

THE FISHNET



May

2025



VBCC Family,

In April, we were lucky enough to receive a visit from the Easter Bunny. On Palm Sunday, we welcomed Mr. Cottontail to celebrate the coming of Easter with us and our children, complete with good food, some dancing, an Egg Hunt, and plenty of fellowship. It was a joyful Sunday as we celebrated the coming of God's kingdom and the hope of Easter. Yet none were quite so joyful as my sister, Haley.

Haley, who is close personal friends with the Bunny (wink wink), has, in the past year, made the moves to open her own mascoting business - Haley's Party Creatures. She's acquired several mascot costumes using her savings from her jobs at Chick-Fil-A and Busch Gardens and is in the midst of setting up her website to officially launch.

This is a big deal for her and our whole family. Haley's passion has always been mascotting. Even when we were little kids, she was always intrigued by mascots and jumped at her first chance to be one in Middle School. This has been a calling she had her entire life, and it is a gift to see her step into this calling on her own terms in this unique way.

For a while, Haley did not believe any of this would be possible for her. She has a disability, and between bullying she faced in high school and a combination of adults outside our family who did not believe her capable of much, she began to see her own body as an enemy and an obstacle. It has been heartbreaking to watch her wrestle with that, and it's sad to say that it's something she still grapples with to this day.

And yet, while fighting this mental battle with herself, she has accomplished something so special. We are all tremendously proud of her, and I'm telling y'all this story, so you can share in that pride even as we recognize that some complicated emotions come alongside it.

My sister has Williams Syndrome, a rare disorder caused by genetic mutation. People with Williams typically look like Haley does, and they often struggle with math and spatial relations. They feel emotions on a broader spectrum than we do - their joys are beyond what we can imagine, but their pains and griefs are, too. They are hyper-social and crave friendships and connection more than your average human. And they hear music differently than we do. When we hear music, 20-30% of our brain activates, but when they hear it, it's like 70-80% of theirs, so music is a completely different, all-encompassing experience for them.

Most people don't know much about Williams, so in May, we observe Williams Syndrome awareness month, a time to tell the stories of my sister and other people with Williams - a time to share the good, bad, and challenging of living with Williams. As such, I've shared her story with you. Thank you for reading, and thank you for welcoming my sister into this church with open arms and deep kindness. Your welcoming hearts impact more than you know.

May that welcome only expand.

Joyfully yours,

Pastor Kelsey

Pastor Kelsey

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Then the King will say, 'I'm telling the solemn truth: Whenever you did one of these things to someone overlooked or ignored, that was me—you did it to me.'

Matthew 25:40

Events this Month

May 2nd - 3rd : Women's Retreat

May 4th : Pastor's Class, 9:00AM

May 6th : Hi Over Pie, 3:00PM

May 12th : Book Club, 1:00PM

May 12th - 16th : Pastor Kelsey out of town on Retreat.

May 14th : Cabinet Meeting, 7:00PM

May 17th : Family Fun Afternoon, 2:00PM-4:00PM

May 18th : Ice Cream Social with Dan Smith, Following Sunday Service

May 28th : DWM Meeting, 12:30PM

May 30th : Family Movie Night, Big Hero 6, 6:00PM

Weekly:

Tuesdays: Bible Study, 9:30AM

Thursdays: Bible Study 6:00PM

Choir Practice, 7:00PM

Sunday Mornings: Spiritual Roundtable, 8:30AM via Zoom

Adult Sunday School Class (Though June 1st) 9:00AM

Diaconate Schedule

Barb and Jim Iman, Kaye Griffin (Team 1)

Mary Ann Stubbs, Sydney Davis, Ellen Turman (Team 2)

Susie Drew, Steve Eggleston, Traci Ellison (Team 3)

David and Pam McEwen, Gloria French (Team 4)

Jim Melvin, Bill Hayden, Phyllis Marshall (Team 5)

Diaconate Schedule

May 4 - Team 2

May 11 - Team 3

May 18 - Team 4

May 25 - Team 5

Elder Schedule

May 4 - Mark Farley

May 11 - Phyllis Marshall

May 18 - Ryan Ellison

May 25 - Martha Beacham

Sunday Worship:

May 4th

Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 4:1-13

Esther 4:10-16

May 11th

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Psalms 23

John 10:22-30

May 18th

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 11:1-17

Revelation 21:1-6

May 25th

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5

John 14:23-29

Upcoming Events:

VIRGINIA BEACH CHRISTIAN CHURCH

WOMEN'S RETREAT MAY 2ND-3RD

*With Love
& Moxie*

We will gather at Patti Watters' home
May 2nd at 5:30PM for Dinner, Games,
and an initial Worship Service.

May 3rd from 10:00AM to 3:00PM at
Patti's once more in retreat together.

All are welcome, and so are your friends.
We hope you will join us for this time of
retreat which we will provide to you and
any guests for free.

**Sign up with Maryanne Farley
(304-296-1614).**



April 27th - June 1st

**New Adult Sunday School Class
9:00 am in the Library
John Steinmetz**

In the Beginning...

37% of Americans say that God created humans in our current
form less than 10,000 years ago.

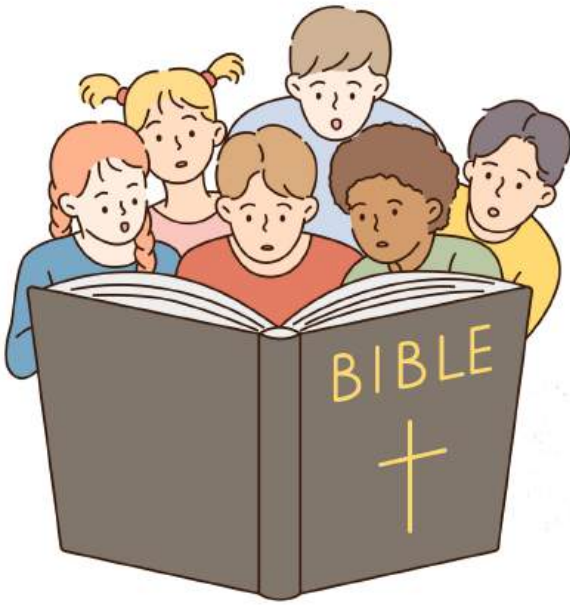
24% of Americans say that life evolved over millions
of years without God's involvement.

34% say life evolved, but with God's help.

What do you believe?

In this class we will look at different views of creation, what the
proponents say about each, and the challenges and difficult questions
each view has to answer. We will do some reading together, have a lot of
discussion, and have some fun along the way too.

Upcoming Events:



Pastor's Class

May 4th
9:00AM

Our youngest disciples are asking big questions and growing in their faith by leaps and bounds! This class, which will meet on the first Sunday of every month, is an opportunity for them to ask their questions in community as they develop into young theologians. All seekers with the heart of a child are welcome.



Hi Over Pie

**May 6th
3:00PM**

**Village Inn
313 Independence Blvd,
Virginia Beach, VA 23462**

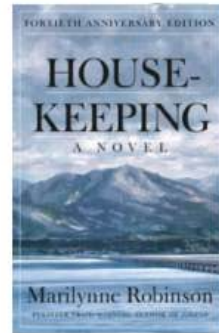
Come join us for a special time of fellowship and connection! This event is all about building relationships, sharing stories, and enjoying time together in a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere. Bring your smile, your friends, and your desire to connect—we can't wait to see you there!

Upcoming Events:

BOOK CLUB

The Monday Book Club meets monthly
(2nd Monday) at 1:00pm.

All are welcome to join in. This is a book club that actually discusses the books. Meetings are held mostly on Zoom, but all are welcome. At some point, the club will resume gathering under the pavilion or in the library.



May 12th

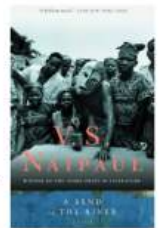
Housekeeping
by Marilynne
Robinson



Up Next:

June 9th

A Bend in the River
by V.S. Naipaul



**Skip on over to Virginia Beach Christian Church for our
Experience Family Fun Day!**

Parents, Teens, Grandparents & Kids...Learn How to Have More Downtime and More Fun Together!

Saturday, May 17, 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.

2225 ROSE HALL DRIVE VIRGINIA BEACH

**Free
Fun and Snacks!**

STEM Fun with Drones & Robotics by STARBASE Victory

Sing A-Long and Move to your own Beat!

Nonprofits Sharing Volunteering Opportunities

**Connie Rasmussen, Founder, Simple Teen Life:
Less Screen Time...More Family Time**

**Susan Long-Molnar: Community Leader
Family Volunteering in our Community**



Upcoming Events:

May 18th

Ice cream Social

with music by



Dan Smith

Come join us for sweet treats, groovy music, dancing, and fun as we continue our celebration of Easter with Dan Smith's music and an ice cream social!



DWM (Disciples Womens Ministries) MEETING



MAY 28TH, 12:30PM

IN THE LIBRARY

CONTACT MARYANNE FARLEY IF YOU HAVE ANY
QUESTIONS PRIOR TO THE MEETING.



Upcoming Events:



VBCC

MOVIE NIGHT

May 30th 6:00PM
Big Hero 6

Hope to see you there!

Join us for an exciting Bible-times adventure in ancient Egypt!



Vacation Bible School

August 4th - 7th



SCAN ME

Hosted in conjunction with Lynnhaven Colony Congregational Church
and Wycliffe Presbyterian Church
VBS Location: Wycliffe Presbyterian Church
1445 Great Neck Road



Department News:

DWM

****LUNCH MEETINGS****

We have had such a good response to our lunch “meetings” that everyone agrees we should make it permanent. Therefore, our “meetings” will be at 12:30 pm (rather than 1:30 pm) at a restaurant to be determined. We will still meet on the FOURTH WEDNESDAY of the month. If we have any announcements or projects to discuss, we can certainly take care of that while we are eating and laughing. Please join us!

****THE DOORWAYS****

Our new project for 2025 will be to support The Doorways, (more than) a lodging facility associated with VCU Hospital. Look for more information by way of flyers and emails.

There will be baskets in the hallway to accept your donations.

****HORIZONS****

Once again, we will be working with Horizons of Hampton Roads packing weekend food bags for 120 children to be distributed July 17th. Last summer’s response to this program from our church was overwhelming! We look forward to collecting and packing bags for children who need a little help to get through the weekends. There will be more opportunities to get involved during the month-long session. Stay tuned!

Maryanne Farley





Department News: Outreach

What is Outreach? This is a test of your Outreach knowledge:

Many of you think Outreach is all about providing food. You get partial credit for that answer ***once a month church members provide dinners for 15-20 homeless kids at the Beach ***Winter Shelter provides meals and a place to sleep for the homeless. We prepared food for 125 people and served it the Saturday after thanksgiving. Five members prepared the food and 25 people helped to serve it. The youth set the tables for all.

***JCOC dinners are prepared by church volunteers for 125 people.

This happens twice a year. Thanks Debbie Ivory

***2500-3000 Beach Bags of food are assembled each fall.

About 40 VBCC members help with this project. Thank you Nancy Watters

***125 Beach Bags were assembled by the Disciple Women for Horizons summer camp ***Youth delivered and stocked a food pantry with food donated by church members ***Members deliver Meals on Wheels one week every month ***Monthly deliveries are made with paper bags, toiletries and food to a local food pantry. Until recently egg cartons were also delivered to Beach Babies

If you answered that Outreach provides clothing, you would get partial credit.

***Clothing gifts for teens were placed under the Christmas tree. Over 40 hoodies as well as numerous jackets, scarves, hats and mittens were provided to teens identified by Social Services as needy ***Delivery of clothes to Norfolk Jewish Temple clothes center

If you said Outreach provided space, you get more partial credit.

***We provide space for the Great Neck Preschool ***AA ***NA ***Grief Group ***Braille Children's Camp ***Red Cross Blood Drive annually

If you think that's all Outreach does , you've forgotten some of the other miscellaneous things

***VBCC provides storage for the Interfaith Alliance at the Beach furniture ministry. Thanks Robertsons ***Disciple Women provided Christmas in July for the residents at Luther Manor ***Disciple Women reading to first graders at Horizons' Teddy Bear Tea ***Disciple Women provided and assembled 78 bags of personal items for Church World Service International Code Red project ***Members provided enough plastic for three recycle benches. Thank you Patti Watters

All these projects were made possible by you, the members of VBCC.

Thank you

Susie Sumnick

Department News:

Membership "We are family..."

I am HOME! I am so happy that God gave me the courage to take my three month "adventure", kept me safe during my travels, and then led me HOME to Virginia Beach and to VBCC!

Thanks to Brenda Mallery for "stepping up" and serving as Membership Chair during my absence. You are appreciated!

This month we'd like to "officially" welcome one our family members back "home", also. We are so happy to have long-term member, Iva Hunter, actively involved in worship, service, and fellowship with us. Be on the lookout for her new Directory page!

Other Directory pages are being updated, printed, and will be distributed asap. Be on the lookout for new pages for Pastor Kelsey, Ken Hogendobler, and myself.

The hallway bulletin board for Membership is being re-created. Besides housing extra copies of new Directory pages, there will be pictures, articles, etc. posted about our VBCC family. We will continue to WELCOME new/returning members; we will CELEBRATE with our family; and we will REMEMBER our family members when they leave us. Keep your eyes peeled!

We are more than just "members" of VBCC; we are FAMILY!



Welcome Home, Iva!

Rhonda Skaggs



Department News: Eldership

Spring is here! What joy and pleasure the blooming trees, flowers, and warm weather bring. Hopefully this can inspire you to read your bible and pray daily. Participating in Pastor Kelsey Sherazi's bible studies on Tuesday mornings and Thursday nights is a great way to feel closer to God.

This month our nominating committee has to replace the people whose terms are ending. We would like suggestions for Elders, Trustees, Deacons, and other important positions. Our committee need prayers from VBCC members to help us as we make these important decisions.

Remember our Elders are glad to give encouragement and help in time of need.

Martha Beacham



Carolyn's Grape Dessert (Carolyn is my cousin)



2 lbs. red grapes
2 lbs. green grapes
8 oz. cream cheese
8 oz. sour cream
1/2 cup sugar
1 tsp. vanilla

Mix the cream cheese, sour cream, sugar and vanilla well. Fold the grapes into the mixture and put in a 9 x 13 dish.

Mix together 1 cup of brown sugar and 1 cup of chopped pecans. Sprinkle over the grapes and refrigerate overnight. ENJOY!

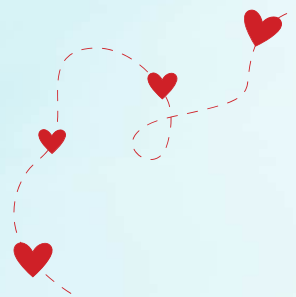
(I usually half the recipe.)

Susan Frey



"A Mother's Love"

A mother's love, so strong and true,
A glimpse of how our Lord loves too.
She teaches grace, she plants the seed,
She tends with care each growing need.
Her hands may tire, her heart holds fast,
In quiet strength that's meant to last.
Through trials, prayers, and guiding light,
She walks by faith and not by sight.
We thank the Lord for mothers dear,
Whose faithful love draws Heaven near.



"Her children arise and call her blessed;
her husband also, and he praises her."

—Proverbs 31:28 (NIV)



Pastor Kelsey:

RevKelsey@vbchristianchurch.com

Office Hours:

Tues - Thurs, 10:00am - 2:00pm
(or by Appointment)

Available By Phone:

Tues - Sun, Anytime
Mondays are her Sabbath Days

Office Secretary:

office@vbchristianchurch.com

Secretary Office Hours:

Mon - Thurs, 9:00am - 1:00pm

Available By Phone:

Mon - Fri, 9:00am - 4:00pm

Sunday Worship Services
10:00am In Person & YouTube

Website www.vbchristianchurch.com

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/VBChristianChurch>

Facebook Private Group (for VBCC Families only)

www.facebook.com/groups/vbchristianchurch/

