



PRAISE. LISTEN. LOVE. SERVE.

Good News

January 2018

Beloved MVPC Family,

The turning over a new year always brings with it the occasion for reflection, transition, and new beginnings. As we begin 2018, this opportunity is before us on a major scale.

We have the chance to look at our past, both recent and to years long gone by, to inform our identity as a congregation, to reclaim ways of being that improve our mission as a church, and to recognize those areas in which we have fallen short and are in need of our attention and renewed energy. No church is perfect, and we each have our own dreams and expectations for our congregation. A full reflection cannot happen without intentional involvement from all of our members. Every voice is welcome in the conversation, but we must be present in order to be heard. Before us is the time we can bring our hopes together to coalesce into the vision for Mount Vernon's future. Our individual thoughts and opinions can be offered up and then surrendered for a communal optimism of God's Kingdom continuing to break into the world through MVPC.

We face transition in leadership, first to an interim pastor, who will help us through our time of reflection, and then a new installed pastor, with whom we will begin a new chapter in our life as a congregation. The Presbytery of Greater Atlanta recommends a seven phase process during times of pastoral transition. As of this printing, we should be well on our way to completing the second phase of the transition, nominating and approving an interim pastor. After an interim is identified, s/he will lead us through phases three through six, which involve nominating and training a Pastoral Nominating Committee, who will then create a ministry profile for MVPC, will identify and interview the proper candidates, and will nominate a candidate for the congregation to approve as its next pastor. In the final phase, we will install a new senior pastor into service at MVPC. Although this process has been briefly summarized here, it is a process that works best when it is not rushed. We must pray for patience as we look to God for guidance and expect God to bless us with an interim pastor and an installed pastor of God's appointing in God's timing.

Along with the transitions and new beginnings in our leadership, we will experience transitions and new beginnings on a smaller scale whose degree and variety we cannot yet foresee. As we leave 2017 behind, we do not know the paths down which 2018 will lead us. While this unpredictability of transition can produce apprehension and anxiety, we are much better served by focusing on the hope a new beginning encapsulates. Through dedicated prayer, we look to God for direction and discernment. For as we reflect, move through transition, and begin anew, it is upon the God of our salvation we ultimately depend.

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"God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all." (Ephesians 1:20-23)

-TJ Shirley and Steve Ray

**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"

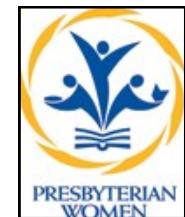
I hope you got to see and enjoy our fabulous Christmas Celebration as led by our children and youth! They did a wonderful job of both sharing the original Christmas story while also showing what that might look like in 2017. People from ages 8 months to 17 years old were a part of the clever and creative story. Many thanks to Meg Christian, who imagined the story and led the youth to help write it. She was amazing! We are so blessed to have Meg and all of our wonderful children and youth!

-Elo



Presbyterian Women

The Presbyterian Women's dinner and program was wonderful. The school's staff provided a great dinner. After dinner we gathered to sing carols and listen to scriptures and excerpts from *The Purpose of Christmas* by Rick Warren read by the seventh grade students from the Atlanta Academy. The students also played Christmas Carols on their ukuleles. They were wonderful! It was a memorable evening for all.



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"



Hanging of the Greens

We joined together for an evening of fellowship with our church family to celebrate and honor Joe B. and Jodi for their leadership these last 9 years at Hanging of the Greens.



"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"



Children's Ministry



It was wonderful seeing so many families and children at the Hanging of the Greens, making sock baby Jesus' and advent jars, decorating trees, eating together, and sending-off Joe B and Jodi with well-wishes. And then seeing so many happy faces again, celebrating the birth of Jesus with the Pageant during the 9:00 service and party afterwards on Dec. 10th. I hope to see all of you this January as we start the year with fun activities during the 10:00 Sunday school hour.

-Carrie Southard

Concerns of the Congregation

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

Our Christian Sympathy is extended to the family of Al Waldron, who passed away on November 22, 2017



LOVE

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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.

Senior Adult Outing

The senior adults braved a rainy, cold evening in early December to visit the Garden Lights—Holiday Nights exhibit at the Atlanta Botanical Gardens.



“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”



Worship at B'nai Torah

We are invited to worship at B'nai Torah on Saturday, January 6 from 9-11:45 am. Lunch will be served at noon. If you plan to attend, rsvp to email rsvp@bnaitorah.org.

Upcoming Events

- ◊ February 4—Youth Sunday
- ◊ February 4 at 10 am— Annual Congregational Meeting to discuss annual report in Fellowship Hall
- ◊ February 25&26— Youth Reunion

Communion Offering

The Communion Offering for January will go to our youth's Feed the Homeless program. Most needed items include hand warmers, foot powder, soft snacks, toothbrushes, toothpaste, gloves, hats, razors and shaving cream. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

Feeding Hispanic Homeless Ministry

The next date for Feeding the Hispanic Homeless Ministry is Sunday, January 28 at noon.



"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"

2018 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 and after 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!

Williams' Zambia Scholarship



Once again members of MVPC showed their strong commitment to missions. We now have 9 students who are enrolled in various colleges in Zambia. These particular outstanding students graduated from Helen DeVos Christian High School. Those continuing their college career and those entering college for the first time were supported by MVPC again reaching its annual goal of \$10,000 and for that we thank you all.

Next year we will be in the fortunate position to also consider students as candidates for college scholarships from Garden Hill Presbyterian Secondary School (GHP) which will matriculate its first senior class.

As you know MVPC (through Hannah Hagenau's leadership) also provides students tuition to continue their education at GHP after finishing Garden Presbyterian school, a grammar school and a feeder school to GHP. We as a church have significantly supported Garden Presbyterian for many years, building class rooms, paying teacher salaries and providing its graduates funds to continue at GHP.

We ask God to lead and direct us in supporting all our missions. Stan & Ann Williams



SERVE

*"Moved by the
Spirit, we serve
our gracious God
by taking that
with which we
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and turning it
into blessings for
others"*

Dear sponsor,
It is my heartfelt wish that you are okay and having a blessed time in this middle year of 2017. For me and my family are fine.

Coming out of the rainy season and joining into the cold season is always an awesome experience in Zambia. Academically the beginning of the semester since January has been quite busy with a lot of changes in terms of academic substance and the overall experience of school as an endeavor.

Allow me to share with you how my experience has been for this year so far, this first semester of my third year which is almost ending has been both successful and challenging in the sense that, successfully my academics are going on well and I am always in the learning process which demands hard work and sacrifice. On the other hand social and economic challenges are not always sparing as sometimes I have to face the struggle of how I can organize my logistics and my school materials financially not being a boarder.

Over all and above the course keeps on getting interesting and this semester I have been taking five courses which are quite practical and worth fighting for to be understood. The semester is always never easy as it is always involving and requires many efforts to ensure that all assignments and tests are done to have a good grading base before the final semester exams.

Off the hook, I have been trying to see how best I can best use my knowledge into practical and developmental ideas through a business plan. At some point this year I tried engaging myself into making simple furniture using the skill I learnt through my upbringing, in order to supplement my academic demands, but to financial instability I couldn't excel as presumed, hence just still hoping for the best in how I can be able to come up with something that we work out and easily be successful.

My hopes before third year ends are to ensure I engage myself with any organization that does works related to my field on a voluntary basis so that I can be able to enhance my knowledge into meaningful skills and experience which will be very helpful after completing the course next year.

I hope that you enjoyed reading my letter and I would also be very excited to hear from you. Otherwise I am very grateful for your consistent support in ensuring that my tuition fees are paid timely, to me that's the greatest motivation that keeps me going and focused on achieving the best. May the good Lord continue shining His Light and protection over you and your family for touching lives.

Yours Sincerely,
Tanangachi Mvula.

Garden Hill Scholarship

Among the 22 students we sent to high school last year and the almost 30 students we plan to send this year is Bridget Lungu. Bridget is 17 years old from a family of 10 who loves math and science, and dreams of becoming a doctor. Her hobbies include "reading and hanging out with good friends who have a positive mindset." Bridget would also like donors to know that "the benefits of being at Garden Hill are a conducive environment with enough books for reading, and computers, among other things. Someone cannot go wrong being enrolled at Garden Hill." Please help students like Bridget continue their education by donating through our website or dropping a check off at MVPC designated to Garden Hill Scholarships.

Visit the Garden Hill website, <https://highschoolforzambia.wixsite.com/gardenhill>, to learn more.



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 Church Office Closed	2 PW-CT 10 am Prayer Time 10 am	3 Bible Study 6:30 pm	4	5 Coffee Ministry 6:30 am	7 LNP: School 8a am Dance 12 pm Soccer 12 pm Girl Scouts 1:30 pm B'nai Torah Worship 9 am
7 Family Promise Ends	8 Bible Study 10 am Finance Admin. 6 pm	9 PW Day Circle 9:30 am Prayer Time 10 am	10 Bible Study 6:30 pm Choir 7:30 pm	11 YoungLife 7 pm	12 Coffee Ministry 6:30 am PW Book Circle 10 am	13 LNP: Dance 12 pm Soccer 12 pm Girl Scouts 1:30 pm
14 PW Sunday Circle 12 pm	15 Church Office Closed Magic Club 6 pm	16 Worship Planning Team 7 pm Prayer Time 10am <u>Good News Deadline</u>	17 Bible Study 6:30 pm Choir 7:30 pm	18 YoungLife 7 pm	19 Coffee Ministry 6:30 am Session Retreat	20 LNP: School 8am Dance 12 pm Soccer 12 pm Girl Scouts 1:30pm Session Retreat
21 Ordination of Elders 11 am Handbell Rehearsal 7 pm	22 Bible Study 10 am ESL 7 pm	23 Prayer Time 10 am	24 Bible Study 6:30 pm ESL 7 pm Choir 7:30 pm <u>Good News Published</u>	25 YoungLife 7 pm	26 Coffee Ministry 6:30 am Prayer Group 8 am	27 LNP: Dance 12 pm Soccer 12 pm Girl Scouts 1:30 pm
28 Feed Spanish Homeless Ministry 12 pm Handbell 7 pm	29 Bible Study 10 am ESL 7 pm	30 Prayer Time 10 am	31 Bible Study 6:30 pm ESL 7 pm Choir 7:30 pm			

January Birthdays

Garrett Hahn	1-Jan	Ben McLeish	6-Jan	Elizabeth Swanson	19-Jan	Betsy Hastings	26-Jan
Bert Hels	1-Jan	Donna Neumann	11-Jan	Taylor Wade	20-Jan	Joe Kelvington	26-Jan
Brian Eustis	2-Jan	Richard Combes	13-Jan	Julie Lesser	21-Jan	Lisa Hughes	27-Jan
Quinton Fisher	3-Jan	Andrew Hazelwood	13-Jan	Jonathan Breeling	21-Jan	Jimmy Packer	27-Jan
Grace Packer	3-Jan	Nicholas Austin	14-Jan	Corny Laube	21-Jan	Cole McAdam	28-Jan
Harper Carberry	4-Jan	Samantha Fifield	18-Jan	John Christian Jr.	23-Jan	David McCoy	28-Jan
Christy Hill	5-Jan	Mark McGuire	19-Jan	Aidan Ray	24-Jan	Charlie Thompson	28-Jan
Katie Little	5-Jan	Anna Morine	19-Jan	Dale Turner	24-Jan	Amy Kilgore	29-Jan
				Charlie Gray	25-Jan	Laura McCoy	31-Jan
						Mary Lea Woods	31-Jan

NEXTJanuary 2018
Baptism of the Lord

January 7

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 1:1-5
 THEME: Called to Order

10:00 THISunday Activities

- Childcare:** (Sanctuary Building 120)
Children: (Sanctuary Building 104)
Youth: (Gailey Hall)
Adult: 1. **Feasting on the Word** (Chapel) – Sam McClurg
Bible Study on the passage of the day.
 2. **Estudios Bíblicos en Español** (Session Room) – Ricardo Green

January 14

SCRIPTURE: I Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20)
 THEME: Listening for the Call

10:00 THISunday Activities

- Childcare:** (Sanctuary Building 120)
Children: (Sanctuary Building 104)
Youth: (Gailey Hall)
Adult: 1. **Feasting on the Word** (Chapel) – Pat Davis
Bible Study on the passage of the day.
 2. **Estudios Bíblicos en Español** (Session Room) – Ricardo Green

January 21 **Ordination/Installation of Elders**

SCRIPTURE: Mark 1:14-20
 THEME: Fishers of People



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

10:00 THISunday Activities

- Childcare:** (Sanctuary Building 120)
Children: (Sanctuary Building 104)
Youth: (Gailey Hall)
Adult: 1. **Feasting on the Word** (Chapel) – Mike Gillespie
Bible Study on the passage of the day.
 2. **Estudios Bíblicos en Español** (Session Room) – Ricardo Green

January 28

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 111
 THEME: God's Wonderful Works

10:00 THISunday Activities

- Childcare:** (Sanctuary Building 120)
Children: (Sanctuary Building 104)
All Youth: (Gailey Hall)
Adult: 1. **Feasting on the Word** (Chapel) – Joy Carden
Bible Study on the passage of the day.
 2. **Estudios Bíblicos en Español** (Session Room) – Ricardo Green



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.*

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**Good
News!**

Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church Staff

TJ Shirley	Minister of Worship & Arts	tjs@mvpchurch.org
Elizabeth Small	Dir. of Youth Ministry	elizabeth@mvpchurch.org
Steve Ray	Church Finance and Operations	steve@mvpchurch.org
Jill Thompson	Administrative Assistant	jill@mvpchurch.org
Lauren McClintock	Communications Coordinator	lauren@mvpchurch.org
Yvonne White	Financial Secretary	yvonne@mvpchurch.org
Nick Johns-Cooper	Organist	nicodemous@mac.com
Lilly Cook	Handbell Choir Director	lillynote@comcast.net

