



PRAISE. LISTEN. LOVE. SERVE.

Good News

February 2018

Month At-A-Glance

February 4

- ◇ Youth Sunday
- ◇ Annual Meeting

February 11

- ◇ Youth Valentine's Party for Homeless

February 24-25

- ◇ Youth Reunion

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Beloved MVPC Family,

It has been a delightful whirlwind for me since my arrival on January 16 with a snow day (my 2nd day here) thrown in just to keep me on my toes.

First, some thank you's are necessary.

Thank you to the Interim Pastor Nominating Committee, Wendy Hagenau, Mary McClurg, and Donna Neumann, for the diligent work they did in finding an interim pastor for MVPC. I know how much time they spent with me during the interview process and that time multiplied by the number of candidates and they put in a LOT of hours in a short period of time.

Thank you to the staff, Elo, Jill, Lauren, Ricardo, Steve, TJ, and Yvonne, for their gracious welcome and ALL the things they have done, and the zillion questions they have answered, to help me get on board. That process will continue for a while, but they have made what can be a challenging time for any new pastor, particularly an interim because interims need to get up to speed quickly, a pleasant experience.

Thank you to the elders, both those rotating off and the 2018 Session, for the gift of being with them at the Annual Session Retreat on January 19 and 20 at Calvin Center in Hampton. Our focus was looking at the three top priorities identified by this congregation via its participation in the Church Assessment Tool in early 2017. Under the umbrella of Praise, Listen, Love, Serve we discussed the facets of life here at MVPC: what we do well, what we need to improve, what new things might God be calling us to do. The months ahead will be filled with many good things as the Session works together to help this congregation be faithful to all God is calling us to do. Also, thank you to the Session for hiring me to be your interim!

Thank you to Christy Hill, Sally Williams, and Joan Rownd for arranging the Meet and Greets following each service on January 21. As you can imagine, it was a sea of lovely and kind faces, but a sea none the less. I am impressed with the nametags you have and I hope you will make an extra effort to wear those over the coming weeks as I put names and faces together. As I said in worship last Sunday, there are many of you and one of me and I appreciate your patience as I become a part of this congregation.

Over the coming weeks, I would like to get to know more about this church and her people. To that end, I would like to ask anyone who is willing to host a small gathering at their home to contact me either here at the church, by email —susan@mvpcchurch.org —or by calling my cell —678.697.0822. These gatherings will allow me to get to know you personally and give you an opportunity to share with me what you appreciate about MVPC and your hopes for this church's future.

I am delighted to be here at MVPC. I enjoy sitting in my office and looking out on the courtyard and seeing the MVPS children playing and folks coming and going. These coming months are going to be an adventure and I hope we are willing to dig deep and have fun together.

Susan Haynes
Interim Pastor

Youth Ministry

February is a special month this year for three reasons. The first reason is that we always have Youth Sunday in February. I am continually amazed at how much our teens enjoy leading the congregation in worship. I love that you get to see how awesome our teens are!



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”

The second reason February is special – well, this one anyway – is that we are having our first ever Youth Reunion on Feb 24-25! On the 24th, anyone who has ever been involved with the Youth Program (including volunteers) are invited to gather in the Fellowship Hall to share memories and fellowship once again together from 2-4 pm. On Sunday, we will have a reception at noon (in Fellowship Hall) for all of our former youth, along with their significant others and families. I hope you will pass this invitation along to any former youth, as we want everyone to come!

The third reason this February is special is more personal. Twenty years ago in February, I came to work at Mount Vernon Church and School. For twenty years, God has blessed me and my ministry here. I’ve done some things well and messed up others. But I’ve learned and grown a lot here. I can’t thank you all enough for giving me your constant support and encouragement. But most of all, thank you for sharing your children with me. They are the best, and I couldn’t love them more.

So thank you, dear church family, for the past 20 years. Hopefully we will all be around for twenty more!

Peace and Grace,
Elo

Presbyterian Women

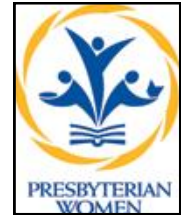
“Human Trafficking, A Growing Problem in Metro Atlanta” – WAGA News

In February, PW will host a luncheon and a mission program after the 11:00 service on February 11. The subject of the program will be human trafficking in the Sandy Springs community. The speakers include a victims’ advocate, a representative from a survivors group, and a member of the Sandy Springs Police Department. Because the subject is of interest to all of us, we are inviting everyone to the event, including interested men. We are asking the men to let Pat Bartee know they plan to attend at pbartee@yahoo.com so we will have adequate lunch provided.

We had a wonderful meeting in January to kick off the new year. Linda Bhame taught Lesson 4 in “Cloud of Witnesses: The Community of Christ in Hebrews”.

In February, the Day and Sunday Circles will not have their regular meetings. The Book Circle will still meet on February 9 and review “The Rent Collector” by Cameron Wright.

Also, we will be collecting costume jewelry again this year. This project is sponsored by the National Council of Jewish Women. The week before Mother’s Day, they hold a pop-up jewelry store event in each of four Title 1 elementary schools (which have over 75% of the children receiving free or reduced price breakfast and lunch). Volunteers help each child select a special gift for their mother or caregiver for Mother’s Day. We will provide more details soon.



“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”



Session Retreat & Elder Ordination

We had our Session Retreat in mid January just in time for our new interim pastor, Rev. Susan Haynes to join us. We had a wonderful weekend full of fellowship and productivity. Four new elders were installed on Sunday, January 21.



“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”



Village Driver

We are looking for a driver to pick up residents at the village for church on Sunday mornings. The driver will pick them up at 10:45 am, bring them to church and then drive them home afterwards. Please contact Mary Kilgore if you are interested.

Children’s Ministry

New at 11:00 am Sunday worship—Elementary aged children are invited to quietly come to the chapel during the sermon at the 11:00 am worship service. In the chapel, they will participate in meaningful and engaging activities (and maybe even fun activities!) and then will be sent back to their parents after the sermon.



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”

Concerns of the Congregation

In extended care: Margaret Blackley, 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 Mary Jean Blakeslee who passed away on January 24



Welcome Rev. Susan Haynes

Our new Interim Pastor, Rev. Susan Haynes joined us on January 16, 2017.

About Susan

A lifelong Presbyterian, Susan most recently completed an 19-month term as interim pastor at Newnan Presbyterian Church. Prior to that, she served as Associate Pastor at Northminster Presbyterian Church in Roswell for 12 years. Susan was ordained in 2004, having left the business world to pursue her call to ministry. She holds a Bachelor's degree in business from Georgia State and a Master of Divinity from Columbia Theological Seminary. She lives in Roswell and is the mother of a daughter who is engaged to be married.



“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”

Susan has a warm, caring and professional presence. One of her strengths is pastoral care—both for individuals in need and for congregations in transition. Her caring spirit and love of worship will be felt on Sunday mornings where she plans to end each week with the Good News. Susan will be able to guide the congregation to discern the type of pastor we want and need. Susan demonstrated she was ready to hit the ground running to efficiently guide us through the transition to our next pastor. Susan's references describe her as energetic, organized, and gifted in pastoral care.

The Interim Pastor Nominating Committee expresses their gratitude for the prayers and support of the congregation, session, and church staff during this time in our church life.

Blessings,

Interim Pastor Nominating Committee,
Mary McClurg, Wendy Hagenau, and Donna Neumann

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
- ◇ March 4-11 —Family Promise

Communion Offering

The February Communion Offering will be for the Food Pantry at the Community Assistance Center (CAC). Most needed items include peanut butter, jelly, canned fruits and vegetables, soup, cereal, oatmeal, grits, canned meats, macaroni and cheese, canned pasta meals (i.e., Spaghetti-o's), instant mashed potatoes, rice, fruit or applesauce cups, and juice. Please place your donations in the baskets in the narthex on Sunday, February 4. Donations may also be brought to the church at any time in the month of February and placed in the Outreach bin outside of the office. Thank you in advance for your generosity.



SERVE

Feeding Hispanic Homeless Ministry

This group meets on the last Sunday of every month after the 11 o'clock worship in the Narthex. They carpool to Buford Hwy and feed the homeless.

If you would like to participate in this ministry, please reach out to Ricardo Green, Ricardo@mvpchurch.org.

“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!



Family Promise

Thanks to all who assisted during our New Year's family promise session. We hosted one family consisting of a mom and dad and 6 children! They so appreciated the opportunity to get on their feet. They are scheduled to move into an apartment on February 1. They loved the bears donated by Charlene Loth and the hand knitted prayer shawls came in handy with all the cold weather. Paula Fisher contributed her decorative skills, assisted by a class at MVPS that made centerpieces and cards. Steve Ray kept the heat going! We continue to be blessed to be a blessing! Our next session is just around the corner. Please mark your calendars for March 4-11. If you are able to participate, please go here to sign-up, <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a054daba92ca20-march3>

Thanks from the FP team.

Thank you, Wendy



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”



Los Niños Primero After school Literacy Program

November 2017, Los Niños Primero launched an after-school literacy program to serve four year old, low-income Latino children that are not attending any pre-k program. The program has been supported by United Way and seeks to improve Latino family literacy by inviting the parents into the classroom and encouraging them to invest early in a productive academic relationship with their children. We are delighted to have two new organizations working with us. The first is an independent Jewish high school, **The Weber School** and the second is **Holy Spirit Catholic Church**. The Weber School has committed student volunteers to raise funds and to volunteer in order to transform our classroom from a dingy, tattered playroom to it's refreshed, inspiring state.



Circle of Friends Los Niños Primero Fundraiser

On April 14 at 6 pm, Los Niños Primero will celebrate our children and community. We're **CELEBRATING** our 18th year of providing educational programs for low income Latino preschoolers living in Fulton County, We're **RECOGNIZING** four extraordinary people who have made a difference in the world.

We will be **HONORING** our beloved Martha Barrios Mead by revealing the two recipients of the first scholarship. Two teens will be selected for the extraordinary commitment to education and social service. We will be sending more information so stay tuned.



2018 Session Members and Ministry Teams

Adult

Mary McClurg
Pat Davis
Donna Martin

Intergenerational

Outreach

Quinton Fisher
Gill Hutt

Children

Heidi Nelson
Hannah Hagenau

Finance/Administration

Charlie Gray

Youth

Brad Hahn

Congregational Care

Mary Lea Woods
Joy Carden

Witness

Mackenzie Truitt
Rita Sheffey

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 Young Life 7 pm	2 Coffee Ministry 6:30 am	3
4 Youth Sunday Congregational Meeting 10 am Handbell 7 pm	5 Bible Study 10 am English Classes 7 pm	6 PW-CT 10 am	7 Bible Study Group 6:30 pm English Classes 7 pm Choir 7:30 pm	8 Young Life 7 pm	9 Coffee Ministry 6:30 am PW Book Circle 10 am	10 LNP: School 8 am Dance 12 pm Soccer 12 pm Girl Scouts 1:30 pm
11 Youth Valentine's Dinner for Homeless PW Missions 12 pm Handbell 7 pm	12 Bible Study 10 am Finance Admin 6:30 pm English Classes 7 pm	13	14 Ash Wed. Dinner 6 pm Service 7pm Choir 7:30 pm	15 Young Life 7 pm	16 Coffee Ministry 6:30 am	17 LNP: Dance 12 pm Soccer 12 pm Girl Scouts 1:30
18 Handbell 7 pm No Youth Group	19 Bible Study 10 am Magic Club 6 pm English Classes 7 pm	20 Worship Planning 7 pm Good News Deadline	21 Bible Study Group 6:30 pm English Classes 7 pm Choir 7:30 pm	22 Young Life 7 pm	23 Coffee Ministry 6:30 am	24 LNP: School 8 am Dance 12 pm Soccer 12 pm Girl Scouts 1:30 Youth Group Reunion
25 Youth Group Reunion Feed Hispanic Homeless 12 pm Parents Night Out 5 pm Handbell 7 pm	26 Bible Study 10 am English Classes 7 pm Rabbi & A Minister 7 pm	27	28 Bible Study Group 6:30 pm English Classes 7 pm Choir 7:30 pm Good News Published			

February Birthdays

Mike Hughes	2-Feb	Jack Ward	11-Feb	Leigh Thompson	18-Feb	Viola Crawford	23-Feb
David Nelson	6-Feb	Kate Christian	15-Feb	Ryan Mead	19-Feb	Taylor Doyle	23-Feb
Jack Nelson	6-Feb	Erin Jackson	15-Feb	Don Paul	20-Feb	Julie Swanson	23-Feb
Mort Northrop	6-Feb	Barbara Bush	17-Feb	Steve Ponsell	20-Feb	John Allen	24-Feb
Hunter Whitney	7-Feb	Louise Lord	17-Feb	George Hammett	22-Feb	Thomas Ufere	25-Feb
Ella Ponsell	9-Feb	Olivia Paul	17-Feb	Jim Wingate	22-Feb	Karen Camp	28-Feb
		Laura Snipes	18-Feb	Kimberly Craig	23-Feb	Chad Plumly II	28-Feb

NEXT February 2018

February 4

Youth Sunday

10:00 THISunday Activities

Annual Meeting

February 11

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

February 18

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

February 25

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



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



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

Susan Haynes	<i>Interim Pastor</i>	susan@mvpchurch.org
TJ Shirley	<i>Minister of Worship & Arts</i>	tjs@mvpchurch.org
Elizabeth Small	<i>Dir. of Youth Ministry</i>	elizabeth@mvpchurch.org
Ricardo Green	<i>Pastor of Spanish Ministries</i>	ricardo@mvpchurch.org
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Jill Thompson	<i>Administrative Assistant</i>	jill@mvpchurch.org
Lauren McClintock	<i>Communications Coordinator</i>	lauren@mvpchurch.org
Yvonne White	<i>Financial Secretary</i>	yvonne@mvpchurch.org
Nick Johns-Cooper	<i>Organist</i>	nicodemous@mac.com
Lilly Cook	<i>Handbell Choir Director</i>	lillynote@comcast.net

