



PRAISE. LISTEN. LOVE. SERVE.

Good News

April 2018

Month At-A-Glance

- April 1
◇ Easter Sunrise 7am
◇ Easter Worship 11 am
- April 2
◇ Church Office Closed
- April 8
◇ Church Family Dinner
- April 10
◇ PW Retreat—Lost Corner Preserve
- April 22
◇ Youth Group—Top Golf
- April 29
◇ Spring Cantata

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Happy Spring!

It feels so good to write that. As I write this, my window is open and I can hear the birds singing, which always makes me happy. Soon I will hear the hoots of the owl that lives in my neighborhood and the sound of the cicadas. It is music to my ears!

I want to share with you some of the things that have been happening the last couple of months as well as some plans as we move forward during this interim time. As I shared with the Session at the retreat in January (the weekend after my arrival the previous Tuesday), the interim time isn't just about maintenance; it is about discerning and working together to put this church in the best position possible as we look forward to the next season of this church's life.

At the January Session retreat, the Session identified a significant number of actions it plans to pursue over the coming months. Some of those follow along with the progress that has been made thus far.

1) Redefine and document the purpose and role of each ministry of the Session and the volunteer/service opportunities available through each ministry with the aim of fully involving the church family in MVPC's ministries.

Progress: I have met with the elders of each Ministry Team and we have identified the functions of each Ministry Team and tasks needed to fulfill those functions as well as discussed new ideas for the Session ministries. This information will be used to develop a Time and Talent form and we will launch a Time and Talent Campaign this spring to give the church family the opportunity to share with the elders the ways in which you wish to serve and support the different ministries of MVPC.

2) Study and make recommendations regarding MVPC's current worship schedule.

Progress: The Session has appointed a Task Force that will report to the Session by its August meeting.

3) Develop a systematic approach to welcoming and following up with visitors.

Progress: The Witness Ministry is working with our Membership Coordinator staff member, Lauren McClintock, and me to ensure all first-time visitors are greeted when they attend worship and contacted immediately following. Also, a membership inquiry class is in the works for people who may be interested in becoming members of MVPC.

4) Several actions involve Christian Education, including diversifying adult Sunday School offerings, identifying other Christian Education opportunities beyond Sunday School, and the creation of short-term (4-6 week) small groups. In Christian Education, we also want to focus particularly on one of the top priorities identified in the Church Assessment Tool church-wide survey that was completed in January of 2017: attracting families with young children.

Progress: At the March meeting of the Session, the Session voted to change the existing (and currently unfilled) staff position of Director of Children's Ministries to a comprehensive staff person for Christian Education. We will now begin the process of creating that job description and searching for someone to fill that staff position (20-30 hours per week). The Session and I are most grateful to Carrie Southard who has been volunteering in as the Director of Children's Ministries while that staff position has been vacant.

(Continued on page 6...)

Youth Ministry



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”

Dear Friends –

Thank you SO much for all you did to make my 20th anniversary here at Mount Vernon so fantastic! I was surprised and moved and touched all at once because of you and your generosity. The incredibly generous check, the beautiful flowers, the fantastic picture, the wonderful reception, the beautiful slide show...it was all so amazing, and I am still a little overwhelmed. I have been so blessed to be here at Mount Vernon. I have learned, I have laughed, I have cried, and I have been moved so profoundly at times that the world became a different place. "Thank you" seems so feeble, but it's all I have to give. Thank you for making my life a great place to be, and for honoring me in a way I will never forget!

Love,
Elo

The thirty three years my family and I belonged to Mt. Vernon Presbyterian Church were meaningful to me. This was due in large part through my association with the Youth Fellowship groups, its leaders and the young people themselves.

My memories are too numerous to name, but there are a few which are indelibly etched that I want to share with you. Our first trip to Jamaica shortly after Elizabeth Small came to us, as eye-opening for us all. None of us had ever experienced the cultural differences we encountered there. There were other trips including those to Honduras and the Indian tribes in Arizona which gave us as a church the opportunity to spread God’s love.

During these trips and our time away from home, the young people formed a fellowship bond with us and each other. Much of the planning involved the youth and they always came up with age-appropriate activities for the new friends we encountered along the way. The young people were an integral part of the church family and I was honored to be a part of their lives as I watched them grow in faith. There are many other activities I fondly remember such as feeding the homeless, weekend retreat, and just working with the youth.

I have been away from the church since we moved to North Georgia and then St. Simons Island. I wonder about each of them and pray for them as they pursue their various life choices. I thank God for giving me the opportunity to work with the groups and know that the experience bolstered my faith.

I wish I could be there to celebrate with you all. You are most certainly in my thoughts.

Lee Brand
(Age 80)
Feb. 2018



Birth Announcement

Etta Charles O'Hare was born to Catie and Paul and big sister, Moira on Thursday, March 15.

Weight: 8 lbs. 4 oz.

Height: 19 1/2 inches



“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”

Eggstravaganza



Online Church Prayer Group

We are looking for members to join our new online prayer group. We will send prayer requests by email and invite you to join us in prayer. Email Joy Carden at pjcarden@bellsouth.net if you are interested in joining.

Presbyterian Women



Please join us for the Presbyterian Women's Annual Retreat on Wednesday, April 10. It will be held at the Lost Corner Preserve, 7300 Brandon Mill Dr., Sandy Springs. We will have a devotional and Bible study in the morning. In the afternoon, Friends of Lost Corner will tell us how Lost Corner became part of the Sandy Springs Park System. All women of the church are invited. You can make reservations before and after the service on Easter Sunday, April 1 or contact Pat Bartee. The cost is \$15 and includes lunch. We are looking forward to it and hope to see you there!

We want to thank everyone who donated clothing for Mission Haven and the Drake Closet and for donating jewelry to the National Council of Jewish Women's Mother's Day project. The Circle of Grace also met at the Drake Closet in March.

"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"

In March, Sylvia McAdam led our Bible study for Lesson 5, and the Book Circle reviewed *Hillbilly Elegy* by J. D. Vance.



Children's Ministry

Coming up on Friday, May 4th from 6-8pm in the Activities Building, will be our first Friday Movie Night! The theme will be 'May the 4th Be With You'. We will watch a Star Wars themed movie and have pizza and a movie snack bar. Bring pillows and blankets and friends!

Carrie Southard



Concerns of the Congregation

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



"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 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.



Sacrament of Baptism

Warren James Dreger received the Sacrament of Baptism on Sunday, March 11. He joined big brother, Arthur and parents, Eva & James on October 17, 2017.



“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’s letter continued ☐)

5) Appointment of a Young Adult Task Force to determine how we can better serve the young adults of MVPC.

Progress: Gill Hutt is leading the Young Adult Task Force and has recruited members and they had their first meeting on March 25.

6) Revisit MVPC’s former Care Clusters program.

Progress: The Congregational Care Ministry and I are looking at the best ways to ensure the needs in both short-term and long-term care needs of the MVPC family are met. Also, you will soon be invited to join the MVPC email PrayerVine and weekly Joys and Concerns of the MVPC Family will be published weekly in the bulletin and the Thursday e-news.

One more item I want to share with you and encourage you to attend is the Church Family Dinner on Sunday, April 8 at 5 p.m. Besides having a time of family fellowship, we will also talk about this church’s history and find out where each of us lives and WE WILL HAVE FUN! The meal will be provided so all you have to do is SHOW UP! We will have lasagna with gluten-free, dairy-free and vegan options.

I hope this gives you an idea of how important this season in the life of MVPC is and some of things that need to be accomplished during this time. Also, I hope you will be praying to discern how you can be a part of this crucial time in the life of this church as well as how you will participate and serve as we move forward.

Please let the elders or me know if you have questions about any of the above information.

Happy Spring!
Susan

Save-the-Dates

April 8: Church Family Dinner—Fellowship Hall, 5-7 pm

April 10: Presbyterian Women's Retreat—Lost Corner Preserve, 9:30-2:00pm

April 29: Spring Cantata—Sanctuary, 11:00 am

June 4: Rabbi & a Minister—5 Seasons Brewing

June 2-8: Youth Mission Trip—Lexington, KY

Music Opportunities

First Cup Band—We can use anyone who sings and/or plays guitar, bass, drums, keyboard, or almost any other instrument. Rehearsals are Sunday morning before the First Cup service.

Sanctuary Choir—All are welcome. Rehearsals are Wednesdays from 7:30-9:00 pm. We sing in the 11:00 service.

Handbell Choir—Ability to read music is highly recommended, but we can work with those who cannot read music or are a little rusty. We rehearse Sunday nights at 7:00 pm and play in the 11:00 service once a month.

Music Lessons—TJ Shirley gives free guitar, bass, piano, drums, and vocal lessons to church members. He also will work with you on learning to read music if you would like to join the handbell choir.



First Cup Table

We are in need of a few great volunteers to help with the First Cup Hospitality Table on Sundays. The next available Sunday to volunteer is May 20th. 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!



“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”

Kirk Center Makeover

At long last our Kirk Center is getting a much-needed face lift. This coming July crews will arrive and before Labor Day the work will be completed. We will have a new kitchen with all new appliances, new bathrooms, along with a whole new design that will make this area of our campus warm and inviting for our children, Women of the Church, other groups who use this space as well as our visitors!



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”

We have been conducting a quiet fundraising campaign and many of you have already made substantial financial commitments toward the completion of this project. Though well on our way we want to give everyone a chance to contribute to this wonderful project.

If you are so inclined we can use your financial support as we haven't raised 100% of the funds needed to complete the project. All amounts are appreciated, from \$5 to \$5,000. It all helps! Please indicate Kirk Center Makeover on the memo line of your check or electronic gift. Stay tuned as many more details will follow as we move into the Spring

– Charlie Gray, Finance Chair

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.

Communion Offering

The Communion Offering on Easter Sunday, April 1, 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-Os), instant mashed potatoes, rice, fruit or applesauce cups, and juice. 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 bins outside of the office. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Family Promise

Thank you to all our volunteers for Family Promise! We served 14 people for the week--and the place was rocking! The guests appreciated the meals and food and enjoyed games, movies and art work. You all are really so wonderful with your time. A special thank you to Sarah Chalpan who supervised this session, to "Paula's Elves" (Quinton and Dale) who decorated the dining area; to Anna Morine for the beautiful artwork; to Charlene Loth for the sweet prayer bears and to a Girl Scout troop from MVPS for Girl Scout cookies and goodie bags for all of our guests. We couldn't do it without you. Our next session is in July so stay tuned for more details.

Wendy Hagenau and Ann Addison



Los Niños Primero

Circle of Friends Fundraiser

On April 14 at 6 pm, at the Dunwoody Country Club, 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. A teacher, teen, parent and a community member will be awarded for their extraordinary commitment to education and social service.

We will also be HONORING our beloved Martha Barrios Mead by revealing the recipient of the first scholarship.

We hope you can come and join us to celebrate you too for supporting Los Niños Primero and making a difference in the community and world.

To buy tickets go to bit.ly/2018CircleofFriends

Let me know if you have any questions.

Gracias!!
Maritza

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 Easter Services 7 am & 11 am	2 Church Office Closed English Classes 7-8 pm	3 PW-CT 10 am	4 English Classes 7-9 pm Men's Bible Study 7:30 pm	5 Young Life 7 pm	6 Coffee Ministry 6:00 am	7 LNP: Dance 12 pm Soccer 12 pm Girl Scouts 9 am
8 PW Circle 12 pm Hispanic Life Skills Class 1 pm Church Family Dinner 5 pm Handbell 7 pm	9 Bible Study 10 am Finance Admin 6:30 pm English Classes 7pm Zambia Meeting 7 pm	10 PW Retreat 9-3 pm @ Lost Corner Pre- serve	11 Men's Bible Study 7:30 pm English Classes 7 pm Choir 7:30 pm	12 Young Life 7 pm	13 Coffee Ministry 6:00 am PW Book Circle 10 am	14 LNP: Soccer 12 pm Circle of Friends 6-10 pm
15 Session Meeting 12pm Hispanic Life Skills Class 1 pm Youth Group 5-7pm Handbell 7 pm	16 Bible Study 10 am Magic Club 6 pm English Classes 7pm	17 Worship Ministry Team 7 pm Good News Deadline	18 Men's Bible Study 7:30 pm English Classes 7 pm Choir 7:30 pm	19 Magic Club 5-8 pm Young Life 7 pm	20 Coffee Ministry 6:00 am	21 LNP: School 8 am Parenting Class 8 am Dance 12 pm Girl Scouts 9 am
22 Feed Hispanic Homeless 12 pm Hispanic Life Skills Class 1 pm Youth: Top Golf 12pm Handbell 7 pm	23 Bible Study 10 am English Classes 7pm	24	25 Men's Bible Study 7:30 pm English Classes 7 pm Choir 7:30 pm Good News Published	26 LNP Board Meeting 6:30-8:30pm Young Life 7 pm	27 Coffee Ministry 6:00 am	28 LNP School 12-1 pm Spring Cantata Rehearsal 9-12 pm
29 Spring Cantata 11 am Hispanic Life Skills Class 1 pm Youth Group 5-7pm Handbell 7 pm	30 Bible Study 10 am	Sunday Worship: First Cup 9 am & Worship 11 am For more info., visit our website: www.mvpchurch.org				

April Birthdays

David Earheart	2-April	Wyatt Simcox	9-April	Herb Young	12-April	Evelyn Ufere	21-April
Jeanne Gilliland	2-April	Meg Smith	9-April	Elizabeth Earheart	13-April	Brooke Bliss	23-April
Melinda Carden	3-April	Reyna Green	10-April	Iva Corbin	15-April	Clarice Elder	26-April
Lucy Kilgore	3-April	Cherry Harris	10-April	Linda Thomas	15-April	Patricia Hibbard	29-April
Mary Minotto	3-April	Claire Elizabeth	10-April	Lily Skidmore	16-April	Claire Sheperd	29-April
Trent Ballard	4-April	Sharon Murphy	11-April	Lisa McGuire	17-April	Sage Allen	30-April
James McGuire	8-April	Mary Smith	11-April	Gene Elder	18-April	Nancy Nutter	30-April
TJ Shirley	8-April	Mary Frances	11-April	Margaret Blackley	19-April		
Dave Whitacre	8-April	Walt Walker	11-April	Thomas Hughes	19-April		
Marie Packer	9-April	Stan Williams	12-April	Halle Hagenau	20-April		

April 2018

April 1

Easter Sunday

SCRIPTURE: John 20:1-8

10:00 This Sunday Activities

Childcare: (Sanctuary Building 120)

Children: No Children's Activities

Youth: (Gailey Hall)

Adult: 1. **Feasting on the Word** (Chapel) – No Class

Bible Study on the passage of the day.

2. **Estudios Bíblicos en Español** (Session Room) – Ricardo Green

April 8

SCRIPTURE: John 20:19-31

10:00 This Sunday Activities

Childcare: (Sanctuary Building 120)

Children: (Sanctuary Building 104)

Youth: (Gailey Hall)

Adult: 1. **Feasting on the Word** (Chapel) – David Hill

Bible Study on the passage of the day.

2. **Estudios Bíblicos en Español** (Session Room) – Ricardo Green

April 15

SCRIPTURE: 1 John 3:1-7, Luke 24:36-48

10:00 This Sunday 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

April 22

SCRIPTURE: 1 John 3:16-24, John 10:11-18

10:00 This Sunday Activities

Childcare: (Sanctuary Building 120)

Children: (Sanctuary Building 104)

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

April 29

SCRIPTURE: Acts 8:26-40

10:00 This Sunday Activities

Childcare: (Sanctuary Building 120)

Children: (Sanctuary Building 104)

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 third Tuesday 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
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Jill Thompson	<i>Administrative Assistant</i>	jill@mvpchurch.org
Lauren McClintock	<i>Communications & Membership Coordinator</i>	lauren@mvpchurch.org
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Nick Johns-Cooper	<i>Organist</i>	nicodemous@mac.com
Lilly Cook	<i>Handbell Choir Director</i>	lillynote@comcast.net



I WANT YOU TO FOLD UP MY BURIAL CLOTHES, WAIT FOR MARY, AND REMEMBER THAT THIS IS SERIOUS ... NO HIDING AND YELLING "BOO"