



THE FISHNET



February
2025



VBCC Family,

This is a Love Letter.

Rahum and I were so touched at the Early Wedding Celebration y'all held for us. The Chilis were delicious. The desserts were spectacular. The games were fun, and the spirit with which you all held and celebrated our love with us was so deeply kind and charitable. We are overwhelmingly grateful.

The money y'all gave, designated for our honey moon, allowed us to upgrade our room at our hotel, add on an evening Extra Magic Hours Event at the Magic Kingdom, hire movers to carry all our furniture into our house (Rahum's brother thanks you for that, too), and will cover almost all of our meals in Disney World.

We know without a doubt that this church loves us. We knew it already, but if we had any doubts, they would have been swept away by the display of love and joy in our Austin Fellowship Hall on January 12.

I have been so moved by the way you have each welcomed Rahum with open arms. I knew from when we started dating that he was not the sort of person folks expect ministers to date. I knew the difference in our faiths would be a stumbling block for some... And I also knew from our third date that he was the person I was going to marry. After I figured that out, I began stressing about how to tell the church.

I knew this church was open hearted. I knew there was a logic behind how our tagline became 'The Church that Love is Building,' but ever since I brought him to a Halloween Party at the Watters home, I have witnessed the love of this church on full display.

I remember, early on in our relationship, trying to explain to Rahum what VBCC was like. I told him that it was mostly older people - but cool older people. He looked at me dubiously, and I told him stories about you. Stories of Martha Dennis parasailing in her late 70s, stories of you all standing up to dance with me in Church, stories of the open-minded conversations we had in Bible Study, of Bill and Kit Hayden and their grandchildren, of Bill and Debbie Ivory and their travels.

Then I explained that not everyone was old. I told him about the children of this Church and their families, of the McEwens, of the Ellisons, of the Imans. But mostly, I told him about the love. His experience with strong Christians before me had been judgment and pushy evangelism. I told him about this beautiful church living fully into God's call to divine love. I told him about how we believe 'God is Love.' He liked that.

Since meeting y'all, he has seen the same beauty and goodness that I see. He loves y'all - maybe not as much as me, but hey, I am your pastor after all - And I am grateful beyond words to have had these two loves of mine - my husband to be and my church - come together and love one another.

Thank you. I love each of you.

Joyfully yours,

Pastor Kelsey

Pastor Kelsey

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

"Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love."

1 John 4:7-8

Events this Month

February - Black History Month

February 2nd - Groundhog Day

February 10th - Book Club, 1:00PM

February 11th - Hi over Pie, 3:00PM

February 13th-24th - Pastor Kelsey Out of Town

February 14th - Happy Valentines Day!

February 15th - Pastor Kelsey's Wedding!

February 16th - Elder Meeting, 11:00AM

February 17th - Presidents Day, VBCC Office Closed

February 17th - 20th - Meals on Wheels VA Beach

February 19th - Board Meeting, 7:00PM

February 26th - DWM Meeting, 1:30PM

February 29th - March 2nd - Men's Retreat

Weekly:

Thursdays: Choir Practice, 7:00PM

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

Sunday Mornings: Special Adult Sunday School:
Living Our Faith, 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

February 2nd - Team 5

February 9th - Team 4

February 16th - Team 1

February 23rd - Team 2

Elder Schedule

February 2nd - Martha Beacham

February 9th - Frances Wiedeman

February 16th - Mark Farley

February 23rd - Phyllis Marshall

Sunday Worship:

February 2nd

Fourth Sunday After the Epiphany

Acts 2:42-47

1 Corinthians 12:12-27

February 9th

Fifth Sunday After the Epiphany

Isaiah 6:8

Luke 5:1-11

February 16th

Sixth Sunday After the Epiphany

Guest Speaker

February 23rd

Seventh Sunday After the Epiphany

Guest Speaker

Upcoming Events:

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

living our faith

How does our faith and relationship with God impact how we act and move in the world?

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.



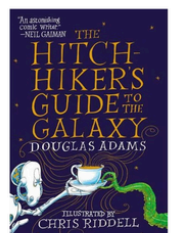
February 10th
Great Expectations
by Charles Dickens



Up Next:

March 10th

The Hitchhiker's
Guide to the Galaxy
by Douglas Adams



Upcoming Events:



Hi Over Pie

**February 11th
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!

DWM (Disciples Womens Ministries) MEETING



FEBRUARY 26TH, 1:30PM

IN THE LIBRARY

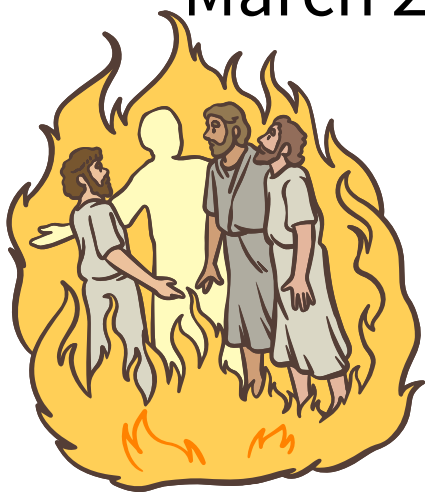
**CONTACT MARYANNE FARLEY IF YOU HAVE ANY
QUESTIONS PRIOR TO THE MEETING.**



Upcoming Events:

Parables of the Ordinary

February 29th-
March 2nd



Men's Retreat

For many years in the past, VBCC held a Men's Retreat on the Outer Banks. Let's do it again! Jim Iman, Bill Austin and Bill Hayden are coordinating the event. It will be held at the Outer Banks Beach Club in Kitty Hawk. We will start with dinner on Friday, February 28th and end with a prayer service and Communion on Sunday, March 2nd. Bill Austin will lead us in interesting group discussions on Saturday. Two-bedroom condos are available for \$100 a night (split the cost with a condo-mate!).

**Sign up with Bill Hayden
(757-343-3598).**

The Disciples Women's Group has scheduled a local retreat for May 2-3, 2025. We will gather at Patti Watters' home at 5:30 pm May 2 for Dinner, Games, and an initial Worship Service, then spend Saturday from 10 to 3 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).**

*With Love
& Moxie*

Virginia Beach Christian Church
Women's Retreat
May 2nd-3rd

Upcoming Events:

You're Invited to

Our House Warming Party!

Please drop by and join us - Kelsey, Rahum, Scout and Fiona - in celebrating the start of our next chapter in our new (rented) home!

March 9, 2-5 PM

1517 Selden Street

Virginia Beach, VA 23451



Sharing Over Soup

Every Tuesday During Lent

March 11-April 15

It made no difference whether the Cloud hovered over The Dwelling for two days or a month or a year, as long as the Cloud was there, they were there. And when the Cloud went up, they got up and marched.

Numbers 9:22 (MSG)





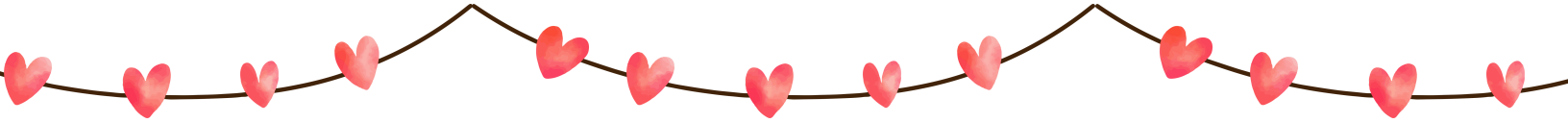
Department News:

Education

Calling all puppeteers! Please be on the lookout this month for details about a new puppet ministry coming to VBCC. Sydney Davis, Ellen Turman, and Vince Hutchison are sharing their talents and time with us to begin this exciting opportunity where learning and fun come together. All ages are encouraged to participate! Details coming soon!

Save the date for Vacation Bible School the week of August 4th. We are excited to focus on a Bible hero whose faith carried him through near-death experiences, imprisonment, and ultimately, to a throne. We will journey alongside Joseph and his time in Egypt. Mark your calendars, share with your friends, and get ready to go back in time!

Traci Ellison



Eldership

2024 has been a difficult year for our church with so many deaths of VBCC membership. Hopefully the new year will bring better health and fewer deaths for our church family.

A blessing for our church and choir is the return of wondering Rhonda Skaggs for good. Also, we are happy to welcome a young new choir member Madeline Hlebinsky.

Another happy occasion for this year is the celebration of our minister Pastor Kelsey and Rahum Sherazi's Wedding on February 15th in Williamsburg. We wish for them many happy and healthy years together.

Our Elders continue to be of service for members who need encouragement, prayer, or a friend.

We wish for you a blessed and Happy 2025

Martha Beacham



Department News:

Living Our Faith

How does our faith and relationship with God
impact how we act and move in the world?

This is a special six-week Sunday morning adult class (9:00 – 9:45) to discuss this topic. Each week we will read a short article together and then spend most of our time in conversation. Things we will discuss include statements from our readings, such as:

- While I think that God can and does occasionally influence events, I don't agree that this is the primary way that he exercises power. Instead, I think that he empowers others.
- I'd rather apologize to God for trying to discern the movement of the Spirit and loving too liberally than trying to anticipate what God would do and love too frugally.
- Jesus doesn't say, "I was undeservedly a stranger, and you welcomed me." He doesn't point-out that "I was in prison for a crime I didn't commit, and you visited me."

I look forward to our conversation together - we will learn more about each other, more about ourselves, and more about our faith. And we will have some fun along the way. See you there!

John Steinmetz



Spiritual Round Table

The spiritual Roundtable continues to meet via Zoom every Sunday morning. Beginning in January the group will meet at 8:30. The time has been changed so anyone who wants to go to church can leave in time for services. On January 5th the group will begin discussing *Loving What Is: Four Questions That Can Change Your Life* (<https://a.co/d/gKtcvJu>) by Byron Katie. Anyone interested in joining the group can get the Zoom link from Connie Hooker by email at ckhooker@gmail.com.

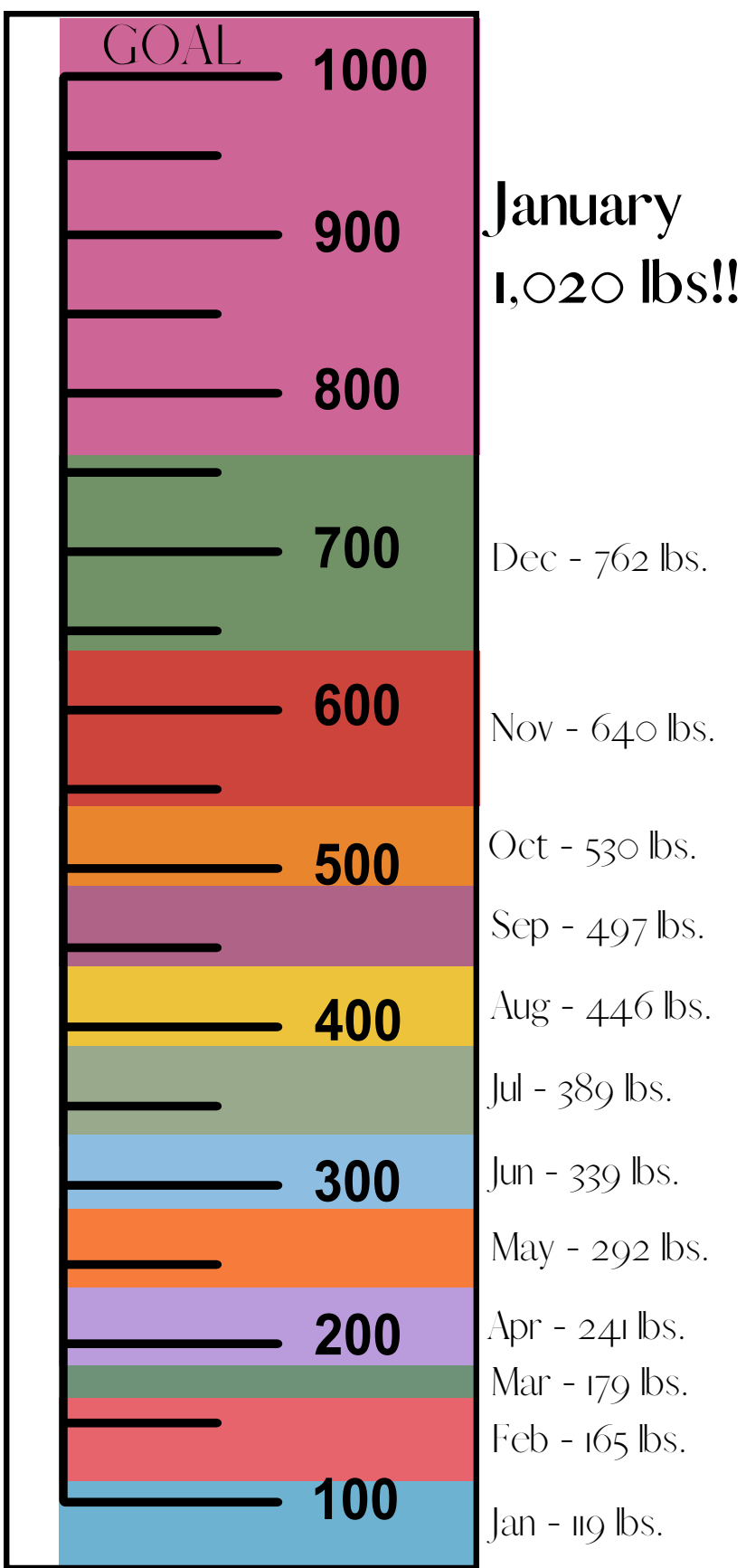
Connie Hooker



Department News:

Recycling Update

VBCC recyclers - Congratulations! You recycled 1,020 pounds of plastic in 363 days, meeting our challenge with 2 days to spare. I have included pictures of the last 2 recyclers. Phyllis Marshall and Cindy Childress grabbed plastic from a construction site as they delivered meals on wheels yesterday. My last faithful recycler was Helen Burns. After we met our goal, Susie Sumnick and Suzanne Genz both called with more plastic. This church is so generous, kind to our environment, and supportive of any worthy cause we ask you to support. We are making a difference! We will get a third bench worth \$379.00 soon from Trex, the company sponsoring this program.



Department News:

I am now retiring from collecting the plastic. I took over from David Kays 3 years ago. If anyone wants to continue the recycling, please talk to me. Otherwise, I hope each of you will continue to take your plastic to the grocery store of your choice. I want to thank the Preschool for their support and Harris Teeter on Virginia Beach Blvd for always smiling and helping me with those huge bags. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for all your effort and support to make this happen.

Gratefully,
Patti Watters





Department News:



RECIPE

Oatmeal Bars with Jam

2 cups flour
1 cup old fashioned oatmeal
1 cup butter in small pieces
1 cup brown sugar
1 ½ tsp cinnamon
1 1/3 cup jam or preserves of choice
1/3 cup oatmeal (for topping)

Lightly grease 9 x 13 baking pan. Line with parchment or foil for ease of removal and grease again.

Preheat oven to 325 degrees

In food processor, put flour, oatmeal, butter pieces, brown sugar and cinnamon. Pulse until all ingredients are combined. Set one cup aside.

Pour remaining flour mixture into prepared pan. Even out and pat down gently.

Spread jam over flour mixture.

Add the 1/3 cup oatmeal to the reserved flour mixture and sprinkle mixture evenly over jam. Gently pat down to adhere mixture to jam.

Bake 40-45 minutes.

DO NOT UNDERCOOK OR BOTTOM CRUST WILL BE SOFT.

Maryanne Farley



HAPPY
Valentines
DAY



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/

