



PRAISE. LISTEN. LOVE. SERVE.

Good News

September 2018

Month At-A-Glance

Sept 3

- ◇ Labor Day— Office Closed

Sept 9

- ◇ Knitting Class 10am
- ◇ PNC Listening Session 12pm
- ◇ Circle of Grace 5pm

Sept 16

- ◇ PNC Listening Session 10am

Sept 19

- ◇ PNC Meeting 7pm

Sept 30

- ◇ La Fiesta in the Park 3pm

Inside this issue:

- How We Listen 2-5
- How We Love 6-11
- How We Serve 12-13
- Monthly Calendar 14
- What's NEXT 15

Being the church together...

If you were present on August 12 at our Kick-Off Celebration (see photos elsewhere in this newsletter), you felt the energy and enthusiasm. It was fun to be together, to see the children (and some who weren't children) enjoying the bounce house, telling each other which flavor of Kona Ice we had gotten (or flavors in the case of some of us...I had 3...it was hot after all!), walking the Presbyterian Women's cakewalk and raising money for their missions (NO, I did not win a cake even though I walked multiple times), eating the delicious food prepared by MVPS's new chef, Benny, and the opportunity to simply be together and enjoy each other. On August 12, we were *being the church together*.

Being the church together...

as we gather for worship on Sunday morning at either of our worship services.

as we support the families who come here to our church community for Family Promise.

as we give of our gifts of money, talent, and time.

as we pray together, sing together, study together.

as we break bread together and enjoy each other's company.

If you are reading this newsletter and currently are not connected to this MVPC family, I challenge you to do something about that.

During the month of September commit to encounter the holiness of God through worship, to grow your faith by participating in a Christian Education opportunity, and to serve others in our community through one of the programs our Outreach Ministry serves.

(...continued on page 5)

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”

What a FUN start to the school year for us, with the picnic and then our Pool Party! We had such fun just goofing around in the pool and sharing a meal. It was a great way to start off the school year. (Thanks to Ben Cumming and Brad Hahn for their help.)

By the time you read this, we will have had our 3rd Annual Ice Cream Social for the homeless. We were just trying something different to see how to minister better to them, and it has been a howling success for the last two years, so we are doing it again. We SO appreciate all of your donations, and never stop needing items for hygiene kits and to give out - thank you for all of your support!

We're looking forward to starting our series "Unbreakable" for Youth Group and the new Youth Curriculum from the Presbytery for our Sunday School classes. If you ever wanted to join us, then just let me know.

Thank you for everything!
Elo



Christian Education—Children

Children In Worship

We have some new worship resources available for children who are attending either worship service. Parents with children can pick up a Children's Worship Packet before entering the sanctuary. They are located under the bulletin board in the alcove of the narthex. These packets are geared to elementary age (1st-5th) and preschool children (3's-K). They enable children to have a more enjoyable time by engaging them in kid friendly activities (drawing, Bible puzzles/stories, Bible coloring pages, etc.) when there are portions of the worship service where they might get bored and restless (ex. sermon time). Please return them after worship ends.



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”

Also, there is a new brochure available for all adults and parents of children which has helpful hints on how we welcome children into worship. It is available on the resource table in the narthex.

This Fall children who are in 1st-5th grades will remain in worship during the entire service. Child care is available in room 120 for children through kindergarten age. Parents of preschool children can take them to as much of the worship service as they desire and then return them to the nursery area. Elementary age children should not be left in the nursery during worship due to safety concerns.

Christian Education

Sunday Church School Classes

We have Sunday morning church school classes for all ages. Refer to the back of the newsletter for the schedule.

A complete listing of curriculum topics is available in the comprehensive Christian education brochure found on the resource table in the narthex.



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”

Monday Bible Study

There is a great opportunity for adults to increase their Biblical knowledge by joining the 10:00 Monday Bible study hosted by Bob Addison. It is a good time to reflect, discuss, and grow spiritually as you gain new understanding of the scriptures.

There will be a 4 week session starting Monday, September 10th at 10:00 in the Session Room called: *A Brief Survey of the New Testament* by Mark Strauss. There are four, 20 minute DVD lessons presented by Strauss followed by class discussion on what he has said and what we have read in the Bible. The author provides an overview of the Bible's key themes, shows what the teachings meant to the people at the time, and explains how these teachings apply to us today.

Here are the sessions listed below and the Bible readings.

1. Matthew
2. Mark - Acts 8
3. Acts 9 - Philemon
4. Hebrews - Revelation

This will carry the class until October 1st and then we will begin another study starting October 8th - TBA.



Planning for Achievement in Christian Education

The DCE is working with the Session to take them through an in-depth process of helping us plan a more comprehensive approach to Christian education for children, youth, and adults. When their work is completed there will be a new vision for Christian education at MVPC. That vision will provide the framework for establishing new goals and putting in place measurable objectives to meet those goals.

Worship Leaders Needed—11 AM

To provide meaningful opportunities for members of all ages to become actively involved in the 11:00 worship service, the Worship Committee is seeking volunteers to serve as worship leaders (also referred to as “liturgists”) to lead the congregation in the responsive readings of the Call to Confession and Assurance of Pardon. Training will be provided. Adults, youth, and children are welcome—Session membership is not a requirement.

If you are interested, please email Katherine Koops at kkoops@bellsouth.net.

Susan’s letter continued...

Being the church together...

Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church isn’t a building, it is people. Even if we didn’t have the wonderful buildings and property known as Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church, we would still be MVPC because MVPC is each one of you who has committed to being a part of this church family. The Kick-Off Celebration on August 12 reminded us of the energy generated when we come together as a church family, as we are *being the church together*. I want us to harness that energy of togetherness as we move forward to being the church God has called MVPC to be. The only way we can do that is *together*.

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive the supplications and prayers which are offered before you for all members of your holy Church, that in our vocations and ministries we may truly and devoutly serve you; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

(The Divine Hours, Pocket Edition, Phyllis Tickle)

Blessings,

Rev. Susan Haynes
Interim Pastor



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”

Birthday Cake Outreach

Are you sitting at home watching The Great British Baking Show, and wishing you were on it? Well, you have another chance to indulge your baking needs if you're interested. We are in the process of working with Lake Forest Elementary to provide personalized, homemade Birthday Cakes for children who might not otherwise have a cake that celebrates them. We're still in the process of working out the details, but please let Elizabeth know (elizabeth@mvpchurch.org) if you are at all interested in being a part of this new ministry.



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, Lorraine Moore, Jack Ward and Charlene Loth. Please keep all of these individuals and their families in your prayers.



Pastor Nominating Committee Update

The Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) continues to conduct congregational listening sessions. During these sessions we encourage discussions on our strengths and opportunities and listen to you for insight on qualities of our new pastor. Congregational input helps the PNC prepare to be successful in this search. The goal is to have 12 – 15 participants per session.

Upcoming sessions include:

General Session

Sunday, September 9, 12 noon
Kirk Center

Young Adults

Thursday, September 13, 7:30 pm
Debbie & David Barcliff's

Families with Young Children

Sunday, September 16, 10:00 am
Fellowship Hall

The PNC appreciates the congregational input and attendance so far. If you have not had the opportunity to attend one of the sessions, please do so.



“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”

PNC Listening Session— Senior Adults



New Organist

Our new organist, Dr. Won-Hee, started on August 5th. If you haven't heard her play yet, you are missing out! Please be sure to introduce yourself and help us continue to give her a warm welcome to the MVPC family.

Dr. Won-Hee An is in high demand as an educator, pianist and church musician. In the fall of 2018, Ms. An was appointed to the faculty of Gwinnett Tech College where she teaches Music Appreciation courses. Before she moved to Atlanta, Ms. An taught at the Northeastern University where she taught courses on: Mozart, Musicianship (levels 1-4), Music Theory for Music Industry, and Faculty-led programs in Austria and South Korea as well as coaching chamber music groups, and giving private piano lessons.

Ms. An received her Bachelor's degree from the Manhattan School of Music, Master's degree at the Juilliard School, Graduate Diploma degree at the New England Conservatory, and Doctorate from Boston University.



"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"

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 August 26th. Please help us by signing up to bring pastries, juice 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!



Presbyterian Women

Mt. Vernon Presbyterian Women are excited about our theme for this year's circle lessons. We are involving our wonderful staff & members of our church in presenting to us the many ways our church loves and serves God.

The theme is "Loving and Serving God in Many Ways." These lessons will be presented in our Day and Sunday Circles for 2018-19.

Check out our flyers in the narthex that give a brief description of our lessons for this year. We have decided not to use the 2018-19 Horizons Bible Study.

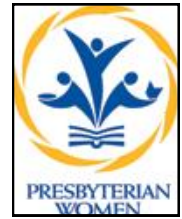
We have five active circles at our church: Book Circle, Circle of Grace, Day Circle, Sunday Circle, and Knitting Class.

We consider all our women members to be apart of our MVPW. Please join in at any PW Circle or event. You are always welcome. I also want to thank everyone who participated in our PW cake walk. It was fun for young and old alike.

We are a giving, involved church and it is a blessing for us to see how our staff and the PW work diligently to provide our church with the best ways for our service to God to make a difference in ours and others' lives.

Sarah Chalpan,
MVPW Moderator

The **quarterly PW newsletter** is now available. You can download a pdf copy here, <https://mvpchurch.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/PW-Fall-Newsletter-2018-1.pdf> or grab a hard copy in the Narthex.



"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 Synopsis

At the August 19, 2018 Stated Meeting of the MVPC Session, the following occurred:

- Received the results of the P.A.C.E. Christian Education Survey in which the Session participated. The P.A.C.E. CE Survey was created by Director of Christian Education, Mike Gillespie, to evaluate MVPC's current Christian Education program across all ages and stages of life.
- Received an update from the Pastor Nominating Committee that listening sessions with the congregation are being conducted. Feedback will be used in creating the MVPC Ministry Information Form for the pastoral search.
- Highlights of Session Ministry reports:
 - ◊ Addition of an adult Sunday School Class.
 - ◊ Renewed interest in MVPC having a Stephen Ministry program.
 - ◊ Renovation of the Kirk Center is nearing completion. Remaining funds to be raised for the project are approximately \$30,000.
 - ◊ Thanksgiving for the work Wendy Hagenau and Ann Addison for their leadership of MVPC's participation in the Family Promise program since its inception here at MVPC.
 - ◊ Efforts in progress to enhance a welcoming environment at MVPC.
 - ◊ Worship leadership space has been moved closer to the congregation.
 - ◊ The Worship Task Force is asking the congregation for feedback via a survey through mid-September.
 - ◊ The Young Adult Task Force continues to explore meaningful ways to engage younger members of MVPC.
- The following motions were approved by the Session:
 - ◊ Approved a motion from the Mount Vernon Presbyterian Foundation to contribute \$1,500 a year for 5 years to the MVPS Pioneer Tomorrow Fund.
 - ◊ Approved a motion from the Finance & Administration Ministry to contribute \$1,500 a year for 5 years from the MVPC operating budget to the MVPS Pioneer Tomorrow Fund.
 - ◊ Approved the following motions from the Strategic Planning Ministry:
 - ◆ Document each ministry team's purpose and responsibilities and maintain notes and minutes to facilitate efficiency and smoother transitions as Session members rotate on and off Session.
 - ◆ Session members will increase their focus on enlisting volunteers to support their ministry team.
 - ◆ Create a Christian Education Ministry to include an elder for Adult Education and an elder for Children's Ministry (thus including the current Children's Ministry under the Christian Education Ministry) and a MVPC member to represent the youth.



“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 Synopsis Continued...

- ◆ Rename the Adult Ministry to Senior Adult Ministry.
- ◆ Create a Personnel Subcommittee, chaired by an elder, under the Finance and Administration Ministry umbrella.
 - ◆ Rename the Intergenerational Ministry to Fellowship Ministry.
 - ◆ Set the number of elders serving on the Session each year to 15 + 1 youth-aged elder for a total of 16 elders on Session.
 - ◆ Institute a new process for assigning elders to Session Ministry Positions.

Kick-Off Photos

Check out the bulletin board in the hall outside of the church office to see all of the kick-off photos.



“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”



Greeters Needed

The Witness Ministry Team is looking for people to serve as greeters on Sunday mornings during the 9am and 11am services. If you have been looking for a way to get involved, this is the perfect opportunity for you. You can sign-up for as many Sundays as your schedule allows and only need to arrive 15 minutes before service and stay 15 minutes after. Sign-up online here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/805094aa8aa2cab9-mvpc>



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”



Communion Offering

The **COMMUNION OFFERING** for September will be for the Food Pantry at the Community Assistance Center (CAC). Most needed items include peanut butter, jelly, canned vegetables and fruits, soup, cereal, oatmeal, grits, canned meats, macaroni and cheese, canned pasta meals (Spaghetti-Os, etc.), instant mashed potatoes, rice, or applesauce cups. Please place your donations in the baskets near the welcome table for First Cup or in the narthex any time prior to the 11 a.m. service. Donations may also be brought to the church at any time and placed in the outreach bin near the church office. Thank you for your generosity!



Kirk Center Renovation Nearly Complete

In case you haven't noticed the renovation of the Kirk Center is almost complete. When the construction dust settles we will have four new bathrooms, a new kitchen complete with wonderful new appliances, new floors and a complete makeover of this very important area of our campus.

When Joe B. announced he was leaving many of us on the Finance Ministry Team debated the merits of taking on this project and the corresponding budget associated with the project. A big thanks to those who have already stepped up financially to make this dream a reality.

I'm pleased to report that through the generosity of many of you along with our partner Mt. Vernon Presbyterian School we have collected nearly 85% of the funds needed to cover the cost of this project.

We are still shy of fully funding the project and that's where you may be able to help. If you haven't contributed to this effort yet and would like to there is still time. We still need to raise roughly \$30,000.

With this in mind if you are interested in helping there is no amount too small. If interested, please see me or you can simply write your check to MVPC and enter Kirk Center Reno on the memo line.

Blessings, Charlie Gray, Finance Chair

Los Niños Primero

Join us at Los Niños Primero's annual Fiesta in the Park on September 30th from 3 to 7 PM at Mount Vernon Presbyterian! We are very excited to bring you a wonderful event filled with music, fun games, and wonderful authentic meals all in support of our children! Bracelets are on sale now, \$5 for one or \$25 for a family! We hope to see you all there!



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

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
2 Hand bell Rehearsal 12:15 pm	3 Labor Day Office Closed PNC Meeting 7pm	4 Spanish Bible Study 7 pm	5 Men's Bible Study 7:30 pm Choir 7:30 pm	6	7 Coffee Ministry 6:00 am	8 LNP: School 8-1 pm Girl Scouts 9am Parenting Class 9:30-11:30am
9 Knitting Circle 10 am PW Sunday Circle 12pm PNC Listening Session 12 pm Youth Group 5pm Circle of Grace 5pm	10 Bible Study 10am Finance Admin 6:30 pm ESL Classes 7pm	11 PW Day Circle 10am PNC Meeting 7 pm Spanish Bible Study 7 pm	12 ESL Classes 7 pm Men's Bible Study 7:30 pm Choir 7:30 pm	13 Hispanic Task Force 7:30 pm	14 Coffee Ministry 6:00 am PW Book Circle 10am	15 LNP Soccer 12pm
16 Youth Group 5pm PNC Listening Session 10 am	17 Bible Study 10am Magic Club 6 pm PNC Meeting 7 pm ESL Classes 7pm	18 Worship Ministry Team 7 pm Spanish Bible Study 7 pm <u>Good News Dead- line</u>	19 ESL Classes 7pm PNC Meeting 7 pm Men's Bible Study 7:30 pm Choir 7:30 pm	20	21 Coffee Ministry 6:00 am	22 LNP: School 8-1 pm Girl Scouts 9am Parenting Class 9:30-11:30am Soccer 12pm
23 Feed Spanish Homeless 12 pm Youth Group 5pm Hand bell 12:15 pm 30 La Fiesta in the Park 3pm Hand Bell 12:15 pm	24 Bible Study 10am PNC Meeting 7 pm ESL Classes 7 pm	25 Spanish Bible Study 7 pm	26 ESL Classes 7:pm Men's Bible Study 7:30 pm Choir 7:30 pm <u>Good News Published</u>	27 LNP Board Meeting 7pm	28 Coffee Ministry 6:00 am	29 LNP Soccer 12pm

September Birthdays

Betsy Cozine	3-Sept	Mason King	10-Sept	Charlene Loth	18-Sept
Hazel Cofield	4-Sept	Suzanna Snynn	10-Sept	Nancy Fletcher	19-Sept
Chris Gray	4-Sept	Sylvia McAdam	12-Sept	McLaren Christiansen	20-Sept
Kirk Pumphrey	4-Sept	Andre' Hazelwood	13-Sept	Julia Simon	20-Sept
Ginny Little	5-Sept	Jim Loth	13-Sept	Stephanie Skidmore	20-Sept
Channing Snynn	5-Sept	Sarah Anderson	14-Sept	George Henry	24-Sept
Kelley Brownlee	6-Sept	Meg Christian	14-Sept	Stuart Thomson	24-Sept
Emma Plumly	6-Sept	David Anderson	15-Sept	Penny Kiel	26-Sept
Carolyn Spain	6-Sept	Sam McClurg	15-Sept	Ellen Lesser	27-Sept
Caroline Little	9-Sept	Nancy Lesser	16-Sept	Robyn Baitcher	29-Sept
Louise Aldrich	10-Sept	Brian Carberry	17-Sept	Jack Bobeng	30-Sept

September 2018

Childcare: (Sanctuary Building, Room 120, Infants-K)

Children:(Kirk Center, Grades 1-5)

Youth: (Gailey Hall)

September 2 An Arrogant and Humble Prayer

SCRIPTURE: Luke 18:9-14

10:00 This Sunday Activities

- Adult:**
1. **Feasting on the Word** (Chapel) – Sam McClurg
Bible Study on the passage of the day.
 2. **Quest** (Session Room)
This new class is studying Max Lucado's book: Traveling Light: Releasing the Burden's You Were Never to Bear – Mike Gillespie
 3. **Estudios Bíblicos en Español** (Ricardo's Office) – Ricardo Green

Intended



September 9 Dead Faith

SCRIPTURE: Prov. 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23 & James 2:1-10, 14-17

10:00 This Sunday Activities

- Adult:**
1. **Feasting on the Word** (Chapel) – David Hill
Bible Study on the passage of the day.
 2. **Quest** (Session Room)
This new class is studying Max Lucado's book: Traveling Light: Releasing the Burden's You Were Never to Bear – Mike Gillespie
 3. **Estudios Bíblicos en Español** (Ricardo's Office) – Ricardo Green

Intended

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

September 16 Taming Your Tweet

SCRIPTURE: Prov. 1:20-33 & James 3:1-12

10:00 This Sunday Activities

- Adult:**
1. **Feasting on the Word** (Chapel) – Pat Davis
Bible Study on the passage of the day.
 2. **Quest** (Session Room)
This new class is studying Max Lucado's book: Traveling Light: Releasing the Burden's You Were Never to Bear – Mike Gillespie
 3. **Estudios Bíblicos en Español** (Ricardo's Office) – Ricardo Green

Intended

September 23 Which Would You Choose?

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 1 & James 3:12-4:3, 7-8a

10:00 This Sunday Activities

- Adult:**
1. **Feasting on the Word** (Chapel) – Joy Carden
Bible Study on the passage of the day.
 2. **Quest** (Session Room)
This new class is studying Max Lucado's book: Traveling Light: Releasing the Burden's You Were Never to Bear – Mike Gillespie
 3. **Estudios Bíblicos en Español** (Ricardo's Office) – Ricardo Green

Intended

September 30 This is Your Brain on Prayer

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 124, James 5:13-20

10:00 This Sunday Activities

- Adult:**
1. **Feasting on the Word** (Chapel) – David Hill
Bible Study on the passage of the day.
 2. **Quest** (Session Room)
This new class is studying Max Lucado's book: Traveling Light: Releasing the Burden's You Were Never to Bear – Mike Gillespie
 3. **Estudios Bíblicos en Español** (Ricardo's Office) – Ricardo Green

Intended



471 Mt. Vernon Hwy, NE
Sandy Springs, GA 30328

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

Return Service Requested

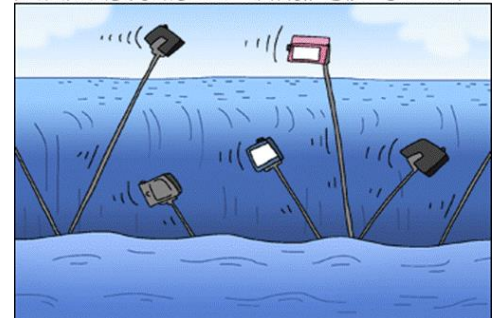
Got News? We'd love to hear from you! Send us your news so we can celebrate, laugh, and/or cry with you. After all, we are FAMILY. Deadline for news is the third Tuesday of each month for the *next month's* newsletter. Send your submissions to lauren@mvpchurch.org. *If you'd no longer wish to receive 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>Director 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
Mike Gillespie	<i>Director of Christian Education</i>	mike@mvpchurch.org
Jill Thompson	<i>Administrative Assistant</i>	jill@mvpchurch.org
Lauren McClintock	<i>Comm. & Mem. Coordinator</i>	lauren@mvpchurch.org
Yvonne White	<i>Financial Secretary</i>	yvonne@mvpchurch.org
Won-Hee An	<i>Organist</i>	wonhee.an@gmail.com

REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT BIBLE GATEWAY



(See Exodus 14) 05-29-2015
THERE WERE SO MANY SELFIE STICKS AT THE CROSSING OF THE RED SEA THAT IT WAS NEARLY CLASSIFIED AS ANOTHER PLAGUE

www.mvpchurch.org
facebook.com/mountvernonpresbyterianchurch/
Instagram: [mvp_church](https://instagram/mvp_church)