



PRAISE. LISTEN. LOVE. SERVE.

Good News

November 2017

Month At-A-Glance

November 12

◇ Stewardship Sunday

November 23

◇ Thanksgiving
Office Closed

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

MVPC is a part of the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta (PGA), the largest PC(USA) presbytery in the country. Other denominations may use the word diocese or conference. We call it a presbytery and you are a part of it. Decisions at the presbytery level are made by all of its clergy members and an equal number of elders working together. MVPC sends 3 elder commissioners to each presbytery meeting.

One thing presbyteries do is examine clergy coming to its congregations to determine that they are theologically sound and a good fit for the congregation calling them. Jodi, Ricardo, and I are not members of MVPC. We are members of the presbytery. I serve on the presbytery's Committee on Preparation for Ministry. We guide candidates for ministry from the process of discernment of call through seminary and up until they get their first pastoral call. There is way too much paperwork, but it has been a great experience meeting so many amazing candidates and helping them move on to ordination.

Presbyteries provide support for their member clergy and congregations. PGA has regular continuing education workshops for all ministers and I was fortunate to be one of four pastors for whom PGA paid for two years of a consultant who guided us through some similar day to day challenges our similar congregations were facing. Our new mission statement, Spanish Language Ministries, and several other initiatives and smaller ideas were born out of those monthly discussions. That group also gave me some important peer support that continues.

Presbyteries provide support for congregations with intervention in times of conflict and guidance in times of transition, whether that is during the interim time between pastors or when a congregation is venturing out in new directions. For example, MVPC was just awarded a sizeable grant for our Spanish Language Ministries. (PGA kind of has a crush on Ricardo right now! See atlpusa.org) Each congregation has a PGA staff consultant who keeps tabs on us and is ready to help whenever called upon. Ours is Cassandra Morrow. She is the one who guided us through our recent Congregational Assessment and who guided me to and through the process resulting in our SLM grant.

Each year, we make a per capita payment to PGA (around \$25/member), which covers the administrative costs of our connectedness and also make another gift toward shared PGA ministries, like Clifton Sanctuary Ministries and new church developments.

I talk a lot about our togetherness being an important part of our journey and calling as Christians. I should talk more about how this is fostered and amplified by the work we do together as a presbytery. We are not alone. As a part of the PGA, we get a lot done together to the glory of God.

Praise, Listen, Love, Serve,



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”

Children’s Ministry

Save the date! Hanging of the Greens is Dec. 3rd the worship service is first at 5:00 and then dinner will follow at 6:00. Please bring in new unwrapped toys for the children at International Women’s House, and hats and gloves for the giving tree. Please mark your calendars today for this joy-filled, holiday event that we hope everyone no matter what their age will enjoy. The Hanging of the Greens will include: decorating the chrismon tree, singing carols, and other activities to prepare us for Advent. Get ready to Fa-la-la-la-la! Set a reminder on your calendar for December 3 and prepare yourself for the joy you will feel by celebrating the coming birth of Jesus with all our friends and family.

Stewardship and Children

Giving to the church is a wonderful practice to start when children are young. You can remind the child that the offering is an important part of worship where we say thank you to God for our blessings and share our blessings with others. Putting money in the offering plate establishes a habit. If money is tight and children are numerous in a family, one suggestion is that the family deduct the children’s contributions from their family contribution and suggest that the child pledge that amount. Children can also plan to set aside a percentage of money they receive as gifts and use that money as their tithe.

Youth Ministry

We have had such a great fall! We’ve enjoyed playing Paintball, doing a Mall Scavenger Hunt, learning to knit, collecting clothing for Mission Haven, feeding the homeless, and so much more. Our students are involved in so many different things in their lives, as well as in their church, and we are encouraging them to make the faith aspect of their lives a priority. I would appreciate prayers for that, as well as for continued growth in that faith for each person.

We are beginning to talk about our summer trip to Lexington, Kentucky, to work at the Maxwell Street Immersion Program through Maxwell Street Presbyterian Church. This trip will be a combined trip of 6th-12th grade students and will occur June 2-8, so mark your calendars now! If you’re not eligible to go, then please pray for those who could.

Peace and Grace,
Elizabeth

Monday Study Group

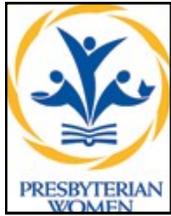
Rabbi Heller teaching about the Jewish holiday Sukkot in the Sukkah at B'Nai Torah as a part of their study on Interfaith Dialogue. There is still so much to learn and we will go back. Hope you can join us!



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”





Presbyterian Women

In October, Presbyterian Women worked with the Youth Group to take gently used children's and teens' clothing to Mission Haven. Mission Haven hosts missionaries and their families while they are on sabbatical. The Twenty or Thirty Something Circle met on Oct. 21st, and the Knitting Circle met on Oct. 15th to make scarves for an Outreach project.

In November, the Day and Sunday Circles will be studying Lesson 3 in *Cloud of Witnesses: The Community of Christ in Hebrews*.

The Day Circle will meet on November 14, and the Sunday Circle will meet on November 10. The Circle of Grace will meet on Sunday, November 12, at 5:00. The Book Circle will meet on November 10 and will be reviewing *The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood.

In November, Presbyterian Women will also be collecting the Thank Offering. Last year over \$320,000 was given in grants to over 50 outreach programs. The Thank Offering is one of Presbyterian Women's two offerings. Received in the fall each year, it gives women a tangible way to express their gratitude for the special blessings in their lives. Thank Offering grants range from \$5,000 to \$50,000. At least 40 percent of the offering funds health ministries.

Contact Pat Bartee for further information, pbartee@yahoo.com.



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”



Congregational Retreat

We had a wonderful weekend of fellowship in October at the Calvin Center on the Congregational Retreat.



“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”



Congratulations!

- Congratulations to former MVPC staffer and still current non-resident member, Nancy Vaughn Fletcher, on her retirement at the end of the year in Okeechobee, FL after 37 years of service to Christ's Church as a Christian Educator.
- Charley Plumly has officially become an Eagle Scout! For his Eagle Project, Charley built a whiteboard for the outdoor classroom at Lost Corners Park.
- Congratulations to (L-R) Joe B. Martin, Bill Maxwell, Gill Hutt, and Aubrey Forlines for their championship performance at the Joe Martin ALS Foundation Charity Golf Tournament on October 16 at Ballantyne Golf Club in Charlotte, NC. Bill is Aubrey's high school buddy who also worked with Joe B.'s father at Bank of America (and who is a great golfer). The team shot 16 under par in a captain's choice format and beat the second place team by 2 strokes. Joe B. says, "More importantly, the event raised a lot of money for the foundation named for my father to support their work providing free patient care and family support for people struggling with ALS. Also very importantly, we beat my brother's team by six strokes."



*"As members of
a family of
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November Yoga Schedule

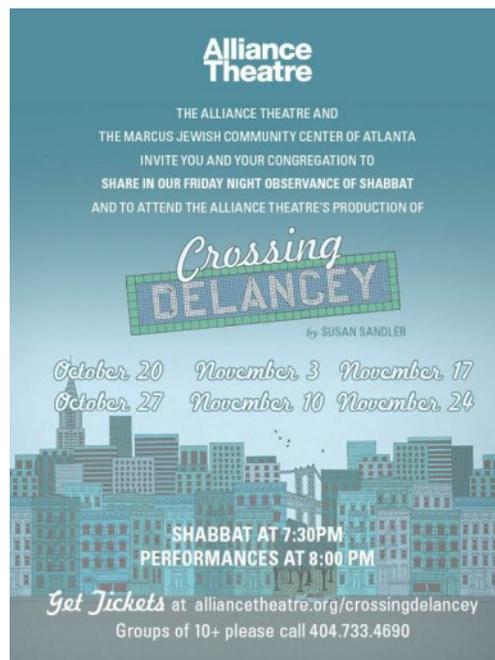
Jodi will be having her usual yoga classes for this month. Cost is \$5.00 per class and Thursdays at 11:00 are free. Bring a friend and join us for a class!

Tuesdays: 5:30 am & 1:00 pm
Thursdays: 5:30 am & 11:00 am



NO YOGA: 11/2, 11/14, 11/16, 11/21, 11/23

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”

Crossing Delancey will be performed at the Marcus Jewish Community Center of Atlanta in Dunwoody 10/7-11/8. The play has a great theme of multi-generational relationships and family traditions.

In that vein, the MJCCA will be hosting a “Shabbat and Show” each Friday night of the performance, and would like to invite the community to join in to learn about and experience an important Jewish family tradition. The evening would include a short Shabbat observance with candle lighting, wine and bread, followed by a performance of *Crossing Delancey*. Get Tickets at <https://alliancetheatre.org/>.

Chrismon Rehabilitation

We have many chrismons in need of repair and we need your help to restore or remake our beautiful chrismons. All ages are welcome to join us in the Kirk Center Sunday Nov. 5th at 10:00. We will also continue working on them after the 11:00 worship service. Bring a sack lunch and help us out after worship.



“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

In extended care: Margaret Blackley, Frances Couch, Lela Griffin, Doyne Michie, Lorraine Moore and Jack Ward. Please keep all of these individuals and families in your prayers.

Youth Group Reunion

We are planning a Reunion for any and all folks who were involved in the Youth Group at MVPC for February 25 and 26, 2018. We are putting together a small committee to oversee the details, and would only involve a few meetings.

If you are interested, please e-mail Elizabeth at elizabeth@mvpchurch.org.

Communion Offering

The **COMMUNION OFFERING** for November will be for Thanksgiving baskets distributed to Stirred Up Ministries to needy families in the East Lake area of Atlanta. Most needed items include grocery store gift cards (to buy hams and turkeys), canned vegetables (green beans, peas, and corn), sweet potatoes, cranberry sauce, corn bread mix, stuffing mix, canned fruit, cake mix, Jello, pie crust mix, and canned pie filling. Please place your donations in the baskets in the narthex, or in the bins outside of the church office any time before November 13. Thank you in advance for your generosity!



SERVE

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!

“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”



Our next session of Family Promise begins on Saturday, Dec 30 and runs through Sunday, January 7. Family Promise is presently housing 11 people and we expect to have guests for our next session. Please mark these dates on your calendar and watch for the sign up genius in early November. If you have any questions, please contact Wendy Hagenau.

Williams' Zambia Scholarship



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”

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. Following 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.

Thank you,

Stan Williams

Scholarship Thank You's!

Dear sponsor,

Tender greetings to you and the entire family. I have written this letter to say thank you for the unfailing love you have shown me through sponsorships. Besides that I want to share my school experiences in this just ended semester.

I really thank GOD for your sacrifice, it is a sacrifice which only a few are willing to take that is bearing another person's burden. Only the GOD can reward you for the good works you are doing. It is through your sacrifice that today I have hope for the future and move towards my goals. I promise to remain focus and work extra hard.

It feels like a dream come true learning about the drug molecules and how they interact with the body to alter its biological activities. Am enjoying third year because it is more practical despite been bulk. During my vacation I will be doing attachment at mtendere clinic to familiarize with drugs and other clinical conditions. The major challenge I was facing during the just ended semester was the distance between home and school which was affecting me negatively in the sense that I was reducing on my night studying time in order to wake up early in the morning and prepare for school. But I was able to compensate on the lost hours during the day by utilizing every minute I had. Nevertheless, I thank GOD for everything because this situation helped me to be mentally strong and aim for academic excellence. I am improving on my performance because my continuous assessment was among the best 10 students. Finally thank you once more for the sponsorship, without you tertiary education could have been impossible for me. May GOD greatly bless you.

Yours sincerely,

LLOYD CHAMA.

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

Scholarship Thank You's!

Dear sponsor,

Calvary greetings to all my sponsors and the staff who work tirelessly for my welfare and the children at large. I am writing to sincerely appreciate you for the great works as well as to inform you on how I am coping up with my studies. I am pursuing a degree in pharmacy (a five years program) at Lusaka Apex Medical University. I got enrolled in January 2017 but I am currently in my first year first semester. The opening day is scheduled in the second week of July 2017. I am taking four courses, mathematics, biology, chemistry and physics.



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”

However, my first days at the university can be described as “life changing“, this is because I have strayed off the other career paths and chosen the medical school of my dream. I have made new friends and slowly but sure adapting to the university environment and lecturers in particular. Library orientation was one of the best that I had because of the library facility from my high school (Helen De Vos Christian School) which has also contributed to my performance at the university level.

In the first days at campus, I experienced some challenges, stereotype from the community and the notions that claims that medical school is hard, as this affected me most, I thought I would not manage but I really thank God that I am in the right field. Secondly, I would also want to thank God for my sponsors he has given me. May God richly bless them for hearing and rescuing me from my poverty.

I experienced some difficulties in the first days of the semester because of coming from home. My home is about 17 – 20kms away from the university so I was ever missing morning classes that start at 06:30 and I was arriving home late in the evening around 21:00hrs. Thereafter my night shift as a security guard begins up to 05: 00hrs. My studies were affected very much because of missing out some lessons. But thank God that now I am getting used to the routine of staying awake day and night. That is, I start my day as early as 04:00hrs. This has prepared me very well to my academic approach. I am becoming more and more strong everyday that comes. I just owe a big thank you to my sponsors and Christian Alliance for Children in Zambia for their handy. I believe my education will enable my family and my community at large to benefit more from it.

I promise to work hard. I am really enjoying though tough. I thank God for you. May God bless you all the days of your life and may he expand your opportunities and impact for his glory. Thank you very much for your support and for shaping my life. I love you.

Yours Sincerely,

Jonah Mutambo

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Bible Study 6:30 pm Language School 7 pm Choir 7:30 pm	2 No Yoga	3 Coffee Ministry 6:30 am	4 LNP: School 8 am Dance 12 pm Soccer 12 pm Girl Scouts 1:30 pm
5 Youth Feed Homeless 6 am ESL 2:45 pm Hand Bell Choir 7 pm Daylight Savings	6 Bible Study 10:00 am Language School 7 pm	7 Yoga 5:30 am 1:00 pm PW-CT 10am Magic Club 7 pm	8 Bible Study 6:30 pm Language School 7 pm Choir 7:30 pm	9 Yoga 5:30 & 11:00 am	10 Coffee Ministry 6:30 am Women's prayer group 8 am PW Book Circle 10 am	11 LNP: School 8 am Dance 12 pm Soccer 12 pm Girl Scouts 1:30 pm
12 Stewardship Sunday Confirmation Class 10 am PW Circle 12pm ESL 2:45 pm Hand Bell Choir 7 pm	13 Bible Study 10:00 am Language School 7 pm Finance Admin. 6:30 pm	14 No Yoga PW Day Circle 9:30 am Worship Planning Team 7 pm <u>Good News Deadline</u>	15 Bible Study 6:30 pm Language School 7 pm Choir 7:30 pm	16 No yoga	17 Coffee Ministry 6:30 am	18 LNP: School 8 am Dance 12 pm Soccer 12 pm Girl Scouts 1:30 pm
19 Session Meeting 12pm ESL 2:45 pm No Youth Group	20 Bible Study 10:00 am Magic Club 6 pm	21 No Yoga	22 Bible Study 6:30 pm Choir 7:30 pm <u>Good News Published</u>	23 Office Closed	24 Office Closed	25
26 ESL 2:45 pm Hand Bell Choir 7 pm	27 Bible Study 10:00 am	28 Yoga 5:30 am 1:00 pm	29 Bible Study 6:30 pm Choir 7:30 pm	30 Yoga 5:30 & 11:00 am		

November Birthdays

Colleen Murphy	1-Nov	Kyle Cumming	5-Nov	Kate Bissell	17-Nov
Steve Whisenant	1-Nov	Phyllis Gustely	9-Nov	Bruce Morine	20-Nov
Donna Martin	2-Nov	Jeanne Hagenau	11-Nov	Allison Duncan	24-Nov
Mia Neumann	3-Nov	Edward Boadi	12-Nov	Caroline Ballard	25-Nov
Rixey Jones	4-Nov	Jeanne Mielke	12-Nov	Nathan Peji	26-Nov
Anne Baynham	5-Nov	Carolyn Fon	16-Nov	Ilandi Badenhorst	29-Nov

November 5 All Saints' Day

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 23:1-12

THEME: Saints

The Youth will be **feeding our homeless neighbors** downtown this morning. Meet in Fellowship Hall kitchen at 6:00am.

10:00 THISunday Activities

Childcare: (Sanctuary Building 120)

Children: (Sanctuary Building 104)

All Youth: (Gailey Hall)

Adult: 1. Feasting on the Word (Chapel-Pat Davis)
Bible Study on the passage of the day.

2. **Talking Back to the Preacher** (Joe B.'s Office)
Explore 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)

4. **Chrismon Rehabilitation** (Kirk Center)
Help with this hands-on project as we get ready for Hanging of the Greens (which is at 5:00pm in the sanctuary) by restoring some of our time-worn chrismons for our sanctuary Christmas trees.



PRAISE

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

November 12 Stewardship Sunday

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 25:1-13

THEME: Preparation Details

10:00 THISunday Activities

Childcare: (Sanctuary Building 120)

Children: (Sanctuary Building 104)

Youth: (Gailey Hall)

Confirmation Class: (Activities Building 102)

Adult: 1. Feasting on the Word (Chapel-David Hill)
Bible Study on the passage of the day.

2. **Talking Back to the Preacher** (Jodi leading in Joe B.'s Office)
Explore 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)

4. **The Anatomy of a Parable** (Kirk Center-Joe B. Martin)
Jesus often used parables to make his point and there are certain ways of studying them in order to understand his point. We will look at several of the parables and practice breaking them down to find their messages of truth.

November 19

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 25:14-30

THEME: Multiplying Gratitude

10:00 THISunday Activities

Childcare: (Sanctuary Building 120)

Children: (Sanctuary Building 104)

Youth: (Gailey Hall)

Confirmation Class: (Activities Building 102)

Adult: 1. *Feasting on the Word* (Chapel-Pat Davis)

Bible Study on the passage of the day.

2. ***Talking Back to the Preacher*** (Joe B.'s Office)

Explore 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)

4. ***Great Prayers of Thanksgiving*** (Jodi-Kirk Center)

We call the prayer before communion, "The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving," but what makes a great prayer great? Explore and examine "great" prayers that have been passed down to us through our tradition and examine why they remain meaningful to our faith journey today.



PRAISE

"As children of God, we seek to praise God in worship and in all that we

November 26

Christ the King

SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 1:15-23

THEME: God Is Great

10:00 THISunday Activities

Childcare: (Sanctuary Building 120)

Children: (Sanctuary Building 104)

All Youth: (Gailey Hall)

Adult: 1. *Feasting on the Word* (Chapel-Sam McClurg)

Bible Study on the passage of the day.

2. ***Talking Back to the Preacher*** (Joe B.'s Office)

Explore 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 lauren@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

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Rev. Jodi Martin	<i>Dir. of Children's Ministry</i>	jodi@mvpchurch.org
Rev. Ricardo Green	<i>Pastor of Spanish Ministry</i>	ricardo@mvpchurch.org
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Lilly Cook	<i>Handbell Choir Director</i>	lillynote@comcast.net

