

VIRGINIA BEACH CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DOC) // VOLUME 56 // ISSUE 7

# *THE FISHNET*



July  
2024



VBCC Family,

Growing up, I was a competitive dancer - a very committed competitive dancer. Because of this, through the spring and summer, my family spent anywhere between six and eight weekends away at dance competitions, where I would compete, along with 30 other girls from my dance studio, in group pieces, solo numbers, duets, trios, and what not against other studios from across the East Coast. Think ‘Dance Moms,’ but less intense.

My best solo was a jazz dance to Pat Benatar’s hit, “Hit Me With Your Best Shot.” I love rock’n’roll, so it was my kind of music, and the dance itself was perfectly suited to my talents and skills.

I competed that solo for two years. I knew it backwards and forwards. I could tell you every beat and note of that music to this day. Yet it never received the coveted “platinum” award, the highest grade given in competitive dance. I always found myself with “high gold” or “triple gold,” which are the dance competition equivalent of B+ or A- when I was in pursuit of an A.

There was one competition where I had a real shot at platinum. I was hitting every beat; every trick was flying with ease. I knew this was the best I had ever danced the solo.

I got to the final thirty seconds, and there was a move - arguably the easiest move in the dance, the part where I was supposed to catch my breath before the rest. I was to pop myself out into my splits on the floor, hold the pose, then roll out of it and stand up

Well, I popped out into my splits, and immediately fell forward onto my face. I recovered quickly, and I finished the dance with the same practiced ease and groove I had been celebrating before the face plant. And then I sat backstage awaiting the award ceremony wondering if my recovery would be enough.

It was not enough. I received yet another high gold. My momentary lapse was enough to knock me down a whole score. Though dancers have much grace, there is very little grace in their grading.

How fortunate are we that momentary lapses are not met with such condemnation by our God. That God has unparalleled grace and can forgive even the largest of mistakes.

With God, there are only two grades: well done and not done. Let us remember and recover from our mistakes, seeking to dance as well as we can in our Lord's service, grateful that God extends grace to us as we recover and mindful that we dance as God leads.

Joyfully yours in the Dance,

*Pastor Kelsey*

Pastor Kelsey

(757) 903-8549 | revkelsey@vbchristianchurch.com

‘His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful one! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’

*Matthew 25:23*





# Events this Month

## Diaconate Schedule

July 7 - Team 4

July 14 - Team 5

July 21 - Team 1

July 28 - Team 2

## VBCC Board Retreat 2024

**VBCC Sanctuary**

**July 6, 2024**

**10 AM**

## Diaconate teams

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)

**TUESDAYS  
9:30 AM**



**THE SPIRIT AND  
THE FOLLOWERS  
OF THE WAY**

A Study on the Book of Acts

**Tuesdays  
6:30PM  
Young Women's  
Bible Study**

## Sunday Worship:

July 7th

**Seventh Sunday After Pentecost  
Swearing in new officers**

July 14th

**Eighth Sunday After Pentecost  
2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19  
Mark 6:14-29**

July 21st

**Guest Speaker: Lydia Land  
Ninth Sunday After Pentecost**

July 28th

**Tenth Sunday After Pentecost  
Psalm 14  
Ephesians 3:14-21**



## Pastor's Class

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.

*July 7th, 9:00AM*





# Upcoming Events:

## FILL A BEACH BAG



## FEED A BEACH CHILD

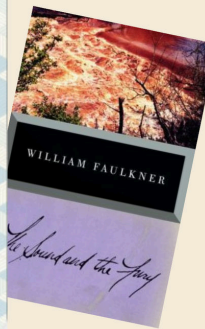
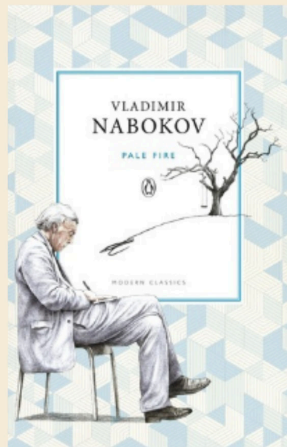
### Beach Bags Food Drive Packing Blitz! July 7, following Sunday Church

Each weekend bag, called Beach Bags, includes ten items for each child to help the food insecure child get through the weekend.

*The packaging blitz after church is for all attendees including all youth.*

# BOOK CLUB

20  
24



**July 8th**

**Pale Fire (1962)**  
by Vladimir Nabokov

**August 12th**

**The Sound and the Fury (1929)**  
by William Faulkner

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.





## Upcoming Events:



# Second Sunday Brunch

**JULY 14TH, 2024**

following Service in the Fellowship Hall

Please bring a dish to share  
Come enjoy the fun, food and fellowship!

## Youth Mission Trip July 21-26



Please join us in a special  
prayer and send off for our  
youth before the Second  
Sunday Brunch on July 14



# Upcoming Events:



Register    
Now

## POWER IN THE BLOOD



Sunday, August 4th

11:00am - 3:00pm



Virginia Beach Christian Church  
Co-Sponsored by Thalia Lions Club

It is so easy to save a life.....one hour of your time makes the difference!!

Please go to [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) and make your appointment!

DONATION OF USED EYEGLASSES

AND HEARING AIDS WILL BE ACCEPTED

For questions or assistance, please contact

Lion Nancy Watters

[nancywatters83@gmail.com](mailto:nancywatters83@gmail.com) or

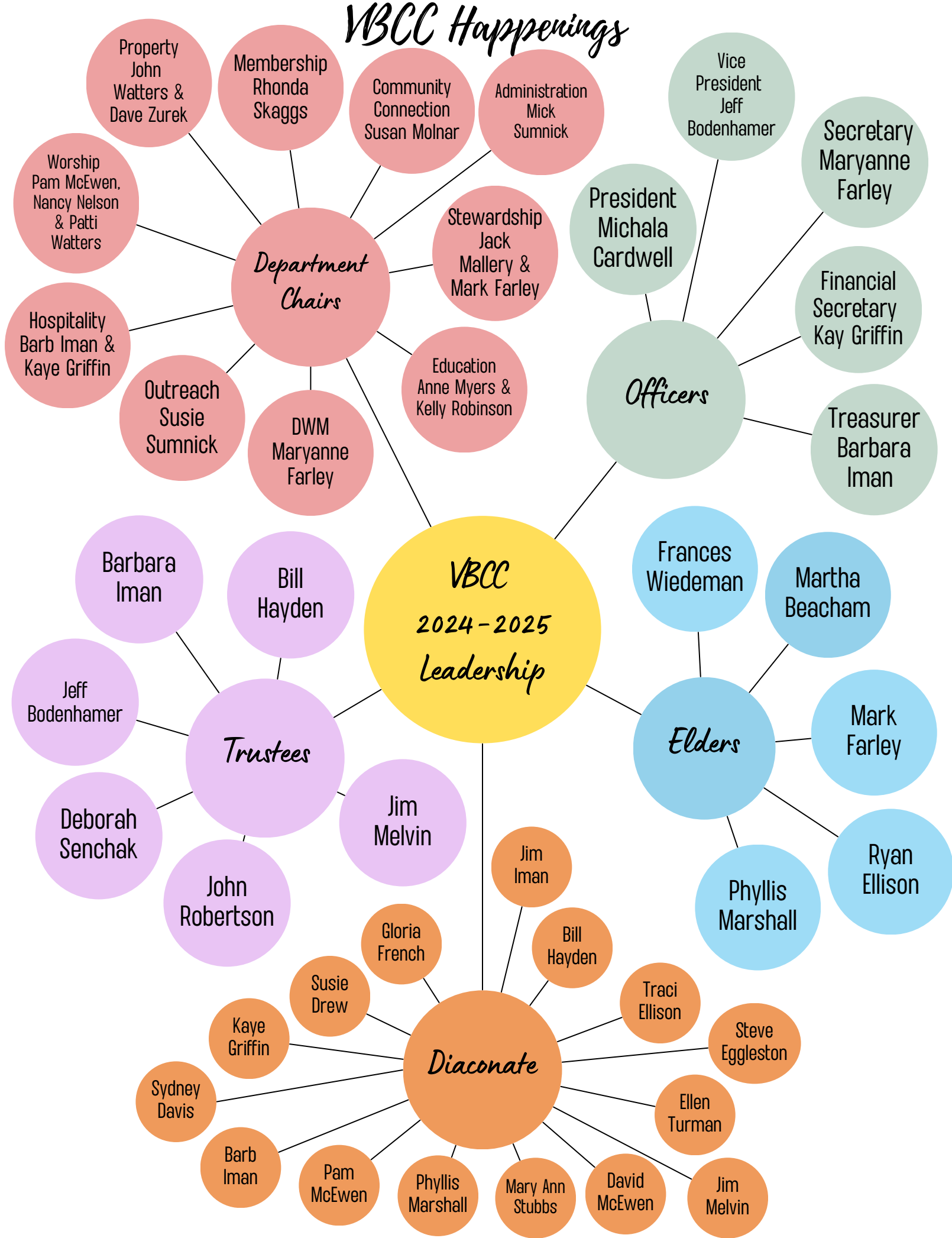
Cell: 757-288-3684

Lion Ellen Turman

[eturman53@gmail.com](mailto:eturman53@gmail.com)

Cell: 757-646-7104

# VBCC Happenings





# VBCC Happenings

## *Austin Scholarship & June Second Sunday Brunch*

The June Second Sunday Brunch was highlighted by the presentation of two Austin Scholarships. Dr. William Austin had the pleasure of awarding scholarships to Khamani Brooks and Savannah Gemes. Both Khamani and Savannah were dedicated as babies by Dr. Austin. Both were regular church, Sunday School and Youth Group participants due to the diligence of their grandparents.

Khamani graduated from Landstown High School. His sport of choice is swimming. Khamani will be attending Old Dominion University as a dance student hoping to follow a professional dance career.

Savannah graduated from Kempsville High School. She has been an active soccer player. Savannah will be attending Tidewater Community College as a pre-nursing student.

As members of the last VBCC Youth Group, it was a pleasure for Dr. Austin to be able to recognize both Khamani and Savannah.





# Department News:



## Community Connections

Community Connections (formerly known as Evangelism) is starting something new for parents and their young children! PlayGroups for You & Your Wee Ones hosted by Virginia Beach Christian Church is starting in August. The PlayGroups will help parents and their toddlers build friendships through conversation, activities, and snacks while sharing resources and making new community connections. Infants are welcome with a focus on age 1-4 years old. PlayGroups will begin Wednesday, August 21, 3:00-4:30 p.m. and Sunday, August 25, 3:00-4:30. If you or another family have little ones who would like to participate, please register for one or both dates. To register, email Susan Long-Molnar: [susan@communityconnection.gmail.com](mailto:susan@communityconnection.gmail.com) If you would like to help Susan with the PlayGroups or other activities for the Committee, please also reach out!

Thanks!

*Susan Long-Molnar*



## Worship

### **Minister of Music Position**

We have 3 promising people to audition as our new Minister of Music. The search committee consists of Pastor Kelsey, Allan Decipulo, Patti Watters, and the VBCC Choir with auditions beginning June 27 and ending July 11. In addition to the Adult Choir, this person will explore forming a Children's Choir and a Chime/Bell choir. Please hold the choir and search committee in your prayers as we seek this important addition to our worship team.

### **Guest Minister July 21 at 10 am**

While Pastor Kelsey is with our children on their mission trip, Chaplain Lydia Land will fill our pulpit on July 21 at 10 am.

### **Gospel Jump August 11 at 11 am**

Mark your calendars for Dan Smith and the return by popular request of his Gospel Jump at the Second Sunday Brunch on August 11 after the service. Bring a dish to share and your voice for a good old fashioned sing-a-long for a fun, inspirational lunch time.

See you at church,

*Pam and Patti*





# Department News:



## Disciples Women's Ministries

The DWM "social event of the season" was a great success. On June 5th we enjoyed an amazing Coffee Concert at the Miller Studio, with lunch afterwards. Patti Watters got us group tickets (20!) for the concert and Rhonda Skaggs was able to get us reservations at Legal Seafood. We invited the men to join us, and a good time was had by all.

Our ladies are in the midst of several projects which will continue into July. We are getting to know Horizons and all the work it is doing for the children in our community. Several opportunities to get involved have been offered, and we are packing weekend food bags for the 125 children on July 7th after church.

Our friendship with Luther Manor (a subsidized housing apartment building) has been renewed and we are planning a **Christmas in July** party on Tuesday, July 16th, from 2:00 until 4:00 pm. There will be caroling, snacks and door prizes. Everyone is invited to party with us. If you can offer your energy in any way (smiling, baking cupcakes, setting up the room, chatting with the residents, donating items for door prizes), please contact Maryanne Farley (304-296-1614 or [maryanne23320@gmail.com](mailto:maryanne23320@gmail.com)).

Virginia Disciples Women will hold their annual Women's Retreat at Smith Mountain Lake on October 11-13. This year's theme is Sowing Seeds of Faith. The approximate cost for the retreat (including food and lodging) is \$250, depending on how many will occupy a room. More information can be obtained at <https://www.ccinva.org/disciple-women>. That site will also allow you to register, as well as sign up for the newsletter. (A couple ladies are even talking about staying in the area a few extra days to enjoy the lake and leaves.)

There will be **NO monthly meeting in July**. However, Pastor Kelsy is planning a special, fun, and informative meeting on August 28th at 1:30 pm.

Join us! You won't be sorry!



*Maryanne Farley*

DWM June  
5th concert





# Department News:



## Membership



*Welcome!*

Welcome to  
our VBCC  
family, John  
Steinmetz!

Let's display that LOVE which is still building our church, and warmly welcome our newest member! John Steinmetz comes to VBCC by transfer of membership from Hillcrest Christian Church in Overland Park, KS. He and his wife, Jennie, had long known that they wanted to live near the beach. With John able to work remotely, they considered possibilities all over the US, and chose Virginia Beach as their new home! John works as an internal consultant for Lockton, a global commercial insurance brokerage company. (He states that his ambition of becoming a rock star or an MLB player didn't quite work out! ) John and Jennie have two adult children, Kayte and John. Kayte lives in NYC; John and his partner, Chance, reside in Eugene, OR. With no grandchildren, their dog Darby, is a major focus, and is of course, "the best dog ever." John is excited about being a part of our VBCC family, and is looking forward to sharing the future w/ us!

*Rhonda Skaggs*



# Department News:



*Join with DWM in looking forward to  
"new HORIZONS"*

Disciples Women's Ministry (DWM) of VBCC is looking forward to having you join us for various July activities with Horizons Hampton Roads. We have partnered with the organization to assist with their summer session held at Virginia Wesleyan University. The month-long summer session will offer 125 students from low-income families a wonderful opportunity to experience, learn, and advance. Sessions run M-F, from 8:30-3:00. We are coordinating with Shelly Averett, the Development Director. She has provided the attached chart, showing the programs, times, and grade level involvement. Look over the schedule and contact Rhonda Skaggs if you are interested in volunteering/attending any of the listed events. DWM was particularly interested in Reading involvement w/ younger students; reading skills are critical to continued success in all subjects. We are already involved as follows:

**July 7th (after church):** We are assembling 125 weekend backpack food bags for these students. Thanks for the donations you've made; please come and help us pack!

**July 9:** Some of us are planning to be guest readers for the Teddy Bear Tea (gr. K-1) If you'd like to join us, let Rhonda know. We need to notify Shelly Averett in advance so that we are partnered w/ students.

**\*\*** We will be planning to do one of the Open Tours later in the month and will announce the date when known. Please note the M-F reading times for K-2 students; you may want to choose a day each week or take a one-day opportunity that works for you!

Thanks, in advance, for your support and participation!

*Rhonda Skaggs*

(757-761-9708) rlsaggs10@gmail.com

# HORIZONS SUMMER 2024

## OUR CHOICES, OUR WORLD

*Come and see all the great happenings  
that are going on at Horizons.*

### Open Tours

June 26th -July 23rd 9am-2pm Closed July 4th & 5th  
*Special opportunities are available for field trips and  
swim lesson visits by request.*

### Reading Mon-Fri 9am-10am

Nurture a love for reading and story telling by  
reading captivating stories to K-2 students.

### MUSIC Mon-Wed 9am-11am

K-5 students learn/perform with various  
instruments.

### ART Wed-Thurs 9am-12pm

Students will be immersed in creativity and self-  
expression as they explore various art forms  
such as painting, drawing, and mixed media.

### STEM Tues 11:45am-2:30pm Fri 9am-1:00pm

Students will ignite curiosity and foster problem  
solving skills through hands-on activities based  
on the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

### Chess Wed 1:15pm-2:30pm Thurs 9am-9:45am

Students will have the unique opportunity to  
enhance their skills in chess.

### Teddy Bear Tea Tuesday, July 9th 1:30pm-2:30pm

Be a guest reader and enjoy a snack with  
our K & 1st grade students.

## Closing Ceremony: July 24th







# Department News:



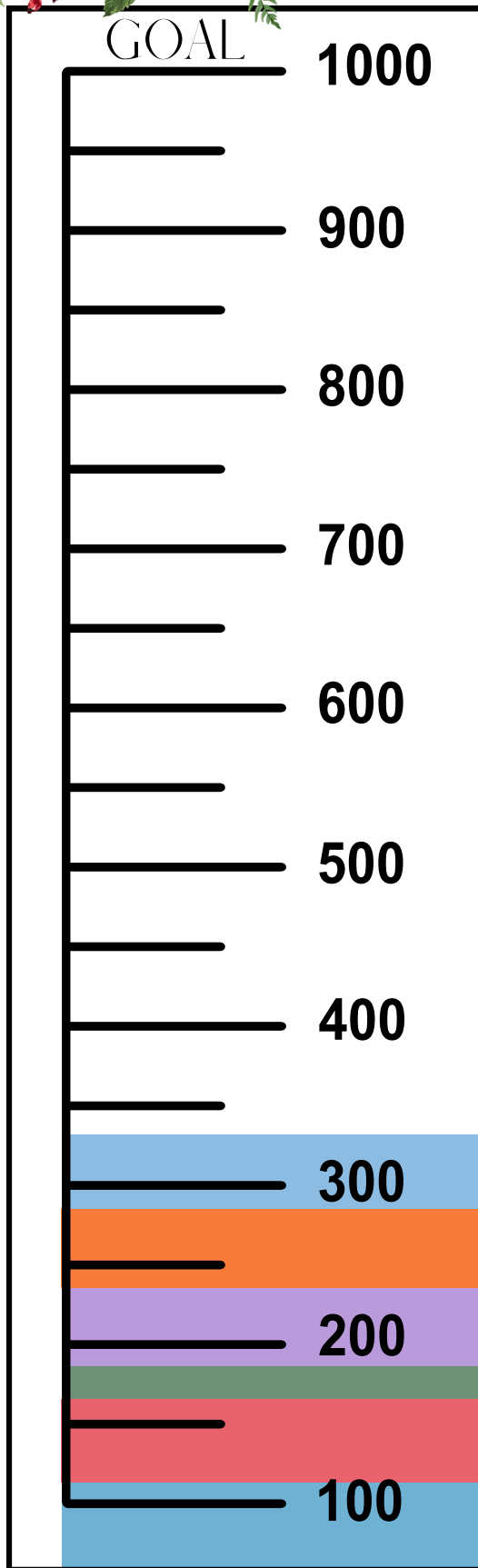
## Recycling Update

In June we collected only 47 pounds of plastic recycle. Since January we have collected only 339 pounds. To get our bench, we have 211 days to collect the remaining 661 pounds. That is 3 pounds A DAY!

Please remember to bring your plastic to the church.

Thank you for all your help.

*Patti Watters*



Jun - 339 lbs.

May - 292 lbs.

Apr - 241 lbs.

Mar - 179 lbs.

Feb - 165 lbs.

Jan - 119 lbs.



Dear VBCC Family,

I want to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude for the past two years I have had the privilege of serving as your secretary. It has been a wonderful journey, and I am so grateful for the warmth and kindness everyone has shown me and my girls. Your support and friendship mean the world to us.

As a reminder, I will be out of town visiting my family in Ohio from July 29th to August 6th. During this time, I will still be available by phone and email if you need anything.

Thank you once again for making these past two years so special. I look forward to many more years of working together and being a part of this amazing community.

Love,

Jade Vitug



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 Summer Hours:**

Mon - Thurs, 8:30am - 12:30pm

**Available By Phone:**

Mon - Fri, 10:00am - 4:00pm

**Sunday Worship Services**  
**10:00am In Person & YouTube**

**Website** [www.vbchristianchurch.com](http://www.vbchristianchurch.com)

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

**Facebook Private Group (for VBCC Families only)**

[www.facebook.com/groups/vbchristianchurch/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/vbchristianchurch/)

