



# Good News

September 2019

## Month At-A-Glance

### September 2

- ◇ Labor Day
- ◇ Office Closed

### September 8

- ◇ 9am & 11am Services Begin
- ◇ Church School Begins 10am
- ◇ Confirmation Class Orientation 10am
- ◇ Youth Pool Party 5pm

### September 14

- ◇ SAM Five to Thrive 12pm

### September 15

- ◇ Small Groups Begin 12:15pm & 5pm

### September 19

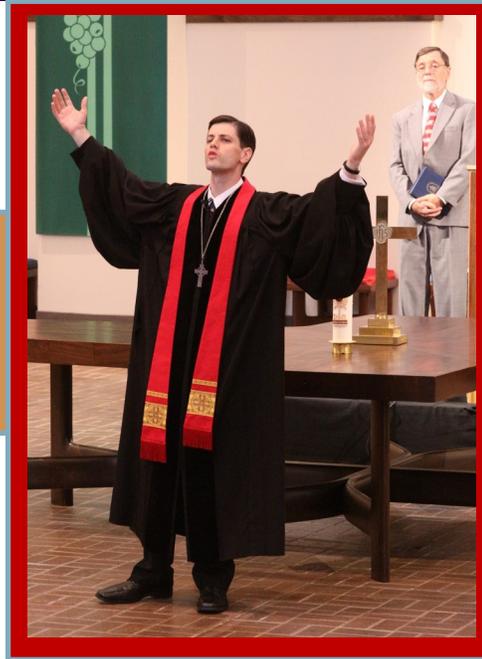
- ◇ Thursday Small Group Begins 2pm
- ◇ Family Promise Host Dinner 6pm

### September 22

- ◇ Child Protection Training 12:15pm
- ◇ La Fiesta in the Park 3pm
- ◇ Youth Braves Game

### September 29

- ◇ Fellowship of the Carpenter Men's Breakfast 7:30am
- ◇ Youth Group 5pm



## *Better Know... the New Church*

Around my house, we don't call our church Mount Vernon Presbyterian. No, around our house, you are simply known as the "new church." Every Sunday as we hurriedly get ready or every weekday when we are yawning our way through the morning routine, our toddler Evelyn (Evie) asks "Where are we going?" Braegan or I respond, "We are going to the "new church." Wide-eyed and curious, she quizzes us, "We're going to the new church?" We reaffirm, "We're going to the new church." Sometimes this elicits a shout, "We're going to the NEW CHURCH, Daddy! We're going to the NEW CHURCH, Mommy!" Other times she just kind of nods and moves along, then says declaratively, "We ARE GOING to the new church."

(Continued on page 2....)

The concept of “new church” invokes many a reaction from our little one. As I am sure you are curious about us, she is just as curious about you. I, too, echo those sentiments. In the newsletter pages of my previous church one of my favorite things to do was to sit down with a church member once a month for what we called “Better Know a Church Member.” It was basically 20 questions, but with a bent toward the faith journey. “Who is one person who inspired your faith? What is your first or favorite memory of church?” are but example questions. Inevitably, what I found with each conversation is that like Evie, the church- the place where we massage our faith, both individually and collectively, through the message of Jesus Christ- is received through varied and layered reactions. Like my daughter, some journeys compel more questions, some sound resolute, and others are still wondering what their faith is or even how they are called to experience God. Thankfully, again like my daughter, there is room for all those reactions within our walk with God.

For much of this first year, that is what ministry will be for us. Having a “Better Know” conversation with one another. Maybe we’ll start the series in these pages (if you are so moved, with 387 of you on the rolls, we have a lot of months to fill) or perhaps they will remain between us as individuals or as a small group. Either way, I look forward to hearing your reactions and in turn I hope you’ll receive mine. For as I have found before, that is where holy moments reside, in the exchange and reception of where God has been, is, and how God is pointing you and us forward.

Grace and Peace,

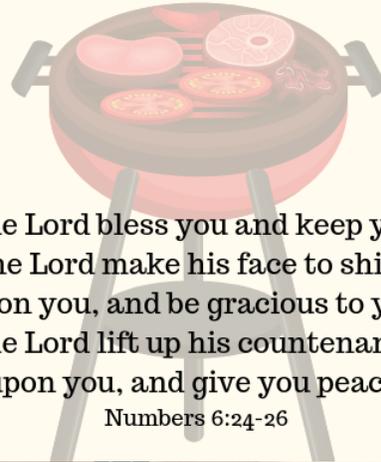
Barrett



# A GLANCE AT THE BBQ & INSTALLATION OF REV. BARRETT ABERNETHY

The Lord bless you and keep you;  
the Lord make his face to shine  
upon you, and be gracious to you;  
the Lord lift up his countenance  
upon you, and give you peace.

Numbers 6:24-26







## Highlights from the August Presbytery and Session Meeting!

The weekend of August 17-18 was a full weekend for Mount Vernon Elders and our new Pastor. Here's a recap:

Saturday, August 17

Elders Attended: David Hill, Christy Hill, Pat Davis, Donna Martin

Greater Atlanta Presbytery met for its summer gathering at Memorial Drive Presbyterian in Clarkston. Over the past few years Clarkston has been the site of significant refugee resettlement and Memorial Drive lives into diversity with grace. Each Sunday, their church campus welcomes 5 different worshipping communities that proclaim the gospel in 6 different languages. One is in French and Swahili. During the service we heard from three different Presbyters who read the same scripture in Taiwanese, Arabic, and Swahili. We also learned more about Memorial Drive ministries and ways we can support the work the church is doing to help welcome these people to their new home.

Rev. Abernethy, along with 5 other pastors, were welcomed by the body and received by voice vote into the Presbytery.

Sunday, August 18

The Session met for its August stated meeting. Prior to the meeting, we enjoyed lunch courtesy of Elder Joy Carden and celebrated the birthday of Elder David Barclift.

A timely devotion was given by Elder Melinda Carden that invited each elder to write their worries on a piece of paper, give them to God, and then throw them away.

Much of the meeting revolved around getting Rev. Abernethy up to date on the status of each committee

- Congregation Care: Elder Carden updated all the work the committee is doing. Rev. Abernethy lauded them for how organized and benevolent they are to church members and visitors.
- Finance/Administration: Financials are on solid footing for this time of year. The body discussed ideas and past stewardship initiatives with Rev. Abernethy.
- Fellowship: Elder Barclift shared the wonderful time that was had at the dinner held at his house to welcome Rev. Abernethy.
- Outreach: Elder Gill Hutt thanked everyone for their prayer and support as he prepares to visit Zambia Oct. 11-16.

- Strategic Planning: Elder Donna Neumann let the body know that she would share the results of the listening sessions the church has done over the past few years to Rev. Abernethy.
- Witness Ministry: Elder Pat Davis and Elder Mackenzie Truitt shared news of visitors they have reached out to and the progress completed on our bulletin board.
- Worship: Elder Christy Hill updated us on several items that the committee and Rev. Abernethy will be discussing as we return to two services.
- Youth: The youth committee is planning the fall Sunday night gatherings that will begin on Sept. 8 as well as summer mission trip possibilities.
- Senior Adult Ministry: Elder Donna Martin shared their next event "5 to thrive" will take place on September 14<sup>th</sup>. Come to learn how to make great food with only 5 ingredients.
- Christian Education: Elders Carrie Southard and Mary McClurg discussed the committees longing to develop a vision and mission for CE.

Rev. Abernethy reported during his pastor's report that he is thankful for the welcome the church has shown to both he and his family. Prayers of celebration for future planning and living into difficulty were expressed and we closed with prayer. Our next stated meeting will be October.

	Week of 8/19-8/25	YTD 2019	YTD Annual Budget
Member Giving	\$3,140	\$366,733	\$542,000
Loose Offering	\$811	\$10,347	\$5,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,951</b>	<b>\$377,080</b>	<b>\$547,000</b>

## ADULT CLASSES BEGIN SEPTEMBER 8

We now offer three adult classes on Sunday mornings from 10-10:45!

**DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY** – Chapel—We will be using ‘The Present Word’ curriculum. This new thematic approach finds this quarter focusing on the “grace of God” as a central conviction of the Christian faith. The class will look at what it means to live in the grace of God and perceive God’s grace all around us. Sam McClurg, Joy Carden, and Pat Davis rotate as teachers.

**QUEST** – Session Room—We will be discussing the book: *Antonin Scalia On Faith: Lessons from an American Believer*. This will be an informative journey into the deep faith of Justice Scalia and an engaging dialogue on the role of religion in the life of our nation. Mike Gillespie leads this class.

**SECOND CUP** – Kirk Center—Following worship we will have a weekly discussion centered on Rob Bell’s NOOMA video clips. *Nooma* is a series of short films that explore our world from a perspective of Jesus. *Nooma* is an invitation to search, question, and join the discussion. David Hill will be discussion facilitator.

Pick up a copy of the ***Fall Christian Education Brochure*** in the narthex and read more info about these classes.

## SPECIAL PROGRAM FOR ADULTS ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

All adult classes will meet together on Sunday, September 22 (10-10:45) to hear a presentation by a General Assembly team from the Self Development of People office in Louisville. This office focuses on confronting the issues of poverty and oppression through the empowerment of economically poor, oppressed, and disadvantaged people. This presentation will help us learn more on how our congregation might be more involved, especially since there are many poverty issues in Atlanta.

## CONFIRMATION CLASS ORIENTATION MEETING SEPTEMBER 8

Our 6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> graders and their parents are invited to participate in the Confirmation Class that begins Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup>. We will discuss the scope of the program and go over scheduling details.

Beppie Lever and Martha Baitcher lead the group which meets weekly from 10-10:45 in Room 213 of the Christian Education building.



### **CHILDREN'S CHURCH SCHOOL BEGINS SEPTEMBER 8—Kirk Center**

All 1<sup>st</sup>–5<sup>th</sup> graders are invited to join with Carrie Southard as we begin our Fall church school program. The class uses the PCUSA curriculum *Growing in Grace and Gratitude*. Younger preschoolers, 3's–kindergarten, meet in room 120 with Kathy Grawe to enjoy some fun learning experiences geared to their age.

### **CHILDREN & YOUTH PROTECTION POLICY TRAINING SEPTEMBER 22**

All adults involved in leadership with children and youth must go through the training/screening process related to the new policy just adopted by session. This training will last no more than two hours and will be offered after the 11:00 service on September 22 from 12:15–2:00. Lunch will be provided.

We hope all individuals working with children or youth now or who plan to in the future (VBS, special events, etc.) will attend this training. A sign-up sheet is available in the narthex for those who plan to attend. Copies of our new Children & Youth Protection Policy are available on the info table.



### **SESSION II SMALL GROUPS START SEPTEMBER 15**

Sign-ups are currently under way for Session II of our small groups program. There are three study options available with meetings on Sunday (12:15–1:45, 5–6:30) and Thursday (2–3:30). Session II runs for five consecutive weeks. Our small groups range in size from 8–12 people and allow participants an opportunity for fellowship, discussion, personal reflection and prayer. This supportive environment is a wonderful way for us to grow in faith together and deepen our relationships within the community of faith.

Brochures on the info table in the narthex give complete details.



## FELLOWSHIP OF THE CARPENTER MEN'S GROUP MEETS SEPTEMBER 29

Hey men of Mt. Vernon.....our next quarterly breakfast gathering is Sunday, September 29, 7:30 am in the Fellowship Hall. Pastor Barrett will be sharing some ideas with us.



## Mount Vernon Youth

Sept. 8—Fall kick-off pool party for the Youth Group from 5-7 pm at the Cummings. There will be fun games (ping pong, corn hole, frisbee, etc.) and food.

September 22—Youth Braves Game. More information to come.

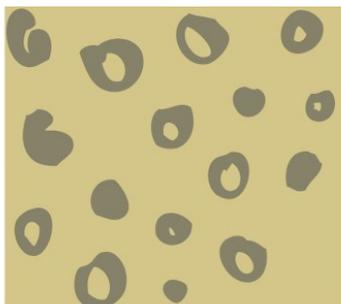
Sept. 29—The Youth Group will be meeting at the Abernethys from 5-7 For fellowship and dinner.



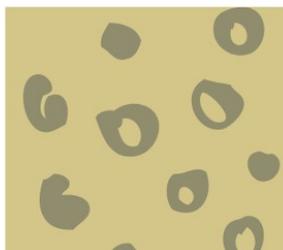
Are you a Senior Adult who doesn't like to cook? Maybe you just don't have the time? You still need to eat, and all of that takeout gets pretty expensive. SAM (Senior Adult Ministry) has the answer! Join us on Saturday, September 14, from 12-2 in Fellowship Hall for lunch and 5 to Thrive! We will share very easy (but tasty!) recipes that contain 5 or less ingredients. We will even make one with you!

If you don't want the recipes, join us for the fellowship! Please call or email Elizabeth Small in the church office to reserve your spot so we'll have enough. You won't want to miss this!

Peace and Grace  
Elizabeth



Service Dogs,  
horses,  
fellowship  
and a picnic!  
What fun  
at our  
children's  
outing!!





**The September Communion Offering** is for the Food Pantry at the Community Assistance Center (CAC). Since its founding at Mt Vernon Presbyterian Church in 1987, CAC has assisted more than 19,000 families experiencing hardships by providing food, financial assistance, and other services to prevent homelessness and promote self-sufficiency. For more information, go online to: [ourcac.org](http://ourcac.org). Current needs include: canned meats and beef stew, canned fruits and vegetables, dry or evaporated milk, peanut butter, jelly, jello, pudding mix, macaroni and cheese, canned spaghetti sauce and pastas (Spaghetti Os, etc.), instant potatoes, rice, soup, crackers, cookies, and child-friendly snacks. Please place your donations in the outreach bin near the church office any time during the month of September. Thank you for your generosity.



### **Concerns of the Congregation**

Hospitalized: Rev. Jenny Hammett

In extended care: Jack Ward and Bert Hels. Please keep these individuals and their families in your prayers.



The new Stephen Ministry is up and running. Ministers are in continuous learning in August and September, having speakers from a nearby counseling center talk more about depression, loss, transition, and suicide prevention and from a hospice to counsel us on effective strategies for those facing chronic and terminal illness. We are preparing ourselves to fully be there for you when you need us. No one at our church needs to walk a deep valley alone. Call Barrett, our pastor, or Pat Bartee, Stephen Leader, to begin a relationship with a Stephen Minister.

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Do you feel a need for prayer?  
Have our Prayer Vine pray for you!  
Email your requests to [prayerrequests@mvpchurch.org](mailto:prayerrequests@mvpchurch.org)  
or call the church office at 404-255-2211.



## Presbyterian Women

Starting in September, the Day Circle and the Sunday Circle will be doing the Horizons Bible Study, *Love Carved in Stone: A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments*, by Eugenia Anne Gamble. Rev. Gamble is a pastor who has served the church for more than 30 years. Sarah Chalpan and Pearl Attaway attended the workshop held at Columbia Theological Seminary and led by Rev. Gamble. PW welcomes all women of MVPC to attend this Bible Study. It may also bring a fresh look at the way we look and live in the world.

The study guide will be available for purchase on August 25 and September 1 in the Narthex. The cost is \$12. The Sunday Circle will meet on September 8 after the 11:00 service. The Day Circle will meet on September 10 at 10:00. Pearl Attaway will be leading the first lesson: *Words of Love: I Am Your God; You Shall Have No Others*. The Book Circle will meet on September 13 at 10:00. They will be reading *Mademoiselle Chanel* by C. W. Gortner.

Save the date! The PW retreat will be on October 6 after the 11:00 service at Lost Corner Preserve (in Sandy Springs at the corner of Brandon Mill Rd. and Dalrymple Rd). The program will be *Intimacy: Relational and Spiritual*. It will be led by Eleanor Barron (Meg Christian's mother). The cost is \$20 which includes lunch. Reservations will be taken after both services later in September.

You can pick up a copy of the Fall MVPC PW newsletter in the Narthex or [click here](#).

You can pick up a copy of the Special Edition MVPC PW newsletter in the narthex. If viewing online, click here: [Bible Study 2019-2020](#).



The search for a caseworker continues! Andrea our Director is looking at resumes and hopes to find someone soon. We really need someone who can concentrate their efforts of finding accommodation for our families as they transition from the program.

The families are doing well; many have jobs and the children are back in school. Our partner congregations continue to do the same great work as we do when we are hosting.

### **How you can help?**

Do you have any leads on affordable housing? If any of your friends have rental accommodation and would consider renting to our families please let me know.

Is anyone looking for help with a website or with marketing? Nina is skilled at writing content and would love to consult part time.

Gift Cards for Gas are always needed and if you see any deals on Regal Movie gift cards, Stars and Strikes Gift cards or Kroger gift cards snap them up for our session in December.

### **Sunday November 17**

#### **Benefit Concert for Family Promise, St Luke's Presbyterian Church**

Mount Vernon and St. Luke's are in discussions now about partnering this year!

**December 22-29, We are hosting over Christmas!** Please put it in your calendar to save some dates for volunteering.

#### 2019 Session Members and Ministry Teams

##### Christian Education

Mary McClurg  
Carrie Southard

##### Senior Adults

Donna Martin

##### Fellowship

David Barclift  
Melinda Garden

##### Outreach

Gill Hutt

##### Finance/Administration

Charlie Gray

##### Stewardship

Wit Truitt

##### Youth

Jon Barber

##### Congregational Care

Joy Garden

##### Witness

Mackenzie Truitt  
Pat Davis

##### Strategic Planning

Donna Neumann

##### Worship

Christy Hill

##### Clerk of Session

Malinda Holmes

##### Moderator

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

Dear Sponsor,

My humble greetings and I pray that this letter finds you well. I have written this letter to you, to tell you all about the adventures in my life after the completion of my studies.

I obtained a merit in my academic results and I was given a medical practicing license by the ministry of health of Zambia. My graduation ceremony will happen in September. I wish you could be in attendance!

I have been working in different areas and volunteering to keep myself busy until the government begins the 2019 recruitment of clinical officer workers. I have also been applying with different privately-owned clinics and hospitals for a job and am awaiting a response when vacancies are available.

I've been working with an organization called Sapato Foundation which reaches out to the needy, vulnerable and orphans in our community and Zambia at large. Working with them has given me an opportunity to visit different orphanages and widow houses in Lusaka; donating clothing, food and school supplies. I enjoy my work with them, and we hope to reach out even farther into the outskirts of the city.

Through the Sapato Foundation, I was also given the opportunity to take part in the Miss Culture Zambia pageant. It was a lovely experience and I was crowned Miss Popularity and Miss Culture Zambia Ambassador. It was fun and interesting as it included some runway modeling which helps and promotes young upcoming Zambian designers and showcases their creations. I really enjoyed this experience and have loved volunteering while I wait to hear about employment opportunities!

Thank you,  
Vandetta

## Zambia Scholarship



### Welcome

Charlotte Rose Donaldson was born to her proud parents, Margo ( Gray ) Donaldson and her husband Steve Donaldson on July 22nd. Grandparents are Charlie and Lisa Gray.

**SUNDAY WORSHIP**

**September 1**

10:00 am

**Beginning September 8**

9:00 am—Kirk Center

11:00 am—Sanctuary



**IN OBSERVANCE OF**

**LABOR DAY**

*The church office will be closed  
September 2, 2019*

Moreover, it is God’s gift that all should eat and drink and take pleasure in all their toil.  
Ecclesiastes 3:13

**September Birthdays**

Betsy Cozine	9/3	Sylvia McAdam	9/12
Hazel Cofield	9/4	Andre' Hazelwood	9/13
Chris Gray	9/4	Jim Loth	9/13
Kirk Pumphrey	9/4	Meg Christian	9/14
Ginny Little	9/5	Sam McClurg	9/15
Channing Snypp	9/5	Nancy (Vaughan) Fletcher	9/19
Emma Plumly	9/6	McLaren Christensen	9/20
Carolyn Spain	9/6	Julia Simon	9/20
Lee Wall	9/6	Stephanie Skidmore	9/20
Caroline Little	9/9	George Henry	9/24
Louise Aldrich	9/10	Penny Kiel	9/26
Mason King	9/10	Robyn Baitcher	9/29
Suzanne Snypp	9/10	Jack Bobeng	9/30

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> Worship 10am Adult Church School 11am	<b>2</b> Office Closed Labor Day	<b>3</b> Christian Education Meeting 7pm	<b>4</b> Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm Worship Ministry Team 12:45pm	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> First Cup 9am Worship 11am Church School begins 10am Confirmation Class 10am PW Sun. Circle 12pm Stephen Ministries 7pm Youth Pool Party 5pm	<b>9</b> Finance Admin. 6:30pm	<b>10</b> PW Day Circle 10am	<b>11</b> Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> PW Book Circle 10am	<b>14</b> Sam Five to Thrive 12pm
<b>15</b> First Cup 9am Worship 11am Church School 10am Session Meeting 12pm Small Groups begin 12:15pm & 5:00pm	<b>16</b> Magic Club 6pm	<b>17</b> Good News Deadline	<b>18</b> Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm	<b>19</b> Family Promise Host Dinner 6pm Small Group 2pm	<b>20</b> MVPS Prayer Group 8am	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> First Cup 9am Worship 11am Special G.A. Presentation 10am La Fiesta 3pm Stephen Ministries 7pm Child Protection Training 12:15 Youth Braves Game	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm Stephen Ministries 5:30pm Good News Pub- lished	<b>26</b> LNP Board Meeting 7pm	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> First Cup 9am Worship 11am Church School 10am Men's Breakfast 7:30am Youth Group 5pm	<b>30</b>					

September 2019**September 1**

**Childcare:** Sanctuary Building, Room 120, Infants-K  
Discovery Bible Study ( 11-12 in the Chapel)

**September 8**

**Church School:** 10:00-10:45 am

**Childcare:** Sanctuary Building, Room 120, Infants to K

**Children:** 1-5 Grade, Kirk Center

**Youth:** Confirmation Class—Room 213, C.E. Building

**Adults:** Discovery Bible Study –Chapel

Quest —Session Room

Second Cup – Kirk Center

**September 15**

**Church School:** 10:00-10:45 am

**Childcare:** Sanctuary Building, Room 120, Infants to K

**Children:** 1-5 Grade, Kirk Center

**Youth:** Confirmation Class—Room 213, C.E. Building

**Adults:** Discovery Bible Study –Chapel

Quest —Session Room

Second Cup – Kirk Center

**Small Groups:** 12:15-1:45 pm—Chapel

**September 22**

**Adults:** All classes meet in the Kirk Center

**Childcare:** Sanctuary Building, Room 120, Infants to K

**Children:** 1-5 Grade, Kirk Center

**Youth:** Confirmation Class—Room 213, C.E. Building

**Small Groups:** 12:15-1:45 pm—Chapel

**September 29**

**Fellowship of the Carpenter' Men's Breakfast:** 7:30 am—Fellowship Hall

**Church School:** 10:00-10:45 am

**Childcare:** Sanctuary Building, Room 120, Infants to K

**Children:** 1-5 Grade, Kirk Center

**Youth:** Confirmation Class—Room 213, C.E. Building

**Small Groups:** 12:15-1:45 pm—Chapel



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 [terri@mvpchurch.org](mailto:terri@mvpchurch.org). *If you'd no longer wish to receive the Good News monthly, please email Jill at [jill@mvpchurch.org](mailto:jill@mvpchurch.org).*

+++  
**Good  
News!**

### Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church Staff

Rev. Barrett Abernethy	Pastor	<a href="mailto:barrett@mvpchurch.org">barrett@mvpchurch.org</a>
Matthias Young	Interim Music Director	<a href="mailto:matthias@mvpchurch.org">matthias@mvpchurch.org</a>
Elizabeth Small	Interim Director of Congregational Care	<a href="mailto:elizabeth@mvpchurch.org">elizabeth@mvpchurch.org</a>
Steve Ray	Church Finance and Operations	<a href="mailto:steve@mvpchurch.org">steve@mvpchurch.org</a>
Mike Gillespie	Director of Christian Education	<a href="mailto:mike@mvpchurch.org">mike@mvpchurch.org</a>
Jill Thompson	Administrative Assistant	<a href="mailto:jill@mvpchurch.org">jill@mvpchurch.org</a>
Terri Clayton	Communications Coordinator	<a href="mailto:terri@mvpchurch.org">terri@mvpchurch.org</a>
Yvonne White	Financial Secretary	<a href="mailto:yvonne@mvpchurch.org">yvonne@mvpchurch.org</a>

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(See Genesis 6-8) 09-16-2011  
**YOU THROW THE CATS OVERBOARD AND I'LL  
TELL YOU WHERE I FOUND THE BRANCH**

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