

GOOD NEWS



February 2016

Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In a recent sermon I asked the question, "As an organization, what is MVPC's product?" There was a variety of good answers like love, praise, and good works. I added to that the possibility that YOU are MVPC's product. Our mission statement reads, "We are...committed to spiritual growth through *worship, study, fellowship, and service*. In response to God's blessings to our community of faith, the gift with which we try to bless the world is a group of disciples working in it to make life better for others to the glory of God.

One might think both the preparation and results would look different depending on whether we are talking about children, youth, or adults. That is not necessarily the case. Take Hannah Hagenau and Stan Williams. Hannah is a freshman at MVPS. Though young at heart, it has been a while since Stan's freshman year. Neither has ever been to Zambia, but they have listened to reports from members who have. They also have identified an unmet need. Independently of each other, each has started their own initiative to raise scholarship money for students in Zambia as they graduate from the schools we support through the Alliance for Children Everywhere and move on to their next educational step.

As all congregationally-based fundraising efforts need Session approval, at their January stated meeting, the Session of MVPC unanimously approved these separate, yet related, fundraising efforts. You can find out more about their particular projects toward the end of this issue. Any money raised beyond the fundraising targets will go towards funding the same or students in a future year.

Thank you, Hannah and Stan for bearing witness to who Christ calls us to be, for showing us that using our blessings to be a blessing to others is not a generational task but a universal Christian calling, and for making us proud of what God can produce through MVPC when Christ's disciples Praise, Listen, Love, and Serve.

Joe B.

Sunday Worship Schedule

- ◇ 9:00am: First Cup Worship Service (FH)
- ◇ 10:00am: THISunday Activities
- ◇ 11:00am: Worship Service (Sanctuary)

This Month At-A-Glance

February 7

- ◇ Annual Congregational Meeting
- ◇ Youth Sunday

February 10

- ◇ Ash Wednesday

February 11

- ◇ Lenten Small Groups begin

February 15

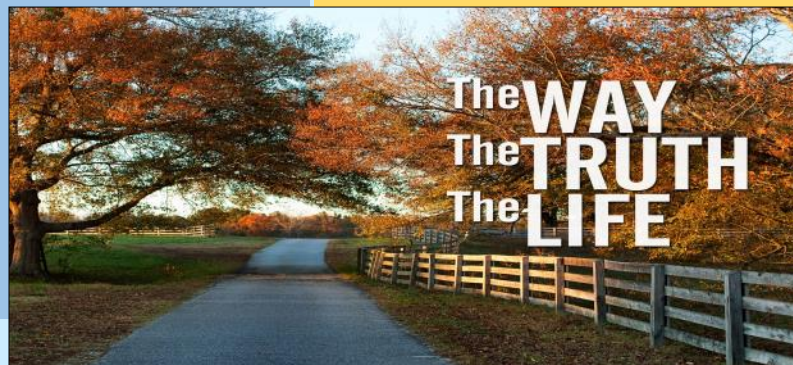
- ◇ President's Day

February 16

- ◇ Worship Planning Team

February 28

- ◇ Youth Fundraiser





Youth News

Our **Bring-a-Blanket** night was great! Thank you SO much for your generosity in providing warm clothes and snacks for the youth to give out to the homeless. We were going to spend the night outside, but the rain put a damper on that idea- but not our spirits! We had a great time hanging out, learning a little more about poverty and its root causes, and late night shopping at Kroger. Then, 38 of us made ham biscuits and coffee and sorted through all the donations we had received before taking them downtown the next morning. People were SO grateful to have warm coats, hats, jeans, and gloves, along with their food and snacks. Paula was one that really touched me: She had no pants at all- just a long shirt that she was wearing as a dress- and some of our teens really fussed over her, making sure she had pants, a scarf, a coat, and a warm vest. Usually we just give one item per person, but she was in desperate need of so much that we gave her whatever we could find that would fit. She just smiled and smiled, and she told us how grateful she was. All of the people we met were really impressed with the friendly and helpful attitudes of our teens, and they enjoyed their conversations with our group. We could never have given out so much stuff if YOU had not given it to us, so thank you! A special thanks goes out to Brad Hahn for spending the night with us, and for all of the adults who came the next morning to help out. Below you will see pictures. Enjoy! Peace,

Elizabeth



Children's Ministry

Our **Children's Fellowship Activities (CFA)** resumes on Sunday nights from 5:00-7:00pm on February 14th. We will meet every Sunday night (except March 6th through March 20th). If your child would like to participate, let Jodi Martin know at Jodi@mvpchurch.org and we will see you for dinner at 5:00pm in the Kirk Center on February 14th!

Easter is early this year so **Save the Date for March 20th at 10:00am**. The Children's Ministry Team will hold its annual **Egg-stravaganza** in the Kirk Center. We will have games, food, and an egg hunt for all ages. Children of all ages are invited to join us for our annual Egg Hunt and other activities. Bring a basket or bag to collect your eggs.



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 the day in spelunker games, enjoy music as we rock-n-roll, make discoveries at the Imagination Station, be inspired in Kid Vid cinema, and enjoy a snack at the Cavern Café. Registration will open March 1st. Mark your calendars today for Cave Quest! Following Jesus, the Light of the World.



Jodi

Serve Praise Listen Love Serve Praise Listen Love

Senior Adult Luncheon Saturday, February 13, 2016



The entrée and drinks will be provided by our ministry. Please sign up with Jodi Martin at jodi@mvpchurch.org or by phone (404-255-2211, ext. 212) and let her know what you'd like to bring. We are happy to provide transportation. The door at the canopy will be open for those who want to avoid stairs. Come join us and bring a friend!



Presbyterian Women

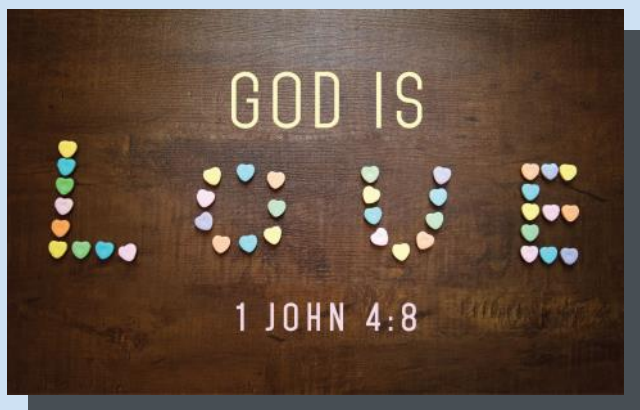
On **Sunday, February 14**, after the 11:00am service, all women of the church are invited to a presentation by **Felicia Lewis Hardy, the Executive Director of Family Promise North Fulton/Dekalb**. The presentation will be in the Kirk Center and a complimentary lunch will be provided.



In January, the Day Circle and the Sunday Circle continued the Horizons Bible Study, *Come to the Water*, and enjoyed fellowship and refreshments. In February, the Book Circle will read *The Paris Architect* by Charles Belfoure.

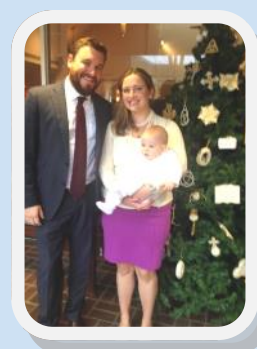


Don't Miss Out! Has your home address, email address, phone number, or any other vital information recently changed? Please let us know by emailing Jill Thompson at jill@mvpchurch.org or give her a call at (404) 255-2211.



Meet our newest members!

James, Eva, and Arthur Dreger at Arthur's baptism on December 27, 2015.



Sermon Schedule

February 7: *Jesus Calls the Fishermen*
Matthew 4:18-22

February 14: *Jesus Calls Levi*
Luke 5:27-32

February 21: *Sent Two by Two*
Mark 6:7-13

February 28: *Others Who Follow*
Luke 8:1-3

Join Us Online:

Find the online version of the Good News at www.mvpchurch.org

On our website [here](#)

On Facebook [here](#)

On Twitter [here](#)

On Instagram [here](#)

Live streaming video accessed [here](#)

Concerns of the Congregation

In **extended care** are Margaret Blackley, Frances Couch, Margaret Harris, Lorraine Moore, and Judy Ruppe. Please remember Carl Bhamme and Martha Mead in your prayers as well.



The **Communion Offering** for February is for the Food Pantry at the Community Assistance Center (CAC). They are in urgent need of non-perishable food to restock the Food Pantry shelves. Most needed canned goods include soup, pasta meals, tuna, chili, corn, peas, and tomato sauce. Rice, peanut butter, jelly, and cereal are also needed. Donations may be left in the bins by the office any time during the month of February. Thank you for your generosity!

A Note of Thanks...

Thank you to everyone that helped with Family Promise in December. We had 87 volunteers from MVPC, B’Nai Tora, and Temple Sinai to help with food, supplies, hosting, set-up, and clean-up. We could not have done it without you! The program has “graduated” 30 families into permanent housing during the 3 years we have been in operation. Thank you for showing Christ’s love to all of our guests. If you ever wonder if your efforts make a difference, please read the letter below from Teliesha Moore who some of you will remember from last summer:

“On behalf of my children and myself, I would like to personally thank you all for making our stay at Family Promise such a positive experience. Thank you so much for all that you’ve done for us in our time of transition. The food at your congregation was WONDERFUL, the volunteers were such good people. I also enjoyed your church service. A special thank you to the volunteers who brought their children along and gave my kids someone to play with. I have plenty of pictures and videos to remember them by! Thank you for making us feel comfortable and for being so accommodating. We appreciate each and every one of you! “ ~Teliesha Moore and Family





SAVE THE DATE: Los Niños Primero wants you to **SAVE THE DATE** for our premier fundraising event of 2016, The Circle of Friends Gala. Join us on **March 20th** at the Westin Perimeter Hotel for dinner. We are raising money for our educational program to Latino preschoolers. Do you have a service or talent you can donate to the silent auction such as tutoring services, dental services, tax preparation, or will preparation?



Click [here](#) for a **donation form**. Perhaps you can get a local business you frequent to help out. The easiest way to get local Sandy Springs businesses to donate to Los Niños Primero is to approach the ones with whom you already have a relationship. It is best to make the "ask" at a time of day when the business is not at their peak busy hour. Ask for a decision-maker, either a manager or owner. Start by identifying yourself as an MVPC member and explain that we are holding our largest fundraiser on March 20, 2016 for a charity that provides preschool academic instruction to Latino children who reside here in Sandy Springs. It is effective to add that we would like to get their donations early so that we may recognize our donors on our website and on Facebook. The businesses appreciate the recognition in the community! A key point to convey is that the gala will involve close to **1,000 Sandy Springs families**. This number includes the church members, the Los Niños Primero families, the teen volunteers, the staff of Los Niños Primero, and the gala attendees.



2016 MISSION TEAM GETTING READY TO TRAVEL TO ZAMBIA

If this is your year to be a member of the Mission Team to Africa, now is the time to sign up. We have seven mission team members who have already signed up! We leave June 19 and will return on July 7. We will fly British Air and these tickets will need to be purchased as soon as possible to get missionary rates, the best possible airfare. We will stay at the House of Moses where we will be helping the caregivers take care of 25-30 babies. We will visit the Faith Works' nine schools and meet the staff and teachers. Some of the team will be teaching classes and we all will spend time with students. The annual Faith Works School's soccer tournament is scheduled and every year is much anticipated by all the faculty and students. For two days, we'll be in the compounds (the poorest areas of Lusaka) distributing formula to those mothers whose babies are enrolled in the Milk and Medicine Program. We will visit a family who has accepted a new foster child and learn about this new exciting program.

About halfway through the trip, we will break away for R&R to Victoria Falls in Livingston and stay at the Waterberry Zambezi Lodge located in a national park on the Zambezi River. One day we will cross over into Botswana and enjoy a safari, half the day in a boat and the other half in safari vehicles.

Please contact Barbara Hughes for more information or if you have any questions. This will be Barbara's 15th mission team to Lusaka and as each team member who has traveled in the past will testify, it is a **life-changing experience!**



Praise Listen Love Serve Praise Listen Love

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

Lenten Small Groups will begin February 11 and run through March 21. There will be four groups, each meeting once per week. This Lenten season, small groups will engage in a congregational-wide study of *We Make the Road by Walking* by Brian McLaren. We will follow the life of Jesus as he walks the road from the manger to the cross and examine what his example and teachings mean for our lives today. The book is a good mix of Biblical study and personal and spiritual development. If you are interested in joining a small group for the Lenten season, please email or call TJ Shirley at tjs@mvpchurch.org/(404) 255-2211, ext. 225, or fill out a registration form found in the bulletin.

Sundays 5:15-6:15pm-Carrie Southard
1380 Holly Bank Circle, Dunwoody, 30338

Thursdays 1:30-2:30pm- Bert Hels
Mount Vernon Towers, Apt. A-102

Sundays 5:15-6:15pm- Sarah Teja
MVPC Session Room

Schedule of Readings: Week 1: Chapters 9-21
Week 2: Chapters 22-23
Week 3: Chapters 24-26
Week 4: Chapters 27-29
Week 5: Chapters 30-32
Week 6: Chapters 32A-32C

Mondays 10:00-11:00am- Bob Addison
MVPC Session Room

MVPC Members and MVPS Students Focus on Zambia

Hannah's Garden Hill Project: For years MVPC has worked with Garden Presbyterian School to educate children through 7th grade. However, these children have been unable to attend high school. Helen DeVos, a high school our church supports, is geographically out of reach for these children. Fortunately, Garden Hill high school is located in the same neighborhood as Garden Presbyterian, but requires a fee some of the children cannot afford. Hannah Hagenau and two of her friends have made raising scholarship money for them their MVPS iProject for the year. Last year MVPC funded a group of students to go to Garden Hill and they would like to continue that with your help. Their goal is to raise \$2,500 which will fund a group of nine students for one year. You can visit their website, www.highschoolforzambia.wix.com/iproject, to learn more and donate through the PayPal link. If you prefer, you can make out a check to MVPC with a note designating it for the Garden Hill project.

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. To date, 100% of HDCS students who have taken the grade 12 national exam have passed. The national pass rate is below 60%. These graduates have the intelligence, zeal, determination, and vision to further their education, but they lack the funds to make it happen. 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. You can give by a check made out to MVPC with a note designating it for the Zambian College Fund.



NEXT February 2016

February 7

Youth Sunday/Congregational Meeting

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 4:18-22 THEME: Jesus Calls the Fishermen

10:00 THISunday Activities

Childcare: (SB 101, 120-Staff)

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

All Youth: *Regroup and Refuel for 11:00am Worship* (Gailey Hall)

Adult: *Annual Meeting of the Congregation* (Fellowship Hall)

Receive brief reports from 2015 and plans for 2016. Elect members of the Foundation Board, Nominating Committee, and Corporation Officers. Review the terms of call for the pastor.

February 14

Lent I

SCRIPTURE: Luke 5:27-32 THEME: Jesus Calls Levi

10:00 THISunday Activities

Childcare: (SB 101, 120-Staff)

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

Confirmation: (AB 102-Elizabeth Small/Beppie Lever)

MS Youth: *FaithWeaver Now Lesson 11* (AB 103)

HS Youth: *FaithWeaver Now Lesson 11* (Gailey Hall)

Adult: 1. *FaithWeaver Now Lesson 11* (Chapel– David Hill)

2. *Prayer Café* (Session Room–Pat Hudgens)

Talk about ways you have been called to serve—or talk about something else.

February 21

Lent II

SCRIPTURE: Mark 6:7-13 THEME: Sent Two by Two

10:00 THISunday Activities

Childcare: (SB 101, 120-Staff)

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

Confirmation: (AB102-Elizabeth Small/Joe B. Martin)

MS Youth: *FaithWeaver Now Lesson 12* (AB 103)

HS Youth: *FaithWeaver Now Lesson 12* (Gailey Hall)

Adult: 1. *FaithWeaver Now Lesson 12* (Chapel-Sam McClurg)

2. *Stirred-Up Ministries* (AB 200– Darrell Jones)

Our friend Darrell Jones heard a call to serve inner-city youth 21 years ago and is still going strong. Hear how they are living into their vision “To see youth who are lost, impoverished and hopeless discover and embrace God’s vision and purpose for their lives. To “Stir Up” the gifts and talents of inner-city youth by investing in their education, inviting them into our homes, and helping them build Christ-centered character.”

3. *Prayer Café* (Session Room– Joy Carden)

Talk about ways MVPC could be better at reaching out to the community– or talk about something else.

February 28

Lent III

SCRIPTURE: Luke 8:1-3 THEME: Others Who Follow

10:00 THISunday Activities

Childcare: (SB 101, 120-Staff)

Children: *Deep Blue Lesson 4* (AB 10)

Confirmation: (AB 102-Elizabeth Small/Beppie Lever)

MS Youth: *FaithWeaver Now Lesson 13* (AB 103)

HS Youth: *FaithWeaver Now Lesson 13* (Gailey Hall)

Adult: 1. *FaithWeaver Now Lesson 13* (Chapel-Jonathan Dente)

2. *A Time to Heal* (Kirk Center– Rev. Yogi Jodi)

The women in the passage are healed by Jesus of “evil spirits” and infirmities. Come learn how to manage the mischievous feelings of anxiety, stress, and worry through mindful breathing and prayer.

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

Talk about the scripture passage– or talk about something else.



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

PLACE
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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!

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Good News!

Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church Staff

Dr. Joe B. Martin, IV	<i>Pastor</i>	joeb@mvpchurch.org
Elizabeth Small	<i>Dir. of Youth Ministry</i>	elizabeth@mvpchurch.org
Rev. Jodi Martin	<i>Dir. of Children's Ministry</i>	jodi@mvpchurch.org
TJ Shirley	<i>Ministry Associate</i>	tjs@mvpchurch.org
Jim Wingate	<i>Minister of Music</i>	jim@mvpchurch.org
Lilly Cook	<i>Handbell Choir Director</i>	lillynote@comcast.net
Leigh Thompson	<i>Membership Coordinator</i>	leigh@mvpchurch.org
Steve Ray	<i>Business Administrator</i>	steve@mvpchurch.org
Jill Thompson	<i>Administrative Assistant</i>	jill@mvpchurch.org
Kay Waters	<i>Communications Coordinator</i>	kay@mvpchurch.org
Yvonne White	<i>Financial Secretary</i>	yvonne@mvpchurch.org

