



PRAISE. LISTEN. LOVE. SERVE.

Good News

August 2017

Month At-A-Glance

August 13

- ◇ Mission Report Sunday

August 20

- ◇ Regular Worship Schedule resumes
- ◇ Youth Pool Party

August 27

- ◇ PW Kickoff Luncheon

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I would say that I am excited to introduce our new choir director to you, but you already have met him. Therefore, instead, I am excited to announce that after rigorous interviews with a talented pool of candidates, the Finance/Admin Ministry Team has approved the recommendation of the Choir Director Search Committee to change TJ Shirley's job title to Minister of Worship and Arts and to add directing the sanctuary choir to his job description.

As Minister of Worship and Arts, TJ will lead us in everything related to the first part of our mission statement: PRAISE. He will be responsible for coordinating both worship services; designing liturgy; recruiting and directing volunteer musicians, worship leaders, and technical assistants; attending to the appearance of worship space; maintaining A/V and lighting equipment; and, of course, providing for music at each service in its particular style. Other than the 11:00am music, TJ already has been doing most of those things. As I write, with input from a few members and me, organists are being auditioned. Other tasks for which TJ was previously responsible will be reassigned to church staff members following discussions with Finance/Admin and Session.

For many members, the first association made with TJ is guitar-led contemporary Christian music. In fact, TJ did not teach himself how to play the guitar until he was in seminary. He thought he might need it to get a job, which he did. I thank God that it was with us! TJ has been my right hand and left brain in most endeavors over the last 6 years at MVPC and I look forward to witnessing his success in this new role, which makes better use of his classical musical training combined with his extensive theological education.

TJ has a Masters in Divinity and a Masters in Theology from Columbia Theological Seminary. He can compose and arrange music and write liturgy for traditional and contemporary worship services. He has conducted the Southeastern University Opera Chorale and been the Tenor Section Leader of the Southeastern University Chamber Choir, while also being the Trumpet Section Leader Southeastern University Jazz Band. His BA from Southeastern University is in Arts in Music with his principal instruments being trumpet and voice.

I want to offer a big thanks to Pearl Attaway, Bill Austin, Alma Dowdakin, John Hibbard (chair), and Daniel Shafer for their service on the Choir Director Search Committee. I hope that you will find the opportunity to thank them, too, as well as congratulating TJ on his new job at MVPC.

Praise, Listen, Love, Serve-

Joe B.



Children's Ministry

VBS 2017 Maker Fun Factory took place this summer in June and the children had an amazing week. Imagine a week where curious kids become hands-on inventors as they created and played with science inspired gizmos. Throughout the week the children were inspired to discover that they are lovingly crafted by God. The leaders sparked their creativity with interactive experiences through bible stories, music and games.



LISTEN

"As disciples of Jesus Christ, we listen to scripture, tradition, one another, and the world in order to understand God's will for us as individuals and as a community"

Because of our wonderful and caring volunteers, we were able to transform our church into a place buzzing with excitement that we hope will ignite God's love in our children's hearts for months to come. Especially, I would like to thank Paula Fisher for designing and installing all the decorations. A special thanks to all our "Snack Ladies" and of course a big "Thank you!" goes to all the volunteers who gave their time and energy to make this VBS so incredible.



A Rabbi and a Minister Walk into a Bar

The 2017-2018 schedule has been set. Mark these dates on your calendar for 7:00 PM at 5 Seasons Brewing in The Prado.

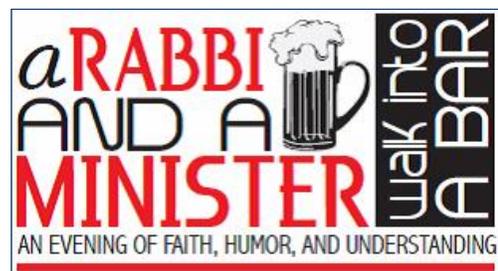
Monday, September 11

Monday, November 13

Monday, February 26

Monday, April 9

Monday, June 4





Youth Ministry

What a GREAT week our **Middle School** group had working with Memphis Youth Mission! MYM is a branch of Asheville Youth Mission which just opened – we were one of their first groups. Our 9 boys and 1 girl worked SO hard. We got to help restore a Community Garden, work with two different kids' programs, deliver Meals on Wheels, work at a Food Bank, and worship with a homeless community before serving them breakfast. We also visited the Civil Rights Museum, Beale Street, and the Pyramid Bass Pro Shop. AND we ate the best BBQ I've ever had at Central BBQ! At night, we talked about the spaces in our lives, and how to bring God into all of them.

Many, MANY thanks to Steve Ray for corralling all of those boys, and to the Mount Vernon Foundation for making sure we had excellent transportation.

And – Thanks to all of YOU for your support – I think our kids definitely made you proud!
Elizabeth

As this issue is being published, the **High School** Mission Team is in Honduras doing amazing work in Brisas del Rio Gualaco. Update to come in the September issue.



“As disciples of Jesus Christ, we listen to scripture, tradition, one another, and the world in order to understand God’s will for us as individuals and as a community”





Presbyterian Women

Presbyterian Women celebrated and ended the year with their annual Salad Supper on June 13, 2017. Everyone enjoyed being together and the salads were wonderful. Rev. Jodi Martin installed new officers and officers who were changing positions for the coming 2017-2018 year. Marguerite Nelson, our Worldwide Missions coordinator, was awarded the Honorary Life Membership. Congratulations Marguerite! Her son, Clark Nelson, joined us for the award and dinner. The Coordinating Team will meet August 1 to plan for the Kickoff Luncheon.



LOVE

“As members of a family of faith, we strive to love one

another unconditionally, sharing our joys and standing beside one another in our struggles”

Why P.W. (Presbyterian Women)?

Who will nurture me spiritually as a woman believer and offer support?

Who will offer guidance and lead by example?

Who will involve me in the grander mission of the church? P.W. will!

You do not have to ‘join’; You are already a member as a Presbyterian woman. Just come to social events and circles when you can come. Enjoy fellowship as you learn from the Bible and novel study, hear missionary and local mission speakers, engage in mission projects, and share congregational concerns.

We have four circles: **Day Circle** meets the **SECOND TUESDAY** of the month at 10:00am in the Kirk Center; **Sunday Circle** meets the **SECOND SUNDAY** after the 11:00am worship service in the session room. Both of these circles are Bible study-based. **The Book Circle** meets the **SECOND FRIDAY** of the month in the Session Room and we choose books to read and discuss. We also have the **Circle of Grace** which meets once a month on Sundays. Times and dates for this circle will be announced later.

Day Circle and the Sunday Circle will be using the Horizons Bible Study, Cloud of Witnesses: The Community of Christ in Hebrews, by Melissa Bane Sevier. The study books will be available for purchase, \$10, at the Kickoff Luncheon and anytime after.

Please join us for the Presbyterian Women KICKOFF LUNCHEON on August 27 to begin a great new year for PW! This luncheon will be right after the 11:00 service in the fellowship hall.



Social Media Class



This summer we had our first Social Media Class to teach members about Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and Snapchat. It was a big success and showed a lot of interest so we will be having another one in August or early September. What we would like to know is, what do you want to learn about? It can be anything dealing with social media, computers, or ways to communicate with one another. Please e-mail MacKenzie Truitt, mackenzie@mvpchurch.org, and let her know!

Music Lovers

Interested in joining choir, handbell choir, or First Cup music or tech? Well this is the time to join! Contact our new Minister of Worship & Arts, TJ Shirley at tjs@mvpchurch.org for more information. Come and share your talents with your church family!

Choir practice resumes on Wednesday, August 16th at 7:30 pm

Communion Offering

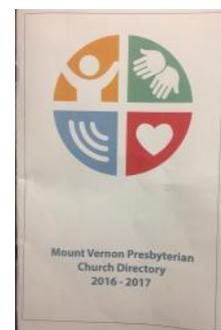
The Communion Offering for August will be items our Youth will distribute to the homeless. Most needed items are toothpaste and toothbrushes, deodorant, Gold Bond Foot Powder, shaving cream, razors (plastic), soft snacks, water, and gallon-sized Ziploc bags. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

New Directory

The Church Directory for 2017-2018 will be coming out in August! If you have any changes to your address, email address, or phone number(s), please send all updates to Jill at jill@mvpchurch.org. Or you can indicate on the worship attendance sheet (blue notebook) as well. Thank you!



“As members of a family of faith, we strive to love one another unconditionally, sharing our joys and standing beside one another in our struggles”



August Yoga Schedule

After a nice summer break, Jodi will be resuming yoga classes starting August 1st. Cost is \$5.00 per class and Thursdays at 11:00 are free. Bring a friend and join us for a class in August.

Tuesday 8/1 5:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.
Thursday 8/3 NO Yoga

Tuesday 8/8 5:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.
Thursday 8/10 5:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Tuesday 8/15 5:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.
Thursday 8/17 NO Yoga

Tuesday 8/22 5:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.
Thursday 8/24 5:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Tuesday 8/29 5:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.
Thursday 8/30 5:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Email Jodi Martin, jodi@mvpchurch.org, for any questions.



“As members of a family of faith, we strive to love one another unconditionally, sharing our joys and standing beside one another in our struggles”

Concerns of the Congregation

Our Christian Sympathy is extended to the family of Bill Barte, husband of Pat Barte, who passed away on July 15, 2017.



2017 First Cup Hospitality Needs You!

We are in need of a few great volunteers to help with the First Cup Hospitality Table on Sundays. The First Cup cart is kept loaded and ready in the Sacristy located behind the pulpit. Hospitality tables will already be set up in the Narthex. All that is needed is a simple set-up and clean up before the service. If you would be willing to help, you can sign up [online here](#) or email Christy Hill at christy.hill321@comcast.net Thank you!

Los Niños Primero

This summer marked a milestone in Los Niños Primero history. 2017 has been the year of success. We grew from serving 180 children to 258 at not one but three locations, the new ones were held at Holy Innocents Episcopal School, North Springs United Methodist Church, and Hapeville at El Nazareno Presbyterian Church. During four weeks our 258 children had the opportunity to learn, reinforce academic knowledge and explore, the magic of yoga, sport, music, art and much more. Test results indicated that the children made progress in social skills, reading and math.



Our teen leadership program had the largest number in our seventeen years of history; over 76 teens dedicated their time and talent for four weeks to help us. 32% of them were once LNP students who were committed to support and serve as a role model to their own community. They gave over 6,600 service hours to Los Niños Primero. Bravo! Los Niños Primero parents also demonstrated their commitment to our organization. The classes were offered this year and we had 90% parental engagement. Parents were amazed at the progress their children made in only four weeks. Parents learned about our academic guidelines and how they can continue supporting their children at home. We've been blessed with the generosity of Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church for 17 years. We thank each of you for your kindness and for opening your doors to the Latino community to create a brighter future for the new generation of leaders.

Gracias!!
Maritza Morelli



“As members of a family of faith, we strive to love one another unconditionally, sharing our joys and standing beside one another in our struggles”

Zambia Mission Trip

Going back to Zambia for the second time was a completely different experience. When I arrived at the House of Moses I was not only recognized, but remembered. Staying at the House of Moses this time felt more like staying at a relative's house, whereas last year I was welcomed warmly, but was still rather disoriented. The Staff were all just as friendly and joyful as I remember them. On the way to Livingstone I got to talk Zambian Politics with my friend Tom, who I had enjoyed talking to last year. We discussed the ins and outs of the elections and the political tension that followed. Going two years in a row was absolutely the correct decision for me. I love the country and I consider the people at House of Moses to be my friends. I look forward to keeping in touch with them until the next time I go.

-Gill Hutt



SERVE

“Moved by the Spirit, we serve our gracious God by taking that with which we have been blessed and turning it into blessings for others”

Being my first time in Zambia I really had no idea what to expect. I was excited for the new adventure but I was definitely nervous about how our time there was going to go. I am so happy that any expectations I did have were completely blown out of the water. Over the two weeks we spent there I made friendships and connections with the staff at the House of Moses, I learned more about Zambian culture and about the beautiful children that the Christian Alliance for Children in Zambia support and care for. Being able to tour the schools was my favorite part. As an educator it really restored my understanding of how important education is. The children and teachers had such a passion for learning that was moving and motivational. The entire trip reminded me that the basic needs in life are so important and not something to be taken for granted. I fell in love with the country and its people and I look forward to going back.

-Felicia Lynch



Zambia Scholarship

As you know for the past 3 years MVPC has provided scholarships for outstanding graduates of Helen DeVos Christian School in Zambia who wanted to go to college; had the ability and preparation but did not have the funds. We started with one student 3 years ago (who graduated in the Summer of this year, 2017 and now have a total of 7 students enrolled in College in Zambia. Below are recent letters from the students expressing their thanks and providing information about their progress. Ann and I thank you for your past support and hope you will continue that support this coming fall as we ramp up the effort to underwrite tuition for these students for year 2018. If you would like additional information, please contact me at (404)-245-6749 or aswilliams@bellsouth.net. One can determine by reading these letters that lives are being improved and dramatically changed. May God continue to bless this effort. -Stan Williams

Below is a letter from the first scholarship recipient who just graduated this summer:

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Williams,

Greetings to you and your family, here we are all fine. I am very excited to write to you. I just feel like giving you a lot of hugs for the job well done in my life. It's like a dream. Yesterday, I had no hope and there you came filled me with a lot of hope and today I am and I can proudly stand with my head up.

May the Lord God take care of everything under your care, may He expand your opportunities and your impact in such way that you continue touching many lives for his Glory.

I am very grateful for all you have done for me from the time I started my study in clinical medicine program until now when I am about to finish, may God richly bless you. I am now in my final year and I only have a month to finally complete my diploma in clinical medicine program. I am very thrilled that about completing and finally start working.

My final examinations begin this June and the results will be out around September then I will have to start applying for a job. My plans are that, immediately I am done with the examinations as I will be waiting for my results, I will be helping out as a volunteer at **House of Moses**. Thank you very much for changing my life, my family and my community. Only God can reward you, thank you on behalf of my parents and my siblings.

Thank you.

Yours Sincerely,

Cecilia Mvula

2017 Session Members and Ministry Teams

Adult

Mary McClurg
Pat Davis
Donna Martin

Intergenerational

Daniel Schafer
Ann Williams

Outreach

Wendy Hagenau
Quinton Fisher
Gill Hutt

Children

Heidi Nelson
Hannah Hagenau

Finance/Administration

John Allen
Lisa McGuire

Youth

Brad Hahn

Congregational Care

Cathy Austin
Joy Carden
Ann Addison

Witness

Leigh Thompson

Stewardship

Wit Truitt

Strategic Planning

Barbara Hughes
Donna Neumann

Worship

Katherine Koops
Christy Hill

Clerk of Session

Malinda Holmes

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Yoga: 5:30am & 1:00pm	2	3 No Yoga MVPS Staff Return	4	5
6	7	8 Yoga: 5:30am & 1:00pm	9	10 Yoga: 5:30am & 11:00am	11 MVPC Summer Hours End	12
13 Mission Report Sunday- 10 am BBQ- 11 am	14 Finance Admin 6:30	15 Yoga: 5:30am & 1:00pm Worship Planning 7pm	16 Choir Rehearsal 7:30	17 No Yoga	18	19
20 Regular Worship Schedule resumes 1st Cup- 9 am Traditional- 11 am Session Meeting 12:15 pm in KC Youth Pool Party 4-6 pm	21	22 Yoga: 5:30am & 1:00pm	23 <u>Good News Deadline</u>	24 Yoga: 5:30am & 11:00am	25	26
27 PW Kickoff Lunch - 12 pm Youth Feed the Homeless- 12 pm	28	29 Yoga 5:30 am & 1:00 pm	30 <u>Good News Published</u>	31 Yoga 5:30 am & 11:00 pm		

<i>August Birthdays</i>					
John Kapsaroff	1-Aug		Pat Bartee	20-Aug	
Sid Kilgore	1-Aug		Duncan Jackson	21-Aug	
Jeff Chesnutt	1-Aug	Gail Walker	12-Aug	Tom Rounds	21-Aug
Susan Sawyer	1-Aug	Doyne Michie	12-Aug	Linda Bliss	24-Aug
Daniel Schafer	1-Aug	Bob Boyer	14-Aug	Kathryn Wade	25-Aug
Joanna Mielke	3-Aug	Alma Dowdakin	14-Aug	Wells Chambers	25-Aug
Julia Northrop	4-Aug	Ginger McCoy	15-Aug	Evelyn Allen	26-Aug
Sarah Northrop	6-Aug	Paige Earhart	15-Aug	Pieter Badenhorst	27-Aug
Moira Speirs	6-Aug	Brad Hahn	16-Aug	Ethan Ray	29-Aug
Wendy Hagenau	7-Aug	Joan Malcolm	16-Aug	Harry Murphy	29-Aug
Martha Chambliss	8-Aug	John Robert Christian	16-Aug	Kyle Hagenau	29-Aug
Paul Wade	8-Aug	David Barclift	18-Aug	Benjamin Tyler	29-Aug
Sarah Teja	10-Aug	Nan Whitacre	18-Aug	Bill Attaway	30-Aug
Britney Bliss	10-Aug	Nnaoke Ufere	18-Aug	Nneka Ufere	30-Aug
Douglas Sawyer	11-Aug				

August 6

THEME: Communion Offering

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 14:13-21

Worship at 10:00 am

11:00 THISunday Activities

Childcare: (SB 120)

Children: (SB 122)

- Adult:**
1. *Feasting on the Word (Chapel)*
 2. *Talking Back to the Preacher (Joe B.'s Office)*
Exploring the theme of the day a little deeper, ask the preacher questions, or give feedback on any part of the worship service.
 3. *Estudios Bíblicos en Español (Session Room)*



“As children of God, we seek to praise God in worship and in all that we say and do”

August 13

THEME: Mission Report/Tailgate

SCRIPTURE: Acts 21:17-20a

Worship at 10:00 am

11:00 THISunday Activities

Mission Report Lunch

August 20

THEME: Unity

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 33

Worship at 9:00 am & 11:00 am

10:00 THISunday Activities

Childcare: (SB 120)

Children: (SB 122)

All Youth and their Parents: (Gailey Hall)

Come to Gailey Hall and find out all the new and exciting changes we are making to our youth program on Sundays!

- Adult:**
1. *Feasting on the Word (Chapel)*
 2. *Talking Back to the Preacher (Joe B.'s Office)*
Exploring the theme of the day a little deeper, ask the preacher questions, or give feedback on any part of the worship service.
 3. *Estudios Bíblicos en Español (Session Room)*

August 27

THEME: Body, Mind and Spirit

SCRIPTURE: Romans 12:1-8

Worship at 9:00 am & 11:00 am

10:00 THISunday Activities

Childcare: (SB 120)

Children: (SB 122)

All Youth: (Gailey Hall)

- Adult:**
1. *Feasting on the Word (Chapel)*
 2. *Talking Back to the Preacher (Joe B.'s Office)*
Exploring the theme of the day a little deeper, ask the preacher questions, or give feedback on any part of the worship service.
 3. *Estudios Bíblicos en Español (Session Room)*



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 15th of each month for the *next month's* newsletter. Send your submissions to mackenzie@mvpchurch.org. *If you'd no longer wish to receive the Good News monthly, please email Jill at jill@mvpchurch.org.*

Good
News!

Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church Staff

Dr. Joe B. Martin, IV	Pastor	joeb@mvpchurch.org
TJ Shirley	Minister of Worship & Arts	tjs@mvpchurch.org
Elizabeth Small	Dir. of Youth Ministry	elizabeth@mvpchurch.org
Rev. Jodi Martin	Dir. of Children's Ministry	jodi@mvpchurch.org
Rev. Ricardo Green	Pastor of Spanish Ministry	ricardo@mvpchurch.org
Lilly Cook	Handbell Choir Director	lillynote@comcast.net
Steve Ray	Business Administrator	steve@mvpchurch.org
Jill Thompson	Administrative Assistant	jill@mvpchurch.org
MacKenzie Truitt	Communications Coordinator	mackenzie@mvpchurch.org
Yvonne White	Financial Secretary	yvonne@mvpchurch.org