



Vienna Press

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | VIENNA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH | AUGUST 2017 – VOLUME 2

Upcoming Events

- August 4
The Jesus Film Project
- August 11-12
Global Leadership Summit
- August 19
Widow and Widowers Lunch
- August 19
Days for Girls
- August 24
GYS 10 Year Anniversary
- September 9
Youth Choir Retreat
- September 13
SWATT Luncheon
- September 15
Club (4th-6th graders)
- September 18
Men's Steakout
- September 24
Connect Fair

Top 5 Reasons to Get Connected

Our lives can be crazy-busy and overwhelming. We hear that improving our relationship with God helps us **worry less**, experience **more joy**, and gives us a better sense of **our purpose** here on earth. But how do we fit it in? Here are five reasons to make time to join a group, class, or ministry team at VPC:

- 5. Spiritual friends.** Like any friendships, spiritual friendships don't happen right away. By joining groups, classes, or ministry teams, you can give time and space to make friends that will be with you through thick and thin. We can also learn from one another how to do life better with God!
- 4. Care and prayer.** You might not call one of the pastors when you get the flu and need someone to get you Sprite and crackers, but you can call a friend from your small group or class. You can text or call for prayers, and process what isn't going well in your life. And celebrate what is!
- 3. Understanding and intersection.** When you, as a group, discuss a Bible verse or what God is doing in each other's lives, the Spirit is present and gives great wisdom. There is a synergy in group discussion that is more powerful than when we try to figure it out on our own. Working together provides a richer understanding of faith.
- 2. Spiritual success.** Whether in parenting, or in marriages, or regularly attending church, we try to do better. Sometimes it is hard to do it on our own. Having people who love and care for us supporting us on our journey is priceless. It encourages us to show up and work harder as we see how God is working in and through other people.
- 1. Closer relationship with God.** Even Jesus, when here on earth, had a group of friends who helped and supported him. They studied together, prayed together, served together. It is often through the work done in a group that we get to know God better. It's just more efficient! When we are transformed by God, we find ourselves living a life of freedom.

Want to experience the joy, support, friendship, and encouragement of others on the spiritual journey to get to know God better? Contact Shannon at shannon.jordan@viennapres.org or 703.938.9050 x123.

What GYS Has Meant to Me

Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine”
John 15:4



abide.

In the religious tradition I grew up in, knowledge—of the Bible, of theology—was valued and taught, and this fit in well with my personality. As a result, my head is full of biblical trivia. (What was Elijah’s hometown? Tishbe!) But if you had asked me a few years back about my experience of God, I would have had little to say. It was as if I had been reading and theorizing with others about what a beach vacation was like without ever getting some sand between my toes and letting the waves break over me. GYS has helped me to know that God loves me and to *experience* that love; to know that God wants a relationship with me and to be more *present* to God in order to have that relationship. One result of this experience and relationship is joy—it is hard to describe but it is real. Another result is a transformational knowledge of myself. Learn more at viennapres.org/GLS.

Steven Dirkse, VPC Member

ESOL

VPC’s adult English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) program taught over 400 students to speak English in the 2016/17 school year. Students came from Mongolia, Moldova, Mexico, and Madagascar and 51 other countries, all blending together to form one community. Students, led by volunteer teachers, spent nine months speaking, listening, reading, and writing in English. They shared their stories and lives with their classmates, and they built a bond that is just as valuable as the English skills they developed.

The 2017/18 school year will begin September 13. Volunteers are needed to teach and assist students in learning English on Monday and Wednesday morning. All classes are taught in English, and teaching experience is not required. Training and support is provided for teachers, and we staff two teachers for each class. For more information, please contact Deb Rymer at deb.rymer@viennapres.org or 703.938.9050 x102.

Deb Rymer, ESOL Manager



Children’s Choir

In July, few of us are thinking about our fall and winter schedules. My thinking, however, is filled with nothing but the fall. Right now my main focus is “how do we get our Children’s Choirs off to a strong start this September?” This photo includes children who now sing in Youth Choir. It also includes children who have moved up to older Children’s Choirs.

There will be more information coming out about this year’s Children’s Choirs ministry. But for now, I ask you to consider the impact Children’s Choirs have on the VPC ministry of worship and our children’s lives.

Children’s Choirs provide the only opportunity for our children to lead worship on a regular basis. This prepares our young singers for a committed participation in Youth Choir. After Youth Choir we see a very high percentage of our young people involved in worship and leading worship wherever they live during the next stage of their life.

Join with me in prayer for our Children’s Choirs. Please consider getting involved, both you as adults as well as your children, with this musical ministry.

Lance Vining, Director of Worship and Music



Reach Out!



Thanks to the generosity of this congregation, the Ignite Outreach effort is well underway! Phil Covell is serving as the Project Manager, and his team has exciting plans for the next few months as we refine the vision to show our Faith in Action. We will address spiritual, relational, and physical needs in our community by improving and expanding our outreach into the Vienna Park and Cunningham Park neighborhoods. Let our love of Christ be reflected in the way we care for our community.

Our *dream* is for God's reign of love to be fully evident in Vienna as we walk with our new friends to address immediate needs, including jobs, childcare, transportation, and social connections.

Our *prayer* is that we may faithfully live out our calling to be salt and light in our community through these relationships as we grow together as Christ followers.

Community meetings will be held throughout July and August. We will discern what the needs are and what Vienna would be like if God's love were fully reflected, and what practical, positive steps are next as we strive to partner with other churches, neighborhoods, and those we seek to serve.

These meetings will pave the way for a Celebration of Commitment on October 28 from 6-8pm. **ALL** are invited to participate in this exciting initiative, and we encourage you to support ongoing efforts, from mentoring students and providing school supplies and weekend food to encouraging and discipling new believers!

For more information: viennapres.org/viennaoutreach



Sue Hamblen, Director of Missions



For more information on how you can impact a life for Christ, contact our team and set up a time to ask questions and see if this is the ministry for you.

Childcare: Valerie Clark
Valerie.Clark@viennapres.org

Children's Ministry: Kim Snyder
Kim.Snyder@viennapres.org

Student Ministry: Courtney Vereide
Courtney.Vereide@viennapres.org

Next Gen Ministries

In Next Gen Family Ministries, we transform lives, create partnership, and witness abundant blessings. These ministries are a place to encounter Christ through investing in the lives of children.

“Volunteering in the Underground has been one of the most rewarding experiences for me at VPC. Watching the youth grow in their faith has truly been a gift. ... Talking with them about pursuing a life of faith when they go off to college shows how much Christ is working in the next generation ... Consider volunteering in the Underground. You may end up learning just as much from the kids as they learn from you.” - Phil Clites

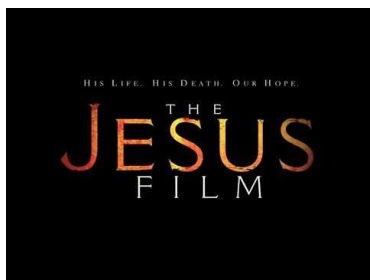
With multiple adults nourishing their spiritual lives, children and students are more likely to have a lifelong faith. We are looking for followers of Jesus who want to partner with us in passing the baton of faith on to the next generation

“I feel like I learned just as much, if not more, from the kids as they learned from me. It was a very enjoyable and refreshing experience to talk about God with everyone and explore our relationships with him and each other.” -Olympia Hatzilambrou

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Upcoming Events in the Life of VPC

Have You Ever Prayed for a Second Chance?



Every eight seconds, somewhere in the world, another person indicates a decision to follow Christ after watching the *JESUS* film.

You are invited to join us for dinner and watch the *JESUS* film on August 4 at 6:30pm in the Great Hall. All ages are welcome, so bring your family and friends. Bring your favorite dish to share.

Global Leadership Summit

Global Leadership Summit is for everyone! When you improve your leadership, you impact lives, families, churches, businesses, governments, schools, and more.



Come to the Summit on August 10-11, in the VPC Great Hall.

Register Now at viennapres.org/gls

Growing Your Soul 10th Anniversary Celebration



The first Growing Your Soul courses were offered at Vienna Presbyterian in the fall of 2007, led by Pastor Glenda Simpkins Hoffman. As this pilgrimage toward a deeper relationship with God enters its second decade, we invite you to a celebration of spiritual transformation!

Please join others who have participated in Growing Your Soul with dinner catered by

Skorpios Maggio's Family Restaurant. August 24, 7pm, VPC Great Hall, \$10/person. Please contact Randi DeWeese at deweese89@gmail.com to register.

Child & Youth Check-in: "It's Easy"

In the fall, all students and children will be checking-in for Sunday morning classes with our new Realm electronic system. This will allow parents to more easily and quickly check in the children in one simple step. Want to check in even faster? Barcode scanning is now available for families who want to link their grocery or library card to their family account.



Contact lisa.gibb@viennapres.org to be a tester of this new feature.



The Ignite Initiative is in full swing! Outreach efforts are continuing and church maintenance is getting done!

Have you made your pledge? There's still time. Visit viennapres.org/pledge



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