

Summer 2023



1225 Piper Blvd., Naples, FL 34110

(239) 597-5410

www.vpcnaples.org

Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church is a mission-minded congregation with opportunities for everyone to participate. For many Presbyterians today, living out their call to mission means a firsthand experience on an event, expecting to produce a profound change in the lives of those they go to serve. Instead, they find Christ, and are ministered to by those they thought they were serving. Many people feel transformed as they experience God's grace in cultural diversity and the unity that comes through shared faith in Jesus Christ. Presbyterians believe mission is not so much an obligation, but an opportunity — to see how God can work in marvelous new ways, helping us grow in our own faith and commitment to Christ's mission. It will mean continuing to risk, question, grow and seek, through prayer and interactions with others, what it is that we are called by the Holy Spirit to do as faithful servants of Christ. The following is a list of agencies that we actively support along with chances for you to help with your time, talent or treasure.

Collier Harvest Foundation is dedicated to providing healthy and nutritious food to our hungry neighbors across Collier County. www.collierharvest.org. Volunteers help monthly at packing events: **Monday, May 22 at 5pm**. 4451 Mercantile Ave. Volunteers help pack bags of groceries for students in need. Email Pete Rodino at pvrodino@aol.com.



Collier Harvest is in need of volunteers who can pick up surplus food from designated retail outlets (EX: Publix, Sams, etc.) and deliver the food to our local agencies.

Volunteers must have a current driver's license & their own vehicle. Morning hours. Permanent & fill in routes available.

If interested, please email info@collierharvest.org. Thank you!



Surplus Food Pick Up & Delivery

Are you looking for ways to make a difference in our community? **THEN WE NEED YOU!**

The **Café of Life** is an organization believing in the teaching of all great religions that one must love and assist one's neighbor in time of need. Our mission is to provide basic human needs to the very poor people of the Bonita Springs area in a manner that preserves the dignity of the client in a respectful environment and to enrich and empower people to be all that they can be. www.cafeoflife.org. The VPC Mission Team is hosting a meal: **Friday at 9am — May 26**. Leitner Park, 26724 Nomad Dr., Bonita Springs 34135. Donations of food and volunteers to serve are needed. Email Eliza Nevin at elizanevin@comcast.net.



Beginning in 2013 **Misión Peniel** became a covenant ministry of Peace River Presbytery while continuing to be a vehicle for people of faith to respond to a call for compassionate service to complement the focus on social justice provided so aptly through the Coalition of Immokalee Workers. As spiritual and social advocates

Misión Peniel brings together people of faith and compassion to act with farmworkers to achieve fundamental change in their living and working conditions while increasing public awareness of the need for reconciliation and bridge building between sectors. www.misionpeniel.com. Misión Peniel workday: **June 9 & September 15 at 1pm**. Email Karen Chappler at kchappler@aol.com.

Weekend Power Pack relies on volunteers to pack about 300 bags of food for children living at or below the poverty level that attend Sabal Palm Elementary School in Collier County. **Thursdays at 10:30am — August 3** in Fellowship Hall. The packing should take about an hour. The children have told their guidance counselor that they are so excited to take their backpacks home for the weekend, since they contain their "power pack" bags. If you can volunteer at this worthwhile event, please contact Becky Wheat at sportbroad@comcast.net. Financial donations are needed! **Weekend Power Pack** in memo www.vpcnaples.org.



The mission of the **Immokalee Fair Housing Alliance** is to eliminate substandard and overcrowded rental housing for farmworker families and other low-income residents of Immokalee. All residents of Immokalee should have access to secure, affordable, hurricane-resistant rental housing that strengthens the community by fostering health, education, dignity and financial stability. www.immokaleefairhousing.org. Pastor Robert J. Marrow and church member, Richard Grunert, serve on the board of this organization. For information, email Pastor Rob at rmarrow@vpcnaples.org.

Habitat for Humanity works in more than 70 countries and has helped more than 39 million people improve their living conditions since 1976. Habitat works together with families, local communities, volunteers and partners from around the world so that more people are able to live in affordable and safe homes. Our advocacy efforts focus on policy reform to remove systemic barriers preventing low-income and historically underserved families from accessing adequate, affordable shelter. www.habitat.org. **March** is Habitat month at Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church. Email John Paalman johnpaalman@yahoo.com or Bill Payne paynegnb@comcast.net for more information.



New Horizons of Southwest Florida has a goal to successfully change the lives of under-resourced students by providing tutoring, mentoring and faith-building programs at its trusted neighborhood clubs. In order to do this, all staff must adopt these FATHER principles (Faith — Accountability — Teamwork — Honesty — Education — Respect) to create a respectful, caring and trustworthy environment that empowers students to be successful. newhorizonsofswfl.org. Email Eliza Nevin at elizanevin@comcast.net.

Grace Place for Children and Families is an educational nonprofit organization guided by our faith-based core values. The idea of grace comes from the generosity of God. Grace Place expresses this generosity as an educational center that provides pathways out of poverty through educating children and families. The mission of Grace Place is to put our faith into action — providing pathways out of poverty by educating children and families. Our vision is that all families have access to education to break the cycle of poverty. www.graceplacenaples.org. For more information about what VPC members do at Grace Place, email Molly Godley at godleyym@comcast.net.



Many children from low-income families rarely experience life outside their immediate neighborhood. That's why The Salvation Army's annual summer camp programs are so important. Every year, thousands of kids get a fresh perspective on life as they meet new friends, discover new activities, and get a taste of the great outdoors. As campers learn to swim, play sports, create music, make art, and scout, their trained counselors help them navigate the complicated emotions and struggles often associated with their lives back home. salvationarmyflorida.org/youth/