

Hello Vineyard!

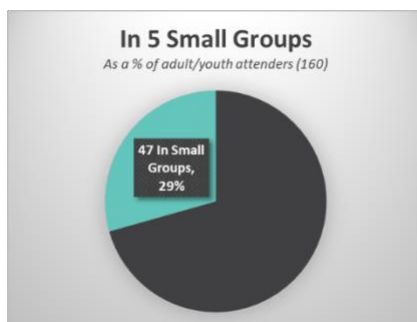
I'm so encouraged as I look back on the last year in our church. Though transitioning to new ways is hard (especially for my personality!), I'm more convinced than ever that we are on the right track. That's partly because God has shown me in the past year that he is a genius planner! I'm actually a pretty good planner, as far as humans go, but I'm telling you, I've got *nothing* on God (maybe this is only surprising to me ;). As I see just how far back and intricately He has laid his plans for our church, then see them start to come to fruition, I am in awe of who He is and more excited than ever about what He's planning for our church. This is good because as I glimpse of the transitions still to come, I know I'm going to need that trust! Thank goodness I can rely to Him, who is so worthy of my faith in Him and His ways.

In this Quarterly:

- On my mind this quarter – Small Groups!
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- The "numbers" section
- Community Check-In: Small Group Feedback
- Upcoming this quarter
- Vineyard USA Happenings

Small Groups

As I've been praying and thinking about the upcoming year, small groups have consistently been on my mind. Being in small groups has been one of the most consistent and fruitful ways God has grown my faith and matured me as his follower. Being in regular community with other believers is where I first experienced the beauty and importance of opening my life up to others and also where I learned and grew in applying the Bible to my life, ministering to others, and faithfully pursuing God with my whole life.



I long for more of you to have that same experience in our church Body! Our [current small groups](#) are open for visitors – just contact the leader to ask any questions, or let them know you're thinking of dropping in. If you don't see a group that is a good fit, but are drawn to being in a group, **consider if God might be nudging you toward starting something new.** If he is, I'd love to have a conversation with you about that.

Ministry Area Check-Ins

VCC Kids

VCC Kids has been bursting at the seams lately! What a blessing! God has been nudging us to help the children grow in both their experience and knowledge of him by incorporating times for teaching, catechism, worship, prayer, and God stories (testimonies) at age-appropriate levels. **Please pray** that God would continue to help our kids grow in their faith and draw near to Jesus. As you pray, if you feel a nudge to be more involved, we'd love to have you check out serving in KidZone. See VCCLife.org/serving for information.

Youth Group

God has been using our student leaders to introduce new ways for us to interact with his Spirit during our ministry times. We've had some really impactful times on our Friday night gatherings where students are letting God and their peers into deeper places in their hearts. We are also preparing for the Reverb youth retreat. There is always a lot of excitement and anticipation for the how God will move there. **Please pray** that their experiences at Reverb will translate into a deeper faith and understanding of God that will carry with them for their lifetime, not only a blip on the radar.

Compassion & Justice

Thanks to your generosity, we were able to bless many as a church in December. Check out pictures in the Lobby of the Waymakers receiving their stockings. VCC also sponsored 129 kids at La Vina in Bluefields, Nicaragua! Thank you to all who contributed!

One exciting change on the horizon is that we are looking to expand the leadership in this important area of the church. Jeff Brasier will continue to oversee C&J, alongside a few others, discerning together the direction of the ministry and helping to assist our partners. More info on this coming soon.

Please pray for La Vina. They will have a challenging year as they had to deplete their reserves last year to meet the Government taxes and fees (which continue to grow even as the economy shrinks). **Pray for** wisdom on how they can gain resources moving forward.

Worship

It has been huge blessing to worship together each week with such a strong sense of God's presence! The way you are engaged in worship is big part of that for which we are very grateful.

We've got some practical projects planned for this year and could use your help. We're working to improve the sanctuary's sound. As part of that, we need your old bath towels! Yes, you heard that right, bath towels! Since they won't be seen at all, the towels can be old and ugly and they'll still work great. Please drop them off to the collection box in the lobby. Looking forward to another great year of worship in our community!

Prayer Ministry

What a gift prayer ministry is...a tool God has given us in the Vineyard where we can see and experience his “kingdom come” and his “will be done” in real time! We’re hoping to equip more and more of you this year to both experience this and minister to others in this way...and not just within the walls of our church! If you’re interested, please [reach out to me!](#)

Leadership Structure Assessment Team (LSAT)

After a much-needed rest from our work on assessing the church’s leadership structures while forming deep community, we are back at it this month with a work day on Saturday, January 28. We expect our full day to be effortful as we continue to learn to discern together, but also fruitful in producing concrete goals to finish up our work and make recommendations to the Pastoral Council by June.

Also to note: during our rest from LSAT work in December, Tyler Campo’s discernment process led him to recognize he was being called to step down from his role on the LSAT team. We are very grateful for Tyler’s time and contributions to the team and to the work. He brought insight, perspective and a passion for working purposefully for God that will be missed. Please be in prayer for us, including Tyler, as we adjust to this change.

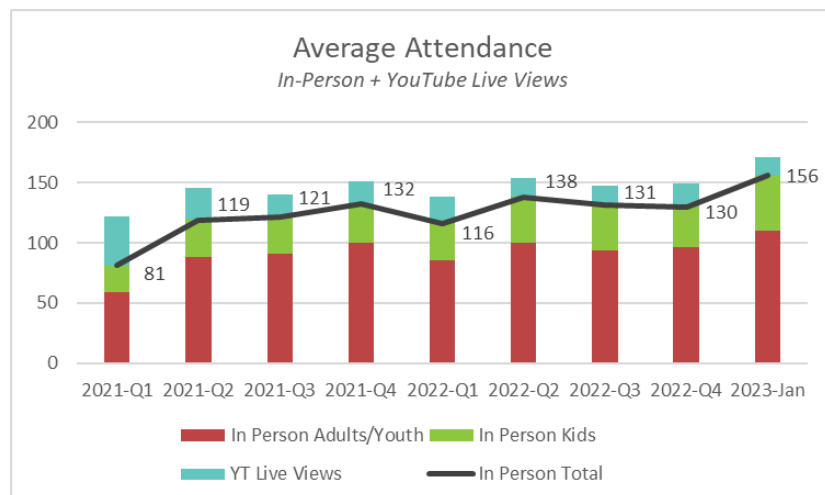
The "Numbers" Section

End of Year 2022 Financials:

Caleb gave a great, short update on a recent Sunday on how we ended the year financially. [Watch it here.](#) The VCC Board will send a more thorough update on 2022, as well as 2023 budget and financials sometime in February.

Attendance Averages by Quarter:

We’ve had a sudden spike in attendance on Sunday mornings, which is not unusual for (a pre-pandemic) January. It has been wonderful to see so many of your faces each week, as well as some new ones. It will be interesting to see what God has for us in the way of numerical growth this year!



Serving:



Even with the normal attrition, the number of people serving remained the same in the last quarter with a few new people stepping in. **We'd love to have even more to share in the ownership of Sunday mornings!** Though it's always great to have extras on the "upstairs" teams, the greatest need is almost always "downstairs" in the KidZone. Check out our open serving positions below and see all opportunities at vcclife.org/serving.

Join our Sunday crew

Serving Needs: Jan - March

Children's Ministry	Other Sunday Teams
1 - Preschool Teacher	1 - Sound team member
2 - Elementary Assistants	1 - Livestream member
1 - Principal of the Day	
1 - Nursery Volunteer	
1 - Preschool Assistant	
1 - K-1 Teacher	
1 - 2 nd -5 th Teacher	

VCCLife.org/serving

Community Check-In: Small Group Feedback

Our first ever "Community Check-In" potluck and gathering in November was a rich time of sharing food and what God has been up to – both in the broader church and with each of YOU. (If you missed it, you can [catch up with the recording](#).) We loved hearing how God is working in each of your lives and what has you excited in our church. Here are a few themes we noticed:

- Excited about integration and inclusivity of all ages into our church body
- Drawn to, excited about more and deeper community
- Glad for the theme of rest and sustainability lately in our church
- Excited about the direction of discernment in church, excitement for what's to come
- Drawn to more Bible study
- God coming into anxieties...especially social/relational
- People in transition / waiting periods and that something is happening in the waiting that will be important for what's to come
- Desiring God's presence in all of life
- Excited about outreach / missions

We're already looking forward to doing it again – **mark your calendars for Sunday, April 23, 5:00 – 7:30pm** for some more potluck and checking in.

Upcoming this Quarter

This quarter, we've got at least one small group in the works (hopefully will have details on that for you soon), and we're digging into Philippians through an "us" lens on Sunday mornings.

After our very encouraging New Year's Day service, the Pastoral Council and the Teaching Team are also actively praying about ways to incorporate more regular opportunities for testimonies on Sundays. Stay tuned! *See all of our [current announcements and events here](#).*

January:

- The Chosen Community group is back for season 3 on Sunday evenings at 5:30.
- *Please pray for:* LSAT Work Day – Saturday, January 28

February:

- Chili Cookoff and Dessert Auction – Saturday Feb 4, 5:00 – 7:00pm – [Get your tickets!](#)
- *Please pray for:* [Reverb](#) Youth Conference - Feb 17-19
- Ash Wednesday (the beginning of the season of Lent): February 22

March:

- Small Group Leader Training – a Saturday in early March
- Your event here?? ☺

April:

- Good Friday – April 7 – *let me know if you're interested in being a part of a service (there are no plans yet)*
- Easter Sunday – April 9 – *we'll almost certainly have two services*
- Community Check-in and Potluck – Sunday, April 23, 5:00 – 7:30pm

Vineyard USA Happenings

2023 Vineyard National Conference:

If you've never been to a Vineyard function outside of our church, I would HIGHLY recommend considering the 2023 Vineyard National Conference! There will be amazing teaching, worship and ministry, along with experiencing the "togetherness" of our whole Vineyard family. It's **Monday, July 31st through Thursday, August 3rd** and will take place at Ridgecrest Conference Center in North Carolina (yes, that's a location change from my last update!)

Vineyard Midwest Central Region: vineyardmidwestcentral.org

[More Love, More Power](#) is coming up in March! This is a conference in Urbana, IL to "passionately seek His presence, discover how to walk more fully in the gifts of the Spirit, and release God's powerful light to a hurting world around us." I've never attended, but there are many in our church who have. Talk to Alicia Johnson if you want a first-hand account.

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