



PRAISE. LISTEN. LOVE. SERVE.

Good News

March 2018

Month At-A-Glance

- March 4-11
◇ Family Promise
- March 11
◇ Daylight Savings
- March 18
◇ Youth Cookie Wars
- March 25
◇ Palm Sunday
◇ Easter Egg Hunt
- March 29
◇ Maundy Service
- March 30
◇ Good Friday Service

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Dear Friends,

Besides the normal attention to preaching, worship leadership, and pastoral call, much of my time since my arrival has been spent meeting with the elders of our various ministries, understanding what the ministries have done in the past, and sharing some observations and insights of mine with them. As we move forward in the weeks and months ahead, you will notice some realignment of the way we do things here at MVPC, all with the intent of placing this church in the best position possible to live into all God is and will call this part of the Body of Christ to do and be.

I want to make you aware of two things that are in the works.

First, we will come together soon to share the story of this church family and how you have been a part of it. We will complete a timeline identifying moments in MVPC's history that have been meaningful and challenging. You will also write the date when you/your family became a part of this church family and we will have a map with MVPC at the center, so everyone can "pin" where they live in respect to the church. Watch for the date!

Second, working with the ministries, we will develop a way for you to indicate how you wish to be involved and connected here at Mount Vernon Presbyterian. You may recall that early in 2016, this church completed a survey called the CATscan: Church Assessment Tool. Via that tool, this congregation identified the following three priorities:

- 1) Make necessary changes to attract families with children and youth to our church.
- 2) Develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to reach new people and incorporate them into the life of the church.
- 3) Create more opportunities for people to form meaningful relationships (for example, small groups, nurtured friendships, shared meals, etc.).

At the Session Retreat in mid-January, the elders took a hard look at these three priorities and they and I are committed to working towards making these priorities a reality. But, the Session cannot do this by themselves. All members are needed to put flesh and blood on these priorities. We do not know the exact timing yet, but in the late spring, we will present you with an opportunity to indicate how you wish to be connected to and serve in and through this congregation.

Also, as the Session goes about evaluating the work of the various Ministry Teams, it is entirely possible you will receive a phone call from an elder, or me, asking if you can help in a particular area or areas. I hope you will begin to pray now with the Session and me regarding how and where God may be leading you to be engaged in this congregation. Also, if you are currently involved in some aspect of our ministries but feel called to make a change to another ministry, that is certainly welcomed and encouraged.

One last thing, I depend upon (and expect) all of you to let me know when you need the support and encouragement of this church family and your pastor. I continue to enjoy putting names and faces together and appreciate your patience with me. Remember...wear those nametags.

Blessings,

Susan Haynes
Interim Pastor

Youth Ministry



LISTEN

Many thanks to all of you who supported our Valentine's party for the homeless! We had such a great time, and the people were so excited to see us with Valentines and pizza and homemade scarves and hats! (Thanks to all of the knitters out there also!) The last man we gave a Valentine to just dropped to his knees and covered his eyes because he was crying. He said the Valentines reminded him of his 6 children, and that he just "needed some sweetness today." It was truly a wonderful outing, and I thank Joy Carden, John Christian, Brad Hahn, and Sarah Teja for going with us also.

Peace.
Elo

“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”

Valentine’s Party for the Homeless



Youth Sunday

Youth Reunion

Thank you to everyone who came out to the Youth Reunion. We had a great time reminiscing over old photographs and stories. Also, thank you to everyone for helping us celebrate Elizabeth Small's 20th anniversary!



"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"



Rabbi and a Minister

Thank you to everyone who came out in February! TJ Shirley and Rabbi Heller talked about music in the Christian and Jewish Faiths. We hope you will join us for the next one!

Save-the-dates:
5 Seasons Brewing, Sandy Springs

Monday, April 9, 7-9 pm
Monday, June 4, 7-9 pm

Presbyterian Women



The program in February “**Human Trafficking, A Growing Problem in Metro Atlanta**” was very interesting and informative. Stacy Sanders and Alberto Cruz from the Sandy Springs Police Department spoke to us about human trafficking that is going on in our community and why it is hard to identify and stop. A group from the Wellspring organization that helps so many recovering victims was also in attendance.



We are collecting costume jewelry through March 25. There is a box in the church office where you can place donated jewelry. This project is sponsored by the National Council of Jewish Women. Volunteers help children in Title I elementary schools select a special gift for their mother or caregiver for Mother’s Day.

“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”

We will also be collecting clothing for Mission Haven and the Drake House. The Drake House is located in Roswell, Ga., and is the next step for many of our Family Promise moms. The clothing drive will run from March 4 to March 25. Children’s and men’s clothing will go to Mission Haven. Women’s clothing will go to the Drake Closet which is a thrift shop in Sandy Springs that supports the Drake House. All clothing needs to be in good condition, clean, and in current styles.

Save the date! The Presbyterian Women’s Retreat will be on April 10! The retreat will be held at Lost Corner in Sandy Springs. More information will be coming soon.

The **Knitting Circle** will be meeting as a Sunday School class on February 18 in the Mushroom (off of the Kirk Center).

The **PW Spring Newsletter** is available online now, download a copy of it on our website under the “Fellowship tab” or click [here](#). Copies will also be available in the Narthex.



Children's Ministry

This Lenten season the children of the church are making a chain of paper people to represent each time they pray for a person. We are hoping to hang up a long chain of people by the end of Lent! If you need some paper people to make during the week at home, let me know.

Carrie Southard



"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 with our member, Gloria Gillespie. Her sister, Pam Bettis, passed away in early February. Our Sympathy is also with Pat Barte. Her sister, Arden Evans passed away in February.



Village Driver

Village Driver Needed: We are looking for a driver to help 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. You will be sharing the responsibility with others so you will only drive 4 Sundays a year. Please contact Mary Kilgore if you are interested.

Birth Announcement

Please join us in welcoming Warren James Dreger, born on October 17, 2017 to big brother Arthur, and parents Eva & James. Warren will receive the Sacrament of Baptism on March 11 at the 11 am service.

Height: 19 1/4 inches
Weight: 6 lbs. 10 oz



“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”



Holy Week Schedule

March 25: Palm Sunday
Easter Egg Hunt @ 10 am

March 29: Maundy Service @ 7:30 pm

March 30: Good Friday Service @ 12-2 pm

April 1: Easter Services: Sunrise @ 7 am & 11 am



Communion Offering

The Communion Offering on Sunday, March 5, will go to Clifton Sanctuary Ministries. Here is the list of the most needed items: Paper towels, bathroom tissue, laundry detergent, dish detergent, household cleaning supplies, paper plates, plastic utensils, paper napkins, men's grooming supplies, items for sack lunches (lunch bags, zip lock sandwich bags, granola/snack bars, small bags of chips and cookies). Please place your donations in the baskets in the narthex. Donations may also be brought to the church at any time 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@mypchurch.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. Please help us by signing up to bring pastries and fruit. 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 are willing to help, you can sign up [online here](#) or email Christy Hill at christy.hill321@comcast.net. Thank you!



2018 Grant Application

If you would like a copy of the 2018 Grant Application, it is available on our website under the “service” tab or [here](#). We also have hard copies available in the church office. Please let Lauren McClintock know if you prefer to have it emailed directly to 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”

MVPC has provided scholarships for graduates of Helen DeVos Christian School in Zambia for the last 3 years. Below is a letter from one of the students with an update on her progress in college in Zambia. We hope you will continue to support this wonderful mission in the fall. If you would like more information, please reach out to Stan Williams — aswilliams@bellsouth.net or 404-245-6749.

Dear sponsor,
How are you and all the family, as for me, I am very fine together with my all family, the main reason am writing this is to thank you for all you are doing for me.

First and foremost I would like to thank God for his never ending love and I would also like to thank you all for the love you have for me and all the things you are doing for me. Last year I had a very wonderful year and I have learned a lot from both my lectures and my fellow students.

I would also like to inform you that I wrote my fist year examination and am now in my second year. Thank you for shaping my life and for reviving my hope. I was completely dead in spirit but now you have restored my hope. Thank you very much. May the Lord expand you and open more opportunities to touch more lives like you have touched my life.

Lastly, thank you for the gift you sent to me, I received it and it has really helped me so much. Thank you once more. May God richly bless you and all your families.

Yours faithfully,
Victoria Mwansa

Family Promise

Our next session is just around the corner. Please mark your calendars for March 4-11. If you are able to participate, please go to our website below Family Promise under the, "service" tab or click [here](#). Thanks from the FP team.

Thank you, Wendy

Los Niños Primero

2018 Summer Program

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 announcing 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 soon, 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

Moderator

Rev. Susan Haynes

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Young Life 7 pm	2 Coffee Ministry 6:30 am	3 LNP: School 8 am Dance 12 pm Soccer 12 pm Girl Scouts 1:30
4 No Youth Group Handbell 7 pm Family Promise Begins	5 Bible Study 10 am English Classes 7 pm Family Promise MVPS Closed	6 PW-CT 10 am Family Promise MVPS Closed	7 Bible Study Group 6:30 pm English Classes 7 pm Choir 7:30 pm Family Promise MVPS Closed	8 Family Promise MVPS Closed	9 Coffee Ministry 6:30 am PW Book Circle 10 am Family Promise MVPS Closed	10 LNP: School 8 am Parenting Class 8 am Dance 12 pm Soccer 12 pm Girl Scouts 1:30 pm Family Promise Ends
11 Daylight Savings PW Circle 12 pm Youth Group 5-7pm Handbell 7 pm Family Promise Ends	12 Bible Study 10 am Finance Admin 6:30 pm English Classes 7 pm	13 PW Day Circle 9:30 am	14 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 Session Meeting @ 12 pm Youth Cookie Wars 5-7pm Handbell 7 pm	19 Bible Study 10 am Magic Club 6 pm English Classes 7 pm	20 Worship Ministry Team 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 LNP Board Meeting 7 pm	23 Coffee Ministry 6:30 am	24 LNP: Parenting Class 8 am School 8 am Dance 12 pm Soccer 12 pm Girl Scouts 1:30
25 Palm Sunday Easter Egg Hunt 10:00 am Feed Hispanic Home- less 12 pm Youth Group 5-7pm Handbell 7 pm	26 Bible Study 10 am English Classes 7 pm	27	28 Bible Study Group 6:30 pm English Classes 7 pm Choir 7:30 pm Good News Published	29 Young Life 7 pm Maundy Service 7:30 pm	30 Good Friday Service 12-2 pm	31 LNP: Dance 12 pm Soccer 12 pm Girl Scouts 1:30

March Birthdays

Rachel Barclift	1-Mar	Jeremy Paul	7-Mar	Avery Fisher	18-Mar	Bethany Anderson	24-Mar
Ricardo Green	1-Mar	Jennifer Hazelwood	8-Mar	Deborah Galloway	18-Mar	Connor Plumly	24-Mar
Pat Hudgins	1-Mar	John Hibbard	9-Mar	Michelle Smart	20-Mar	Jodi Jackson	26-Mar
Ali Eustis	2-Mar	Bruce Northrop	11-Mar	Mary Kilgore	21-Mar	Kirk Chalpan	27-Mar
Alice Ann Lever	3-Mar	Alex Sprung	12-Mar	Adeline Lyles	21-Mar	Katie Sprung	27-Mar
Mike Hague	4-Mar	Pat Davis	13-Mar	Lisa Mielke	21-Mar	Beppie Lever	28-Mar
Gill Hutt	6-Mar	Elizabeth Small	14-Mar	Bruce Hagenau	22-Mar	Richard Green	30-Mar



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

Rev. 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
Rev. Ricardo Green	<i>Pastor of Spanish Ministries</i>	ricardo@mvpchurch.org
Steve Ray	<i>Church Finance and Operations</i>	steve@mvpchurch.org
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

