



PRAISE. LISTEN. LOVE. SERVE.

Good News

March 2019

Month At-A-Glance

March 2

- ◇ Young Adult Outing 7:30 pm

March 3

- ◇ Small Group Leader Training 12 pm
- ◇ Circle of Grace 5 pm

March 6

- ◇ Ash Wednesday Dinner 6 pm
- ◇ Service 7 pm

March 10

- ◇ Daylight Savings Begins
- ◇ Lenten Small Groups Begin

Inside this issue:

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The last weekend of January, your Session met at the beautiful Calvin Conference Center on Friday night and Saturday, for its annual retreat. The newly elected elders were examined and approved on Friday evening, followed by a wonderful time of fellowship as we all got to know each other better.

One of the fun things we did at the retreat was submit a “fun” fact about ourselves unknown by anyone else at the retreat. We then had a sheet with all of these fun facts and we had to match the fun fact to the correct person. I wish I had space to share all the fun facts, but here are a few:

- I held my high school’s pull-up record.
- I won money dancing in disco contests in Atlanta and even Miami during my college years.
- I was a contestant on the Price is Right.
- I was the last person to ever play quarterback for Sandy Springs High School.
- I grew up with 21 indoor dogs, 17 cats, about 100 birds and up to 18 fish tanks.

The MVPC elders have lived some interesting lives!

Another activity in which we engaged during the retreat was to discuss the life cycles of churches. After a presentation on the life cycles of churches, the elders discussed which life cycle they felt MVPC is in currently. As you would expect, the life cycles of a church closely resemble the life cycles of us humans: birth, infancy, childhood, adolescence, adulthood, maturity, empty nest, retirement, old age, death. The difference between humans and churches, however, is that while humans will eventually die, the church does not have to die.

The Session is now praying together daily to discern God’s vision for Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church as we move forward. This is not a quick process. If we truly want to listen to the Spirit, we must do so through prayer and Spirit-directed conversation with one another. I hope you will pray for the Session as they pray together to discern God’s leading.

On a personal note, I want to thank you for your continued support as I serve as your interim pastor during this time of transition at MVPC. Transition and change are not easy for most folks and certainly not for institutions because institutions are made up of those same people-you and me-who do not like transition and change. Thank you for not letting fear rule your hearts during the time, but instead leaning into God and each other. Thank you for being willing to provide feedback while also being respectful of those who don’t hold the same view as you. I continue to be excited about the future to which God is calling this part of the Body of Christ. We don’t know what that future looks like, but whatever it is, it will be a wonderful future as long as we depend upon God to guide us there.

Blessings,

Susan Haynes

Youth Ministry



Since the beginning of the year, several adults have stepped up to insure our youth have youth group each Sunday while we search for our new youth director. Thanks to the following who have led the fun, fellowship, and program and to those who have provided food. Fun, Fellowship, and Program: Sylvia McAdam, Mike Gillespie, Gloria Gillespie, Susan Haynes



LISTEN

Food: Jon Barber, Martha Baitcher, Steve Ray, Wynn Sims, Missy Van Putten

If you would like to either help with the youth group program or the dinner, please contact Susan Haynes @ susan@mvpchurch.org. You don't have to be a youth parent to get in on the fun.

*"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"*

Christian Education

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST MARCH 31 - 7:30-8:45 a.m.

MEN....get up a little earlier on Sunday, March 31 and join us at 7:30 a.m. in the fellowship hall for breakfast. This will be the first gathering of our new men's group, the *Fellowship of the Carpenter*. The planning team (Sam McClurg, Steve Ray, Charlie Gray, Mike Gillespie) met for lunch Feb. 3 and brainstormed ideas for a men's group.

They decided to try a men's breakfast at 7:30-8:45 a.m. (Fellowship Hall) on the 5th Sundays of the month (3/31, 6/30, 9/29, 12/29). This will put us meeting on a quarterly basis. Our first breakfast will give us an opportunity for good food, fellowship and time to talk about what we would like to see happening with this group. There will also be time for reflection on the morning devotional led by Charlie Gray. Mark your calendars!

Christian Education



WHAT MAKES A HERO?

THE DEATH-DEFYING MINISTRY OF JESUS

SIGN-UP NOW FOR LENTEN SMALL GROUPS

Our Lenten Small Groups are filling up but it's still not too late to be a part of this fellowship/study opportunity. Groups range in size from 8-12 people and offer an opportunity for building new relationships, fellowship together, and spiritual growth. There are 4 group options meeting at these times and places. (If needed, additional groups will be added)

- 1) Tower Group – meets at The Towers during the week.
(Day/Time to be decided by members.)
Facilitator: Pat Davis
- 2) Sunday church group meets 12:00-1:30 (Session room/Kirk Center)
Facilitator: Sam McClurg
- 3) Sunday church group meets 5:00-6:30 (Session room)
Facilitator: Gloria Gillespie
- 4) Sunday home group meets 5:00-6:30 (Southards' house)
Facilitator: Tim Southard

Each group will focus on the theme of "WHAT MAKES A HERO." It is an engaging study with a short DVD presentation followed by a lively discussion led by the group facilitator. Detailed brochures about the study are available on the resource table in the narthex.

The church will provide participant books that will be available for pick up March 3. If you would like, you can reimburse the church the book cost of \$11.50. If needed, the church will also reimburse any child care expenses incurred by study participants.



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"

Cakes4Kids

Sophie, who loves Disney princesses, turned 6 in February, celebrating her birthday with this amazing cake made by Marguerite Nelson through Cakes4Kids!



“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 and Jack Ward. Please keep all of these individuals and their families in your prayers.

Our Christian Sympathy is extended to the family of Mort Northrop, who passed away on February 22, 2019.



Ash Wednesday Service

Pancakes 6 pm in Fellowship Hall
Service 7 pm in the Sanctuary

Senior Adult Ministry

We will have a Soup and Salad lunch on Saturday, March 9, in Fellowship Hall at 12pm, along with some "Get to Know Me!" Fellowship time. Please let me know if you're coming so that we can make sure we have enough food.

On April 14, we will have a Masters' party in Gailey Hall after the 11 am service! Come watch it with us on the big screen!

We have lots of fun things in the works, so keep your eyes on this spot to get them down on your calendar!

Peace and Grace
Elizabeth



"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"

Stephen Ministry

Six applicants to the Stephen Ministry will begin training in March to become ministers. They have committed to fifty hours of training and are excited to begin learning the skills that will allow our church to offer distinctively Christian, one on one, confidential care from lay people.

Financial Update

Financials	2019 YTD	2019 Budget
Member Giving	\$73,658	\$523,700
Loose Offering	\$507	\$5,000
TOTAL	\$74,165	\$528,700

Presbyterian Women



In March, the Day Circle will meet on the 12th and the Sunday Circle will meet on the 10th. Mike Gillespie will give us an overview of the Christian Education program. The Book Circle will meet on March 8 and review *The First Women: The Grace and Power of America's Modern First Ladies*. The Circle of Grace will meet on March 3 at the home of Donna Neumann.



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”

We really enjoyed the mission luncheon and program on February 10. Andrea Brantley, Director of Family Promise North Fulton/DeKalb, spoke to us about the accomplishments and goals of the program. We learned about how they screen participants and how they help them go on to more independent living. Ms. Brantley has brought a lot of energy and ability to Family Promise, and we are proud to be able to help.

Our Spring Newsletter is available online [here](#). You can also pick up hard copies in the Narthex.



Family Promise

We have three families joining us for this spring session for Family Promise. Our team is working with them to ensure they have the support they need for a smooth transition back into homes of their own.

Our session in December/January went very well. Our volunteers from Mount Vernon and our partners at B'nai Torah really made our guests feel welcome. This is from the Family Promise website "One of the toughest challenges of homelessness is the lack of a true "home." We surpass traditional temporary housing by offering our families with the level of comfort that one would expect at a home, including engaging activities for both the parent and the children." I believe our team did just that. I am so proud of our work with them.

I hope this will inspire you to be part of our volunteer force as three Families come to Mount Vernon on **March 10, 2019 to March 17, 2019**. The Sign Up Genius is live (see link below or copy and paste in your browser) and I have sent out invitations to all our past volunteers. Please do contact me if you would like to be on the email list.

Please consider signing up to be an overnight host, for us these are the most difficult positions to fill. I can attest to the comfort of the bed. I certainly enjoyed the nights I slept over! We are truly blessed to be a blessing as we continue our support of Family Promise of North Fulton Dekalb.

Moira Speirs

Sign up Genius: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0e4baaa72fa02-march>

Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/FamilyPromisenfd/>



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"

Family Promise Fundraiser



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”



Meals with Meaning

Family Promise of North Atlanta

MEALS WITH MEANING

Thursday, March 21st, 2019
Heritage Sandy Springs
6110 Blue Stone Road
Sandy Springs, GA 30328
6:00-9:00PM

WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US FOR A SOUTHERN STYLE DINNER WITH WINE, BEER, AND ICED TEA. LIVE MUSIC, 50/50 RAFFLE AND AN INSPIRING TESTIMONIAL FROM A GRADUATE FAMILY.

\$50 PER TICKET

Please visit our website for tickets and information

www.familypromisefnd.org/events
(770)-609-5407

Garden Hill Scholarship Fund

Thank you to everyone who has already donated to the Garden Hill Scholarship Fund this year! Your contribution will go to benefit 28 deserving students attending Garden Hill High School in Lusaka, Zambia. Please help us reach our goal of \$5000 to pay tuition for all 28 students, including Edward Phiri and Lackson Nkata. Edward wants to become a pilot after he graduates and Lackson wants to become a nurse. Please help them achieve their 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 Hagenau

Communion Offering

Our food drive for the Community Assistance Center (CAC) will continue through the month of March. They are in desperate need of food since their shelves are almost empty.

Most needed items include canned meats (chicken, tuna, ham, spam, etc.), canned peas and vegetables, cereal, macaroni and cheese or canned pasta meals. Please place your donations in the Outreach bins outside of the office anytime during the month of February or March.



Zambia Ambassadors Trip

We are looking for 6 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.

2019 Session Members and Ministry Teams

Christian Education

Mary McClurg
Carrie Southard

Senior Adults

Donna Martin

Fellowship

David Barclift
Melinda Carden

Outreach

Quinton Fisher
Gill Hutt

Finance/Administration

Charlie Gray

◇ Stewardship

Wit Truitt

◇ Personnel

Bryan McClintock

Youth

Jon Barber

Congregational Care

Joy Carden

Witness

Mackenzie Truitt
Pat Davis

Strategic Planning

Donna Neumann

Worship

Christy Hill

Clerk of Session

Malinda Holmes

Moderator

Rev. Susan Haynes

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
<p>Sunday Worship 9am in Kirk Center 11am in Sanctuary</p>					1	2 Young Adult Outing 7:30pm
3 Small Group Leader Training 12pm	4	5 PW-CT 10 am CE Meeting 7pm	6 Ash Wednesday: Dinner 6 pm Service 7 pm Choir 8 pm	7 Younglife 7 pm	8 PW Book Cir- cle 10am	9 Senior Adults Soup & Salad lunch 12pm
10 Daylight Savings PW Circle 12pm Small Groups 12pm & 5 pm Circle of Grace 5 pm Youth Group 5 pm	11 Finance Admin. 6:30 pm	12 PW Day Circle 10 am	13 Choir 7:30 pm	14	15	16
17 Session Meeting 12 pm Small Groups 12pm & 5 pm Youth Group 5 pm	18	19 Worship Ministry Team 7 pm Good News Deadline	20 Choir 7:30 pm	21 Younglife 7 pm	22	23
24 Small Groups 12pm & 5 pm Youth Group 5 pm	25	26	27 Choir 7:30 pm Good News Published	28 LNP Board Meeting 6 pm Younglife 7 pm	29 Magic Club 4:30 pm	30
31 Men's Breakfast 7:30am Small Groups 12pm & 5 pm Youth Group 5 pm						

March Birthdays

Rachel Barclift	1-Mar	Alex Sprung	12-Mar	Bruce Hagenau	22-Mar
Pat Hudgins	1-Mar	Pat Davis	13-Mar	Mike Gillespie	23-Mar
Ali Eustis	2-Mar	Elizabeth Small	14-Mar	Bethany Anderson	24-Mar
Alice Ann Lever	3-Mar	Etta O'Hare	15-Mar	Connor Plumly	24-Mar
Mike Hague	4-Mar	Avery Brown Fisher	18-Mar	Hadi Siddique	24-Mar
Gill Hutt	6-Mar	Deborah Galloway	18-Mar	Jodi Jackson	26-Mar
Jeremy Paul	7-Mar	Michelle Smart	20-Mar	Kirk Chalpan	27-Mar
Jennifer Hazelwood	8-Mar	Mary Kilgore	21-Mar	Katie Sprung	27-Mar
John Hibbard	9-Mar	Adeline Lyles	21-Mar	Beppie Lever	28-Mar
Bruce Northrop	11-Mar	Lisa Mielke	21-Mar		

March 2019

March 3 Transfiguration Sunday

SCRIPTURE: Luke 9:28-36

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
Luke 9:28-36 (37-42) (Listen!)
- 2.** **Quest** (Session Room) 10 Things Christians Don't Need to Believe:
#2 - Jesus' Priority: What Matters Most?

March 10 First Sunday in Lent

SCRIPTURE: Luke 4:1-13

10:00 This Sunday Activities:

- Childcare:** (Sanctuary Building, Room 120, Infants-K)
- Children:** (Kirk Center, Grades 1-5)
- Adult: 1.** **Feasting on the Word** (Chapel) – Sam McClurg
Luke 4:1-13 (Choosing Trust)
- 2.** **Quest** (Session Room) 10 Things Christians Don't Need to Believe:
#3 - Jesus' Grace: Am I Accepted?

March 17 Second Sunday in Lent

SCRIPTURE: Luke 13:31-35

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
Luke 13:31-35 (Witness and Hope)
- 2.** **Quest** (Session Room) 10 Things Christians Don't Need to Believe:
#4 – Jesus' Work: Where Is God?

March 24 Third Sunday in Lent

SCRIPTURE: Luke 13:1-9

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
Isaiah 55:1-9 (God's Dependable Promises)
- 2.** **Quest** (Session Room) 10 Things Christians Don't Need to Believe:
#5 – Jesus' Example: What Brings Fulfillment?

March 31 Fourth Sunday in Lent



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

Rev. Susan Haynes	<i>Interim Pastor</i>	susan@mvpchurch.org
Matthias Young	<i>Interim Music Director</i>	matthias@mvpchurch.org
Elizabeth Small	<i>Interim Director of Congregational Care</i>	elizabeth@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

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GOOD THING I FOUND YOU GIDEON ... IT SEEMS SOMEONE HAS BEEN HIDING ALL YOUR BIBLES IN HOTEL ROOMS

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