings with Pastor Rob.



VPC KIDS AND FAMILIES

- Created new VPC Kids and Families YouTube page to share all video materials online.
- Converted Sunday school lessons into online digital tools for faith formation at home including VPC scripture pictures, crafts, games, family discussion points, prayer calendars and printed worksheets for all of God's children — kids, youth, adults and families.
- Created new Facebook group for private posting and communications between church and families.
- Distributed palm coloring pages for Palm Sunday window displays at home.
- Designed and executed virtual Easter egg hunt, hiding vibrant Easter eggs inside online photos of VPC.
- Hosted Zoom Dance Party on May 22 with more than 20 kids, friends and participatory parents!
- Scripted and produced interactive videos and social media created include the Lord's Prayer, Apostles' Creed, 15-minute Faith Fill Up, Bible Story Wednesday!, Growing with God Story Time, Graduation, VLC Christmas Concert, family Advent readings, the Christmas Story — all great ways to encourage spending time in God's word together.
- Coordinated online Back to School Blessings with Amazon Wishlist for Pinecrest Elementary School. Donated approximately \$1,500 in supplies.
- Provided a Back to School Prayer meeting.
- Supported the church-wide Christmas Connection Caravan and Advent season with reflective, interactive curriculums, "Dough Holy Night!" and the Jesse Tree.



The EMT works closely with Vanderbilt Learning Center to incorporate teachers/staff, students and families into the daily life of Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church.

- Pastor Rob continued Chapel lessons via Facebook video, even after the building was closed physically. In-person lessons resumed in October with Director of Christian Education, Heather Mikes.
- Drake is designing our VPC Scripture Pictures consistent with the Revised Common Lectionary.
- Dr. Jim recorded music lessons with VLC teachers.

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH @VPC

- VPC hosted about 20 energetic middle schoolers each Wednesday and continued to see exciting growth until COVID-19 prevented in-person meetings. Following Spring Break, team leaders Jason Mikes, Heather Mikes and Drake DeBaun continued to facilitate meetings via Zoom on Wednesdays and Saturdays through July. This group is building each other up during what can be difficult growing years. We are listening to God's word and serving each other and our community, including missions of the church.
- Executed a successful Souper Bowl of Caring with a fun skit, encouraging youth participation in the worship service. Our middle school youth group collected \$1,855.62 and 4 bags of cans for the Hunger and Homeless Coalition!
- Created a Facebook group specific to the needs of this age group and their families.



We are blessed and grateful for the love and support of this congregation and VPC staff over the course of 2020, as our committee continues to learn, grow and serve. May God continue to bless us all.

Team Members:

Laura Piipponen (Session Liaison until May 31), Carol Schwiens (Session Liaison as of June 1), Rob Marrow (Pastor), Heather Mikes (Director of Christian Education), Drake DeBaun (Education Intern), Beth McDonough, Barbara McElwaine and Reggie Smith



THE VANDERBILT LEARNING CENTER

“For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”

-Ephesians 2:10 NIV

Vanderbilt Presbyterian Childcare & Learning Center (VLC) is a ministry of Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church (VPC). The Learning Center Team operates under the watchful eye and loving heart of Jackie Elmer, Director. The team consists of parents, teachers and staff working together to support school operations, raise funds for educational initiatives, generate opportunities for student enrichment, and create a nurturing environment for both the enrolled students and their families. There is great joy in the daily work of building strong academic foundations and positive attitudes toward God, self, friends, family and learning.

The 2020 VPC Annual Report straddles two school years at VLC — 2019-20 (January to July) and 2020-2021 (August to December). In March 2020, the Governor issued a safer-at-home order and the Florida Department of Education physically closed all Collier County Public Schools. Virtual learning commenced and continued for the balance of the school year.

At VLC, our first priority was making our children and families feel loved and connected to each other, even when we couldn’t be together. We discovered new gifts and talents and ways to lift each other up. Teachers provided daily instruction through Facebook classrooms and private video chats with students and parents. Yoga, music and Chapel videos were posted and accompanying materials delivered by email. Great creativity blossomed!

Since we weren’t able to gather safely for our annual end-of-the-year concert and graduation in May 2020, we successfully hosted a drive-through event with festive balloons and music. Graduation pictures of students in their caps and gowns were shared online.

Our leadership team spent the summer months immersed in the ever-changing health and safety guidelines provided by the Department of Children and Families, the Centers for Disease Control and the Collier Department of Health to develop and implement a Back to School Plan for 2020-2021. Teachers returned in August to create space and distance in their classrooms, learn the new protocols and prepare for students to return. The official start date was delayed until September 8. Given these adjustments, tuition also was adjusted accordingly.

National measures to slow the spread of COVID-19 had some negative effects on our local economy and household incomes. Despite the adversity, the church and preschool worked diligently to accommodate the needs of our families, including our staff, all of which maintained their employment status. Through God’s grace, a great deal of generosity and good planning, we were able to care for our students, families and staff.

VLC Team Efforts and Accomplishments:

- Graduated 11 kindergarten students and 31 pre-kindergarten students.
- Instructed, loved, supported and encouraged 89 amazing hearts, minds, bodies and spirits in our student body and 20 staff members.
- Attended Chapel weekly with Rev. Rob Marrow through March 2020. Chapel programs resumed in October 2020 with Christian Education Director, Heather Mikes.
- Maintained and enhanced communication among all members of the Learning Center Team through weekly emails, monthly newsletters, Facebook, church/school website, church bulletin, school bulletin boards and electronic church signs to keep everyone connected, including VPC, for the benefit of both communities.
- Honored our dedicated teachers and staff during Teacher Appreciation Week with personal deliveries by the Parent Team of Sunshine Baskets.
- Hosted our first Treat Trail for Halloween in lieu of a school-wide costume parade with live Facebook streaming for families. VLC was and is closed to parents and volunteers.
- Produced and distributed our first Christmas Concert video with the help of Parent Team volunteer, Doug Kollmer.
- Led by example in charitable giving to missions of VPC including the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Fund, Salvation Army Angel Tree and Misión Peniel. Students created cards for the Christmas Connection Caravan. VLC families collected supplies for Humane Society Naples and The Bird Gardens of Naples, following instructional visits to the school in January/February. The Parent Team makes annual monetary contributions to support these kinds of community helpers. Little by little, we are making a big difference and helping our students understand that though they are small....they are mighty!

Learning Center Leadership and Teaching Team:

Jackie Elmer, Angela Gates, Katherine Baron, Rachael Bruno, Stacey Bulloch, Diane Byrnes, Jackie Deneke, Lee Dorozenski, Jayme Funigiello, Leslie Gentzle, Donna Goldblatt, Bayah Harrison, Alex Hollister, Erin Heintz, Jennifer Hewins, Stephanie Jaquith, Adrienne Tackett, Dana Wagoner, Lori Zajac

VLC Parent Team Executive Committee:

- Heather Mikes—Chair, VPC Education & Family Ministry Team Liaison
- Lindsey Manring—Immediate Past Co-Chair, Parent Representative & VLC Newsletter Editor
- Amber Grider—Immediate Past Co-Chair
- Kristin DePaola—PreK-4 Parent Rep.
- Stephanie Harris—PreK-3 Parent Rep.
- Lindsey Manring—PreK-2 Parent Rep.
- Tracey Twetan—Kindergarten Parent Rep.



ENDOWMENT TRUST

Current Trustees – Bill Beynon Chair, Steve Blad, James Cochran, Louise Elliot, Buck Evans, Michele Yovanovich, Pat Rose, Gene Blanchard, Ex-Officio – Ruth Wade, Rob Marrow, David Dehnart

Session Liaison – Max Gould

The Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church Endowment Trust was established to provide funds outside of the normal operating budget and annual Stewardship campaigns to further the ministry of our church. Each year, the Trust provides 5% of the corpus of the trust to the church. The Session works with the various ministry teams to utilize the funds. In addition, the Endowment Trust provides the annual income from the Birthday Club to fund Youth and Education. The Endowment Trust may provide additional funding for special projects requested by ministry teams through the Session. The Endowment Trust's assets are managed by the New Covenant Trust Company (Presbyterian Foundation). The current allocation is 55% Equity and 45% Fixed Income. The values are as follows:

	12/31/2019	12/31/2020
General Fund	\$323,834	\$357,338
Birthday Club	\$150,742	\$188,413
James Craig Lecture Fund	\$92,584	\$104,890
Cindy Craig Theological Education Fund	\$21,107	\$24,009
Richard Fors Habitat for Humanity Fund	\$40,607	\$46,172
Music and Scholarship Fund	\$14,613	\$16,621
Total Value	\$643,487	\$737,443
Net Growth: \$94,013		

During 2020, the Endowment provided the Session a distribution that was used to fund Session approved ministry projects. Additionally, the annual Birthday Club distribution provided support for our Youth and Education Programs. The Endowment General Fund provided \$15,000 for the funding of the Capital Campaign Feasibility Study in 2020. The Board also approved the funding for the execution of the Capital Campaign in the amount of \$45,000 to be funded in Q1 of 2021.

**YOUR GIVING
MATTERS!**

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Matthew 6:19-21



BUDGET, FINANCE, & INVESTMENT OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Team's purpose: The Budget, Finance & Investment Oversight Committee has the financial responsibility for ensuring "the wise use of God's gifts." The Committee's mission is to guide the Session and its ministry teams through the annual budgeting process, insure financial support for all programs and maintain the financial integrity of the church throughout the year. It should be noted 2020 was a very difficult year financially due to the uncertainty of COVID-19 and its impact. Thanks to the Church members we were able to have an excellent year under dire conditions.

Description of Team's Work:

- Considers and financially plans for the short and long-term fiscal activities of Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church (VPC).
- Coordinates the annual budget process, working closely with ministry teams and Session.
- Monitors VPC's financial operating performance vs. budget, reporting to Session monthly.
- Ensures the safety of the church's financial assets and adherence to accounting policies and procedures.
- Provides for the proper disbursement of funds raised in capital campaigns as well as capital reserve funds used for the maintenance of VPC's property, plant and equipment.
- Monitors and reports the Deo Gloria project financials, including arranging and managing our loan from the Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program (PILP)
- Monitors financial policies and recommends necessary changes to improve process.
- Remains aware of opportunities for additional funding and recommends programs beneficial to VPC.

2020 Accomplishments:

- Given all the uncertainty of 2020 the Team professionally managed and navigated the 2020 budget and related costs, resulting in a very successful Financial Fiscal Year. Worked closely with all Ministry Teams to adopt, with Session approval, a balanced 2020 operating budget. Resulted in a reduced plan due to lower than expected revenues.
- Monitored monthly revenue and expenses against budget throughout the year. Utilized monthly income and expense reports, 2020 forecast/projections and the balance sheet to provide the required cash flow and cash management oversight.
- Took advantage of Government stimulus programs. Organized and submitted application for CARES money through Iberia Bank. Received approved loan for \$208,500. Application is ready to submit to Iberia to convert the loan to a Grant in 2021.
- Initiated the 2017 and 2018 financial audit, utilizing an outside audit firm. Difficulties have delayed completion of both audits until 2021.
- Worked with the Campaign Team with a Goal to eliminate PILP Mortgage.
- Continued to monitor the attendance and membership statistics monthly. Difficult to analyze because of the lack of Church attendance for most of year.
- Explored options and bids for our Church Insurance. Retained Church Mutual for another year.
- Increased the level of restricted Capital Reserve funding, which allow more required projects to be accomplished.

Looking Forward:

- Continue to build upon cash available in order to support possible future requirements. Examples are: Associate Pastor, maintaining the Church in a safe and updated condition, paying off the PILP Loan (if fund raiser is not as successful as projected).

Team Membership: Bob Bush-Committee Moderator, John Miles-Elder Liaison, Max Gould-Treasurer/Elder, Tim Hall-Elder, Debbie Dawley, Terry Mountford and Alicia Farman.

Staff-David Dehnart, Business Administrator, Ruth Wade-Financial Manager and Lisa Lloyd.



TREASURER'S REPORT—Max Gould, Treasurer

Note

As we know, Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church has many missions and activities. Usually, I focus on the church operating financials. In order to give a more complete view of VPC's activities, I have provided an overview that includes The Learning Center (TLC) and our Directed Mission Gifts in addition to the operating financials.

Summary

Despite the pandemic, VPC had a surprisingly good year financially. VPC, including TLC and Directed Gifts had total income of \$1,784,421, total expenses of \$1,702,078 and a Net surplus of \$82,343. The details are shown in the attached tables and graphs.

Church Operations

We had Full Year Operating Income of \$1,308K, which was \$89K better than plan. Full Year Operating Expenses were \$1,199K, less than budget by \$20K. Full Year Operating Net was a surplus of \$110K versus a budgeted breakeven.

There were three special events that occurred in 2020. First, we applied a one-time bequest to income. Normally, we would have applied 90% of the bequest to debt reduction but because expected impact of Covid-19 the Session decided to apply the entire bequest to operations. Second, we added \$102K to the (underfunded) Capital Reserve of which \$97K was not budgeted. Third, we received \$208.5K Cares Act PPP loan for the both the Church and The Learning Center. This money is in our cash account while we wait for government approval to have the loan be converted to a grant. When it is converted it will become income.

Directed Mission Gifts

We received directed gifts, including the Covid-19 Relief Funds, of \$136K. This money was distributed to the designed charities. It is interesting to note that our Directed Gifts are more than 10% of our operating income.

Vanderbilt Learning Center (TLC)

Year revenue was \$363K, \$55K less than 2019. Total expenses were \$391K less than 2019 by \$45K. Net for the year was a deficit of \$28K. Covid-19 had a major impact on TLC, causing it to close in conjunction with the public schools.

Mortgage

We made \$138,719 in mortgage principal and interest payments in 2020. At year end the mortgage balance was \$1,677,940. The balance of our PILP investment was \$206,544. The balance in the Deo Gloria reserve was \$187,265.

Cash Account

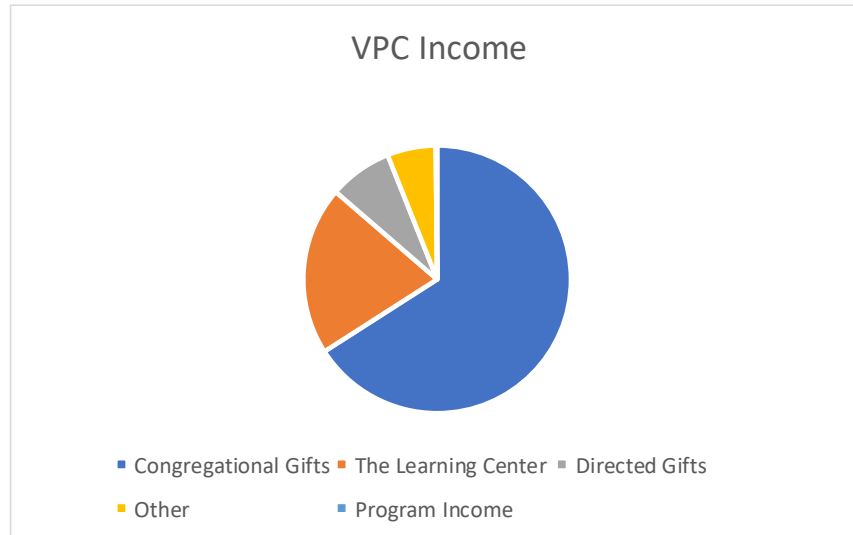
As a result of the delay in converting Cares Act PPP loan into a grant and the unbudgeted surplus, we had an above normal \$580K in our cash accounts at year end.

VPC Full Year Income and Expense Report

Revenue	
Congregational Gifts	\$1,176,692
Program Income	\$3,041
Other	\$104,631
Directed Gifts	\$136,199
The Learning Center	\$363,859
Total Income	\$1,784,421
Expenses	
Personnel	\$818,320
Facility Management	\$272,769
Member Services	\$33,811
Support Services	\$56,234
Mission	\$137,644
Presbytery Support	\$16,229
The Learning Center	\$367,071
Total Expenses	\$1,702,078
Net	\$82,343

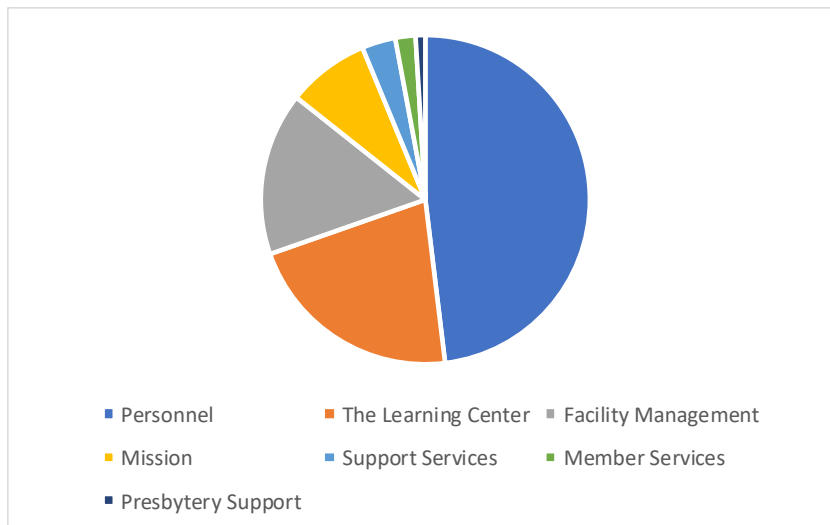
VPC 2020 Full Year Income

Revenue	
Congregational Gifts	\$1,176,692
The Learning Center	\$363,859
Directed Gifts	\$136,199
Other	\$104,631
Program Income	\$3,041

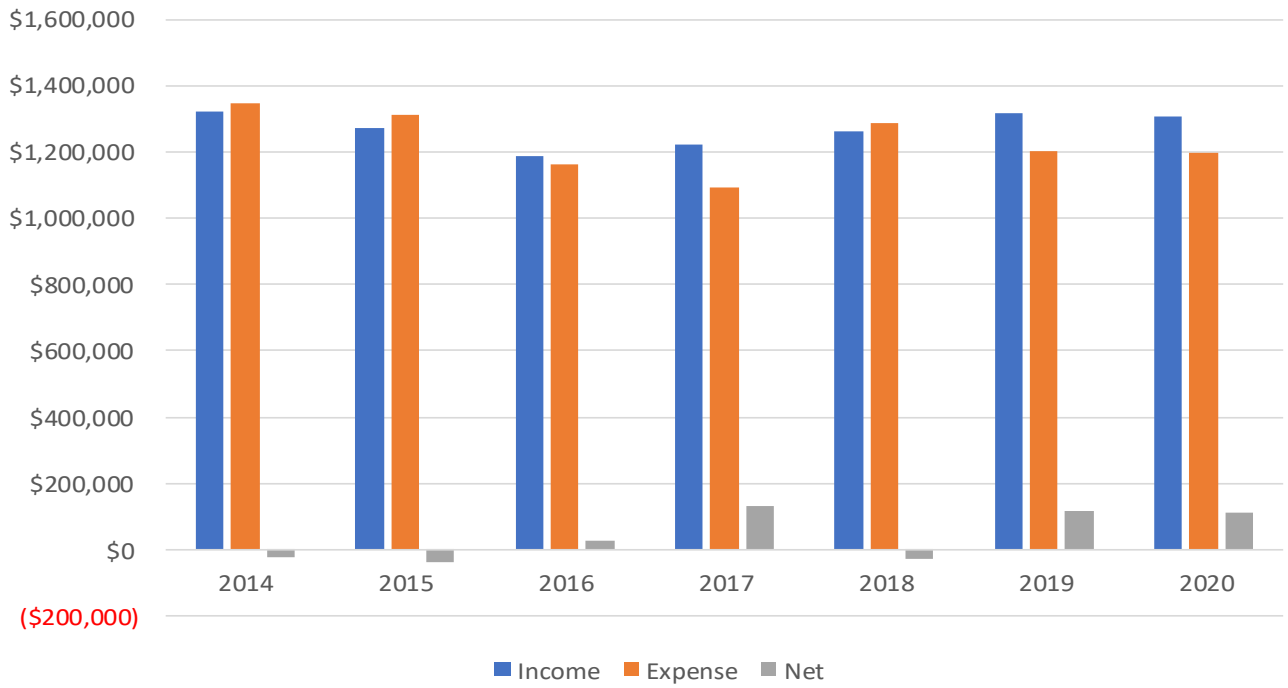


VPC 2020 Full Year Expense

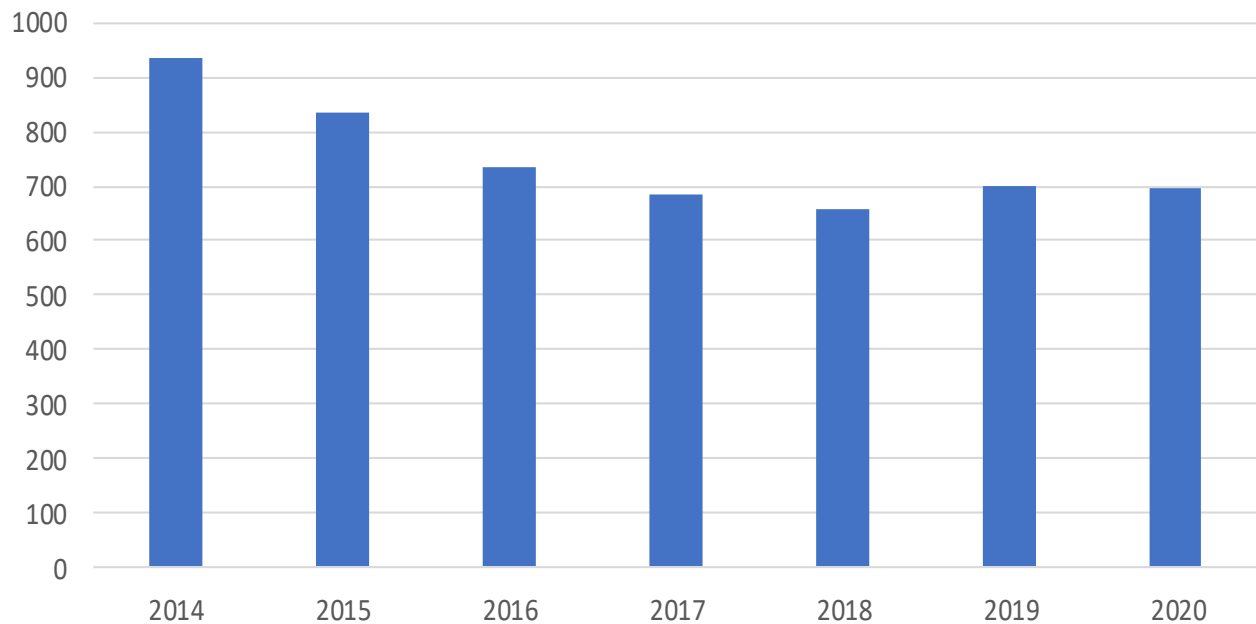
Personnel	\$818,320
The Learning Center	\$367,071
Facility Management	\$272,769
Mission	\$137,644
Support Services	\$56,234
Member Services	\$33,811
Presbytery Support	\$16,229
Total	\$1,702,078



VPC Operating Financial Trends



Membership Trends



VANDERBILT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH								
Operating Fund								
Month-to-date, Through December 2020								
Accounts	December	MTD Budget	Variance	YTD 2020	YTD Budget	Variance	YTD 2019	Annual Budget
Revenues								
Pledged Offerings	111,574.34	110,000.00	1,574.34	1,034,157.36	877,000.00	157,157.36	998,687.31	877,000
Non pledged	10,602.05	19,700.00	(9,097.95)	87,350.70	112,000.00	(24,649.30)	162,619.05	112,000
Prior Year Pledge Payment	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,059.00	0.00	1,059.00	785.00	0
Plate Offerings	7,407.00	15,900.00	(8,493.00)	54,125.00	88,000.00	(33,875.00)	99,183.76	88,000
Total Offering	129,583.39	145,600.00	(16,016.61)	1,176,692.06	1,077,000.00	99,692.06	1,261,275.12	1,077,000
Other Income	138.65	2,300.00	(2,161.35)	104,631.68	109,000.00	(4,368.32)	14,235.02	109,000
Program Income	0.00	3,800.00	(3,800.00)	0.00	33,000.00	(33,000.00)	0.00	33,000
Education	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,379.33	0.00	1,379.33	14,837.75	
Music & Worship	8.00	0.00	8.00	1,661.20	0.00	1,661.20	5,015.98	
Parish Life	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Kitchen	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Stephen Ministry	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	35.00	
TLC	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00	24,000.00	0.00	24,000.00	24,000.00	
Total Program Income	2,008.00	3,800.00	(1,792.00)	27,040.53	33,000.00	(5,959.47)	43,888.73	0
Total Revenues	131,730.04	151,700.00	(19,969.96)	1,308,364.27	1,219,000.00	89,364.27	1,319,398.87	1,219,000
Expenses								
Administration	4,752.77	4,200.00	552.77	42,198.97	45,000.00	(2,801.03)	46,612.80	45,000
Building & Grounds	14,911.02	24,700.00	(9,788.98)	170,969.46	200,000.00	(29,030.54)	196,932.26	200,000
Education & Family	976.22	2,775.00	(1,798.78)	5,117.42	19,800.00	(14,682.58)	24,422.35	19,800
Worship, Music & Liturgical Arts	2,656.97	1,100.00	1,556.97	17,290.16	19,000.00	(1,709.84)	19,249.05	19,000
Stephen Ministry	0.00	125.00	(125.00)	56.60	500.00	(443.40)	645.62	500
Membership & Involvement	32.18	700.00	(667.82)	1,688.12	4,000.00	(2,311.88)	2,527.98	4,000
Parish Life	0.00	200.00	(200.00)	173.41	1,000.00	(826.59)	982.04	1,000
Kitchen	17.60	200.00	(182.40)	2,851.71	3,000.00	(148.29)	2,859.90	3,000
Congregational Nominating	0.00	0.00	0.00	11.10	0.00	11.10	982.10	0
Mission Involvement	1,011.97	1,600.00	(588.03)	1,444.82	5,000.00	(3,555.18)	1,913.75	5,000
Stewardship	632.95	1,000.00	(367.05)	4,077.17	5,000.00	(922.83)	4,904.60	5,000
Session Activities	16.80	1,300.00	(1,283.20)	1,968.10	5,000.00	(3,031.90)	5,169.80	5,000
Presbytery Support	10,000.00	0.00	10,000.00	16,229.00	7,000.00	9,229.00	21,215.00	7,000
Vision	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0
Small Group Ministry	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0
Personnel & Payroll	69,352.11	73,500.00	(4,147.89)	818,319.74	870,000.00	(51,680.26)	801,057.43	870,000
Budget, Finance & Invest.	771.97	400.00	371.97	5,138.42	16,700.00	(11,561.58)	7,772.56	16,700
Capital Reserve Fund	86,800.00	0.00	86,800.00	101,800.00	5,000.00	96,800.00	50,000.00	5,000
Communications	668.45	1,200.00	(531.55)	9,374.40	12,000.00	(2,625.60)	13,331.19	12,000
Wholistic Health Ministry	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	1,000.00	(900.00)	553.11	1,000
Total Expenses	192,601.01	113,000.00	79,601.01	1,198,808.60	1,219,000.00	(20,191.40)	1,201,131.54	1,219,000
Net Total	(60,870.97)	38,700.00	(99,570.97)	109,555.67	0.00	109,555.67	118,267.33	0

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VANDERBILT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Page : 1

Balance Sheet
December 2020

Note: The Report Option to include Open Transactions is selected.

Accounts

Assets		
Checking		
Operating Checking		
10000-1 - Operating CK - Operating	\$49,468.74	
10001-1 - Iberia Sweep - Operating	\$530,373.70	
Total Operating Checking	\$579,842.44	
Restricted Other		
10000-2 - Operating CK - Restricted	\$71,026.61	
10001-2 - Iberia Restricted Checking	\$6,980.70	
10010-2 - Women's Assoc. Cash	\$3,301.73	
10024-2 - Iberia Sweep - Restricted	\$20,323.67	
Total Restricted Other	\$101,632.71	
Restricted Deo Gloria		
10000-6 - Operating CK - Deo Gloria	\$80.00	
10018-6 - Iberia - Deo Gloria Checking	\$4,427.46	
10026-6 - Iberia Sweep - Deo Gloria	\$182,757.67	
Total Restricted Deo Gloria	\$187,265.13	
TLC		
10000-3 - Operating CK - TLC	(\$35,725.38)	
10003-3 - Iberia - TLC	\$87,070.43	
10034-3 - Iberia Sweep - TLC	\$67,927.29	
10035-3 - Iberia Parent Team - TLC	\$3,252.32	
Total TLC	\$122,524.66	
Restricted Capital Reserve		
10002-2 - Capital Reserve	\$6,419.03	
10012-2 - Operating CK - Capital Reserv	\$81,741.11	
10025-2 - Iberia Sweep-Cap Repl	\$54,667.17	
Total Restricted Capital Reserve	\$142,827.31	
Endowment		
10014-5 - Operating Ck- Endowment Fund	\$3,691.21	
Total Endowment	\$3,691.21	
Total Checking		\$1,137,783.46
Other Current Assets		
10151-1 - Petty cash	\$300.00	
10151-3 - TLC Petty Cash	\$100.00	
Total Other Current Assets		\$400.00
Current Assets		
Investments		
10007-6 - Presbyterian Investment & Loan	\$206,543.74	
10028-2 - New Covenant - Mem Garden Fund	\$48,259.61	
Total Investments	\$254,803.35	
Endowments		
10040-1 - NCTC James Craig Lecture	\$104,889.50	
10041-1 - NCTC Cindy Craig Theological	\$24,008.56	
10042-1 - NCTC Music & Scholarship Fund	\$16,621.49	
10043-1 - NCTC Birthday Club	\$188,412.65	
10044-1 - NCTC General Fund	\$357,338.03	
10045-1 - Richard & Patrice Fors Habitat Fund	\$46,171.58	
10140-1 - Presbyterian Foundation	\$1,360.15	
10200-5 - Charitable Gift Annuity	\$38,539.05	
Total Endowments	\$775,341.01	
Total Current Assets		\$1,030,144.36
Fixed Assets		
10152-1 - Building & Improvements	\$5,847,602.73	
10153-1 - Parking Lot	\$613,108.36	

Date : 01/15/2021
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VANDERBILT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Balance Sheet
December 2020

Page : 2

Note: The Report Option to include Open Transactions is selected.

Accounts

10154-1 - Land	\$445,000.00	
10155-1 - 1301 Piper House	\$288,930.27	
10158-1 - Furniture & Equipment	\$457,457.01	
10160-1 - Vehicles	\$86,719.50	
10161-1 - Organ	\$1,608,500.00	
Total Fixed Assets		\$9,303,317.87
Total Assets		\$11,471,645.69

Liabilities, Fund Principal (Net Assets), & Restricted Funds

Liabilities

Short Term Liabilities

Payroll Liabilities

Taxes Payable

22301-1 - Federal Withheld	(\$86.82)
22302-1 - Fica Payable	(\$205.78)
22303-1 - Medicare Payable	(\$48.03)
Total Taxes Payable	(\$340.63)

Other Payroll Liabilities

22403-1 - BOP - Optional	(\$0.34)
--------------------------	----------

Total Other Payroll Liabilities

(\$0.34)

Total Payroll Liabilities

(\$340.97)

Other Current Liabilities

22510-6 - PILP Loan	\$1,677,939.95
22511-1 - Cares Act	\$208,500.00

Total Other Current Liabilities

\$1,886,439.95

Total Short Term Liabilities

\$1,886,098.98

Total Liabilities

\$1,886,098.98

Fund Principal (Net Assets)

30000-1 - Fund Principal - Unrestricted	\$7,727,989.38
30000-2 - Fund Principal- Rest	(\$128,146.37)
30000-3 - Fund Principal - TLC	\$152,450.36
30000-5 - Fund Principal - Endowment	\$39,951.05
30000-6 - Fund Principal - Deo Gloria	\$1,886,843.00
Excess Cash Received	\$79,898.97

Total Fund Principal (Net Assets) and Excess Cash Received

\$9,758,986.39

Restricted Funds

Total Temporary Restricted	(\$174,799.83)
Total Permanent Restricted	\$1,360.15

Total Restricted Funds

(\$173,439.68)

Total Liabilities, Fund Principal (Net Assets), & Restricted Funds

\$11,471,645.69





MEMBERSHIP & INVOLVEMENT

MEMBERSHIP:

New Member Class: led by Rob Marrow, M&I Team & Session members was held on February 5.

25 attended. 21 committed to membership:

17 Active and 4 Affiliate with 4 undecided.

2 have since joined as Active members.

This group was introduced to the Congregation on February 23rd.

Total membership as of December 31, 2020: 696.

January Activities:

Vanderbuilders (Small Groups) Kick Off January 31, 2020. 42 attended and enjoyed the comradery.

Some remained in their old groups while 2 new groups were formed.

VPC Polo Shirt & Hat Sale:

90 shirts were ordered which included a gift of shirts for the staff. In VPC blue, with ecru stitched logo, they make a handsome way to advertise our beloved church.

VPC Logo mugs to use as gifts for new members:

We researched and chose these lovely mugs to use as gifts for special times and people.

Mid-March—December—Covid 19 takes over and we learn to adapt, go virtual, make phone calls, send notes and letters and Zoom! During the lock down period, March—July, our Team reached out to our newer members and some of our attenders to inform them of the on-line opportunities to worship.

Post Cards: We continued this project using the photo post card of the church. We send cards to new home owners in the 5 zip codes closest to church. The cards outline our on-line worship opportunities including ideas for parents and children's activities. We have continued to send out the cards changing the message as our times and activities change.

Birthday Cards: When one of our members told how she had received cards on her birthday because her name was listed in the bulletin, we decided to take on the project of sending cards to those listed weekly. We have had positive feedback.

In-Person Worship: Began October 18 at 10am.

Our team agreed to take attendance on Sundays. As a gesture of fellowship, we baked and handed out wrapped goodies after the services before and during Advent Season. We also helped decorate the sanctuary for Christmas.

Replacement for the Annual Ladies Christmas

Luncheon: Our Team organized a Zoom Christmas "Brunch" which included music, VandeReaders presentation and an opportunity to visit and laugh with church friends.

Christmas Caravan Connection: Our Team helped collate goody bags for this event. The VPC Church staff did such a lovely job to celebrate with the drive up Christmas celebration. We were happy to be a part of the special event.

We say a big **Thank You** to Pastor Rob and all the VPC staff who have worked so hard to keep our church together, staying positive and looking ahead during these very trying times.



Membership & Involvement

Team: Ruth Felipe, Jan Fern, Lois Ann Folliard, Pricilla Kutler (*Team Leader*), Beth Lee, *Heather Mikes, Nancy Miller, Geri Payne, Jill Peterson, *June Peterson, Twila Rowe, *Kay Beernink, and Carol & Pete Schwiers.

*not pictured





FRANK T. MOHR, Jr. MEMORIAL GARDEN

The Memorial Garden was created for a place of peace and repose in which to inter the “cremains” of those who have expressed their desire to do so. The Memorial Garden committee’s purpose is to manage the Garden. The Garden dedicated 22 years ago to the glory of God and to honor former Associate Pastor Frank T. Mohr, Jr. is an important ministry of our church. It has provided a final resting place for those who choose to have remains interred either under the pavers or scattered. In 2020 there were 3 interments. The Memorial Garden Committee met on February 28, 2020. Present were Lynn Greenblatt, Ron Sieling, Loren Dawley, Mari-Bea Warnken, Judy Peabody (*Session Liaison*), and David Dehnart. Excused: were Ron Shaffer and Fran Lauriat

Cutting Edge Landscape maintains the Garden. Their service includes keeping the pavers free of weeds, trimming the shrubs and planting the urns with seasonal flowers. Also maintained are the flowers in front of the Memorial Garden, facing Piper Blvd.

The Treasurer's report shows that the Garden began the year with a balance of \$48,646. The Garden received \$9,142 in income and contributions and expenses were \$1,052, which left an ending balance for 2020 of \$56,736 in New Covenant Trust.

Thank you to Barbara Bonavita for her assistance in the Memorial Garden. A big “Thank you,” to Ron Sieling for keeping the Garden records in order, and Lynn Greenblatt for keeping the Book of Remembrance up to date. “Thanks” to Norman and Cesar for their work in the Garden.

If you need information about the Memorial Garden, you may contact the church office. Present Committee members are: Ron Sieling—Chairman Mari-Bea Warnken—Vice Chairman, Lynn Greenblatt—Clerk, Ron Shaffer, Fran Lauriat, Loren Dawley, Judy Peabody—Elder Liaison, Rev Rob Marrow—Ex-Officio, and David Dehnart—Advisor.

*The Memorial Garden,
with its bench, flowers, and trees,
may be used by anyone for
Meditation and Remembrance.*

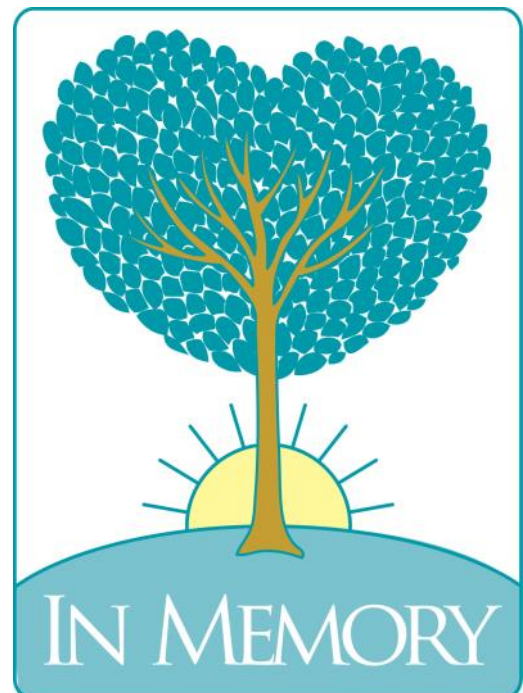
*The Garden is located in front of the
church facing Piper Blvd.*

*Access to the Memorial Garden is through
the library.*

*O Lord, support us all the day long,
until the shadows lengthen, and the
evening comes, and the busy world is
hushed, and the fever of life is over,
and our work is done.*

*Then in thy mercy, grant us a safe
lodging, and a holy rest,
and peace at the last.*

Amen.





MISSION MINISTRY TEAM

The purpose of the Missions Ministry Team is to communicate, educate, and support the congregation in serving community needs and the world, all in Christ's name. We are directed in 1 Peter 4:10 to serve our fellow man.

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."

Even as COVID struck our nation, threatened our community, and we were prohibited from gathering, VPC was strong! Our church raised over \$54,840 for the COVID Relief Fund. Due to this, significant donations were made to partner missions, which continued to feed, clothe, and provide shelter for the homeless and those living in poverty during the pandemic. Supported by this fund were Misión Peniel \$20,830, Café of Life \$11,800, Collier Harvest/Feed 5000 \$11,850, HELPS Outreach \$13,140, Harry Chapin \$5,100, and Salvation Army \$14,105. Through these donations, many people's lives were positively impacted. VPC donated \$35,293 to Habitat for Humanity. Also Vanderbilt members contributed directly to Habitat, bringing our grand total to \$208,104 to build homes for families.

Also, \$11,550 was donated to the Immokalee Fair Housing Alliance. Our congregation raised \$10,000, providing 200 children in the Salvation Army Angel Tree Project with \$50 in gift cards for food and their choice of a small present. Over \$4,000 in cash and an abundance of toys went to the children of Misión Peniel to brighten their Christmas! VPC volunteers prepared and served food at Café of Life to feed hundreds who are homeless or living in poverty and helped to pack hundreds of bags of groceries at the Collier Harvest warehouse for families of low income in the Feed 5000 Program. Nearly 500 Weekend Power Packs containing meals and snacks were distributed to homeless and needy children. During 2020, through designated giving by our congregation, \$136,199 was

distributed to build homes, provide medical care, food, and clothing to those in need. This amount is over 10% of our operating budget! Well done!

Missions Involvement Team current members:

Cherie Baines (*Moderator*), Ruth Brinster, Karen Chappler, Judy Deitch, Toni Keefer, Eliza Nevin, John Paalman, Pete Rodino, Karen Talford, Becky Wheat, and Molly Godley (*Session Liaison*).



PARISH LIFE MINISTRY TEAM

Mission:

The mission of the Parish Ministry Team is to organize and facilitate events that bring our church together in food, fun and fellowship

Goals:

Assist other ministry teams throughout the calendar year to provide fellowship events that meet the needs of our congregation, provide ongoing coordination of weekly Sunday Fellowship, maintain kitchen organization and par level, maintain table coverings and decorations for Fellowship Hall, plan and organize 2 Parish Life Events each year.

Accomplishments:

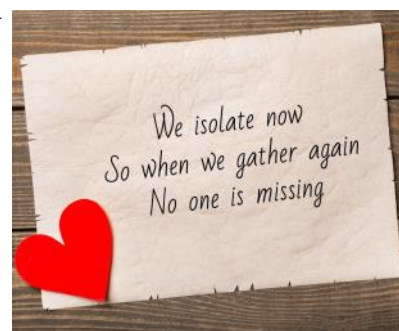
Through mid-March 2020, Parish Life maintained ongoing supply of the following: Paper plates (large and small), napkins (dinner and cocktail), plastic ware, tablecloths (rounds and rectangles), baggies (large and small), plastic wrap, foil wrap, cold beverage cups, kitchen towels, teabags (family decaf and breakfast individual); disinfecting wipes. Check monthly the supply of coffee & creamers, stirrers, sugar & sweetener, 8 oz. hot cups, paper towels and notify custodian to purchase. Maintain table decorations and change seasonally. Publish fellowship schedule for elder liaison, send out schedule quarterly; send weekly reminders to elder liaisons via email.

Challenges:

Since mid-March, the Covid-19 Pandemic has put a stop to fellowship events.

Team Members:

Mary Thompson – Elder liaison, Chris Muddell – chair, Judy Davis, Leslie Loughran, Debbie Hamilton, Barbara Green and Beth Marrow (back-up)





PERSONNEL OVERSIGHT TEAM

The Purpose of the personnel oversight Team is to provide the Pastors and all church staff with the structure and support necessary for them to perform, with excellence, their job duties and responsibilities.

During 2020 the Team:

- Approved the proposed 2020 Personnel Budget.
- Conducted monthly reviews of Personnel finances.
- Raises in line with inflation for the staff approved in 2019 paid in 2020.
- A Covid policy: 14 day paid time off for an employed exposed to the virus who quarantined at home.
- Corrected years of service bonus not paid by paying three employees bonus for prior years.
- Determined that it would be appropriate to institute a church wide safety program.
- Determined that it would be appropriate to become a drug-free workplace.
- The Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) was successfully applied for.
- Five staff members were key to obtaining the PPP funding and they were granted one time bonuses.
- Heather Mikes was named Interim Christian Education Director; after a period of time she was named Director.



Respectfully Submitted, Jim Muir, Chairperson

MEMBERS

Class of 2023: Bob Bush, Toni Keefer

Class of 2022: Jim Muir, Twila Rowe, Jerry Warnken

Class of 2021: Karen Chappler, George Mackie

Ex Officio: Rev. Rob Marrow, David Dehnart, PhD.



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION



The Afternoon Circle met on the third Wednesday afternoon during the first quarter of 2020, but ceased to meet in mid-March due to the pandemic. The Circle was led by Twila Rowe; the study was "Love Carved in Stone" by Eugenia Anne Gamble, a fresh look at the Ten Commandments. The Morning Circle did not meet in 2020.

The women also organize the Greeting Cards and provide a stuffed animal for each of our baptized babies. The Christmas Luncheon was held via Zoom on December 7, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,
Twila Rowe and Kay Beernink





SAFETY TEAM

The safety team has remained steadfast with Covid-19 requirements. The VPC staff have done an exemplary job of establishing protocols, encouraging social distancing, mask wearing and cleaning and disinfecting the entire church building. With the lockdown, a “Ring” doorbell with a camera system was installed at both the East and West entrances of the church. They are monitored inside the building and anyone approaching will be seen for evaluation and appropriate greeting.

The goals of our team are **Safe. Secure. Aware.**

Our motto is Psalm 16:1 “Keep us safe, O God.”

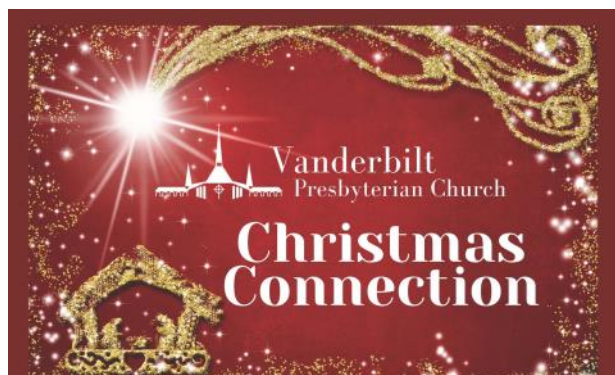
The Safety Team has representatives from the following teams:

- Buildings and Grounds—Tim Mitchell
- Chancel Choir—Laura Marzano
- Usher Teams—Andrea Daggett
- Vanderbilt Learning Center—Jackie Elmer
- Family and Education—Heather Mikes
- Staff Liaisons David Dehnart—Business Administrator
- Rob Marrow—Head of Staff

Respectfully submitted, Andrea Daggett (*Moderator*)



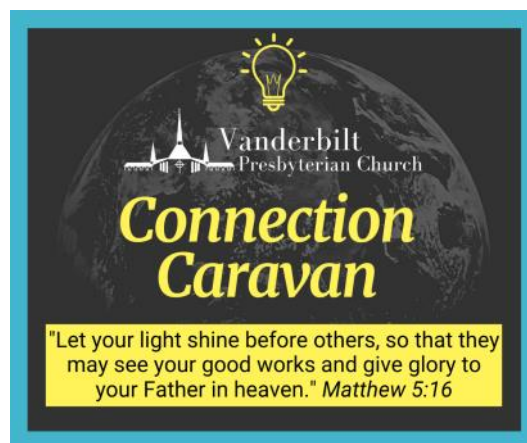
STAYING CONNECTED DURING THE PANDEMIC



—STAYING—
CONNECTED



We found new and innovative ways to remain connected during the uncertainty of the global pandemic...Connection Caravans, online worship, Zoom gatherings....
all new ways to show our love for one another.





STEPHEN MINISTRY

Stephen Ministry has a long and successful history at VPC offering quality Christian care to our congregation. It began here in 1998 under the direction and active participation of *Rev. Dr. Thomas P. Harp* and two members of our congregation. Over the following years, an additional 90 VPC members have been trained and commissioned to serve as Stephen Ministers. Our stated Mission is:

To offer confidential and distinctively Christian care by providing equipped lay ministers to those who are experiencing life changing circumstances.

Changes during 2020:

Stephen Leaders – *Sterling Desorcy* attended Stephen Ministry Leadership Training for one week in Orlando during January and joined our Leadership Team upon his return.

Stephen Ministers – *Judith Brown* retired in January after four years of service. *Dick Clark* retired in September after three years of service. *Mike and Vicky Crosby* retired in September after four years of service. *Judy Dick* died in June. The following Stephen Ministers requested a Leave of Absence during 2020: *Pat Colby* (February), *Caroline Halliwell* (March), and *Finley Lee* (December).

Our Supervision/Continuing Education meetings take place on the first Thursday of each month from October to May. They were conducted virtually due to the Covid-19 pandemic.



Since May of 2014, Stephen Ministry has provided a series of four booklets to those who have lost loved ones. These *Journeying through Grief* booklets are distributed on a timely basis over an eleven-month period and were written by *Kenneth Haugk*, founder of Stephen Ministry. There were fifteen persons who received a total of twenty-eight booklets during 2020 thanks to the efforts of *Bob and Doris Martin*. Additional booklets were distributed by our Stephen Ministers to other grieving family members.

Should you have any interest in serving our congregation through Stephen Ministry, we welcome your participation and invite you to contact any of our Stephen Leaders to find out more about it.

2020 Stephen Leaders:

Kay Beernink, Sterling Desorcy, Cherry Jacobus, Carolyn Magarro, Jill Peterson, Twila Rowe, Rev. Don Sherman, and Jon White.

2020 Stephen Ministers:

Dick Clark (until September), *Pat Colby* (until February), *Mike and Vicky Crosby* (until September), *Sue Davis, Sterling Desorcy, Judy Dick* (until June), *Annette Dietrich, Caroline Halliwell* (until March), *Sandra Johnson, Finley Lee* (until December), *Jean Lee, Roberta McMaster, Karen Negri, Eliza Nevin, Geri Payne, Pat Peters, and Paul Rowley* (Leave of Absence).



STEWARDSHIP TEAM

The Stewardship Ministry Team conducted a Stewardship Campaign during the first three months of 2020. We thank you for helping to make it so successful -- even as VPC moved from in-person to a virtual Worship Service in early March due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Your generous support enables Vanderbilt to continue to provide the exceptional ministry and mission opportunities that our church embodies.

Due to the pandemic, we held our monthly Stewardship meetings via Zoom. In September we began to formulate plans for the 2021 Stewardship Campaign. As you now know, this Campaign will be conducted in conjunction with the debt-elimination Capital Campaign that Session approved in December.

A special thank you goes to the members of the church staff who continue to provide us with excellent and much-needed support, working together with us “hand

in glove”.

We invite you to consider serving on this Ministry Team that is so vital to our congregation. Please contact any of our Members listed below to find out more about the work we do. Stewardship is a ministry that depends on everyone’s *time, talent, and treasure!*

Team Members:

Carol Schwiens (Moderator until May 31 and Member thereafter), *Carolyn Magarro* (Moderator effective June 1 and Elder Liaison for all of 2020), *Tom Hurley* – Elder Liaison (effective June 1), *Gene Blanchard, Sterling Desorcy* (representing the Board of Deacons), *Terry Mountford, Joan Mountford* (effective June 1), *Bill Payne* (until June 1) and *Ruth Wade*.





USHER TEAM

INVITING—WELCOMING—INCLUSIVE



The goal of the ushers at Vanderbilt has always been to be the welcoming face of the congregation, welcoming members and visitors. As the worship experience had to change to accommodate the

Pandemic and all COVID-19 protocols the functions of the ushers had to be modified also. But the goal still remained to be the welcoming “masked” face for all who enter on Sundays for the in-person worship experience. In addition, to gently remind those who attend of the protocols so that we can keep our members and guests as safe as possible in this challenging time.

Many of our ushers volunteered to be the team that continued through these trying times and have continued the tradition of welcoming all to our church. Being a part of the usher team is very rewarding and provides you with the opportunity to stay connected to our members and welcome our guests. We welcome members to be a part of this very wonderful experience.

Claudia Polzin and Carolyn Magarro
Usher Coordinators

Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others too.

- Philippians 2:4



WHOLISTIC HEALTH MINISTRY TEAM

MIND—BODY—SPIRIT

MISSION:

- *Health promotion and disease prevention*
- *Integration of whole person health concepts*
- *Empower people for personal responsibility*
- *Become spiritually vital*
- *Support those who are not well*
- *Promote a stewardship of health*

Faithful Team Members:

Rev. Dr. Lou Thompson, Jill Peterson, Jackson Bell, Karen Chappler, Asia Elsbree, Patty Shields, Jane Little, Jody Nowry, Carolyn Magarro, Jean Rawson—Elder Liaison, Joyce Geary, RN, PN—Moderator.

We welcome interested persons to join this exciting ministry. Our meetings are filled with great fellowship, interesting conversation, plenty of healthy laughter and an amazing expansion of ideas.

The Wholistic Health Ministry Team again hosted some exciting programs:

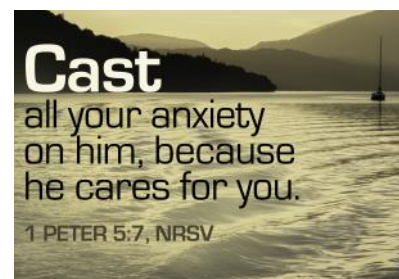
- *Melanoma and UV Rays*
Rachel Marrow, PAS
- *Emotional Challenges for Seniors*
Victoria Elkins, MSW
- *The Mind Game Called Life and How to Play It:*
Stress Management Techniques for Caregivers
Dr. Al Tatarunis

Unfortunately thanks to Covid-19, the balance of our programs were canceled.

We look forward to conditions improving in 2021 and we will reschedule those events that were canceled.

In the meantime—Stay well—Wear masks, wash hands and social distance.

Joyce Geary, Parish Nurse





NEW MEMBERS

We give thanks to God for those members who joined Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church in 2020.

- ◆ Ron & Linda Addaman
 - ◆ Cynthia Arnold
 - ◆ Rick & Ruth Bethem
 - ◆ Debra & Michael Bevilacqua
 - ◆ Lesley Dey
 - ◆ Carolyn Elmore
 - ◆ Melodie Esposito
 - ◆ Chari & Tim Grove
- ◆ Gayle & Rob Kaderly
 - ◆ Phyllis Macbeth
 - ◆ Barbara & Fred Minter
 - ◆ Cynthia Russell
 - ◆ Elle & Gary Shepherd
 - ◆ Michael & Nicole Smith
 - ◆ Jack & Rosemary Ufheil



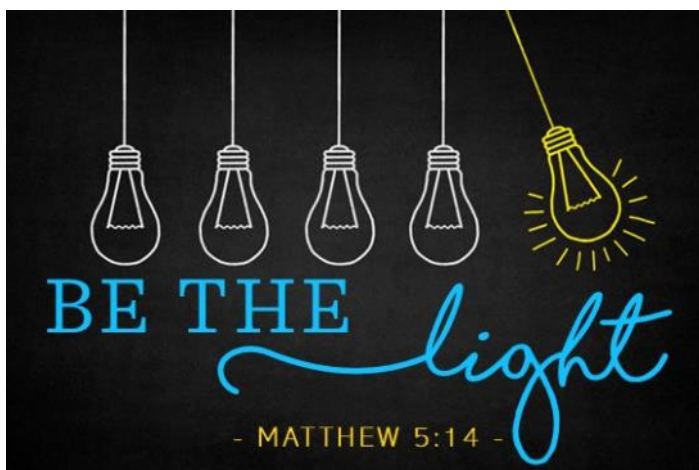
IN MEMORIAM

We grieve the loss of church members who died in 2020:

† Lucian Walker	2/9/2020	† Judith E. Dick	6/24/2020
† Annette Kocal	2/12/2020	† Bill Faude	9/26/2020
† Bill Scouler	2/25/2020	† Linda Fitzhugh	10/5/2020
† Estella Morroni	3/26/2020	† Virginia Chandley	10/6/2020
† Marsha Rust	5/1/2020	† Lou Mantis	10/14/2020
† Jim Davison	6/3/2020	† Charles Henningsen	11/22/2020



“The only way to make sense out of change is to plunge into it, move with it, and join the dance” ~ Alan Watts



Psalm 121

*I lift up my eyes to the hills—from where will my help come?
My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.
He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber.
He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.
The LORD is your keeper; the LORD is your shade at your right hand.
The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.
The LORD will keep you from all evil he will keep your life.
The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in
from this time on and forevermore.*



Vanderbilt
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1225 Piper Blvd., Naples, FL 34110-1252 Office: 239-597-5410
Learning Center: 239-594-9557 www.vpcnaples.org
The church is a member of the Peace River Presbytery,
the Synod of South Atlantic, and the Presbyterian Church (USA).

