

2023 Annual Report



Vanderbilt
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



To Proclaim — To Glorify — To Equip — To Serve

Our Vision: 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.

Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church is a safe place for all people to worship regardless of race, creed, age, cultural background or sexual orientation.

Our Mission: 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 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. Robert J. Marrow, Pastor/Head of Staff
 James Cochran, Director of Music
 Michele Byrd-Gerlach, Assistant to Administration & Music
 Heather Mikes, Director of Christian Education
 David R. Dehnart, Business Administrator (*death - 5/29/23*)
 Ruth Wade, Finance Manager (*retired - 7/31/23*)
 John Healy, Finance Manager (*started - 8/14/23*)
 Barbara Bonavita, Office & Facility Coordinator/Membership Secretary
 Lisa Lloyd, Communications/Financial Assistant (*resigned - 1/31/23*)
 Norman Barillas, Custodian
 Cesar Guzman, Custodian
 Pedro Feliciano, Custodian
 Jackie Elmer, Vanderbilt Learning Center, Director (*retired 5/30/23*)
 Jennifer Crossan, Vanderbilt Learning Center, Director (*started 8/1/23*)



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From our Pastor—The Rev. Robert J. Marrow

Dear Friends in Christ,

You most likely remember the old call and response that is often expressed during worship: the leader would say “God is good,” to which the people would respond with “all the time.” There is a second refrain “all the time,” “God is good!” For better or for worse, we, the church, often need to be reminded of these words. This publication is a reminder of that truth.



God has been good to Vanderbilt church family over the past year. I would not be truthful if I didn't say that we also experienced some setbacks. Life is full of ups and downs. That is life. Yet God is blessing our lives in so many wonderful ways! I hope that you will be reminded of those blessings as you read through the pages that follow. Involvement in mission activity is growing, we are adding new members to our Active and Affiliate rolls, Participation rates in worship and other ministries are on the rise, and we transformed what was a planned operating budget deficit, and through hard work and much generosity, experienced a surplus!

There were a few staff transitions during 2023. Lisa Lloyd (Finance Assistant/Communication) left in January, Ruth Wade (Finance Director) and Jackie Elmer (Learning Center Director) retired in July. We also lost David Dehnart (Business Manager) when he unexpectedly died in May. We were blessed by God and are grateful for their wonderful presence in VPC's ministry over the years. However, these changes also meant that we welcomed new faces to the VPC team. In August we welcomed John Healy as our Finance Manager and Jennifer Crossan as the Director of the Vanderbilt Learning Center. We were reminded, once again, that change is in fact the only constant in life. In the face of such change, our task is to ensure that VPC's ministry continues to move forward.

In an effort to build a stronger sense of community and increase involvement in our ministry, we continue to offer “Adventures in Membership” (AIM) “Lunch Bunch” gatherings following worship each month. We continue to offer regularly scheduled facility tours. We also increased the number of “Moments for Mission” during worship in order to highlight opportunities for you to serve our community. We are constantly seeking new and exciting ways to increase our presence in the Naples community and your awareness of these opportunities. Your involvement in the ministry of VPC is vital if we are to succeed!



Serving as your pastor continues to be a delight. TOGETHER, we serve 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 member of the staff gave their best efforts to ensure that the ministry of Vanderbilt was done exceedingly well! So, thank you staff members!

Vanderbilt continues to provide pathways for people of all ages to discover the love of God that can only be found in Jesus Christ.

On that note, I look forward to serving Christ with you in 2024! As you look through the pages of this report, think about ways that you might take your own step forward on loving and serving God. Pray for God's continued blessing on our ministry in the coming year.

In Christ,

Pastor Rob



The goal of the music department at Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church is to glorify God through carefully prepared musical presentations both within the services of worship and in our concert series.



I am eternally grateful to the Chancel Choir for coming back in full force in the Fall, preparing and presenting meaningful weekly anthems for church services, and preparing an amazing and uplifting Christmas season for all of us. A highlight was the Christmas Concert, featuring Vivaldi's Gloria with a full string ensemble, trumpet, oboe, and organ, with soprano and alto soloists. The concert also included sections of the Festival of Christmas by Mary McDonald.

The Learning Center choir again presented the cutest Christmas concert ever, and also a beautiful Spring Concert in May. They rehearse each Monday through Thursday in Cochran Hall, learning songs and playing bells, boom whackers, and drums! Special thanks to all of the Learning Center teachers and Directors for helping with daily rehearsals and concert preparations.

The Alleluia Choir is back, and though it is small, the children really enjoy singing in church services and did an amazing job with the "rehearsed" parts of our annual "Unrehearsed" Christmas Pageant!

Pianist Julie Carver continues to provide professional accompaniment for the Chancel Choir, stunning accompaniments to the congregational hymns, mesmerizing improvisations as part of the weekly

prelude, and super strong support for the Alleluia Choir. I thank God every day that He brought Julie and her family to us!

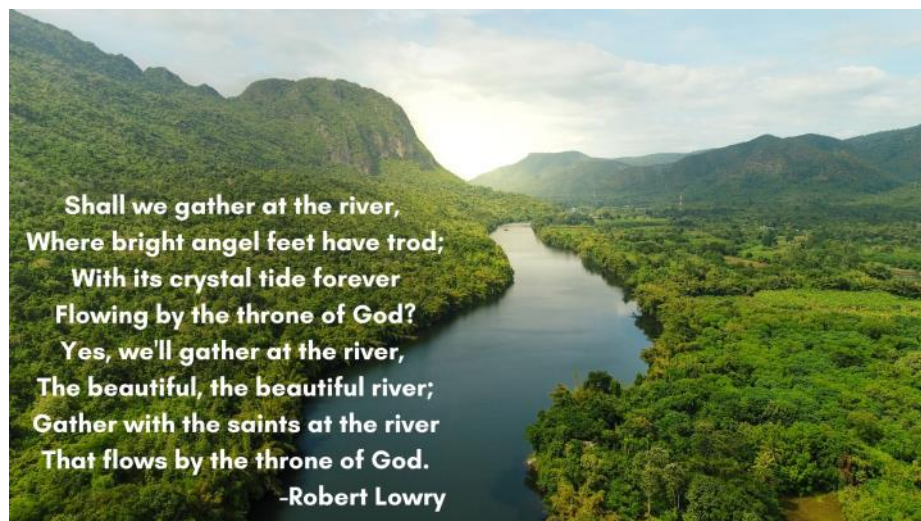
Choir "Angels" handle the administrative details of maintaining the library and robes. Thank-you, Angels! And a special thanks to Andrea Daggett, Archangel, and her helper, Joanne Lepore. Susie Hilton handles all of the electronic communications for the choir, and that is a big job. Thank you, Susie! Under Susie Hilton and Bob Martin's coordination, choir members prepare end of rehearsal prayers and devotions weekly. They are very meaningful, and help us stay connected.

I have always believed that when one door closes, another one opens. Such is the case with the Hand bell program. We sadly accepted Stan Leonard's retirement letter last year, after eighteen years as director of hand bell choirs. Lo and behold! Gordon Black stepped up to the plate and has taken charge of all things hand bell! The Carillon Ringers group is back up to 14 players, and the choir continues to grow. Thank-you, Gordon!

The Concert Series is alive and thriving! We are presenting a more varied schedule of artists this year, but will continue to host the winners of the Cochran Organ Prize and one internationally recognized organ artist. You can look for chamber music, jazz, Broadway, and local, living composers in the coming seasons. Thank you, as always, for your very generous support of this community outreach program.



Sincerely,
James Cochran



Shall we gather at the river,
Where bright angel feet have trod;
With its crystal tide forever
Flowing by the throne of God?
Yes, we'll gather at the river,
The beautiful, the beautiful river;
Gather with the saints at the river
That flows by the throne of God.
—Robert Lowry



From our Director of Christian Education —Heather Mikes

It's always an awesome opportunity to pause for a moment of reflection on the year past and look forward with hope to the year ahead. I encourage everyone to take time to review this annual report - reflecting on what our church family has been working on, how we have been serving, the love that has been poured in, the time, talent and treasure shared and what we aspire to continue working toward. Being the body of Christ in the world is an opportunity for all of us. Many of our efforts in Christian Education are shared in the Education and Family Ministry Team report.



Through these moments of reflection, we learn to live into our calling. We are faithful and grateful for the unending love God has for us and we have a responsibility to share it. We have the great privilege of walking with one another through all of life's ups and downs. It isn't always easy, but with God, all things are possible.



Whether you are two or 12 or 20 or 42 or 92, the world can sometimes feel overwhelming. Sometimes we struggle. We trust God to help us do the next right thing. We pray with childlike faith and we ask God for the strength to live in a broken world, to hope for a brighter tomorrow, to love without bounds expecting nothing in return, to overflow with grace and peace. We adapt. We overcome. We grow and we bloom.

Christian Education comes in many forms with Christ at the center. Our faith journeys are all different. Morning or night, on any day of the week, there are many ways to spend time in the Word that immerse you, inspire you and transform you. We're here to support and encourage you, to provide tools and resources, to teach and equip you to teach others. So, go be great! Keep serving or take on something new, but invest in each other - making time to connect, to love one another and to deepen your relationship with God. "Don't be afraid, only believe."

In Grace and Peace,
Heather Mikes





From the Clerk of Session—Richard A. Hilton

Another successful year has gone by in the history of Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church and into the record books. This was the year we finally were able to put Covid-19 in the rear-view mirror and move ahead with all of our programs and ministries.

Some things have probably changed forever. We remain careful and respectful of each other's personal space, and hybrid Zoom meetings have become a part of our routines. We improved the live streaming of our worship service and have continued to reach many online viewers with our wonderful, meaningful worship services.

In 2023 Pastor Rob Marrow introduced the concept of monthly Adventures in Membership (A.I.M.) classes so that we could talk with prospective new members on a monthly basis instead of waiting until we had a class full of interested people. This concept brought new members into our congregation closer to when they were ready to join and then, once received, we continued to teach them and involve them in what it means to be Presbyterian. This approach resulted in holding eight new members classes and having 32 people join our church.

Our new members not only added to our numbers but to our programs and missions throughout the

year. Indeed, a quick read of Pastor Rob's "Week at a Glance" email that comes out on Monday mornings will show you what a busy, vibrant church we are. Our vibrancy also showed up in our congregational giving as we overcame an early deficit to end the year with both an operating surplus and a successful Stewardship Campaign which will allow us to move ahead, once again, in 2024.

In the process of doing the church's business your Session held 10 Stated Meetings, 2 Called Meetings, and 2 Congregational meetings during 2023.

Your church staff went through some dramatic changes this past year with resignations, retirements, and the death of our Business Administrator, David Dehnart. The staff continues their hard work of supporting the members activities and keeping our facility in great shape. They have always been, and remain, a truly vital part of our ministry.

It continues to be my privilege to serve as your Clerk of Session as we look forward to another year of meaningful growth of our ministry.

Richard A. Hilton, Clerk of Session

CLASS—2023

(term ends 5/31/23)

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

CLASS—2024

Pete DeBaun
Amber Grider
Mary Lynn Myers
Pete Rodino
Pat Rose
Steve Schock

CLASS - 2025

Greg Borden
Joe Doggett
Ann Foote
Ron Shaffer
Sue Van Fossen
Becky Wheat

CLASS - 2026

Arnold Alexander
Nena Beynon
Kit Chamberlain
R. Max Gould
Eliza Nevin
Steve Woodring

I will extol you, my God and King,
and bless your name forever and ever.
Every day I will bless you,
and praise your name forever and ever.
My mouth will speak the praise of the Lord,
and all flesh will bless his holy name
forever and ever.

- Psalm 145



Budget, Finance & Investment Oversight Team

2023 was a difficult year from a personnel perspective. Our Business Administrator of 12 years, David Dehnart, passed away, Ruth Wade, Financial Manager retired and Lisa Lloyd, Financial Assistant took a job with Collier County Education. However, we were fortunate to hire John Healy as our Financial Manager. We also reassigned other duties to the Building and Grounds Oversight Team, Personnel Oversight Team and to the Administrative Staff. At the end of 2023, due to the fact everyone has stepped up, we are back and performing on an outstanding basis.

Team's Purpose:

In 2023 the Budget, Finance and Investment Oversight Team carried out their purpose to ensure the “wise use of God’s gifts.” We were able to guide the Session and Ministry Teams through the 2023 budget process, ensure financial support for the church programs and projects while maintaining the financial integrity of all activities.

Description of Team's Work:

- ♦ Monitor the VPC and VLC financial operating performance vs. budget, reporting to Session monthly.
- ♦ Coordinate the 2023 annual budget process, working closely with the ministry teams and Session.
- ♦ Remain aware of and take advantage of opportunities for additional funding and recommend programs beneficial to VPC.
- ♦ Ensure the safety of the Church's financial assets and adherence to account policies and procedures.
- ♦ Manage the disbursement of Capital Reserve funds, working with the Building and Grounds Team.
- ♦ Stay aware of the long and short range VPC initiatives and goals in order to financially support them.

2023 Accomplishments:

- ♦ Managed the 2023 operating costs and bettered the initial 2023 budget.
- ♦ Completed the 2020 Audit.
- ♦ Completed a 2024 balanced budget to recommend to Session.
- ♦ Worked closely with Personnel to outsource our payroll successfully.
- ♦ Became more involved and worked closer with the VLC, regarding budget, capital issues and operating costs.
- ♦ Transferred the Endowment accounts back to the VPC balance sheet and instituted operational procedures.
- ♦ Significantly reduced expenses by consolidating the financial staff from three positions to one.
- ♦ Learning that Church Mutual Insurance was no longer going to insure the Church, worked closely with Building and Grounds to obtain the required insurance.

Looking Forward:

- ♦ Continue to look for alternatives and options to reduce costs.
- ♦ Respond to the recommendations, and correct the deficiencies reported in the 2020 audit.
- ♦ Reconcile all accounts on a monthly basis.
- ♦ Perform a 2023 Audit.

Team Membership:

Bob Bush—Moderator

Anne Parker Foote & Ron Shaffer —Elder Liaisons

Max Gould—Treasurer

Debbie Dawley, Penny O'Kelley, Terry Mountford,
Staff—John Healy, Financial Manager



WE ARE HIS HOUSE.

HEBREWS 3:6



Treasurer's Report—Max Gould, Treasurer

Summary:

The combined Vanderbilt Church (VPC) and Vanderbilt Learning Center (VLC) financial results for the year were better than expected and budget. The total organization had a surplus of \$30K, better than plan by \$177K and 2022 by \$37K. The Church had a surplus of \$63K, while the Learning Center had deficit of \$33K. Total income was \$1,798K, better than budget by \$140K. Total expenses were \$1,768K, less than plan by \$37K.

Church (VPC):

VPC income for the year was \$1,319K, better than budget by \$153K and better than last year by \$112K. This was comprised of Congregational Gifts of \$1,210K exceeding budget by \$124K, Program Income of \$59K being over budget by \$4K and Other Income of \$50K being better than budget by \$24K. It should be noted that other income includes \$48K from the Learning Center to compensate for building operating costs.

VPC full year expenses were \$1,257K, less than plan by \$73K and last year by \$32K. The major variances were Personnel being less than budget by \$110K offset by Building and Grounds and Support Services each being over by budget by \$15K. The major variances from 2022 were Personnel lower than plan by \$64K while Building and Grounds were higher by \$33K.

As noted above, VPC net for the year was \$63K, better than budgeted deficit of \$164K by \$226K and last year's deficit of \$81K by \$143K.

Learning Center (VLC):

VLC full year income was \$478K, less than plan by \$13K and less than 2022 by \$51K. The shortfall from budget was caused by tuition being under budget by \$24K, offset by registration fees and Parent Team donations being higher than plan by \$6K and \$5K.

VLC full year expenses were \$511K, higher than plan by \$36K and last year by \$55K. Personnel was under budget by \$4K. Classroom expenses was \$12K over budget. Administration expenses were over plan by \$55K of which \$24K was caused by increases in transfers to the Church.

Net was a \$33K deficit, verses a budgeted \$16K surplus and 2022 surplus of \$74K.

Directed Gifts:

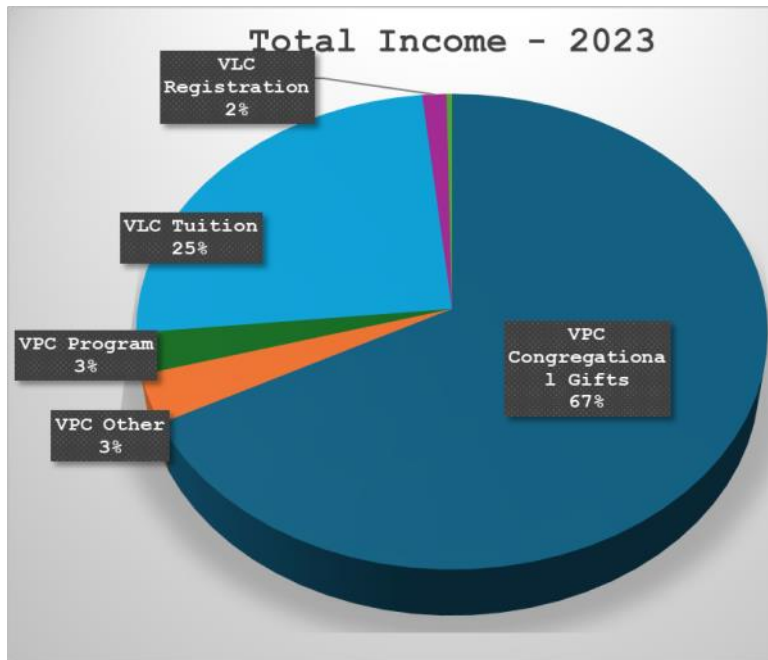
VPC received \$73,160 in gifts directed to other charities. These funds were distributed to the designated charity or mission during the year.

Note:

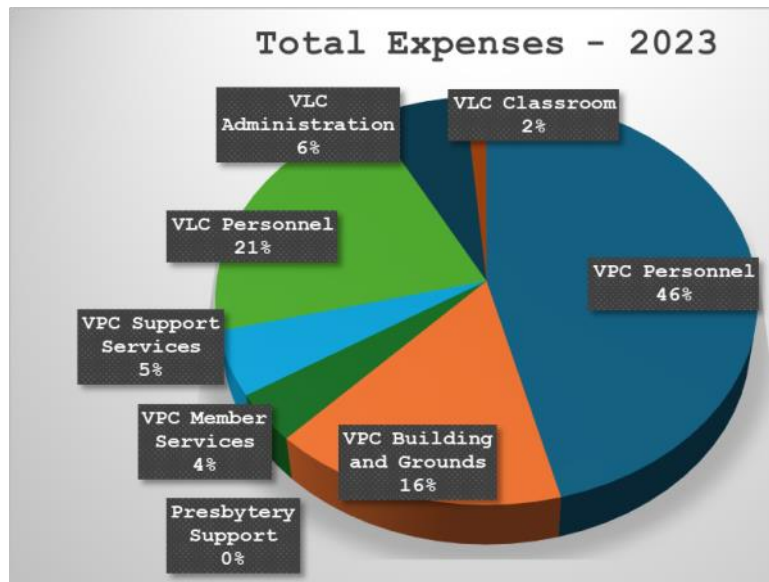
If the \$48K transfer payment to VPC from VLC were eliminated, VPC's and VLC's net would be \$15K each.

Respectfully, **R. Max Gould**, Treasurer

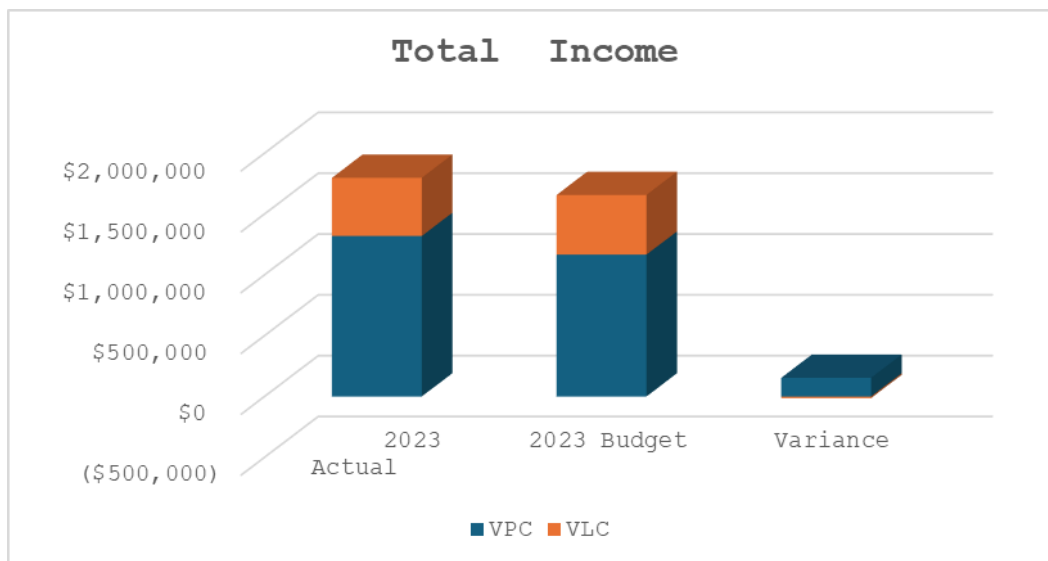




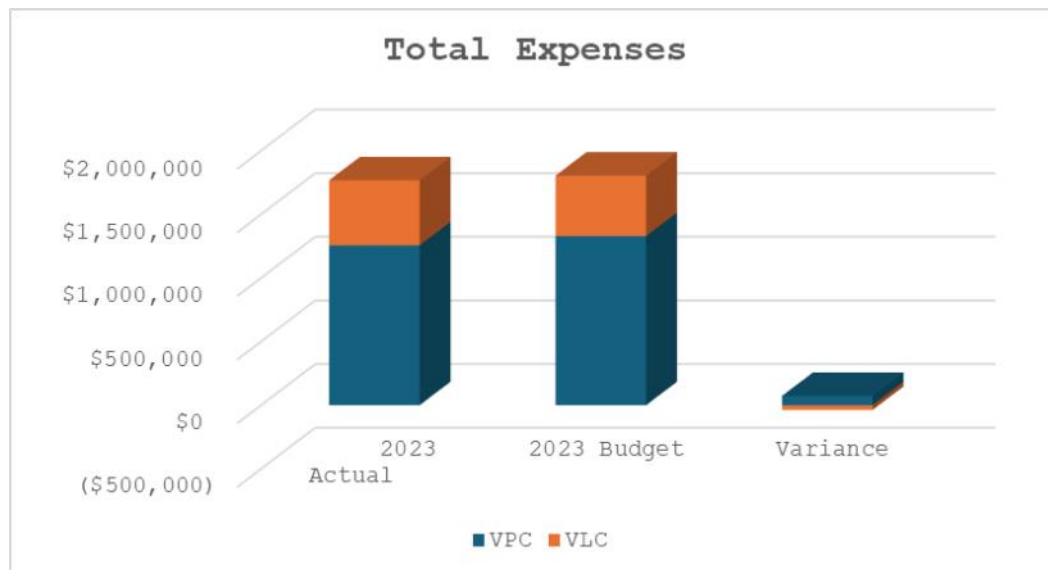
Income	2023 Actual	2023 Budget	2023 Net
VPC Income			
Congregational Gifts	\$1,209,895	\$1,085,000	\$124,895
Program	\$59,249	\$55,000	\$4,249
Other	\$50,205	\$26,100	\$24,105
VPC Total	\$1,319,349	\$1,166,100	\$153,249
VLC Income	2023 Actual	2023 Budget	2023 Net
Tuition	\$448,218	\$472,600	(\$24,382)
Registration Fees	\$24,400	\$18,000	\$6,400
Parent Team & Other	\$5,480	\$84	\$5,396
VLC Total	\$478,098	\$490,684	(\$12,586)
Total Income	\$1,797,447	\$1,656,784	\$140,663



Expenses	2023 Actual	2023 Budget	2023 Net
VPC Expenses			
Personnel	\$812,693	\$922,700	\$110,007
Building & Grounds	\$285,233	\$270,000	(\$15,233)
Member Services	\$68,705	\$62,500	(\$6,205)
Support Services	\$90,248	\$74,800	(\$15,448)
Presbytery Support	\$0	\$0	\$0
VPC Total	\$1,256,879	\$1,330,000	\$73,121
VLC Expenses	2023 Actual	2023 Budget	2023 Net
Personnel	\$373,489	\$394,480	\$20,991
Administration	\$112,541	\$66,560	(\$45,981)
Classroom	\$24,782	\$13,274	(\$11,508)
VLC Total	\$510,812	\$474,314	(\$36,498)
Total Expenses	\$1,767,691	\$1,804,314	\$36,623



	2023 Actual	2023 Budget	Variance
VPC	\$1,319,349	\$1,166,100	\$153,249
VLC	\$478,098	\$490,684	(\$12,586)
Total	\$1,797,447	\$1,656,784	\$140,663



	2023 Actual	2023 Budget	Variance
VPC	\$1,256,879	\$1,330,000	\$73,121
VLC	\$510,812	\$474,314	(\$36,498)
Total	\$1,767,691	\$1,804,314	\$36,623

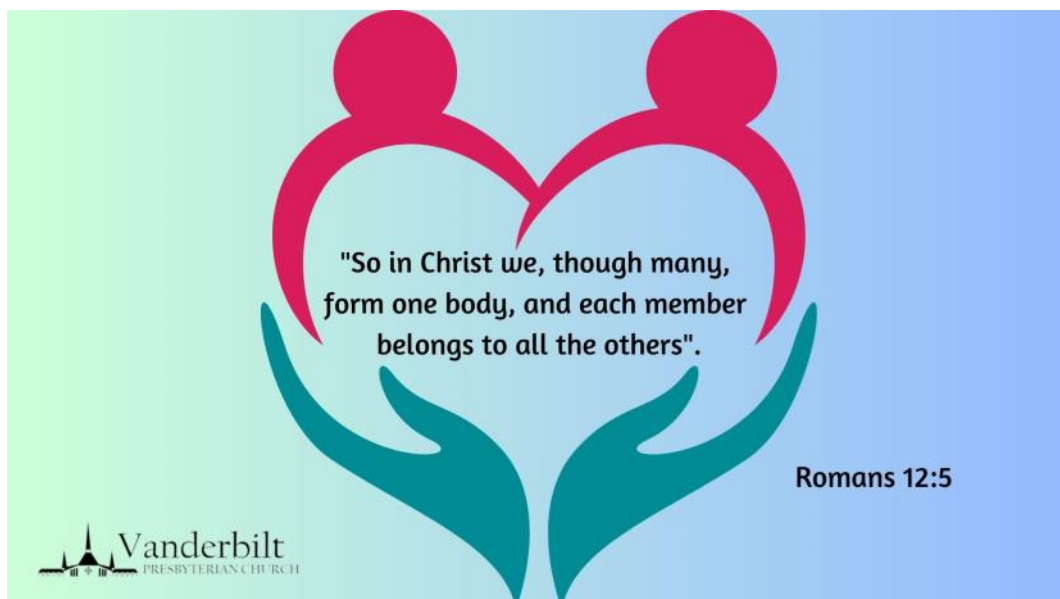
**Vanderbilt Church and Learning Center
2023 Financial Results**

	2023	2023	Actual B/(W)	2022	2023 B/(W)
	Actual	Budget		Actual	2022
Income					
VPC Income					
Congregational Gifts	\$1,209,895	\$1,085,000	\$124,895	\$1,138,181	\$71,714
Program	\$59,249	\$55,000	\$4,249	\$32,523	\$26,726
Other	\$50,205	\$26,100	\$24,105	\$36,619	\$13,586
VPC Total	\$1,319,349	\$1,166,100	\$153,249	\$1,207,323	\$112,026
VLC Income					
Tuition	\$448,218	\$472,600	(\$24,382)	\$495,563	(\$47,345)
Registraton Fees	\$24,400	\$18,000	\$6,400	\$34,520	(\$10,120)
Parent Team & Other	\$5,480	\$84	\$5,396	\$0	\$5,480
VLC Total	\$478,098	\$490,684	(\$12,586)	\$530,083	(\$51,985)
Total Income	\$1,797,447	\$1,656,784	\$140,663	\$1,737,406	\$60,041
Expenses					
VPC Expenses					
Personnel	\$812,693	\$922,700	\$110,007	\$877,037	\$64,344
Building & Grounds	\$285,233	\$270,000	(\$15,233)	\$252,105	(\$33,128)
Member Services	\$68,705	\$62,500	(\$6,205)	\$73,688	\$4,983
Support Services	\$90,248	\$74,800	(\$15,448)	\$78,971	(\$11,277)
Presbytery Support	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$6,693	\$6,693
VPC Total	\$1,256,879	\$1,330,000	\$73,121	\$1,288,494	\$31,615
VLC Expenses					
Personnel	\$373,489	\$394,480	\$20,991	\$377,759	\$4,270
Administration	\$112,541	\$66,560	(\$45,981)	\$65,484	(\$47,057)
Classroom	\$24,782	\$13,274	(\$11,508)	\$12,829	(\$11,953)
VLC Total	\$510,812	\$474,314	(\$36,498)	\$456,072	(\$54,740)
Total Expenses	\$1,767,691	\$1,804,314	\$36,623	\$1,744,566	(\$23,125)
VPC Net	\$62,470	(\$163,900)	\$226,370	(\$81,171)	\$143,641
VLC Net	(\$32,714)	\$16,370	(\$49,084)	\$74,011	(\$106,725)
Total Net	\$29,756	(\$147,530)	\$177,286	(\$7,160)	\$36,916



2024 BUDGET WORKSHEET

	2023 Actual	2023 Budget	2024 Budget	2023 Budget/Actual \$ Change	2023/2024 Budget/Budget \$ Change
Revenues					
Member Gifts	1,145.9	1,020.0	1,100.0	(45.9)	80.0
Plate	64.0	65.0	55.0	(9.0)	(10.0)
Other	50.2	26.1	55.0	4.8	28.9
Program/TLC	59.2	55.0	60.0	0.8	5.0
TOTAL	1,319.3	1,166.1	1,270.0	(49.3)	103.9
Expenses					
Admin	57.9	40.0	75.0	17.1	35.0
B&G	285.2	270.0	283.0	(2.2)	13.0
Ed. & Fam	25.5	26.0	33.0	7.5	7.0
Worship	17.8	20.0	19.0	1.2	(1.0)
Stephen Min.	0.0	2.0	3.0	3.0	1.0
Member/Invo	3.0	1.5	4.0	1.0	2.5
Parish Life	3.6	2.0	4.0	0.4	2.0
Kitchen	2.2	2.5	3.0	0.8	0.5
Nominating	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Mission	0.1	3.0	5.0	4.9	2.0
Stewardship	1.6	4.0	4.0	2.4	0.0
Session	0.5	1.0	1.0	0.5	0.0
Presby	0.0	0.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
Endowmwnt	14.4	0.0	0.0	(14.4)	0.0
Personnel	812.7	922.7	800.0	(12.7)	(122.7)
Finance	28.0	24.3	20.0	(8.0)	(4.3)
Cap. Reserve	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Commun.	4.4	11.0	6.0	1.6	(5.0)
Wholistic	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
TOTAL	1256.9	1330.0	1270.0	13.1	-60.0
Net Total	62.4	-163.9	0.0	-62.4	163.9





Buildings & Grounds Team

The Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church Buildings and Grounds Team oversees the maintenance and care of the Church facility, property, and furnishings. This includes the Church campus grounds, parking lots, and the residential house (manse) located next door 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. As of the end of December 2023, Buildings and Grounds was operating over budget by (\$15,177).

Highlights of projects completed in 2023:

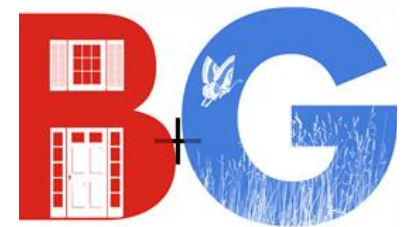
- Replaced the Kitchen Air Handler drain pan and drain line
- Replaced the Learning Center Door locks
- Repaired paver blocks in front of Fellowship Hall
- Replaced/Repaired/Upgraded fire systems (ie, sprinkler heads)
- Chancel step repairs (Some work remains)
- Irrigation System repaired and upgraded
- Installed video security system to exterior of Church
- Repaired gutter and awning over Fellowship Hall entry
- Balanced A/C in VLC
- Passed Fire Inspection
- Replaced North Fence (700 Ft) damaged by Hurricane Ian
- Upgraded phone and cabling for entire Church, Major project, expanded bandwidth, etc., replaced phones. Included contracting with new provider, entrenching cable (after permits), rewiring a portion of building, all new phones. We are four months into a six month project.
- Trimmed trees around campus
- Memorial Gardens maintenance
- Labeled all entry doors pursuant to "Best Practices," copied CCSO and NNFD
- Received report on Steeple structural status following Hurricane Ian
- Obtained all-lines Insurance for VPC
- Maintained A/C system, re-contracted A/C Service
- Maintained Church equipment/tools
- Contracted for repair of lighting system controls/ planned for bulb replacement
- Daily maintenance of Church facilities (Norman Barillas)



Plans and considerations for 2024:

Continue to work on Norman's list

- Complete the lighting system control replacement/Change out expired light bulbs
- Replace concrete walkway leading to Memorial Garden with Pavers
- Replace Ice Maker in Kitchen
- Change vanity sink placements in West Wing
- Paint hallways in VLC
- Add classroom space in VLC
- Repair/Replace parking bumpers, seal, repaint driveway and parking area,
- Prioritize a list of Capital Improvements



Elder Liaisons: Pete DeBaun (Moderator) and Nena Beynon

Team Members: Dave Curtiss, Doug Dunn, Price Lindsay, Pete Rodino, Jerry Warnken, Becky Wheat

Ex-Officio Members: Norman Barillas, John Healy and Rev. Rob Marrow



Congregational Nominating Committee

The Congregational Nominating Committee is charged with choosing members of our congregation to fulfill the responsibilities of the Session, the Board of Deacons 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 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 and the congregational members-at-large of the Nominating Committee at the annual congregation meeting in March.

The members of the committee:

Michael Bevilacqua – Moderator,
Mary Lynn Myers, Pricilla Kutler, Mari-Bea Warnken,
Bill Payne, Sue Van Fossen, Adam Day
Rev. Rob Marrow, Ex-Officio



Education & Family Ministry Team

“Lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love.” -Ephesians 4:1-2

We are all God’s children, growing together in Christ and answering God’s call to love each other and share God’s love with the world. The Education Ministry Team is constantly creating, implementing and evaluating programs based on the needs of our congregation and our community. We are a family — all of us together — young and old, near and far, in-person or live streaming!

Our team includes a number of dedicated volunteers who strive to support, encourage and equip all people to be faith leaders in the mission field where God plants us — church, school, office, neighborhood, car, soccer field, gym, studio...anywhere! While we encourage corporate worship on Sundays, we also recognize that ministry happens 24 hours-a-day and seven days each week. It is a job for ALL and not the few. We are called to love one another, to be the church!

Planting Seeds & Blooming with Grace:

- ♦ Grew our team with new volunteers!
- ♦ Continued Family Led Worship opportunities monthly. Facilitated Acolyte and Usher Training with our youth.





- ◆ VPC Children and Youth rallied for the Annual Souper Bowl of Caring and VPC delivered a check in the amount of \$1,156.00, plus non-perishable food to help tackle hunger and homelessness in our community.
- ◆ Offered Vacation Bible School again to 94 students in PreK-2 through kindergarten at the Vanderbilt Learning Center, with the help of our teaching team and volunteers to facilitate “Treasured.”
- ◆ Joyfully hosted our community Vacation Bible School for children ages three through fifth grade during “Monumental.” One of the most inspiring things about VBS is watching God work among us and through us! With the support of our amazing

staff and more than 45 volunteers, we hosted 113 campers this year. Thank you all for sharing God’s love, for your prayers and donations, for encouraging one another and building each other up!

- ◆ Celebrated ministry, fellowship and community outreach opportunities for God’s glory through Graduation Sunday, Blessing of the School Year and Teacher Commissioning, Fall Education Kick Off, Trunk or Treat, the Ladies Christmas Tea, Chalk the Lot, Flowering of the Cross, Holy Week and Easter activities.
- ◆ Taught Chapel weekly in our Student Center with Mrs. Mikes and our VLC students and staff. Worked closely with our preschool ministry at the Vanderbilt Learning Center.
- ◆ Fostered small group study through Friends In Faith, Wisdom Seekers, Pastor Rob’s Bible Study, Book Clubs, lunch and dinner gatherings.
- ◆ Kicked off another successful year of Sunday school for children, youth and nursery ministry.
- ◆ Created opportunities for intergenerational ministry and fellowship, including the all-church Gratitude Potluck and Thanksgiving Worship Service.
- ◆ Served missions of our church with time, talent and treasure including the LEGO Build Challenge for Habitat for Humanity and the Food Bowl Games for Meals of Hope.
- ◆ Advent activities included distribution of a VPC devotional, family Advent calendars, family Advent readings and the beloved Unrehearsed Christmas Pageant. The Family Gingerbread House building contest is an annual favorite for everyone!
- ◆ Welcomed children, youth and families with children ages two through high school to “Wednesday Night Lights.” Average attendance has grown to about 50 students every other week, with the addition of a lovely group of engaging staff and volunteers.
- ◆ Collaborated with other ministry teams and staff members to accomplish our goals together.

We are blessed by the many hands and hearts that serve — staff, friends, family, volunteers and community. Thank you for all the ways you support and encourage this very special ministry.

Session Liaison:

Amber Grider

Team Members:

Jason Mikes, Brooke Vayda, Caitlin Whittington





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*

The Vanderbilt Learning Center (VLC) is a lively ministry and mission of Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church (VPC). The Learning Center Team works closely with church staff and operates under the watchful eye and loving heart of our Director, Jennifer Crossan, with support from our Director of Christian Education, Heather Mikes, and the VLC Parent Team led by Lauren Freeland. 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.



Vision Statement:

The Vanderbilt Learning Center provides young children ages two through six with meaningful opportunities to grow and develop with their peers in a high-quality, nurturing, faith-based environment. Its small group instruction, artistic enrichments and family-oriented programming ensure every child and family a joyful learning experience.

Mission Statement:

The students, families and staff of the Vanderbilt Learning Center are committed to becoming more thoughtful, caring and intelligent as we delight in our educational journey. We are getting to know God in our lives and working toward creating a more compassionate world. The Learning Center is a program for the whole child — providing a service to the community through the highest early childhood education to meet the physical, emotional, social and intellectual needs of each individual child in a loving, Christian environment.

The 2023 VPC Annual Report encompasses two consecutive school years at VLC: 2022-23 (January to July) and 2023-2024 (August to December).

VLC Team Efforts and Accomplishments:

- ♦ Instructed, loved, supported and encouraged 94 amazing hearts and minds in our student body.
- ♦ Graduated 12 bright, shining kindergarten students and 31 pre-kindergarten students.
- ♦ Celebrated the ministry of Mrs. Jackie Elmer, our dedicated preschool director for 18 years, as she retired in June 2024, alongside Mrs. Jennifer Hewins (kindergarten) & Mrs. Adrienne Tackett (PreK-4).
- ♦ Welcomed Mrs. Jennifer Crossan to the VLC Family as our new preschool director, Mrs. Lindsey Manring (Kindergarten teacher) and Ms. Pamela Heimberger (PreK-4 teacher) beginning August 2024.
- ♦ Commissioned more than 20 staff members during our Back to School Blessing.
- ♦ Successfully launched Brightwheel - an administrative software/app for teacher-parent communication, enrollment and tuition payment.

- ♦ 10 VLC teachers and staff members attended the FLAEYC annual conference in Orlando, Fl.
- ♦ Attended Chapel with Heather Mikes and Music with Dr. James Cochran.
- ♦ Honored our dedicated teachers and staff during Teacher Appreciation Week.
- ♦ Nurtured our relationship with God during VLC VBS - Treasured.
- ♦ Hosted open house opportunities for VPC/VLC leadership and church family.
- ♦ Produced and performed two concerts for students and families — Christmas and Spring/ Graduation.
- ♦ Presented the second annual Spring Fling Family FUNdraiser for school, church and community participation.
- ♦ Learned about the importance of our community connections with visits from CCSO, NNFD and Collier County Waste Management (Recycling) and others throughout the year.
- ♦ Joyfully participated in Wednesday Night Lights, Chalk the Lot, Trunk or Treat, the Ladies Christmas Tea, Unrehearsed Christmas Pageant and so many more exciting events in the life of Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church and Vanderbilt Learning Center!
- ♦ Led by example in charitable giving to missions of VPC including the Souper Bowl of Caring, the Salvation Army and Mision Peniel Christmas Toy Drive, Collier Harvest and the Shelter for Abused Women and Children. VLC families collected supplies for Humane Society Naples following instructional visits to the school in January and “Coins For A Cause” to benefit Habitat for Humanity. We are called to be the hands and feet of Jesus in this world and want our students to understand that they are connected to a much larger community. We see God’s light and love through them and encourage them to share it with others!



Chapel in our pajamas!



Frank T. Mohr, Jr. Memorial Garden

The Memorial Garden was created as a place of peace and repose in which to inter the “cremains” of those who have expressed their desire to do so, either under the pavers or scattered. The Garden was dedicated 25 years ago to the glory of God and in honor of former Associate Pastor Frank T. Mohr, Jr.

The Memorial Garden committee’s purpose is to manage the Garden, the interments, ordering and installing name plates for the Garden wall, maintaining the Book of Remembrance in the Library, landscaping and maintenance. In 2023 there were 6 internments of “cremains” — 3 were scattered and 3 were interred.



We also received 2 reservations of space.

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 Church Library.

Thank you to Barbara Bonavita for office assistance and to Norman and Cesar for their assistance in the Garden. If you need information or a brochure about the Memorial Garden, contact the church office. Memorial Garden brochures are also available in the Narthex.



Membership & Involvement Team

Greeting and Attendance: We continue to take this part of our Team effort very seriously. At least two of us are at the Narthex front door with a cheerful “Welcome!” as people enter church. Our Greeters also return at the end of the service to wish everyone a pleasant week as they leave. Greeters help the Ushers pass the offering plates and give out flowers at the end of the service. Greeters collect the attendance sheets from the green folders. During the week, first time visitors are contacted. Their names are recorded so that they will receive church information via Constant Contact. We also keep track of attenders who come regularly and we think would like to join. Letters are sent to these folks with information about upcoming AIM (Adventures in Membership) sessions. We continue to have these classes the first Sunday of every month. The following Sunday, new members are introduced to the congregation during the worship service. Following, an opportunity to meet and greet in Fellowship Hall, new members are encouraged to attend the Lunch Bunch with Pastor Rob and Beth. Other church members enjoy lunch at local restaurants while getting to know one another better. We encourage more groups and members to participate.

Birthday Cards: Our team continues to send birthday cards to church members on their special day. Recipients have reported that these remembrances are most appreciated.

All Church Pot Luck: Our January event was a big hit! We were seated according to the part of the USA where we originated. A large map of the country was on a bulletin board so people could put a pin in the appropriate spot. We kept the map up for quite a while, as folks enjoyed adding to the map during Fellowship Hour.

Goodie Bags for New Members: These include coffee mugs with VPC monogram, literature about concerts, church history, missions, annual reports and stewardship.

Blue Shirts and Baseball Hats: We continue to offer and sell our blue golf shirts and hats. Our Team wears them whenever we are hosting or helping out at Church or community events. In February, we served as hosts for the Craig Education Lecture Series.

Church Tours: These are offered on either the third or fourth Sunday of the month. Heather Mikes, along with Team members show off our Education wing and other hidden corners of the church.

Trunk or Treat and Chili Cook Off: Our Team manned the welcome table. What a joyous, wonderful event enjoyed by the whole community!

All-Church, All-Age Christmas Tea: Our Team, with the help of many others, young and old alike, worked very hard on this most rewarding event. We had 128 in attendance. A grand time was had by all! Through the generous donations of those attending, we raised \$1085 for Misión Peniel so they could provide a happy Christmas for the migrant farm workers’ children.

New Members: During 2023, we welcomed 24 active and 6 affiliate for a total of 30 new members. Many of these new people are already actively involved in the life of our church.

Respectfully submitted, Priscilla Kutler

Membership & Involvement Team:

Joan Butler, Ruth Felipe, Jan Fern, Nadine Gaylord, Ann Grundstrom, Barbara Hebert, Priscilla Kutler, (Leader), Beth Lee, Geri Payne, CC Waskey & Becky Wheat.





Mission Involvement Team

The goal of the Mission Team is to lead and support the congregation in serving the needs of our community. Each group we serve has a “point person” to guide us in fulfilling our duties with our missions.



Co-Chairs:

Toni Keefer and Becky Wheat
Team Members: Heather Mikes, Amber Grider, Arnie Alexander (Elder Liaison), Eliza Nevin, John Paalman, Karen Chappler, Molly Godley, Pete Rodino, Sarah Smith, Jack Tanner.

Café of Life is a Mission located in Bonita Springs. We provide a hot meal, which we cook and serve, to between 100-120 people on the last Friday of the month.

Habitat for Humanity of Collier County is part of a worldwide non-profit organization. We send workers to help build homes in Collier County each Wednesday morning from October-April.

Helps Outreach has a collection box in the church office area and the food is delivered periodically to them. Our VLC youth and school have collections also along with the **Souper Bowl** they sponsor.

New Horizons is a faith based mission to help children and first generation Americans by providing tutoring and helping mentor them. Through **Misión Peniel**, VPC participants help migrant workers in Immokalee by supporting them spiritually and with material care. We have congregants volunteer there at least 5 times a year. We work with the **Salvation Army's** summer camp by sponsoring children who can't afford to attend and also the Toys for Tots program.

Weekend Power Pack has volunteers who pack approximately 1600 bags of meals for 40 children who are at or below the poverty level at Sabal Palm Elementary in Collier County.

We keep up with **Grace Place** through our members who are on the board and support their many projects.

It was great to welcome back the **Heifer International** this year. It was very successful and well supported by our congregation.

Cuban Mission Partnership-We have reconnected with our fellow church in Cuba. Pastor Rob was there this past spring.

The Immokalee Fair Housing Alliance is an alliance that works to eliminate overcrowded substandard and rental housing for farm workers and other resident families with low income.

Collier Harvest is dedicated to providing healthy food to our hungry neighbors. Collier Harvest has a monthly packing event.

2023 Mission Giving

Avow Hospice	\$75.00
Café of Life	\$2,275.00
Christmas Joy	\$1,335.00
Coalition of Immokalee Workers	\$1,000.00
Collier Harvest	\$4,917.00
Feed 5000 Donations	\$100.00
Grace Place	\$812.21
Guadalupe Center	\$6,800.00
Habitat for Humanity of Collier County	\$29,207.61
Harry Chapin Food Bank	\$800.00
Heifer Fund	\$10,086.00
Immokalee Fair Housing Alliance, Inc.	\$3,175.00
Misión Peniel	\$3,907.50
New Horizons of SW FL	\$2,050.00
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$1,500.00
Peace River Presbytery	\$6,784.00
Peacemaking Offering	\$90.00
Pinecrest Elementary School	\$600.00
Presbyterian Disaster Assistance	\$3,404.00
Relay for Life	\$20.00
Salvation Army	\$4,585.00
Souper Bowl of Caring	\$1,537.00
St. Matthews House	\$325.00
Weekend Power Pack Program	\$9,600.44
TOTAL	\$97,008.76





Parish Life Ministry Team

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

Goals:

- Provide ongoing coordination of our weekly Sunday fellowship
- Maintain kitchen organization, making sure the kitchen is adequately supplied with needed items
- Maintain table coverings and decorations for Fellowship Hall
- Assist other ministry teams throughout the calendar year to provide fellowship events that meet the needs of our congregation



Back to School Sunday

Challenges:

- Getting new members for the team
- Getting church members and/or teams to sponsor Sunday Fellowship

Members:

Chair - Leslie Loughran

Team Members - Carol Jorgensen, Jill Peterson, Karen Rodino, Pat Rose, Bill VanFossen, Sue VanFossen

Respectfully Submitted, **Pat Rose**, Elder Liaison



Thanksgiving Gratitude Potluck

Accomplishments:

- Provided Sunday fellowship for the congregation
- Planned and executed the Stewardship Brunch with the Stewardship Team
- Executed the Maundy Thursday Dinner with catering from Boston Beer Garden
- Catered the Christmas Concert (Leslie Loughran)
- Planned Monthly table/room decor, maintained for the different holiday/seasons
- Facilitated Christmas and New Years fellowship with the congregation providing the treats
- Ordered and maintained kitchen supplies



Trunk or Treat Chili Cookoff



Personnel Oversight Team

The purpose of the Personnel Oversight Team is to provide the Pastor and all church staff with the structure and support necessary for them to perform, with excellence, their job duties and responsibilities.

During 2023 the Personnel Oversight Team:

- Conducted monthly reviews of Personnel finances and the work of the church staff, making relevant decisions as necessary.
- Helped to organize Open House events at the Vanderbilt Learning Center (VLC) for church leaders and the congregation.
- Initiated VPC and VLC Staff Spotlight emails to the congregation.
- Participated in decisions with Pastor Rob and other VPC Ministry Team Leaders regarding a new VPC staff structure. This was necessitated by budget constraints and the resignations of two VPC staff members and the sad passing of our Business Manager.
- Interviewed candidates and hired a new Finance Manager and a new VLC Director.
- Implemented Paylocity - a new web-based timekeeping & payroll system that replaced our outdated manual timecard process and saves dozens of hours of labor each month.
- Is working on revisions and updates to the VPC Personnel Policies and Staff Handbook.
- Began discussions regarding an updated Staff Performance Review process.
- Coordinated the Annual Performance Review for Pastor Rob.

Respectfully submitted, **Pete Rodino**, Moderator

Team Members:

Class of 2024: Karen Chappler, Greg Borden, Janet Minch, Pete Rodino (Elder Liaison and Moderator), Steve Schock (Elder Liaison)

Class of 2025: Steve Blad, Debbie Dawley, Price Lindsay (Deacon Rep.)

Class of 2026: Ellen Crown

Ex Officio: Rev. Robert J. Marrow





Stephen Ministry

"Bear one another's burdens and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."
Galatians 6:2.

Stephen Ministry has a long and successful history at VPC offering quality Christian care to our congregation. It began here 25 years ago under the direction and active participation of Rev. Dr. Thomas P. Harp and two members of our congregation. Over the following years, an additional 95 VPC members have been trained and commissioned to serve as Stephen Ministers, as well as 28 Stephen Leaders. Our stated Mission is: *To offer confidential and distinctively Christian care by providing equipped lay ministers to those who are experiencing life changing circumstances.*

There were significant Leadership changes at the end of 2022, which caused 2023 to be a time of leadership learning-curve adjustments during the first half of the year, resulting in a dynamic and enthusiastic approach to growing this important ministry during the balance of 2023 and into 2024.

stephen MINISTRY®

2023 Stephen Leaders

Our Stephen Leaders and their respective responsibilities are as follows: Karen Chappler; Coordinator, Referrals
Carolyn Magarro; Coordinator, Administration and "Journeying through Grief" booklet distribution
Jody Nowry; Coordinator, Awareness Building
Jill Peterson; Coordinator, Continuing Education/ Supervision and Training. (Kay Beernink retired after 18 years of service and Twila Rowe after 15 years of service in February 2023. Both also served as Stephen Ministers.)

2023 Stephen Ministers

Joan Butler, Barbara Green, Judy Jacobs
Sandra Johnson (*Leave of Absence*),
Karen Negri, Eliza Nevin, Geri Payne, Lee Weeks
(Roberta McMaster retired December 2023 after 15 years of service and Pat Peters retired in October 2023 after 7 years of service.)

Our Stephen Minister monthly Supervision/ Continuing Education meetings usually take place on the first Thursday of the month in person at VPC and may also be attended via Zoom.

"Journeying through Grief" booklets:

Thanks to the efforts of Bob and Doris Martin from May of 2014 until their retirement from Stephen Ministry in May of 2023, Stephen Ministry has provided a series of four booklets in this series to those who have recently lost loved ones. These wonderful booklets are mailed on a timely basis over an eleven-month period and were written by Kenneth Haugk, the founder of Stephen Ministry. (Carolyn Magarro has now assumed this mailing responsibility.) In addition, booklets were distributed by our Stephen Ministers to grieving family members under their care.

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.

Respectfully submitted, **Carolyn Magarro**





Stewardship Team

From the Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church's Session Handbook: **The mission of the Stewardship Ministry Team is to equip and motivate the members of our congregation with the desire to be good stewards of the gifts God has provided...Time, Talents, and Financial Resources.**

During 2023, the Stewardship Ministry Team conducted VPC's annual stewardship campaign under the theme: **Giving Back to God – Our Time, Our Talents, Our Treasures.** God blessed VPC with an increase in the number of families making Estimates of Giving who in turn committed a greater portion of God's resources to the work of Christ's church through Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church, as well as a tremendous response to the Time & Talent volunteering opportunities provided to the members. The Holy Spirit has clearly been at work in our lives as we have faithfully, wisely, and responsibly participated in the work of God with the resources God



has entrusted to us. Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

A special *Thank You* goes to the Parish Life ministry and the members of the church staff who continue to provide us with excellent and much-needed support.

We invite you to consider serving on this Ministry Team that is so vital to our congregation. Stewardship is a ministry that depends on everyone's time, talent, and treasure.

Team Members for 2023 included:

Greg Borden – Moderator (until 5/31/2022)
 Steve Woodring – Moderator (6/1/2023 – present)
 Tom Hurley and John Miles –
 Elder Co-liaisons (until 5/31/2023)
 Katherine Chamberlain –
 Elder Liaison (6/1/2023 – present)
 Ellen Tanner – member (9/11/2023 – present)



Worship, Music & Liturgical Arts Team

The Worship, Music and Liturgical Arts Committee supports the Ministerial and Music Departments in their work in making worship experiences at Vanderbilt a welcoming experience for all. We thank God that we are now able to worship in person and that on-line streaming is available to those who cannot be with us in the Sanctuary. We rejoice at the return of the young ones and their families. The Alleluia Choir is again a part of our church music program. The Chancel Choir, providing inspiring vocal music, has been joined by a re-activated Bell Choir which performs on the final Sunday of each month through Season. And we have VandeReaders performing again. The Sunday afternoon Concert Series, bringing many talented musicians to our church, not only serves our church members, but is an outreach to the Naples Community. We now are able to use ushers in their traditional role of serving as the welcoming face of our congregation, and they pass the plate during worship. We are grateful for the young people who assist as acolytes and youth ushers. We praise the Lord for these many positive steps out of the dark days of the pandemic, and we thank God that more worshippers have been able to return to our church.



Respectfully submitted, **Greg Borden** and **Mary Lynn Myers**

The members of the Committee are:

Rev. Rob Marrow, Dr. James Cochran, Michele Byrd, Heather Mikes, Greg Borden, Moderator, Gordon Black, Steve Kutler, Robert Martin, Mary Lynn Myers, Recorder, and Sue Van Fossen



From the Board of Deacons—Janice Fern, Moderator

Deacons serve the church body and support the church staff in whatever ways they are called. Deacons are the “servants” or “caregivers” of the congregation. It is a calling and a privilege for each member of the Board of Deacons to serve others in Christ’s name.

“My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.

Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.” - John 15:12-13

The specific ministries are: Assisted Living Visitations, Bereavement Receptions, Blood Drives, Communion Preparation, Communion Serving, Home Communion Serving, Flower Delivery, Deacon of the Day Hospital Calls and Membership Care, and Sunday Letters of Joys and Concerns.

Deacons resumed their visits to members at assisted living facilities. All deacons signed up to be Deacon of the Day and reached out by visits, telephone calls and card ministries to those who were hospitalized or needed our support. Each Sunday church members signed letters prepared by our team to be sent to those on our prayer list. Monthly Communion resumed with team members preparing the elements and serving in person at church and in homes. Easter Lilies and Christmas Poinsettias were personally delivered to members. Our four Blood Drives were once again successful and helped fill a need. Seven Bereavement Receptions were served following memorial services, and we sponsored two Fellowship Hours. The Deacons sponsored six children to the Salvation Army’s Camp Keystone.

As we look to 2024, we look forward to continuing our work with Pastor Rob and serving others in Christ’s name.

Respectfully submitted, **Jan Fern**, Moderator

BOARD OF DEACONS

Class of 2023

Asia Elsbree
Debbie Hamilton
Geri Payne
Janet Minch
Cynthia Schock
Reggie Smith
Margaret Waters

Class of 2024

Becca Acx
Michael Bevilacqua
Jan Fern
Judith Jacobs
Jill Peterson
Todd Truax
Lee Weeks

Class of 2025

Karen Chappler
Sharon Doggett
Jill Dunn
Jerry Grandey
Carol Lindsay
Price Lindsay
Barbara McElwaine

Class of 2026

Jeff Berger
Joan Butler
Nadine Gaylord
Tom Hauschild
Dave Hinkler
Stacia Hinkler
Jane Repp





From the Endowment Ministry Team

Purpose. In 2015, the Endowment Trust concept was authorized by the Session and the Trust was incorporated in Florida. The Endowment Fund Ministry is designed to provide funds outside of the operating budget to further the ministry of Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church. Ordinarily, to conserve the purchasing power of the trust assets, annual distributions cannot exceed 5% of the average total assets for the last three years (trailing 12 quarters). Five of the six funds have donor guidelines about how the distributions can be utilized. Distribution requests are submitted to the Session and the Endowment Ministry Team for approval.

2023 Changes & Accomplishments. As of March 31, 2023, the Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church Endowment Trust, a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation, was dissolved and oversight was placed with the Endowment Ministry Team of VPC. The Endowment portion of the VPC website was updated and materials for education and distribution were updated or created. The team worked in conjunction with Stewardship to promote and enhance both efforts.

Portfolio Management. All six endowment funds are managed by the New Covenant Trust Company, a subsidiary of the Presbyterian Foundation. The accounts are invested in mutual funds. Financial markets fluctuated in 2023, but ended on a high note. The value of our endowment funds as of 12/31/23 was \$982,377. Our investments increased 14.9% in 2023. Since its inception (12/1/2016), the total fund return has been 6.6% on an annualized basis. The team regularly meets with our fund manager to evaluate the investment strategies.

Distributions. During 2023, the Endowment Ministry Team with Session approval distributed funds from the Craig Lecture Series, the General Fund, and invested in marketing and administration efforts to improve



Endowment Fund Market Values as of 12/31/2023

GENERAL FUND	\$534,525
BIRTHDAY CLUB (Youth and Education ministry)	\$224,192
JAMES CRAIG LECTURE FUND	\$110,150
FORS HABITAT FOR HUMANITY FUND	\$77,425
CINDY CRAIG THEOLOGICAL ED. FUND	\$25,972
SOUND BOARD AND MUSIC FUND	<u>\$10,112</u>
TOTAL	\$982,377
<i>Annual Increase since 12/31/22</i>	<i>\$320,705</i>

2023 Members:

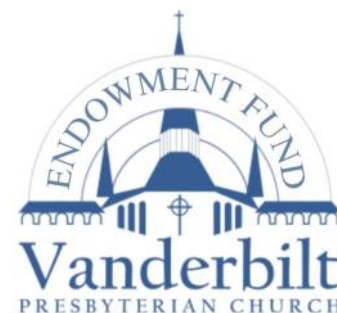
Julie Borden, Chair
Steve Blad
Debbie Dawley, Treasurer
Doug Dunn
Don Fern
Steve Kutler
Jon White, Treasurer
Jackie Woodring, Secretary

Ex-Officio:

John Healy
Pastor Rob Marrow

Session Liaison:

Max Gould
Mary Lynn Myers



our legacy gift outreach. Our goals for 2024 are to distribute up to 4% of the total trailing three years' average to ministry efforts and be more actively involved in educating the congregation about the fund and how to contribute. Gifts to the Endowment Funds. The Endowment received generous legacy gifts from estate settlements in 2023. Legacy gifts minus administrative expenses totaled \$203,596 in net additions for the calendar year.

If any members have an interest in contributing to one of the endowment funds, either now or through their will or other arrangements, please contact the church Business Manager, John Healy, at 239-597-5410, or email him at JHealy@vpcnaples.org.

Respectfully, **Julie Borden**, Chair



Additional Ministry Groups

Book Club



The VPC Monday Afternoon Book Club is a group of women who enjoy reading and discussing together what they have read. We meet at 1:30 pm on the third Monday of the month, October through April. The meetings are usually at the church. However, luncheons are scheduled at a local restaurant in December and April in lieu of the regular meeting. The group decides on the books to read each season. Most choices are recent fiction. Occasionally, we read nonfiction or a classic. The group welcomes all interested readers to join them for discussion and camaraderie.

Respectfully submitted, **Peggy Landon**

Comfort Quilting Sisters

The Quilting Sisters of Vanderbilt Presbyterian continued their good works in 2023, donating many quilts to homes for displaced veterans. These red, white and blue quilts served to personalize the new apartments. Other quilts were distributed to both Habitat for Humanity and Friends of Foster Children. We have everything needed to make a quilt, including working machines. We are welcoming and we teach. All skill levels of sewing are welcome to make a quilt. If you are daunted by the quilting and only want to piece quilt tops, we have willing quilters to complete your projects. Please watch the bulletin for the Quilting Sisters meetings. We welcome new sewers to join our prayer and sewing circle.



Respectfully submitted, **Sharon Messmore**

Mah Jongg Club



We have just finished another fun year playing Mah Jongg! Since we started in August 2022, we now currently have 17 players who have learned the game and “advanced” onto intermediate level of playing! We continue to meet on Thursday afternoons at VPC to improve and play, as well as to enjoy the Christian fellowship that has developed!! I want to thank Susie Hilton for sending out weekly e-mails reminding our members of our Mah Jongg game on Thursdays. Several of our players have also reached out to their Mah Jongg friends and invited them to join us, too!!

We welcome one and all Mah Jongg players!!

Respectfully submitted, **Geri Payne**

Recycled Card Ministry

We have a dedicated group of volunteers, headed by Sonja Cookson, who come to the church every first and third Monday morning to spend time together in fellowship and friendship making all the beautiful recycled cards found in the office. These amazing ladies continue to re-make the cards at home and Sonja comes in regularly to update the display. They are always looking for new people that are creative and want to help. They also accept donations of cards. You can pick up a recycled card in the office for almost any occasion.



Respectfully submitted, **Sonja Cookson**

VandeReaders



VandeReaders is a readers theater group which means we do not memorize but read. In 2023, we prepared and performed a program for The Baker Senior Center. We also participated in the Good Friday Worship Service. Most of us are also liturgists.

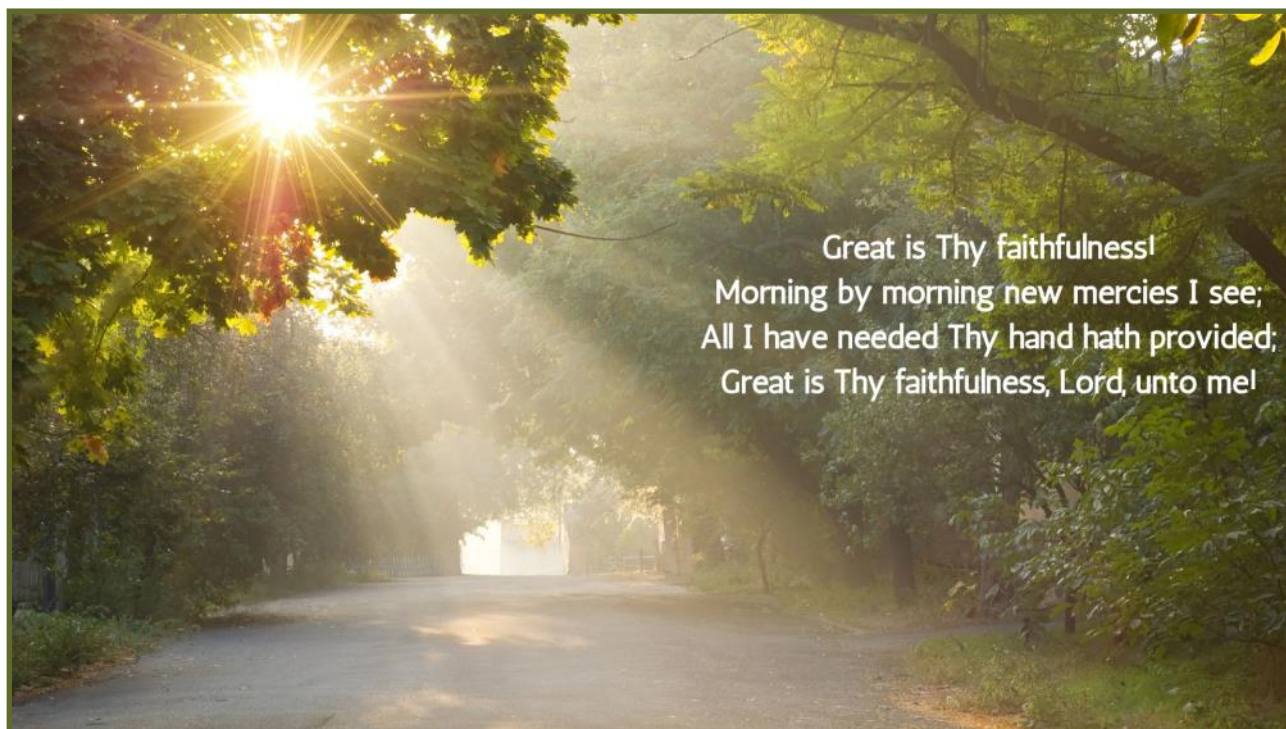
Respectfully submitted, **Sue Van Fossen**



New Members

We give thanks to God for those members who joined Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church in 2023.

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| ♦ Heather Anderson | ♦ Barbara Hebert | ♦ Tim Riggers |
| ♦ David & Susan Aufderhaar | ♦ Jane Higdon | ♦ Karen Rodino |
| ♦ Jack & Janie Ballurio | ♦ Joseph Hodgson | ♦ David & Karen Rohde |
| ♦ Joseph & Christine Bostater | ♦ Carline Lobban | ♦ Jack & Ellen Tanner |
| ♦ Nancy Diederich | ♦ Francine Marinari | ♦ Alison Tashenberg |
| ♦ Gabrielle English | ♦ Ralph Miranda | ♦ Russell Thomas |
| ♦ Peggy Free | ♦ Paul McGuigan | ♦ Robert & Dianne Townsend |
| ♦ Tom & Ann Grundstrom | ♦ Penny O'Kelley | |
| ♦ Connie Hawkins | ♦ Bob & Laura Reardon | |



In Memoriam

We grieve the loss of church members who died in 2023.

- | | | |
|-----------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| † Ali Frimpter | † Barbara Lang | † Al Starr |
| † James Gates | † Jane Little | † Jack Ufheil |
| † Nancy Hansen | † Judy Malone | † Loren Warner |
| † Phil Jacobus | † Millicent Marshall | † Rose Wendler |
| † Pat Jansen | † Marge Piano | † Mary Jane Williams |
| † Janet Kassing | † Carol Schwiars | † Kay Winemiller |
| † Arline Kirk | † Suzanne Smith | † Scott Wollaston |

*He said to him,
“‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and
with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the
greatest and first commandment.
And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as
yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the Law
and the Prophets.”*

— Matthew 22:37-40

There is always light.

If only we're brave enough to see it.

If only we're brave enough to be it.

Amanda Gorman, poet



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