



PRAISE. LISTEN. LOVE. SERVE.

Good News

January 2019

Month At-A-Glance

- Jan 1
- ◇ New Years Day
 - ◇ Office Closed
- Jan 6
- ◇ Family Promise Ends
- Jan 20
- ◇ Grubb Burger Fundraiser
- Jan 25-26
- ◇ Session Retreat
- Jan 27
- ◇ Ordination/ Installation of Elders

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Looking Forward in 2019,

By the time you receive this news we will have had already welcomed, and probably bade farewell to our Families for their stay Mount Vernon. Together with B'nai Torah our partner synagogue, we had an overwhelming response to our volunteer call.

Thank you everyone who volunteered their time, their cooking and their willingness to spend time with our families. I know they appreciated it very much. We are looking forward to the next time we will be hosts and we will keep you updated on the calendar when it is finalized.

Meanwhile, we have our very first fundraiser on March 21, 2019, an opportunity to celebrate the success of the program and find out about the plans going forward. Please take a look at the [invite](#) on our website or in the narthex on the resource table and get in touch with me if you or any of your friends would like to be sponsors and purchase a table for the event.

Thank you again for all the support!

Moira Speirs



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”



Save-the-date for the Youth Planning Meeting with Rev. Susan Haynes on Thursday, January 3 at 2 pm in Gailey Hall.

Our Youth Christmas Party was just as much as it usually is! Our Gag Gift exchange is always a hoot – it’s amazing what comes through that red door to Gailey Hall. We ate a lot and laughed even more. It was great!

Confirmation class, taught by Martha Forlines and Bepie Lever, starts up in January. Please keep our young people in your prayers as they go through this important step in their faith journeys.

Thanks for always being so supportive of our teens!
Elo



Christian Education

Warm Up Those Spiritual Muscles

These cold Sunday mornings of January are a good time to exercise your spiritual muscles and get them warmed up. No better way to do that than by attending one of our two excellent adult studies that meet from 10:00-10:45. Here's the scoop on what is coming up in each class during January.

FEASTING ON THE WORD is a Bible study focused on the lectionary passage of the day that is usually used as background in Pastor Susan's sermon. These scriptures will be explored.

January 6: Matthew 2:1-12 (Visit of the Wise Men)
 January 13 Luke 3:15-17, 21-22 (The Baptism of Jesus)
 January 20 I Corinthians 12:1-11 (Spiritual Gifts)
 January 27 Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10 (Return to the Law)

QUEST is a class focused on spiritual formation. Currently the class is studying Martin Thielen's book: *What's the Least I Can Believe and Still Be a Christian*. Each week covers a chapter and participants do not need to read the book in order to participate. Part 1 of the book covers '10 Things Christians Don't Need to Believe' and is currently the focus.

January 6: God Cares about Saving Souls but not about Saving Trees.

January 13: Bad People will be "Left Behind" and then Fry in Hell

January 20: Jews won't make it to Heaven

January 27: Everything in the Bible should be taken Literally

1st-5th Graders meet every Sunday morning from 10-10:45 in the Kirk Center for a great time of Christian education learning and fun. Carrie and Lindsay Southard are leading the class and every week in a new adventure. It's a BLAST!



LISTEN

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Concerns of the Congregation

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

Farewell Reception — Rev. Ricardo Green

Rev. Ricardo Green, who has led our Spanish Languages Ministry for the past two and a half years, is leaving MVPC at the end of 2018. We will miss Ricardo and celebrated his ministry here among us by hosting a reception in Fellowship Hall for him on December 16.



“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”



Cakes4Kids

I'm so excited to share with you a brand new ministry of the church called Cakes4Kids!

To give you some background: on our Youth Mission Trip to Kentucky this summer, we had a chance for some of us to work with a group called Sweet Blessings. Sweet Blessings was in touch with social workers at the local elementary schools in Lexington, who provided them with names and birthdays of children in the schools who would probably not have a cake on their birthdays because of finances, being in temporary situations like foster care, etc. Sweet Blessings was formed to allow people with baking gifts to make cakes so that every child could know that he/she was worth celebrating. I was absolutely stunned with how wonderful this ministry was and is, and I immediately thought of Lake Forest Elementary School. But I canNOT cook. And I had enough on my plate. So I prayed about it, posted a picture on social media that simply said something about how great this would be to do at MVPC. Within an hour, I had an "I'm in" response - with many more coming in the next 24 hours, which I found astounding.

So - Lake Forest Elementary was our goal. The principal there, Taylor Barton, immediately saw the value in this kind of program, and set me up with the counseling staff, who worked out all of the possible legal issues, and got us started. Our first cakes were delivered in December! Though we do not see the actual child or family, we have already heard that they were "amazed and thrilled" and "really appreciated the chance to give <their child> a chance to feel special." The bakers pray for the child as they bake, so these cakes are extra special!



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Cakes4Kids Continued...

All ages of people are involved in this ministry, and we are so happy to get to do this. (And no, I'm not doing any of the baking - praise God! I'm better at bossing people around.) We're still working out the details, with all of this being new, but we hope to continue to make an impact on our community in a great way.



LOVE

Please follow us on our Facebook page (MVPC Cakes4Kids) and Instagram account: Cakes For Kids to see pictures of our cakes. And pray this ministry will grow in God's grace!

Happy New Year!
Elo

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Christmas Caroling

Several of us went caroling in December to share the Christmas joy with some of our homebound members. We ate at Mellow Mushroom afterwards and had time to fellowship.



Presbyterian Women

We really enjoyed hosting the Christmas dinner and program. Thanks to all who attended and helped to make this a special occasion. Also, thanks to everyone who worked to make it a success.

In January, the Day Circle will meet on January 8 and the Sunday Circle will meet on January 13. They will hear a discussion by Marguerite Nelson and Sylvia McAdam about the work that Presbyterian Missionaries do throughout the world. The Book Circle will meet on January 11 and review *The Zookeepers Wife: A War Story* by Diane Ackerman.

The Circle of Grace will meet on January 13 at the home of Sylvia McAdam.

The **quarterly PW newsletter** is now available. You can download a pdf copy on the [website](#) 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



“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”

- The Session approved the Ministry Information Form – MIF – prepared by the Pastor Nominating Committee for the search for MVPC’s next installed pastor. The MIF had already received the approval of our Presbytery of Greater Atlanta church consultant, Cassandra Morrow. The MIF will now be posted on the PCUSA’s Church Leadership Connection website and the PNC will begin to receive and review Personal Information Forms – PIFs – from prospective candidates.
- Ministry Team Reports included the following information:
 - ◊ Witness Ministry – Elders Rita Sheffey and MacKenzie Truitt
 - ◆ Provided refreshments for the 230+ people who attended the Atlanta Band concert at MVPC on Sunday, December 9.
 - ◆ Continues to recruit members for its Ministry Team and to serve as greeters at all worship services.
 - ◊ Worship Ministry – Elders Christy Hill and Katherine Koops
 - ◆ First Cup worship has moved to the Kirk Center and there has been increased attendance.
 - ◆ There will be one worship service at 10 a.m. in Fellowship Hall on Sunday, December 30. The service will be informal with singing of Christmas carols and a readers’ theatre presentation. All are invited to bring their Christmas goodies to share.
 - ◊ Youth Ministry – Elder Brad Hahn
 - ◆ A Bible study for high school girls has been started by Sylvia McAdam and MacKenzie Truitt.
 - ◆ An opportunity for Feeding the Homeless will be scheduled in the near future.
 - ◆ Susan has met with the parents of the youth to discuss the needs of the Youth Ministry as MVPC searches for a part-time Youth Director (20 hours per week). She will also meet with the youth during the Christmas break.
 - ◊ Adult Ministry – Elders Pat Davis, Donna Martin, and Mary McClurg
 - ◆ The two adult Sunday School classes continue. The Quest Sunday School class has begun a new study: What’s the Least I Can Believe and Still Be a Christian?
 - ◆ An event for the Senior Adult Ministry is being planned for January.
 - ◊ Children’s Ministry – Elders Hannah Hagenau and Heidi Nelson
 - ◆ Continues to meet as part of the newly formed Christian Education Ministry to determine goals and objectives for MVPC’s Christian Education program and how those will be achieved across all ages and stages of life.

Session Synopsis

- ◇ Congregational Care Ministry – Elder Joy Carden
 - ◆ Expressed appreciation to Presbyterian Women for the 20 gift bags that were prepared and delivered to MVPC homebound members.
 - ◆ Presented a report regarding prayer concerns, visits, and cards sent during the past month.
- ◇ Finance/Administration/Stewardship Ministry – Elders Charlie Gray and Wit Truitt
 - ◆ Reported that a letter was sent to the congregation to encourage all to complete their pledges by year's end.
 - ◆ Financial Update of year-to-date giving through December 9:



	YTD 2018	2018 Budget
Member Giving	\$587, 748	\$695,545
Loose Offering	\$4,684	\$7,000
TOTAL	\$592,432	\$702,545

“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”

- ◆ Presented a motion to approve the job description, which was approved by the Session, for the Senior Pastor position.
- ◆ Presented a motion to extend the contract of Interim Pastor Susan Haynes for another year. The contract stipulates that either MVPC or Rev. Haynes can void the contract with one month's notice. The motion was approved by the Session.
- ◆ The pledge campaign for 2019 continues. 2019 pledges are currently running behind those of 2018, but we are beginning to close the gap with several pledges recently received.
- ◇ Intergenerational Ministry
 - ◆ The Hanging of the Greens service and dinner was well attended.
 - ◆ Beginning in January, there will be a large church fellowship event about every six weeks. The event may be in conjunction with another one of MVPC's ministries when appropriate.
- ◇ Outreach Ministry – Elders Quinton Fisher and Gill Hutt
 - ◆ MVPC will be hosting Family Promise on our campus December 30-January 6 along with support from the congregation of B'nai Torah.
 - ◆ The Zambia Trip will occur every other year and we will send at least one representative from MVPC the end of June-first of July, with the hope there will be others in the congregation who will go.

Session Synopsis

◇ Strategic Planning Ministry – Elders Barbara Hughes and Donna Neumann

◆ The Session will hold its annual retreat on Friday and Saturday, January 25 and 26, at Calvin Conference Center in Hampton. Newly elected elders will be ordained and/or installed on Sunday, January 27. Plans are already underway for the retreat.

- The Worship Task Force continues its work and will present its report at the annual Session retreat in January. The Worship Task Force will hold a listening session immediately following the 11 a.m. worship service on January 6 to receive input from 11 a.m. worship attendees.
- The Session approved the call of the Annual Meeting of the congregation for Sunday, February 3, 2019 at 10 a.m.
- Out-going elders were recognized and appreciation expressed for their work: Quinton Fisher, Hannah Hagenau, Brad Hahn, Barbara Hughes, Katherine Koops, Heidi Nelson
- The meeting was closed with the Session joining together in prayer the Lord's Prayer after hearing from the meeting observers Ways in Which We Have Seen God at Work and Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession.



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Hanging of the Greens



Hanging of the Greens

We had a wonderful evening decorating the church, crafting with the kids and fellowshiping at dinner afterwards in Fellowship Hall.



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International Women's House - Santa's Shop

Dale Morine and I delivered the donations to the International Women's House Sunday, Dec. 16. The Mount Vernon congregation was as generous as always and we had an abundance of wonderful children's toys as well as paper products and other needed supplies.

Dale and I agree that this is the most rewarding thing either of us do in the Christmas season. The IWH staff asked us to convey their thanks to the congregation for these wonderful donations.

Carol Beckman



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 on Sunday, January 6, will be items for the Youth to give to the homeless when they go downtown. Items needed are hats, gloves, socks, scarves, toothbrushes, toothpaste, hand warmers, cereal bars, water, razors, shaving cream, and deodorant. Thank you for your generosity!

Garden Hill Scholarship Fund

Hannah Hagenau and Katieanne Peterson are beginning fundraising for the Garden Hill Scholarship fund once again. This fund goes to support graduates of Garden Presbyterian School as they move into secondary school at Garden Hill Secondary School. Our church has always done an awesome job of supporting students during their years at Garden Presbyterian, but they still need help even after they have graduated. Last year, we were able to send 22 students to high school and raise over \$5000. This year we aim to raise \$5000 and send 28 students to high school. Please help us achieve are goals by donating through our website <https://highschoolforzambia.wixsite.com/gardenhill> or making a donation to the church as Garden Hill Scholarship fund.

Thanks,
Hannah

Zambian College Scholarship Fund



We have reached our 2018 annual goal of \$10,000 which provides college tuition for students in Zambia. By providing these students a once in a lifetime opportunity to attend college their lives, the lives of their families and the community are being truly changed. If you would like more info please contact Stan Williams 404-245-6749.

Victoria Mwansa
 Graduates 2020
 Early Childhood Education
 “Thank you very much, may the Lord expand you and open more opportunities to touch more lives like you have touched mine.”



Zambia Ambassadors Trip

We are looking for 6 more volunteers to go on the annual mission trip to Zambia. The trip is June 16-July 6, 2019. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact Gill Hutt at cargillhutt@gmail.com.



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	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
		1 New Years Day Office Closed	2 Choir 7:30 pm	3 PW-CT Meeting 10 am Young life 6 pm	4	5
6 Youth Group 5 pm Family Promise Ends	7 PNC Meeting 7 pm	8 PW Day Circle 9:30am CE Meeting 7 pm	9 Choir 7:30 pm	10 Young life 6 pm	11 PW Book Circle 10 am	12 Magic Club 3:30 pm
13 PW Sunday Circle 12 pm Circle of Grace 5 pm Youth Group 5 pm	14 Finance Admin. 6:30 pm	15 PNC Meeting 7 pm Worship Ministry Team 7 pm	16 Choir 7:30 pm	17 Young life 6 pm	18	19
20 Grubb Burger Fundraiser Youth Group 5 pm	21 MLK Day Office Closed PNC Meeting 7 pm	22 Good News Deadline	23 Choir 7:30 pm	24 Young life 6 pm LNP Board Meeting 6:30 pm	25 Session Retreat	26 Session Retreat
27 Handbells 12:15 pm Ordination/ Installation of Elders Youth Group 5 pm	28 PNC Meeting 7 pm	29	30 Choir 7:30 pm Good News Published	31 Young life 6 pm		

January Birthdays

Garrett Hahn 1-Jan
 Bert Hels 1-Jan
 Brian Eustis 2-Jan
 Quinton Fisher 3-Jan
 Grace Packer 3-Jan
 Harper Carberry 4-Jan
 Christy Hill 5-Jan
 Katie Little 5-Jan
 Gloria Gillespie 7-Jan
 Donna Neumann 11-Jan
 Richard Combes 13-Jan

Andrew Hazelwood 13-Jan
 Samantha Fifield 18-Jan
 Mark McGuire 19-Jan
 Anna Morine 19-Jan
 Elizabeth Swanson 19-Jan
 Taylor Wade 20-Jan
 Jonathon Breeling 21-Jan
 Corny Laube 21-Jan
 Julie Lesser 21-Jan
 John Christian Jr. 23-Jan
 Aidan Ray 24-Jan

Dale Turner 24-Jan
 Charlie Gray 25-Jan
 Betsy Hasting 26-Jan
 Joe Kelvington 26-Jan
 Lisa Hughes 27-Jan
 Jimmy Packer 27-Jan
 Cole McAdam 28-Jan
 David McCoy 28-Jan
 Charlie Thompson 28-Jan
 Amy Kilgore 29-Jan
 Laura McCoy 31-Jan
 Mary Lea Woods 31-Jan

January 2019

January 6

10:00 This Sunday Activities

- Childcare:** (Sanctuary Building, Room 120, Infants-K)
- Children:** (Kirk Center, Grades 1-5)
- Youth:** (Gailey Hall)
- Adult: 1.** **Feasting on the Word** (Chapel) – Sam McClurg
Bible Study on the passage of the day.
- 2.** **Quest** (Session Room)
Studying Martin Thielen’s book: What’s the Least I Can Believe and Still Be a Christian

January 13

10:00 This Sunday Activities

- Childcare:** (Sanctuary Building, Room 120, Infants-K)
- Children:** (Kirk Center, Grades 1-5)
- Youth:** (Gailey Hall)
- Adult: 1.** **Feasting on the Word** (Chapel) – Pat Davis
Bible Study on the passage of the day.
- 2.** **Quest** (Session Room)
Studying Martin Thielen’s book: What’s the Least I Can Believe and Still Be a Christian

January 20

10:00 This Sunday Activities

- Childcare:** (Sanctuary Building, Room 120, Infants-K)
- Children:** (Kirk Center, Grades 1-5)
- Youth:** (Gailey Hall)
- Adult: 1.** **Feasting on the Word** (Chapel) – Joy Carden
Bible Study on the passage of the day.
- 2.** **Quest** (Session Room)
Studying Martin Thielen’s book: What’s the Least I Can Believe and Still Be a Christian

January 27

10:00 This Sunday Activities

- Childcare:** (Sanctuary Building, Room 120, Infants-K)
- Children:** (Kirk Center, Grades 1-5)
- Youth:** (Gailey Hall)
- Adult: 1.** **Feasting on the Word** (Chapel) – David Hill
Bible Study on the passage of the day.
- 2.** **Quest** (Session Room)
Studying Martin Thielen’s book: What’s the Least I Can Believe and Still Be a Christian



PRAISE

“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

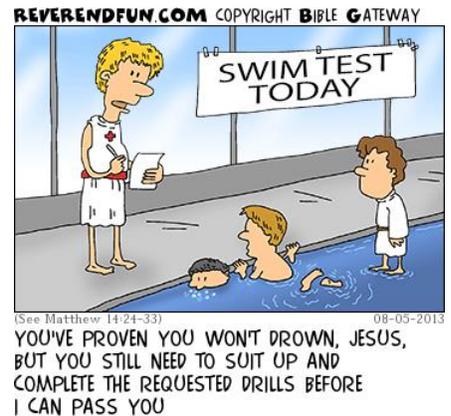
Return Service Requested

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
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