

April 2023

Hello Vineyard!

Here is "April's" Quarterly for you (only a little late... ;)) **First of all**, make sure you [watch the video](#) from the latest Community Check In, where all of us on Pastoral Council talked about how God is moving, where He is leading us, and most importantly, **how you can participate in that**. Then, read on for more updates.

In this Quarterly:

- On my mind this quarter – Changes with the Kids
- Ministry Area Check-Ins
- The "numbers" section
- Upcoming this quarter
- Vineyard USA Happenings

Changes with the Kids

As you know, Jill Campo is ending her time as Head of VCC Kids at the end of May. Rather than simply make a list of all the possible new candidates to pursue for this open position, God is drawing us a different direction. The way God is leading us in this VCC Kids transition is in line with where he is taking us as a whole church - **toward pursuing God's will together**.

What this means is that we are engaging in a process of discernment together with everyone who feels drawn to join us (including you!) We're asking, "Jesus, what do you want next for the kids as part of our church?" The PC hosted a VCC Kids prayer night recently and what we heard from that evening is helping to chart our path.

What has come up so far

Out of prayer, discussion and the prayer evening, a direction is beginning to emerge. Here are some highlights we feel God drawing us toward next:

- that kids would be **integrated** more into the whole - ALL adults (not just parents) feeling more connection to the kids
- that kids would be **seen, truly loved, valued by the whole church** and feel a sense of **belonging**

- that kids would **bond with Jesus** and the [church] family, and would be really **growing** in Jesus, **being equipped** to live out their faith
- the word "**messy**" keeps surfacing - that **there is a cost** to including/integrating the kids - but **it will be formative** for all of us (kids and adults)

We have not drawn ultimate conclusions from these leanings, but are beginning to feel faith for trying out some ideas to further integrate kids and adults, and to take steps in this direction. We do know that Sunday KidZone will continue to operate as normal, with Anna Schulte handling administration on staff. If you have any questions or prayers to share with us, talk to any of the Pastoral Council members any time.

Ministry Area Check-Ins

VCC Kids

Leading up to Easter, it was exciting to engage with the kids as they learn and begin to understand the magnitude of Christ's death and resurrection. Our older kids are also piecing together how this personally relates to them.

As many of you know, my tenure as Children's Ministry Director is coming to an end in May. It has been an honor to serve alongside families over the past four years and a joy to see so many children at VCC grow in their faith. **Please pray** for the future of VCC Kids and also consider if God might be nudging you to play a role in this ministry. We would love for more youth and grown-ups (not just parents!) to be connecting with our amazing kids.

Youth Group

Youth ministry is going strong with youth continuing to take the lead. We can't tell you how supported and valued the youth feel from the generous support at their Reverb Chili Cook-off Fundraiser! We're looking forward to many of our students attending other youth conferences over the summer: Sons & Daughters in Urbana and Project Timothy, a week long camp to train and equip student leaders. **Please continue to pray** for our youth as they learn to discern God's voice in all the voices in our culture

Compassion & Justice

La Vina School in Bluefields, Nicaragua - With the passing of the Head of School and Lead Pastor Martha earlier this year, there is now a dispute on the land where the church and school sit as it has been in her family for years. We are asking for **prayers for Jonel**, who has taken over for Martha, that this can get resolved in a stress-free manner.

Worship

It's such an honor to be able to worship with you all every Sunday, and the worship team continues to have great capacity to pour into worship. Worship circle each month is growing! It's a space for just worship and hanging out with other people, but it feels very different from Sunday worship and continues to really bless everyone who attends. We'd love to have you join us!

Prayer Ministry

Would you like to be more equipped in ministering to others through prayer ministry? Or are you interested in praying for people up front on a Sunday? Let us know! We're considering different options for training during and after the "Empowered" teaching series on Sundays, and we'd love to know where you'd like more training. Shoot an email to emily@stlvineyard.org or chat with Emily McCall any time.

Leadership Structure Assessment Team (LSAT)

The LSAT was formed by Pastoral Council in the summer of 2021 to assess our church's current leadership structure and to make a recommendation for possible changes. As we have worked together on this task, we were also led to work through the book, "Pursuing God's Will Together," by Ruth Haley Barton. Through this work, God has led us on an unexpected deep journey of transformation as individuals and as a group as **we learn how to pursue His will for our church together**. We're growing in our understanding and practice of what it means to listen for God's direction as a group and as individuals. Out of this work, we hope to make our recommendation to Pastoral Council sometime this summer.

The "Numbers" Section

YTD Budget vs. Giving:

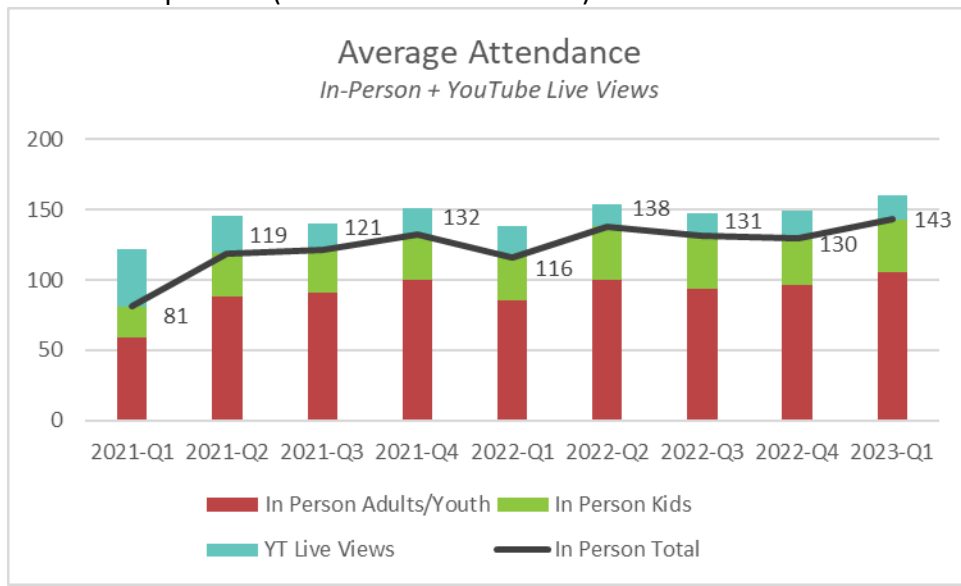
Our budget for the year is \$535,000 as reported in the Board's [2023 February Financial Update](#). Currently, our giving is behind budget, which is not uncommon for this time of year.

Budget YTD:	\$174,904
Actual Giving YTD:	<u>\$163,637</u>
Deficit:	-\$11,267

Thanks again to everyone who has given so generously and faithfully to our church. For those considering an offering, you can give easily online. You can set up a one-time or repeating gift at ccb.stlvineyard.org. Login and click the "Give" link on the left. You can also give a one-time gift at vcclife.org/give.

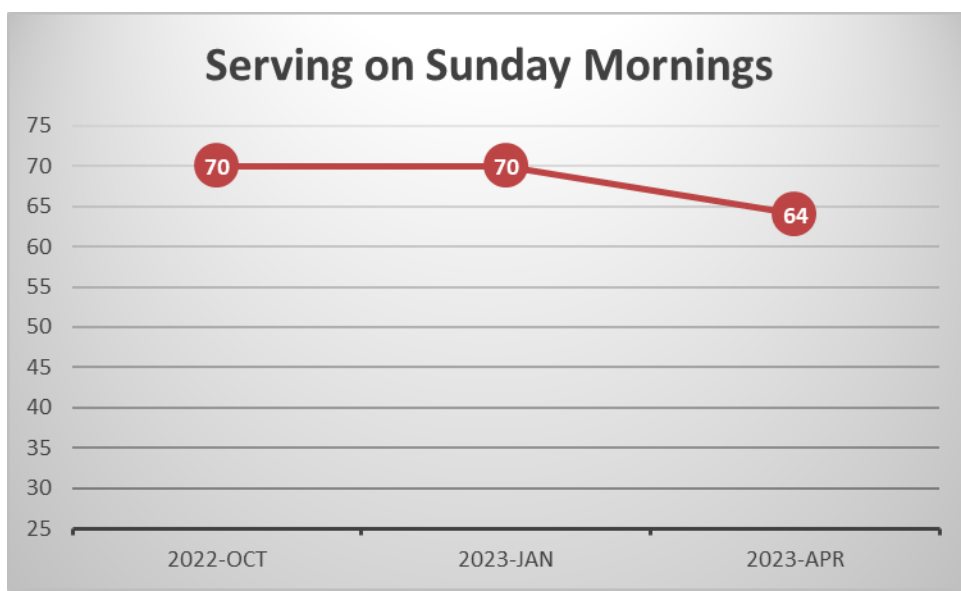
Attendance Averages by Quarter:

Our April average attendance was through the roof due to Easter (228) and that Baptism service on April 23rd (218...all at one service!)



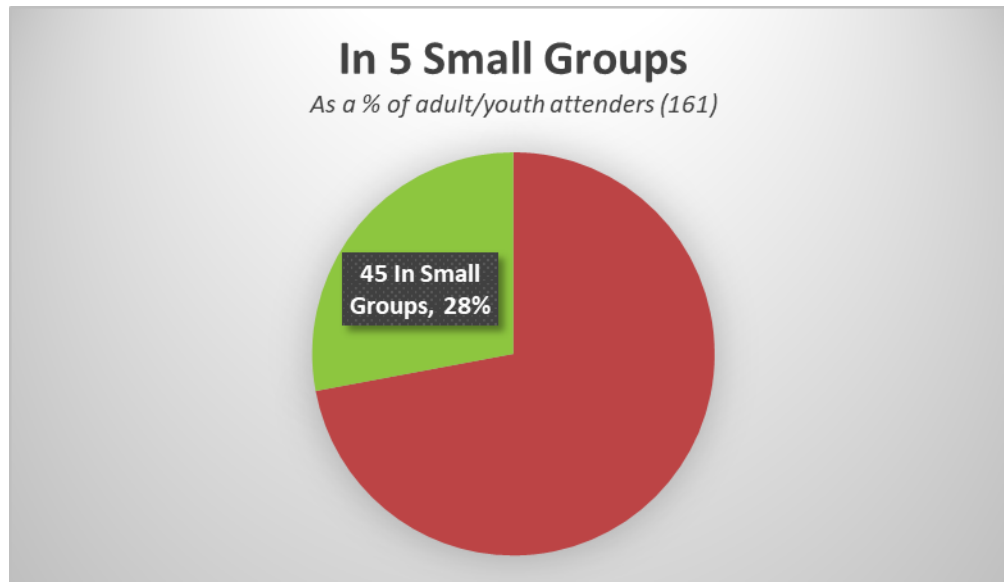
Serving:

We've been holding steady on number of people serving on Sunday mornings until this past quarter, when several servers needed to take a break. Being down 6 servers is a big deal as it means the remaining team members need to cover those spots. **Would you consider filling one of those 6 spots?** You can [check out all serving opportunities on vcclife.org](https://www.vcclife.org).



Small Groups:

No big changes in our small groups this past quarter, although Bob and Susan Tarr's new group starts this week! [Check out all of our small groups](#) and let us know if you might be feeling drawn to add more small group options.



Upcoming this Quarter

This quarter, we've got a 5-week small group starting and lots of opportunities to connect with each other while we're being "Empowered" on Sunday mornings leading up to Pentecost. After Pentecost, we'll dig even further into Kingdom theology and practice with a new teaching series on the Kingdom of God, called "The Kingdom."

See all of our [current announcements and events here](#).

May:

- **Tarr Study Group:** Evangelism – 5 Thursdays, beginning May 4
- **Kirkcare Donation Sorting** – Saturday, May 6, Two shifts: 9am – 11am or 11am – 1pm
- **Men's Community Event:** "Playing Together with Jesus" – Saturday, May 6, 7pm
- Worship Circle – Friday, May 19, 7pm
- **Youth Group Year-End Extravaganza** – Saturday afternoon, May 20
- Creatives Group – Monday, May 22, 7pm
- Prayer for Revival – Wednesday, May 31, 7pm

June:

- **Men's Community Event:** "Tearing Away from Your False Man" – Friday, June 2, 7pm
- Worship Circle – Friday, June 16, 7pm
- Prayer for Revival – Wednesday, June 28, 7pm
- **Your Event Here?** Have an idea for a gathering, outreach or group? Talk to Emily McCall: emily@stlvineyard.org

July:

- Worship Circle – Friday, July 21, 7pm
- Prayer for Revival – Wednesday, July 26, 7pm
- **VBS Outreach! – Monday – Wednesday, July 24-26** - we hope to reach even more refugee families this year, mark your calendars to join in the fun!

August

- **Vineyard National Conference** – Monday, July 31 – Thursday, August 3 (see below)

Vineyard USA Happenings

2023 Vineyard National Conference:

Monday, July 31 – Thursday, August 3 at Ridgecrest Conference Center near Asheville, NC

More info and registration at <https://conference.vineyardusa.org/>

There's about 15 of us going to the Vineyard National Conference – we'd love for you to join us! If you've never been to a Vineyard function outside of our church, I would HIGHLY recommend this! There will be amazing teaching, worship and ministry, and they have great kids and youth programming, too. **Let us know if you are interested!**

Vineyard Midwest Central Region:

Get to know our Vineyard Region, including upcoming events at vineyardmidwestcentral.org

If you have any questions, or have an additional area you'd love to know more about, let me know! You can always use the [ask page](#) on vcclife.org, or email me any time.

Emily McCall

Pastor of Equipping & Operations