

GOOD NEWS



April 2016

Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Here we go! In March, Session voted to hire Rev. Ricardo Green as our Dir. of Spanish Ministries. He will move from Memphis in May.

Pastor Ricardo has a dynamic personality and his love for God exudes with every word he speaks. I have no doubt that you will love him and his wonderful wife, Reyna. Their son, Richard, will join them here as a high school junior. They have two older daughters in college and graduate school. I will share more biographical information about their family next month, but I do want to note that Ricardo has an M.Div. from Princeton Seminary and has founded a dozen Presbyterian ministries in three countries.

What will happen next? I must admit that I do not know what God has in store for us and for the members of the Hispanic community who may join together with us in ministry. I do not expect change to occur with our current worship services other than Ricardo's participation in them. One of the first things that will change is the job title I mentioned. It became clear once we met him in person that he has too much to offer the English speaking members we already have to let that opportunity be missed. He is an excellent preacher in both languages and I suspect he will be very effective at getting English speaking people to come to church, too. With a few more years of experience than I have, I also expect to learn a great deal from him. He feels like a brother already and I cannot wait to get started working with him.

Still, starting a ministry like this takes time. Even with the open door we have through LNP, new relationships take patience. We begin by making friendships and we just hired the friendliest guy I have ever met.

I want to thank the members of the church who made gifts to this ministry above their annual pledge. I also want to thank Sylvia McAdam and Leigh Thompson for serving with me as a search committee. Maritza Morelli, LNP Director, continues to be the best friend MVPC has ever had and participated in the interview process by giving the Greens a tour of LNP and confirming for us that Ricardo actually speaks Spanish! (I would have been easy to fool.)

There are three ways that you can help. We still need some funding to ensure that we can cover expenses for a minimum of two years. We need a few church members/visitors and a few members of the Hispanic community to form a steering committee that Ricardo will lead. And since his family will not join him here until the end of June, if anyone can point me toward an room or garage apartment Ricardo could use for a couple of months, that would make his transition smoother.

God is good. More later.

Praise, Listen, Love, Serve,

Joe B.

This Month At-A-Glance

April 17

◇ Confirmation Sunday

April 19

◇ Presbyterian Women's Retreat

April 24

◇ Cantata - 11:00am service

April 29

◇ MVPS Mustang Rally

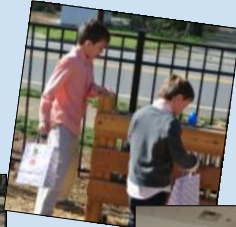


Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church
471 Mt. Vernon Hwy, NE, Sandy Springs, GA 30328
404-255-2211 www.mvpcchurch.org Office Hours: M-F 8:00am-4:00pm

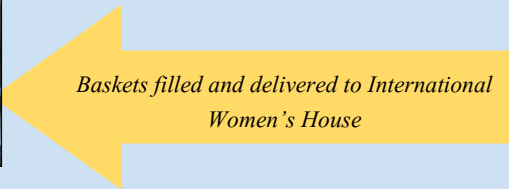
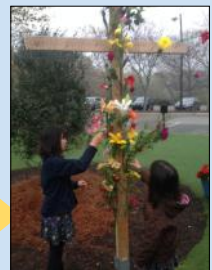


Children's Ministry

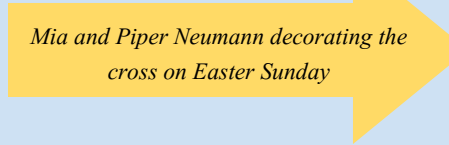
The Eggstravaganza was an eggs-tremely fun time! We had a wonderful morning getting to know our visitors and appreciated the tasty brunch. Our children filled twelve Easter baskets for the International Women's House with chocolate bunnies, candy, cars, bubbles, and more! The children went out to the playground for the egg hunt escapade. After serious exploring, Sam Nelson, Kyle Cumming, and Aidan Ray found the golden eggs. It was a beautiful morning and our families delighted in seeing all the children running and playing together. Special thanks to the youth and adults who helped fill the eggs with candy and those who helped hide the eggs Sunday. I appreciate the Children's Ministry Team and all they did to make this an eggs-tra-excellent Eggstravaganza!



Jodi



Baskets filled and delivered to International Women's House



Mia and Piper Neumann decorating the cross on Easter Sunday



Youth Ministry

I want to thank all of you on behalf of the youth for your incredible support of our Pasta Lunch. I think we raised more money for trips and special youth group outings than we ever have! The teens had a great time cooking, serving, getting to know those of you who came, and cleaning up (well, maybe not the cleaning up part). We are so blessed to be in a church that so actively and joyfully supports our teenagers. They were thrilled with how well it went, as was I. Thank you!



My old youth group (the one I was in while in high school) at Brookwood Baptist Church in Birmingham, AL, had a reunion the same weekend as the fundraiser. I was fortunate enough to attend part of it (it was a blast!) The reunion reminded me how much my own youth group experience has influenced the way I lead our teens. It made me think how very much I want our various youth groups to stand the test of time and then want to reunite in a similar fashion because of what it (and the church) meant to them. I pray for that kind of connection to one another and the church, and would ask you to do the same.

Peace and Grace to you,

Elizabeth



In April, the **Day Circle and the Sunday Circle** will study Lesson 8 from *Come to the Water*, and the Book Circle will discuss *American Ghost: A Family's Haunted Past in the Desert Southwest* by *Hannah Nordhaus*.



Presbyterian Women's Retreat

All women of the church are invited to the Presbyterian Women's Retreat

Busy Lives, Thirsting Souls, Finding Spiritual Refreshment

Led by Leigh Taylor-Campbell
Associate Minister - Newnan Presbyterian Church



Tuesday, April 19th
Heritage Green - Community Room
9:30 A.M. – 2:30 P.M.

Refreshments and Lunch provided
\$25 reservation/payment by April 13th to Pat Davis or Sarah Chalpan

Shrek the Musical, will be performed at Mount Vernon Presbyterian School's Black Box Theatre on the Glenn Campus. Our very own Joe B. Martin, Garrett Hahn, Jack McGuire, and Sage Allen are in the cast! **All shows are SOLD OUT but we have 15 tickets for a lucky few to attend the Saturday, April 9th, performance at 2:00pm!**

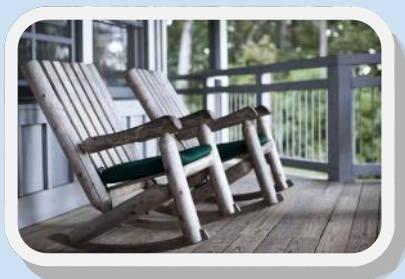
To reserve your ticket, you must call the church office at 404-255-2211. Tickets are \$10 each.



Save these Dates!

Make sure you save **Saturday, May 7th**, on your calendar for the CAC Food n' Fun Festival. We will be helping with the festival and sponsoring a special food drive here in April to help out. Details to come!

July 11th-15th is **Cave Quest** time! We are gearing up for an underground adventure at **Vacation Bible School 2016**. This summer we will ground kids in the rock-solid foundation of God's love. Kids will spend each day in spelunker games, enjoy music as we rock-and-roll, make discoveries at the Imagination Station, be inspired in Kid Vid Cinema, and enjoy a snack at the Cavern Café. Registration has begun and can be done online [here](#) or on the [church website](#). If you would like to volunteer, click on the link and then on the orange button that says "Register Now". There you will be sent to a volunteer sign-up page. Contact Jodi Martin at Jodi@mvpchurch.org if you have any questions!



The Mount Vernon Presbyterian Fellowship Weekend will be taking place the weekend of September 17-18, 2016, at [Hike Inn](#). For more information, contact Bruce or Laura Northrop at bnorthrop@digitel.net.

Sermon Schedule

April 3: *AMIS: Lisa Majoros*
Preaches

John 12: 20-36

April 10: *Thomas Believes*

John 20: 24-31

April 17: *The Great Commission*

Matthew 28: 16-20

April 24: *Believers Share*

Acts 4: 32-37

Join Us Online:

Find the online version of the Good News on our website at

www.mvpchurch.org



Concerns of the Congregation

In **extended care:** Margaret Blackley, Frances Couch, Lorraine Moore, Judy Ruppe. Don Russell is recovering at ManorCare Rehab Facility. Also remember Bob Foster and Allison Eustis in your prayers as they heal.

Our Christian sympathy is extended to the families of Roy Storm, who passed away on March 2, 2016, and his son, Stewart Lee Storm, who passed away on March 14, 2016, as well as the family of Carl Bhame, who passed away on March 10, 2016.



A Note of Thanks...

The family of Carl D. Bhame expresses their sincere gratitude for the many cards, visits, and expressions of sympathy. Carl was a 50-year member of Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church. He was an Elder, a choir member, and a devoted member of the church. Thank you all for your care and support.

Sincerely,

Linda Bhame



Thank you to everyone who helped make our March session of Family Promise a success. We hosted 3 families with 4 kids ages 5-16 and we could not have done it without everyone's support. During our week we celebrated the birthday of one of our child guests, we played Candyland, blew bubbles, made play-doh animals, and played lots of games. Our youngest guest insisted on teaching Betsy Cozine to dribble under her legs (and yes she did it! Way to go Betsy!) Family Promise has now graduated 31 families in its 3 years of operation and your support was key to making that happen. **Please mark your calendars for our 2 week session from July 10-24.**



Let salvation
spring up!



The Communion Offering on April 3rd will be for the **International Women's House**, a shelter for abused immigrant women and their children. Most needed items include household products and cleaning supplies, laundry detergent, grooming products (toothpaste, soap, hand lotion, children's toothbrushes, etc.), diapers, canned/nonperishable foods, cereal, and child-friendly snacks. The shelter guests frequently bake and cook, so flour, sugar, cooking oil, spices, seasonings, and condiments are especially appreciated. Donations may be left in the outreach bins near the church office at any time during the month of April. Thank you for your generosity!

Isaiah 45:8, NIV



Circle of Friends Gala: A Huge Success!

This year's Circle of Friends Gala **raised over \$100,000!** Many thanks and appreciation goes out to all of the Sandy Springs community and the members of Mount Vernon Presbyterian church for all of the support. The Gala would not have been as successful without everyone. The money raised will go to continued education of Los Niños children and families in our community. Thank you all for your generosity!



ATTENTION: Just in case you have not heard...Mt. Vernon Hwy will be closing at the intersection of Sandy Springs Circle. The announcement from City Hall is below. We are sharing the message through our avenues because preparation will lead to your traffic navigation success!



SANDY SPRINGS (March 18, 2016) - Beginning April 18, 2016, the intersection of Mt. Vernon and Sandy Springs Circle will close completely for construction needed as part of road improvements surrounding the City Springs development. The intersection is expected to reopen early summer. Detour signage will be installed to help direct traffic.

Mount Vernon Presbyterian Foundation: Planned Giving

The Mount Vernon Presbyterian Foundation was established in 1998 to provide a permanent funding source to support a variety of the church's ministries. Funding for the Foundation happens in many ways through direct gifts of cash, stock, and other assets or through planned giving such as wills, trusts, and other bequests. A good example of this is the \$10,000 gift by Lou and Liz Baine for the benefit of the MVPC Youth. This gift now serves as a perpetual tribute to the late Liz Baine with earnings for the gift providing \$600.00 per year to support the MVPC Youth.

Personal passion motivates charitable giving, and when the time is right for you, we hope that the MVP Foundation will be one of your favored charities. The MVP Foundation has partnered with the national Presbyterian Foundation to offer advanced planned giving capabilities. For a copy of Composing A Legacy or to start the planned giving process, please contact Carlton Carden at clcarden@bellsouth.net.



The Mount Vernon Presbyterian Foundation: Grants

The new grant season has opened for the Mount Vernon Presbyterian Foundation. This grant is for a one year project. The Foundation will review all applications together and will notify grantees by May 31, 2016, if their application can be funded. Applications should be submitted by April 29, 2016 to Charlie Gray. Grant request forms are available in the church office, on the church website or you may access the foundation request form [here](#). For more information, you may contact Charlie Gray at Charlie.gray@gvfinancial.com.

**2016 Session Members
and Ministry Teams**

Adult

Jonathan Dente
Mary McClurg

Intergenerational

David Barclift
Daniel Schafer
Ann Williams

Outreach

Dale Morine
Wendy Hagenau
Quinton Fisher

Children

Carrie Southard
Heidi Nelson

Finance/Administration

John Allen
Lisa McGuire

Youth

Brad Hahn

Congregational Care

Cathy Austin
Joy Carden

Witness

Leigh Thompson
Ann Addison

Stewardship

Aubrey Forlines
Wit Truitt

Strategic Planning

Sarah Teja
Martha Baitcher

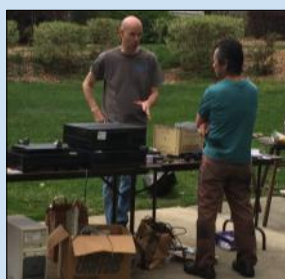
Worship

Jamie Carberry
Katherine Koops

MVPC Members and MVPS Students Focus on Zambia: Update

Hannah's Garden Hill Project: Hannah Hagenau and her classmates met 100% of their goal, raising roughly \$2200.00!

Stan's Zambian College Scholarship Fund Project: For years MVPC has worked with Helen DeVos Christian High School, which has become one of the very best schools in Zambia despite serving students with the greatest need. Last year, Stan and Ann Williams and some additional contributors gave \$10,000 to fund one student for four years. This year, their goal is the same, but will be shared with three students—a future pharmacist, a medical researcher, and a teacher who wants to work with less privileged students the way his teachers worked with him. With money they have in hand, they are looking to raise \$4,000 more. To date, Stan and Ann have raised 44% of their goal! If you would like to donate, you can give by check made out to MVPC with a note designating it for the Zambian College Fund or by using the online [Paypal link](#).



Electronics for Zambia Students

Member Don McAdam held the electronics garage sale and reports that it was a huge success! Thanks to the generosity of our congregation, we sold 10 cell phones, a few tablets, some bar stools, a mini-fridge (okay, not everything sold was electronics), and lots of odds and ends. The total received was \$435.00!



We have been receiving many 'thank you' letters from Zambian Scholarship recipients! Here is another one of several:

“Dear Sponsor,

Greetings and a happy 2016 to you. I thank the Almighty God for (what) he has allowed us in this New Year...I am so humbled to be in college.

I would like to say thank you for everything you have been doing for me and once again I am in school in my second year. I am so grateful I am able to reach this stage and I am only remaining with a year to finally complete my diploma study in clinical medicine. I have learned a lot and so far it has been interesting. I have learned how to be responsible apart from my clinical skills and so willing to help many people with my skills especially the hopeless and helpless children.

Above all, I am so thankful for the sponsorship. It has really changed my life. May our Almighty God continue blessing you and add more days to your lives.

Thank you once more,

Cecilia Mvula”



WHAT'S NEXT in April 2016

April 3

Lisa Majoros (AMIS) Preaches

SCRIPTURE: John 12: 20-36 THEME: Unless a Grain of Wheat...

10:00 THISunday Activities

Childcare: (Sanctuary Bldg 101, 120-Staff)

Children: *Deep Blue Lesson 1* (Kirk Center)

MS Youth: *FaithWeaver Now Lesson 6* (AB 103)

HS Youth: *FaithWeaver Now Lesson 6* (Gailey Hall)

Adult: 1. *FaithWeaver Now Lesson 6* (Chapel– David Hill)

2. *Atlanta Ministry with International Students* (AB 200– Lisa Majoros)

Learn about this great program in which many of our members participate and the difference that it makes in the lives of international students and world peace.

3. *Prayer Café* (Session Room– TJ Shirley)

Talk about your experience with other cultures– or talk about something else. Coffee and brief prayer time at the end provided.

April 10

SCRIPTURE: John 20: 24-31 THEME: Thomas Believes

10:00 THISunday Activities

Childcare: (Sanctuary Bldg 101, 120-Staff)

Children: *Deep Blue Lesson 2* (Kirk Center)

MS Youth: *FaithWeaver Now Lesson 7* (AB 103)

HS Youth: *FaithWeaver Now Lesson 7* (Gailey Hall)

Adult: 1. *FaithWeaver Now Lesson 7* (Chapel– Sam McClurg)

2. *What Presbyterians Believe About...The Resurrection* (AB 200– Joe B. Martin)

What happened after Jesus died? What happens when we die and when does it happen? This class is especially designed for visitors and new members, but any veteran Presbyterians who want a refresher are welcome.

3. *Prayer Café* (Session Room-Tim Southard)- *Talk about what you have trouble believing-or talk about something else. Coffee and brief prayer time at the end provided.*

April 17

Confirmation/ ELO Preaches

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 28: 16-20 THEME: The Great Commission

10:00 THISunday Activities

Childcare: (Sanctuary Bldg 101, 120-Staff)

Children: *Deep Blue Lesson 3* (Kirk Center)

All Youth: *Confirmation Project Presentation* (see Adult 2)

Adult: 1. *FaithWeaver Now Lesson 8* (Chapel– Jonathan Dente)

2. *Confirmation Project Presentation* (Fellowship Hall)

Come meet our impressive confirmands and see what they have done in preparation for making their profession of faith and joining the church.

3. *Prayer Café* (Session Room– Joe B. Martin)

Talk about what God is calling you to do– or talk about something else.

April 24

11:00 Cantata

SCRIPTURE: Acts 4: 32-37 THEME: Believers Share

10:00 THISunday Activities

Childcare: (Sanctuary Bldg 101, 120-Staff)

Children: *Deep Blue Lesson 4* (Kirk Center)

MS Youth: *FaithWeaver Now Lesson 1* (AB 103)

HS Youth: *FaithWeaver Now Lesson 1* (Gailey Hall)

Adult: 1. *FaithWeaver Now Lesson 1* (Chapel– Steve Whisenant)

2. *Special Offerings* (AB 200– Elizabeth Small)

We receive a number of special offerings throughout the year. Some are for local missions and others are shared work with the Presbyterian Church (USA). What are they and why do we give to them? (You will not be asked for money!)

3. *Prayer Café* (Session Room– Tim Southard)

Talk about why being a part of a community matters– or talk about something else. Coffee and brief prayer time at the end provided.



471 Mt. Vernon Hwy, NE
Sandy Springs, GA 30328

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

Return Service Requested

Got News? We'd love to hear from you! Send us your news so we can celebrate, laugh, and/or cry with you. After all, we are FAMILY. Deadline for news is the 11th of each month for the *next month's* newsletter. Send your submissions to kay@mvpchurch.org. Has your contact information changed? Let us know that as well!



Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church Staff

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