



Vienna Presbyterian Church PC(USA)

The Vienna Press

A Disciple-Making Church

April 2007 (Vol. 48, No. 4)

As I See It



Photo: Kim Jackson

by Pastor Pete James

2007 is a year of renewal for VPC. We believe in the One who can make all things new. God speaks through the prophet Isaiah: "I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?" (43.19).

Renew means "to make new again." Just as spring renews the earth, so God wants to awaken us to new life.

Why are we designating 2007 as a year of renewal? After 11 continuous years of

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Deadline for May issue:
April 10

Missions and Outreach Sermon Series Begins Apr. 15

by Sheila Breuer, Director of Missions and Outreach

VPC is a community dedicated to making disciples, so this month we are pleased to present a four-week sermon series, beginning on Apr. 15, with the Missions and Outreach theme of "Out of the Pews and Into the World."

On May 6, the final day of this series, our congregation and community at large are cordially invited to Missions Marketplace activities here. International and domestic-based missionaries whom VPC supports will display information in the Great Hall from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.

The Missions Marketplace will have something for everyone: culturally-related crafts and games for children; the Missions Marketplace Catalog for adults who want an opportunity to give to specific projects/missions or other needs; and free food. There will be a cookout from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm with complimentary hot dogs, hamburgers, chips and drinks. We invite everyone to come for an enjoyable Sunday of meeting and talking with people serving around the world, from the Beltway to Asia, Africa and beyond.

VPC's Commitment to Church Planting: "Out of the Pews and Into the World"

by Pastor Bob Griffin

VPC is a leading light for a new church development in the PC(USA). Over 130 years ago, VPC was one of several new church 'plants' started by Lewinsville Presbyterian. Of course, in 1870 Vienna was the 'new frontier' of the Presbytery. For the last two decades, VPC has been helping to extend that frontier as Fairfax and Loudoun counties grow.

VPC was instrumental in starting Centreville and Riverside Presbyterian churches, which are now among the largest in the Presbytery! These 'new' churches are strong and healthy and are committed to helping VPC start a new congregation in the community of Brambleton, west of Dulles airport.



Pastor Elizabeth

Elizabeth Brookens-Sturman is the organizing pastor at Brambleton, and they are celebrating their first year of ministry. Elizabeth and her leadership team are reaching large numbers of unchurched young families who are experiencing the amazing grace of Jesus Christ for the first time.

Elizabeth is a 'local missionary' and will be preaching at VPC on Apr. 22 as part of our four-week mission emphasis.



As I See It

(continued from page 1)

construction, it's appropriate to revisit why we invested so much time and money in our facilities. Our expanded sanctuary and new Ministry Center are dedicated to the mission of calling, equipping and sending more disciples to love and serve the world Jesus came to save.

I will also admit to a personal reason for making 2007 a year of renewal. After 28 years in the same church, I desire to keep myself spiritually alert and sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit. I don't want to coast or recycle sermons or lose my growing edge.

I find it challenging to maintain a vigorous spiritual life in the midst of this secular culture. The distorting prejudices of our humanistic society undermine my efforts to live as Jesus' faithful disciple.

We cannot make 2007 a year of renewal by human fiat alone. Spiritual renewal cannot be manipulated or coerced. Our job is to prepare our hearts for renewal. Only God can bring renewal.

God will renew our church in anticipated ways through worship, service and study. God may also become known in surprising ways. Surprise us, O God.

The Psalms teach us to pray for renewal. "Create in me a pure heart, O God and renew a steadfast spirit within me" (Ps. 51.10). "Will you not revive us again, O Lord?" (Ps. 85.6).

Adult Softball

by Tim Donaldson

Interested in playing softball this spring? Join the VPC men's team for fellowship and fun in its inaugural season in the Reston church league. We still have a few spots remaining on the roster. Games are on Tuesday nights from April through June. If you would like to play or want more information, please contact Tim Donaldson at 703.242.6253 or whisdonald1@yahoo.com.

Effective Parenting Series

by George Marling

We are planning a seven-week series on Effective Parenting in understanding, encouraging, listening to and disciplining your child.

The materials, which include a video for each two-hour class session and a \$15 study guide for each participant, are tailored to children/youth at four age levels, ranging from pre-kindergarten through high school.

Classes are being planned for weekdays between Apr. 15 and June 10, during the day or evenings, depending on interest. Please contact Daryl Wright (daryl.wright@viennapres.org or ext. 126) or George Marling (gmarling@cox.net or 703.281.2025) to indicate interest. Provide age of child(ren) and preferred time.

Perkins Library Grand Opening

by George Marling

The congregation is invited to participate in the formal dedication of the Ellen Perkins Memorial Library, which will be led by Pastor Pete James on Apr. 15, 12:30 pm, on the second floor of the Ministry Center.

The Library and Adult Resource Center is named after a long-time former member of VPC, in recognition of a generous bequest she made to establish the library within the educational programs that she supported during her lifetime. It is a key component of the Adult Ministries and a worthy testimonial to the legacy of Ellen Perkins in fulfilling her wishes for the memorial.

CHO Openings

by Jim Larson

Do you feel called to respond to Christ's Teachings by helping your neighbor in need? CHO has openings for a few more workers to help with its "Meals on Wheels", Furniture, Clothing and Food Programs. Driving, lifting and hauling, and organizing and serving our clients directly are on the "needs list". Those with time available during the week are particularly welcome.

The Committee for Helping Others has been serving the needy in the Vienna/Oakton/Dunn Loring areas for nearly 40 years. Please consider joining in. Contact Jim Larson (jimclarson@cox.net or 703.938.5683) or George and Gail Bergquist (berggail@cox.net or 703.938.4157).



All-Church Events in April

For Holy Week Worship Services, see p.8

- **Triumphant Sounds of Easter:** Apr. 1, 7 pm
- **Men's Fellowship Dinner:** Apr. 4, 7:30 pm
- **Parents of Infants and Toddlers Easter Egg Hunt:** Apr. 7, 9:30 am

- **Dine With Nine Potluck Kick-Off:** Apr. 14, 7 pm
- **Perkins Memorial Library Dedication:** Apr. 15 (See p.2)
- **VPC Book Club:** Apr. 18, 7:30 pm
- **International Potluck Dinner:** Apr. 28 (See p.7)
- **Reception for Ellie Cammer:** Apr. 29 (See p.5)

To announce an all-church event here, phone 703.938.9050 ext. 105



Photo: Kim Jackson

Keeping Up With the Changes

by Dick Eagan, Executive Director

Personnel Updates

Transition of changing staff roles is always a hard topic to effectively communicate. Especially when we are adding new positions or combining positions, clarity is even more challenging. Kamal Rahal has announced his intention to retire as the Business Manager after 20 years of service. We have been blessed with Kathie Rawson, who has stepped up to a newly-created Operations Director position, which will include the business manager responsibilities. With that said, Kamal is alive and well and still on staff. He has agreed to help shepherd the transition of the accounting department into a new structure with Kathie's full-time operations leadership. Kathie's primary responsibility is financial management but also includes management support to administration, technology and facilities. We are blessed with great staff in each of these areas of responsibility, and we are combining the management support so that they will be able to work as a better coordinated team. This is a major restructuring change, which will be in transition for some months. Once we have experienced a smooth transition, we will bless Kamal's retirement.

With Ellie Cammer's retirement now officially scheduled via a churchwide retirement party on April 29, we will support our Children's Ministries with a gifted interim team while the search committee seeks the new director. We ask for your prayers, input, feedback and caring support as we continue to identify and announce the Children's Ministries Leaders Team. We are currently interviewing individuals to make sure that their SHAPes fit together properly. We will have the

team in place by early April so that the transition with Ellie's retirement goes smoothly. Again, thank you for your thoughts and prayers.

I was hoping to be able to announce an effective start date for Pastor Glenda Hoffman, but, as of this newsletter deadline, we are still working through family relocation logistics. With the challenge of selling their home in suburban Chicago in March and settling on a home in northern Virginia, we are still praying and pro-acting through the details. Thank you for your continued prayers and support. Glenda and her family are looking forward to being here and serving the VPC community as soon as possible.

Managing Technology in Worship

Cell phones are starting to ring during worship! I know it is hard to believe that we would forget to turn off our cell phones during worship, but it is happening. We encourage everyone to PLEASE THINK and turn off your phone before entering the sanctuary. It is so distracting and disruptive to other worshippers, and it's not the heart of worship we want to present to God. We had an Elder make the point with this humorous recommendation that we should have consequences for folks who are inconsiderate with a ringing phone: "I would also recommend that for anyone violating this policy, an usher will be asked to collect your cell phone and return it sometime after the service. Failure to turn it over would result in an impromptu solo of "Jesus Loves Me" in front of the congregation."

We are now live audio streaming on our VPC website all three services on Sunday mornings. If you are not able make it to worship, please join the service this way. This is not a substitute for coming to church to praise and worship God with your fellow disciples but offers important support for those who can not physically make it to worship. Visit www.viennapres.org/worship and see Page 4 of this issue. Thank you for helping each other "prepare our hearts for worship..."



VPC's Trustees

In this final segment of a three-part series introducing our church leadership, meet VPC's current Board of Trustees. The

board's role is to manage the real and personal property of the church and the operating budget, all subject to the authority of the Session.



Trustees as of April 2007 (clockwise, from top left): Jack Barbee, Don Beless, Scott Bryant, John Burgess, Sr., Kim Cummings, Jeff Davidson (Corporate Secretary), Randy Gressang, Jerry Hajarian, John Hoel, Ford Moseley, Linda Lyon (Vice President), Andy Mitchell, John Peters, Vince Pistilli (President), Chris Ridings, Walt Schuchmann, Dick Strean, Ran Whittle, Bryan Troutman...and VPC staff liaisons Kamal Rahal, Dick Eagan and Kathie Rawson.

Communications Update: VPC Sunday Services Available "Live" Worldwide

by Duane Wills

If illness, weather or travel keeps you away from VPC any Sunday morning, your computer can connect you.

Live "audio" from VPC is now available over the internet during all three Sunday worship services and for special

occasions. Click on "Listen Live" on our homepage, www.viennapres.org. We even broadcast a wedding recently for some out-of-town relatives who just couldn't get here.

Also, our Sunday sermons are recorded and are available

on the web site for a year or more. Click on "Worship" on the left side of our homepage. You can listen to a specific sermon, read it online, or print it for later reading.



Tribute

Ellie Cammer is a treasured, one-of-a-kind staff member at VPC. Born and raised in Winchester, Virginia, this seminary-trained wife and mother of three (and grandmother of nine, ranging in age from 2–20!) began her career in Christian Education in the mid-1980s at Burke Presbyterian Church. Ellie came to VPC as an Assistant Director of Christian Education in 1996 and shortly thereafter became Director of Children’s Ministries.

Next week, she will retire from that position. Please reserve Sunday, Apr. 29 from 4:00-5:30 pm (Great Hall), to commemorate the ministry of Ellie Cammer! If you would like to help, please contact Daryl Wright at ext. 126 or daryl.wright@viennapres.org.



Ellie

“

One thing is absolutely certain about Ellie: She loves kids. She is every child’s substitute mother and grandmother. God has placed within Ellie’s heart an extraordinary devotion for children. A grateful congregation is thankful.

—Pastor Pete James

”

“

Ellie, for me, has been such a faithful friend and wonderful partner in ministry.

—Betty Rahal, former VPC Director of Christian Education

”

“

Ellie is supportive, affirming and kind to those she works with and the most special friend a child could have.

—Bonnie Downs, VPC Preschool Director

”

“

Ellie Cammer is the most supportive and encouraging person I have ever known.

—Sharon Winstead, longtime Bridges to Worship teacher

”

Reed Organ Now Graces Chapel

by Terry Sisk, Music Ministries

We are indebted to VPC members Betty and Jim Larson, who graciously donated a reed organ for placement in our chapel. The instrument was built by a company founded five years after our chapel was built, making it contemporary with our church's founding.

The reed organ, also known as a melodeon, was once an important musical instrument prevalent in homes and chapels from the late 19th century to the early 20th century. In private

homes, it offered an alternative to the parlor piano, also providing a suitable accompaniment to family hymns sung on a Sunday. Reed organs were the darlings of Victorian interiors with their impressive tall, embellished wood cases. In small houses of worship, the reed organ was the work horse of Sunday services, weddings and funerals. Because it cost a small fraction of the price of a pipe organ, reed organs proliferated into houses of worship after the Civil War.

Thank you, Betty and Jim!



Something Special Happening With Access Ministry

by Nancy Fowler

With the goal of providing access to our faith community for all individuals, the VPC Access Ministry is finding ways to reach out to a greater sector of our population.

The Friendship Club, a Sunday School class for special-needs children ages five to 11, launched its first class in June 2006. Teachers Diane Tuttle and Susan Christopher provide a dynamic, fun environment where class members can grow in faith.

In addition, the Friendship Teens Sunday School class kicked off recently, on Mar. 4, with about eight teens. With Sarah Wells and Bev Streat as teachers, this group of lively teenagers

is looking forward to growing together in God's grace as they enjoy activities that are specially designed to fit their needs.

The Friendship Class has been providing learning and fellowship experiences for special-needs adults for nearly 30 years. Special recognition goes to VPC member Emelie (Emmy) Parker, lead teacher since 1983,

and VPC members Beth Gourley and Sheila Breuer, also long-time Friendship Class teachers.

The Access Ministry Committee has been extremely busy with plans for expanded programs. They are working toward having Kidz Clubhouse at VPC for a week in August. Kidz Clubhouse is a Christian summer day-camp program for children with special needs. The program provides the trained staff and the curriculum; VPC would provide the space and volunteers. The committee is also seeking grants to support a year-long internship for ministry to people with disabilities and is working toward revitalizing the sign language interpretation ministry.

If you know anyone who would benefit from our Access Ministry, or if you would like to volunteer to help, contact Betty Rahal at betty.rahal@verizon.net or 703.281.4032.



Thanks to teachers like Diane Tuttle, above right, Access Ministry's classes offer our young people opportunities to enjoy time at VPC while their parents attend worship.

VPC Lauded as a "Champion of Compassion"

by Nancy Fowler

On Jan. 5, 2007, VPC's English Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) program was recognized by the U.S. Department of Labor's Center for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives as a "Champion of Compassion". Receiving the award for VPC were ESOL co-directors, Bonnie Grouge and Doris Cooper.

In March 2006, the program received a grant of \$20,924. These funds were invested into ESOL's computer lab, which provides a much-needed environment for our ESOL students to experience hands-on computer skills, receive job training, and become strong contributing members of our community—a great example of faith in action! Since its inception, the VPC ESOL computer lab has served 61 individuals.

Congratulations to the ESOL ministry, and special thanks to Bill Steinbach, Marvin Reed and Mark L'Italien, who were instrumental in setting up the lab.

For another ESOL event, see Page 7

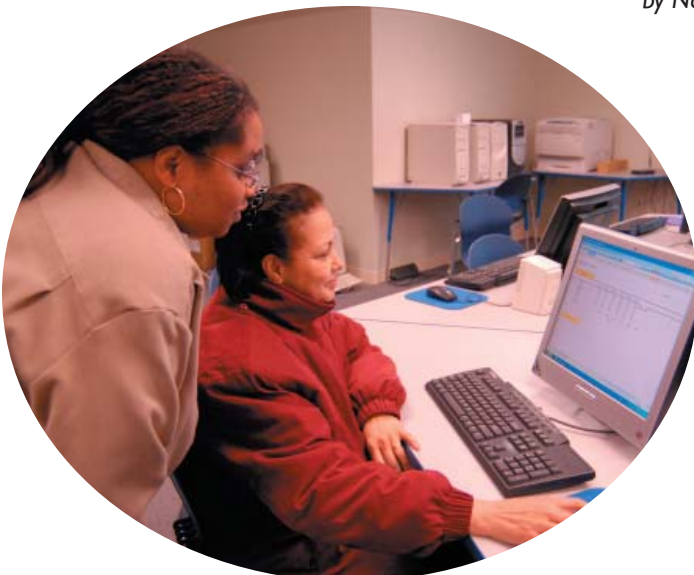


Photo: Kim Jackson

The computer lab is available for use by both morning and evening ESOL students.



Missions Work: Christian Businessmen's Committee

by Andrew James

October of 2006 was a big month for me. Not only did I marry the woman of my dreams, Becky Reber (now Becky James), but I also started a new career path. I praise God for these new and exciting aspects of my life!

After pondering a call into full-time ministry over the last year or two, I finally took the plunge and am working for CBMC (formerly known as Connecting Business Men to Christ; now called Christian Businessmen's Committee). CBMC is an international ministry organization that was started in Chicago in 1930. It is now one of the largest ministries that does marketplace ministry.

CBMC hired me to be the Associate Director of their new "mentoring 25ers" program. Despite the massive breadth and impact of CBMC, they have never had a program that reached out strictly to businessmen in their 20s and early 30s. Therefore, it is an honor to be tapped by CBMC to be the pioneer in leading this program.

The typical CBMC model is to do one-on-one discipleship and evangelism augmented by small-group Bible studies at local businesses. I have been engaging in this model of ministry with CBMC by meeting with young men and challenging them to seek the Lord.

I also lead a Bible study every Monday at noon at Trust Title in Tysons Corner. Usually five or six guys attend, and we go over scripture and its relevance to our everyday lives.

On a larger scale, I got to help with follow-up after the recent High Tech Prayer Breakfast, and I will be involved with the first annual Real Estate Prayer Breakfast this spring. It is a blessing to be a part of ministry that is reaching out to young men in this area, in all walks of life, for the sake of the gospel.

I ask for your prayers in this new venture that I have undertaken. This type of work is truly a walk of faith. There are times when I see God's work in people's lives with absolute clarity; yet, there are other times when I wonder if what I'm doing is having much impact at all. However, I know those latter thoughts are foolish, for God is working for the good every day through me even if I can't always see palpable results.

We walk by faith and not by sight. "Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, says the Lord" (Zechariah 4:6). Thanks be to God!



Andrew

Photo: Ronnie Jean Irvin

Please pray for this ministry, which is supported by VPC, and also visit www.cbmc.com for more information.

Save the Date: International Potluck Dinner, Apr. 28

by Richard Hildreth, ESOL Volunteer

HAVE DINNER WITH US! MEET AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT! MAKE A FRIEND!

Each week there are 150–200 students from over 40 countries who come into our church to learn our language and our culture. They have a broad range of needs.

Some can't read our street signs or pronounce our alphabet. Others have studied English for many years and want to learn our idioms and slang expressions. All want to learn our culture and make friends with Americans.

You don't have to go to

Burma, Russia, China or elsewhere to carry out the Great Commission—you can do it right here at VPC! Our International Dinner on Apr. 28 is a great way to interact with the international community. First the dinner, then the friendship, then the faith lessons. You must take the first step. The Holy Spirit will help with the rest.

Beyond the dinner, the ESOL ministry is a wonderful venue in which to volunteer. If you can't do that, please come to the potluck dinner and connect

with some internationals right in our own church. Share food from around the world on Saturday, Apr. 28, 6:30–8:30 pm in the Great Hall. Entertainment will include a Filipino dancing group.

Contact Richard Hildreth (Richard.Hildreth@cox.net or 703.560.1857) for information. Childcare will be provided; phone ext. 351 as soon as possible but no later than 48 hours before the event.



The Vienna Press

Vienna Presbyterian Church
124 Park Street, NE
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Calendar of Events for Holy Week:

- **Palm Sunday Services: Apr. 1 at 8, 9:30 & 11 am**
- **“Triumphant Sounds of Easter” Concert: Apr. 1 at 7 pm**
- **Maundy Thursday Service: Apr. 5 at 7:30 pm**
- **Good Friday Combined Service with First Baptist Church: Apr. 6 at 7:30 pm; The Rev. Kenny Smith, preacher**
- **Easter Services: Apr. 8 at 8, 9:30 & 11 am**

All events will be held in VPC's sanctuary.
Childcare reservations not needed for Sunday morning worship; for all others, phone ext. 351 as soon as possible but no later than 48 hours before the event.



invites you to visit our web site,
www.viennapres.org/GrapevineBooks
for the latest specials and special events...

or stop in to browse and enjoy some time with us!

Location: Ministry Center, 1st Floor

Hours: Sun/Tu/Th 9 am-12:30 pm,
Sun 4:30-7:30 pm & Mon/Wed 6-8 pm

703.938.9050 ext. 135

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Deadline: Apr. 10

Send articles to: newsletter@viennapres.org
or bring to the VPC Office (Ministry Center, 2nd Floor)

Vienna Presbyterian Church

124 Park St. NE, Vienna, VA 22180

- Pastors:** Peter James, Robert Griffin, Glenda Hoffman
Interim Associate Pastor: Beth Goss
Teaching Pastor: E. Stanley Ott
Parish Associate: Chris Hammond
Executive Director: Dick Eagan
Sunday Worship: 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 am
Office Hours: Monday/Wednesday, 8:30 am–7:30 pm
 Tuesday/Thursday/Friday, 8:30 am–5:30 pm
Phone: 703.938.9050
Web Site: www.viennapres.org
Sunday Live Audio Webcast: www.viennapres.org/worship

Sermons (audio and print) are available at www.viennapres.org.

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