

**Mount Vernon Presbyterian Revives  
Stephen Ministry - Pat Bartee, Leader**

**Mission Statement**

**The Stephen Ministry Team will be the AFTER people, expanding care beyond the challenging event and having a person to journey with you and share the burden as you come back to wholeness.**

Twenty years ago Mount Vernon Presbyterian had a Stephen Ministry. I volunteered to restart the program and attended Leadership Training in January 2019 to become a Stephen Leader for the Stephen Ministry, a one on one, confidential, distinctively Christian care ministry of trained and skilled lay people.

What an exhaustive and intensive training week it was, some days beginning at 8:30 a.m. and ending at 9:30 p.m. in a room with 329 other lay people from 35 states and 4 countries! I sat at a table all week with 3 Catholics, 2 Lutherans, 2 Methodists and we were absolutely on the same page about congregational care. Some of us were starting a new ministry and others were Stephen Ministers stepping into Stephen Leader roles. What a beautiful Ecumenical relationship grew between us!

I am grateful to Lutheran pastor, Dr. Kenneth Haugk, also trained as a psychologist who, many years ago, felt laypeople could be trained to assist the pastoral staff and spread the love and comfort of Christ in larger and wider circles. Other churches wanted such a program and Stephen Ministry was formed and its' licensed training program has reached over 13,500 congregations in multiple countries.

Mount Vernon's new ministry was advertised in January and interviews of interested potential ministers are taking place through Feb. 21. Training will begin in late Feb. and last several months. During the early summer we hope to commission a new team.



So what will these ministers do for the congregation and how will they fit into the pastoral care and congregational ministries already existing?

This team will be the AFTER people, the ones who come to be with you in a totally confidential relationship and to walk with you AFTER a challenging or difficult time. They are trained listeners, not counselors or advisers, and when you ask for them; they will be there for you until you find resolution and wholeness.

Our pastors cannot do it all and Christ commanded all of us as laypeople to love one another. Stephen in one of the first Christian churches made congregational care his mission and Stephen ministers are named from his service. Stephen Ministry will **DEPEND** on our congregation to be our eyes and ears and to refer our hurting and lonely to the new ministry.

**PW 101.10:** Who is gathering this year? Presbyterian Women is connectional, and that means we gather! We gather monthly (more or less) in our congregational circles for Bible study and mission. PW in the Presbytery gatherings tend to take place semiannually, in the spring and fall of each year. This year, the year after the Churchwide Gathering, all PW in the Synod groups are meeting. Depending on which synod we are in, we may gather as a synod PW annually, semiannually or triennially, usually in the summer. Our national gathering—the Churchwide Gathering—occurs once every three years, usually during the summer. Whenever and wherever PW gathers, our gatherings strengthen community and affirm our connectional nature.



Spring in the Courtyard  
Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church

**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN  
POWERFUL KNOWLEDGE TO  
EMPOWER WOMEN  
SPRING QUARTER 2019**

**The 32nd Annual Gathering of  
PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN OF  
THE PRESBYTERY OF GREATER ATLANTA  
Sunday, March 17, 2019, 2:00 pm  
Trinity Presbyterian Church  
3003 Howell Mill Rd NW, Atlanta, GA 30327**

**HIGHLIGHTS**

- ❖ **Rev. Aisha Brooks-Lytle, Executive Presbyter, will share her vision of this year's presbytery theme: Flourish!**
- ❖ **Remember to bring your banner for the processional!**
- ❖ **Recognition of PW Honorary Life Members - wear your butterfly pin!**
- ❖ **Financial Report & 2019 Budget Approval**
- ❖ **Offering for Matthew 28 and Mission Pledge (PW's Annual Fund)**
- ❖ **Election & Installation of PW Presbytery Leaders**

**Presbyterian Women  
Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church  
471 Mt. Vernon Hwy, NE, Sandy Springs, GA 30328  
404-255-2211**



## MVPC PW 65 Years Strong!

Linda Bhame, Spiritual Growth

Every three years PW has a national meeting called the Triennial Church Wide Gathering. Each church is encouraged to send members to attend. In 2009, three members from Mt. Vernon Presbyterian Women, Linda Bhame, Pat Davis and Pearl Attaway, attended the gathering in Louisville, Kentucky. This was a great way to meet women from many states, share meals together and attend seminars and plenary programs. Approximately 2,500 women attend to share ideas, learn about missions and ways to improve the local church programs.



***\*Save the Date! \****

### **The MVPC Presbyterian Women**

#### **Fall Retreat**

**Sunday, October 6<sup>th</sup> 12:30 – 4:00pm**

**Box Lunch Served**

**Speaker – Ellen Barron**

**Lost Corner Nature Preserve in Sandy Springs**

**7300 Brandon Mill Road**

**Intersection of Dalrymple Rd/Riverside Drive and  
Brandon Mill Rd.**



<http://www.atlpcusa.org/pw.html>

### **Mount Vernon District Report Spring 2019: Sarah Chalpan, Moderator**

- ❖ Our Community and World Missions Leaders presented a program for our Circles on ways that we help in these areas and how future plans are shaping up.
- ❖ Raised over \$500. in gift cards for the Community Assistance Center at our Christmas program and dinner.
- ❖ PW had its annual Mission Lunch on Feb. 10, after church services. Everyone was invited. Our speaker for this occasion was the Executive Director for Family Promise of North Fulton/Dekalb, Andrea Bradley. She talked to us about the ongoing direction of Family Promise.
- ❖ At our March Day and Sunday Circles, we will hear from our Director of Christian Education, Mike Gillespie. He will talk about the plans that are being developed for our Christian Education program. In April, our Interim Minister, Rev. Susan Haynes, will speak on current leaders and issues in Presbyterianism, which includes writers, ministers, and issues that unite and divide us.
- ❖ Our PW Day Circle will be helping with Congregational Care by visiting our shut ins who are not able to attend church services.



## **Discerning Forgiveness**

May 12 - 15, 2019

**Description:** The Christian faith is indelibly and distinctively marked by the imperative both to receive and to offer forgiveness. But Christian voices on the subject differ widely. Some urge forgiveness as a Christian duty under all circumstances, while others argue that certain prior conditions must be met for forgiveness to be meaningful or effective. Some believe forgiveness is the surest route to healing for the offended, while others hold that therapeutic value cannot be the essence of Christian forgiveness. How do we sort through the competing claims and varied interpretations? What is the core nature and role of this powerful divine gift we are called to participate in? Our class will help us attend to several voices in this debate, discern some of the complexities of timing and circumstance, claim a stance with scriptural and theological integrity, and engage in key practices to help us learn the "craft" of forgiveness. This class is open to everyone. Credit towards the [Certificate in Spiritual Formation](#) will be given to those who complete the pre-and post-course assignments. You will receive the reading list in the registration confirmation email. If you have any questions, please contact:

[spirituality@ctsnet.edu](mailto:spirituality@ctsnet.edu).

**Location: Montreat Conference Center**

