



Vienna Presbyterian Church PC(USA)

# The Vienna Press

A Disciple-Making Church

May 2007 (Vol. 48, No. 5)

## As I See It



Photo: Kim Jackson

by Pastor Pete James

**I** mentioned in a recent sermon that a pastor in Missouri was frustrated that his congregation complained, mostly about trivial things. So he asked them to take a pledge: To swear off complaining, gossiping and whining for 21 days. People who took the pledge were issued purple bracelets. If they caught themselves complaining, they promised to switch the bracelet to the opposite wrist and begin counting all over again until they attained 21 consecutive days.

*(Continued on Page 2)*

## Congratulations, Confirmands



Photo: Barry Hill

**C**onfirmation Class, for any student in 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade, has a threefold purpose: First, to encourage young people to think seriously about their relationship to God, the church, and the world they live in. Second, to provide students with spiritual Christian support for dealing with the difficult choices that challenge them each day. Finally, to teach students what Christians over the centuries have believed.

This year's class of 48 confirmands began meeting in March 2007 and will conclude on May 5. Four small-group discussion groups, led by Student Ministries staff and adult volunteers, met regularly following teachings on topics such as the role of the Bible, the creation and the fall, the Ten Commandments, the life of Jesus, baptism and the Lord's Supper. Parent classes have also been ongoing in conjunction with the youth classes.

Thanks to all those who helped with this important aspect of what it means for VPC to be a disciple-making community. The confirmands will soon be presented to our congregation for membership in the church.

Student Ministries always has room for more helping hands. To view their latest news and programs, please visit their new web site, [www.vpcstudents.org](http://www.vpcstudents.org).

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Deadline for June issue:  
**May 10**



## As I See It

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The “Today” show picked up the story and mounted a camera in the minister’s office to record the first day of the campaign. After only two hours, the camera caught the minister complaining about his computer. It took the minister four months to string together 21 complaint-free days. Needless to say, some of his parishioners are still working on it!

What would happen if we instituted a no-whining rule in our church? Think of how many people would be blessed by our “gracious speech” (Col. 4:6).

God’s people in the Old Testament often complained. The Biblical writers had a name for it. They called it “murmuring.” The dictionary definition of a murmur is “a whispered complaint.” The Hebrews complained about God’s promises in hushed tones.

When God answers their prayer for daily bread and serves them a wafer-shaped, frost-like delicacy, they take a bite of it and sarcastically ask, “manna?” Manna is the Hebrew word for “what is it?” God calls this food “manna” to remind them of their whining.

In the beloved words of Psalm 23, we read, “You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.” Surely, my cup is more than half full. Actually, when I stop to count my blessings, my cup is filled to overflowing.

## Thank You, Pastor Beth

VPC has much for which to be grateful. As we prepare to say goodbye to Interim Associate Pastor Beth Goss, who was called to begin serving here in Aug. 2006, we give heartfelt thanks for her ministry.

“Beth is the consummate pastor,” says Pastor Pete. “Her caregiving skills are truly extraordinary. Her love of Jesus Christ is infectious and winsome.”



Beth

## Sing Out! It’s Spring!

This month, VPC’s children will offer two music events:

- Children’s Choirs Spring Concert: May 6, 4 pm in the sanctuary, with reception following in the Great Hall.
- VPC Preschool’s Spring Concert and Art Show: May 16, 11:30 am in the Great Hall.

## Ruth Klug: A Quiet Servant



Ruth

For many years, VPC’s involvement with local Habitat for Humanity service projects has been spearheaded by quiet servants at VPC, including Ruth Klug.

Recently, Ruth was named Chairperson for Faith Relations for Habitat for Humanity of Northern Virginia (HFHNV). It’s a big job, which she looks forward to, she says, “because I am passionate about our goals.”

Congratulations! We invite the church community to join our next HFHNV work days on May 12, June 9 and July 28, 8:30 am-4 pm at the Waples Mill construction site. Information: [klugtwin@yahoo.com](mailto:klugtwin@yahoo.com).

## Mother, Daughter, Sister, Friend Tea

Join us on May 20, 3 pm in the Great Hall, for our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Mother, Daughter, Sister, Friend Tea. This year’s theme, “After a Fashion,” will feature modeling of special gowns, prom wear and flower girl dresses.

Reservations will be taken between worship services, Apr. 29 through May 13, or until all spots are filled. Cost: \$10 per adult; \$5 per child age 12 and under.



## All-Church Events in May

- **Men's Fellowship Dinner:** May 2, 7 pm
- **New Member Seminar:** May 5-6
- **Missions Marketplace/Cookout:** May 6
- **Children's Choirs Concert:** May 6, 4 pm
- **Habitat for Humanity Work Day:** May 12
- **Gulf Coast Mission Project:** May 12-19
- **VPC Preschool Concert & Art Show:** May 16, 11:30 am
- **VPC Book Club:** May 16, 7:30 pm
- **Mother, Daughter, Sister, Friend Tea:** May 20, 3 pm
- **Grapevine Books Used Book Sale:** May 26-27
- **Series on Muslim Faith:** May 30 & June 13, 20 & 27
- **College Ministry "Thank You" Celebration:** May 31

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

One of the most obvious changes occurring at VPC is that many folks have stopped 'going to church' and have started to 'be in community' with one another. We know people need to be in community, and we are really starting to understand what community means. As a disciple-making church community, we are people learning to follow Jesus Christ together. If 2006 was a year of recovery from all the turmoil of 2005, then 2007 is definitely a year of renewal. For many, it started with worshipping together and has grown into genuine relationships with individuals in the congregation. What's most important is the time we spend "Being the People of God" in loving and serving relationships. The growing level of commitment to care for each other's physical, emotional and spiritual health and well-being has been a true blessing.

A sign of this commitment is our growing prayer list. When I took this job, I thought one of our goals was to see how we could reduce the size of our prayer list. Was I wrong! The reality is that we are finally starting to feel comfortable enough with one another to share our needs and ask each other for prayer support. We are discovering that one of our goals should be to have everyone's name in prayer. Whether in small groups or congregation-wide, we are learning that we all need to be in prayerful care for one another and for those God has placed on our hearts. The challenge is there are still individuals who don't feel close enough in their relationship with this

Christ-centered community to share their needs. The purpose of community is to share and support one another's needs in genuine caring relationships and to continue to reach out to find others who need to join us. We are not a burden on each other but a blessing.

Our VPC community welcomes new Associate Pastor Glenda Simpkins Hoffman, her husband, Stu, and sons Nate and Ian, who moved from Oak Park, Illinois to Vienna in April (see [www.viennapres.org/newstaff](http://www.viennapres.org/newstaff)). Glenda is currently splitting the majority of her pastoral time working alongside Pastor Bob Griffin as well as Scott Slocum in Adult Ministries, and in leading our Congregational Care support. Interim Associate Pastor Beth Goss ends her staff assignment on April 30 and has transitioned her Congregational Care leadership role to Glenda. Please join me in again thanking Beth for so ably stepping into the interim reorganization challenge. God once again brought to VPC just the right person at just the right time.

We also welcome Julie Knight as our Interim Director of Children's Ministries (see Page 6) and thank her for her willingness to serve God and VPC in this unique leadership role. With Ellie Cammer's retirement effective in April, we have a wonderful transition team in place while the Search Committee continues its task to find the new Director whom God is calling for this dynamic and growing ministry. Please keep our interim team and the search committee in your prayers.

We are a growing, joyous, Christ-centered community! We are in an exciting time of personal and organizational renewal. As members of the body of Christ, we all have a place to serve God in and through VPC as a Disciple-making community. Please let us know what we can do to help you feel more a part of this community to serve and be served.



Register Now

## Let the Good Camps Roll!

VPC's Summer Prospects for Age 4-Grade 9

### Vacation Bible School 2 Sessions

#### VBS #1 at VPC

**THEME:** "Avalanche Ranch—A Wild Ride Through God's Word"

**WHEN:** July 9-13, 9 am-noon

**FOR:** Children 4 years old by July 1, 2007 (must be potty-trained) through rising 3<sup>rd</sup> graders

**COST:** \$17/child; maximum \$34/family. Music CD available for additional \$10

**REGISTRATION:** Program will fill on a first-come, first-served basis through June 23

#### VBS #2 at Camp Meadowkirk, Gainesville, VA

**WHEN:** June 25-29,  
8:30 am-3:30 pm via VPC bus

**FOR:** Rising 4<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> graders

**COST:** \$35/child; maximum \$70/family

**REGISTRATION:** Program will fill on a first-come, first-served basis through June 1

### Music & Drama Camp 2 Sessions

More than just a little song and dance, VPC's annual MAD Camps promote teambuilding and organizational skills while drawing out the best of one's creative talents.

This year's first session is designed for rising 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> graders and runs July 16-20, 9 am-12:15 pm. Registrations will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis through June 30. Friends and family members are cordially invited to the performance at VPC on July 20 at 7 pm.

The second session is for rising 5<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> graders from July 23 to 27, 9 am-2 pm. Registrations will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis through July 10, and the performance will be on July 27 at 7 pm.

Auditions are mandatory for both MAD Camps. They will be held on May 19 & 22 at VPC; call ext. 125 or e-mail *danielle.talamantes@viennapres.org* to schedule a time.

Cost for each session is \$20.

### Children's Missions Week

Rising 4<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> graders can participate in exciting community projects, such as serving at CrossLinks, the Lamb Center, a retirement home or a soup kitchen. The day begins with mission-centered Bible study and prayer, followed by a different outing each day. Registration is \$15 and is due with the application by July 30.

#### Need registration forms? Go to:

- [www.viennapres.org/children](http://www.viennapres.org/children)
- Welcome Table in narthex
- VPC 2<sup>nd</sup> floor office
- Ministry Center 3<sup>rd</sup> floor counter, near stairwell

Completed forms with payment may be mailed to VPC; placed in the box outside the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor church office back entrance (near quilting case); or on Sunday mornings placed on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor Sunday School Administrator Desk

## New This Year: Photography Camp, Kidz Clubhouse...and Old Favorites, Too

Something new and exciting is being offered to rising 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> graders: **Photography Camp**. From July 30 through Aug. 3, 9 am-noon at VPC, beginning shutterbugs can learn the basics of what makes a good photo composition. Participants should provide their own digital camera. Class size is limited; applications and \$25 registration fee will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis through July 15.

**Kidz Clubhouse** is coming to VPC! Access Ministries is teaming up with this exciting

organization to offer a week of day camp, from Aug. 13-17, for special-needs children ages 5-11. **VOLUNTEERS WILL BE NEEDED.**

#### Returning programs:

- American Red Cross Babysitting Class for ages 11-15
- CPR and First Aid for ages 11 and up: Aug. 11 & 18

Details were not available at press time; see [www.viennapres.org/children](http://www.viennapres.org/children) in the coming weeks for information.



## College Ministry Update

by Kayla Gray, VPC Staff Member & Coalition for Christian Outreach Director of Campus Ministry at GMU

This semester, we have seen a growing unity among campus ministry organizations. In March, over eight Christian organizations at George Mason University in Virginia gathered for a student-led joint praise service. It was encouraging to see students breaking organizational and denominational boundaries. Students are planning to do this again in October and next March.

The month before that, over 40 students from the D.C. area went to Pittsburgh for the annual Jubilee Conference. There, students explored what it means to incorporate faith into your vocation and were challenged to think about justice and reconciliation.

Every Tuesday, we invite GMU's commuter students to join us for free pizza and conversation. Through this time, several students have decided to attend mission trips to the Gulf Coast, join a Bible study, or ask questions about faith. In the last few weeks, over six Christian students have decided to join

me in this mission and form a student leadership team for next fall. Please pray that God would continue to grow and form this wonderful team.

God  
is on the  
MOVE  
at GMU!

Our Spring Break mission trip to Gulfport, MS was a great adventure! God was working to rebuild homes and lives. Several students on our trip had transformational experiences; one decided to start living her life for God and another answered a call to full-time ministry. We also helped clean up a yard, paint, and listen to community members' stories. The need is deep; please consider joining us for one of our next two trips on May 19–27 and June 30–July 8.

This spring and summer, we are planning a variety of events at VPC for college students.

Starting in June, we will host a weekly Wednesday Night Hangout in the Student Ministry space downstairs. There will also be opportunities for Sunday School, a co-ed Bible study, local service and some socials! If you know a student who would like to get on our e-mail list, please contact me.

Finally, I would like to invite you to celebrate all the ways that God is transforming lives to transform the world through this partnership. Would you join me in a Thank You celebration in the Student Ministry space on May 31 at 7:00 pm? This will be a great time to hear from some college students and celebrate all that God is doing. All are welcome!

Thank you for your prayers, love and support as we continue in this mission to Mason.

*Please pray for this ministry, which is supported by VPC, and visit [www.ccojubilee.org](http://www.ccojubilee.org) or contact Kayla (419.345.6902 or [kayla.gray@gmail.com](mailto:kayla.gray@gmail.com)) for more information.*



Left to right: A freshman painting in Mississippi; our Spring Break 2007 team in Gulfport posing with a work group from the University of Tennessee; a volunteer staffer and Kayla at a luau.



## Communications Corner

by Jennefer Reardon, Communications Director

**T**he Communications team has been hard at work last month putting together an ad layout for Holy Week. We hope you saw our new church layout in the “Vienna/Oakton Connection” on Mar. 29 and Apr. 5. This is a new approach for the Evangelism Committee, with its focus directed towards those in the community looking for a new church home.

If you would like to be a part of the communications team, we are still in need of people to help out. If you have a desire and a passion in advertising and marketing and/or one of the following needs speaks to you, please contact me at ext. 308 or [jennefer.reardon@viennapres.org](mailto:jennefer.reardon@viennapres.org).

Also, we are pleased to announce two new features of our church web site:

- Student Ministries: [www.vpcstudents.org](http://www.vpcstudents.org)
- Crossroads (Young Adults): [www.vpccrossroads.org](http://www.vpccrossroads.org)

### URGENT NEEDS

#### Bulletin Board Coordinator:

Help coordinate and design the functionality of bulletin boards in the church building.

#### Publication Designers:

Creative at using clip art and designing flyers? We need your talents to assist different committees and organizations in planning their communication materials.

## There’s a Place for You in Children’s Ministries

by Julie Knight, Interim Director of Children's Ministries

**A**t this time of year, Children’s Ministries begins the critical process of identifying not only volunteer ministers to help in one of our many summer programs\* but also those willing to serve in the coming school year.

Teachers are especially needed, and as we are learning through the SHAPE process, you don’t have to be a teacher already to serve. What is

needed is a heart for children and a desire to uphold the baptismal vow we make as a congregation to “teach the good news to these children.”

Children’s Ministries will help equip you. In addition to teaching, there are many jobs (to fit all SHAPES and time commitments), so even if you are still searching for your “shape” and your place in VPC, please let us know.

Contact me at ext. 127 or [julie.knight@viennapres.org](mailto:julie.knight@viennapres.org) and let us help you find your place. We need you!

\*For a list of summer programs, see Page 4 of this issue. You may also visit [www.viennapres.org/children](http://www.viennapres.org/children). Registration forms are currently being accepted, and every program has a need for your volunteer support.

*Ed. note: Julie began serving as C.M. Interim Director on Mar. 27. She and her husband, Bruce, have attended VPC since 1992; her involvement in VPC ministries includes Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, marriage preparation classes, small groups, Mothers’ Support Group and Great Banquet. Julie has 20 years professional experience in the field of youth and community development and is currently serving her second term on the City of Fairfax School Board.*



Photo: Ronniecean Irvin

*Julie*



## Missions Work: Campus Crusade for Christ

by Brock and Sandi Zigel, Orlando, FL

### What Reaching Out In Love Can Do

#### Loving God and Loving Others

**I**n Matthew 5:13-16, Jesus tells us we are “the salt of the earth” and “the light of the world.” The key to this is to have a life-filling, love-based relationship with Jesus Christ and then to let His love overflow to others. In John 15:5, Jesus says, “If a man remains [abides, stays in close relationship] in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit.” Our Father has been talking to us a lot lately in the area of loving others, and the following story shows the power of His love.

#### Summer Mission Projects

**S**o far, there are about 2,700 college students signed up for 150 summer projects that will last between 10 days and 10 weeks (some staff and students are pictured below). Praise the Lord for sending laborers into the plentiful harvest fields to share His love.

### Campus Story of a Changed Life



**A**na and Beth Ann, Campus Crusade for Christ staff in Chicago, met a sophomore girl in the Loyola University Student Center. She had attended an outreach at Loyola the week before and had checked on her comment card that she wanted to get a copy of the follow-up article.

As Ana and Beth Ann chatted with the young pre-med student, she suddenly asked, “Why are you asking so many questions?” Ana and Beth Ann explained how they worked for Campus Crusade for Christ and wanted to help students in their spiritual growth.

The girl responded, “I have felt more spiritually connected with you and loved by you in three minutes than I have in a year and a half [of observing religious rituals]!” In the next few minutes, Ana and Beth Ann explained to the spiritually-hungry student how to have a personal relationship with God through Jesus. She was deeply religious but Biblically ignorant. She had no idea what John 3:16 said. She prayed to trust Jesus as her Savior and Lord.

“This is so amazing!” she exclaimed. “I never knew this [relationship with Jesus] existed.” Then Ana and Beth Ann mentioned how she could grow spiritually with other new believers. “I want to meet other girls who’ve made this decision and study the Bible with them.” As they said goodbye, this transformed student said, “I can’t just shake your hand.” She hugged them each tightly.

*Please pray for this ministry, which is supported by VPC, and visit [www.CampusCrusadeForChrist.com](http://www.CampusCrusadeForChrist.com) and [www.zigelweb.com](http://www.zigelweb.com) for more information.*





# The Vienna Press

Vienna Presbyterian Church  
124 Park Street, NE  
Vienna, VA 22180

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## First-Ever VPC Used Book Sale

Memorial Day Weekend,  
May 26–27  
Sat. 10–4; Sun. 12–6  
in the Great Hall

Proceeds go to support  
VPC libraries and bookshop.



Questions:  
Grapevine Books,  
703.938.9050  
ext. 135

The Vienna Press is published monthly by Vienna Presbyterian Church PC(USA). Deadlines are the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month preceding publication. All submissions are subject to editing.

**Next issue: June 2007**

**Deadline: May 10**

Send articles to: [newsletter@viennapres.org](mailto:newsletter@viennapres.org)  
or bring to the VPC Office (Ministry Center, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)

## Vienna Presbyterian Church

124 Park St. NE, Vienna, VA 22180

**Pastors:** Peter James, Robert Griffin,  
Glenda Simpkins Hoffman

**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](http://www.viennapres.org)

**Sunday Live Audio Webcast:** [www.viennapres.org/worship](http://www.viennapres.org/worship)

Sermons (audio and print) are available at [www.viennapres.org/worship](http://www.viennapres.org/worship)

Design: Nancy VanGorden

Photo enhancement: Ronniejean Irvin