



June/July 2021

Good News

Month At-A-Glance

June 6

**Fellowship Luncheon
11am**

June 20

**Father's Day/Los
Niño's Primero
Sunday**

June 27

**Worship Town Hall
11am**

**Men's Breakfast
8:30am**

July 2

Office Closed

July 4-25

Family Promise

July 5

Office Closed

July 25

**Worship Town Hall
11am**

Welcome back to worship in the sanctuary!



Join us at 10 am for summer worship!





NEEDED NOW: Catie O'Hare had to withdraw from Stephen Ministry Leadership Training so we are looking for another co-leader for our program! This is a unique, shortened, online program which will be paid for by our church. It is composed of 10 sessions that are 2.5 hours long on M/W or Tu/Th and participants are put into a cohort with 20 other people. At the end, as a new co-leader, you will help Pat Bartee run our program and, in time, help train new Stephen Ministers, ensuring the continuation of this effective ministry. Please consider volunteering. Call or email Pat.

If you are experiencing hesitancy returning to "normal" life after the Pandemic or after grief, rehabilitation, a move, or any other unsettling event, a Stephen Minister is the best companion to have with you. We are temporary helpers who listen, hear, keep confidences, encourage, and share strategies to assist you as you emerge from a deep valley in your life. We can be there in the valley, as well, but for some it is the return to normalcy that is the most difficult task. Please utilize our strengths and skills to ease any transition by contacting a minister or calling Pat Bartee, Stephen Leader, to become involved.

Children's Ministry

Our children's ministry at MVPC continues to gather digitally and in-person. See the many ways we've gathered this month, as well as the activities on the horizon!

Each Monday at 1:30pm we host a 20–25 minute Preschool Zoom Get Together of fun songs and Christian lessons. These get togethers are open to any young friend who would like to join and often bring together friends from across the country. Please invite your friends and relatives! You can contact the leader of this group, Carrie Southard (carriensouth@gmail.com) to receive the Zoom link.

This past April and May we have learned about God's care for all of creation during our Godly Play lesson on Earth Day. We also continued our sandwich-making mission for Clifton Ministries. We look forward to summer get-togethers at each child's house for fellowship and outreach projects.



We will pause our Godly Play lessons during the summer holiday and pick back up in August. Godly Play lessons lead children through the Bible with interactive storytelling, wonder-based questions, and craft activities. Please contact Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt (isaac@mvpchurch.org) or Carrie Southard (carriensouth@gmail.com) if you would like more information or would like to join any of children's ministry activities!



Welcome to the bit of poetry hidden in the middle of the Good News! We will soon shift into the liturgical season of Ordinary Time, which is a perfectly ironic name for the seasons outside of Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter. There are many poems that point to the divinity nestled into the “ordinary” parts of life, and they call us to use our experience our ordinary time with wonder. May these be blessed, ordinary times to come!

Peace, Isaac

Passing Ordinary Time, by Enuma Okoro

*It is a hard art to learn,
catching quiet
by palms raised
cupped in
air shifting location
here and there like
trying to guess the pattern of
falling leaves,
and hoping to feel
the soft descent of moments
when silence slips
between sounds.
This ordinary time is
gifted with days,
weeks of mundane grace
routinely following the liturgy
of hours anticipating creation
tuning its prayer and praise to the
rhythms of incarnate love.
I am used to the uproar,
the Holy drama,*

*the appetite's gnarled discord
of fasting and feasting on borrowed
time,
the knocking of angels,
the blubbering piety of waiting,
appointed seasons for guilt and grief,
tears of joy and disbelief,
the birth of miracles, the passion of
virgins,
the mourning of a love so divine.
This ordinary time is
gifted in its quiet, marked passing
Christ slips about
calling and baptizing,
sending and affirming,
pouring his Spirit like water
into broken cisterns,
sealing cracks and filtering our
senses,
that we may savor the foolish
simplicity of his grace.*



THANK YOU TO ALL THAT CAME TO OUR
DRIVE-IN

FOOD DRIVE & FUR BABIES





The June Communion Offering is for the Drake House, a transitional living facility for homeless mothers and children located in Roswell.

Most needed items include:

Walmart gift cards

Home Depot gift cards (for apartment maintenance and upkeep needs)

Children's size disposable face masks

Fruit Cups (applesauce, mandarin oranges, and fruit cocktail)

Granola Bars

Hamburger Helper or Knorr Pasta Sides

Canned Goods – tomato soup, fruit cocktail, pasta sauce

Italian Salad Dressing

Chicken Broth

Toilet Bowl Cleaner

All Purpose Cleaner

Baby Wash/Bath

Donations may be brought to any worship service during the month of June or dropped off in the donation bin outside the church office. Thank you for your generosity!

For more information on The Drake House, please go online to: thedrakehouse.org.



The July Communion Offering will be School Supplies for Stirred-Up Ministries and the Teacher's Supply Closet at CAC. A detailed list of most needed items will be published in the weekly email to the congregation in late June.



The Community Assistance Center (CAC) is expanding the hours of the Food Pantry and the Thrift Shop and needs volunteers to assist with client services. Please go online to ourcac.org and click on “volunteers” or contact Nolan Feintuch at volunteer@ourcac.org for more information.



Let's celebrate summer together!
The Fellowship ministry team will host lunch for the congregation on June 6, immediately following worship.
Signup through Friday, June 4 [here](#).

If you are not receiving our weekly emails and would like to stay up to date on the latest MVPC news, please subscribe on the contact page of our website or [click here](#).

Please keep theses individuals and their families in your prayers.

Praise for graduation and prayers for continued success for graduating seniors from high school and college from the MVPC Youth Group:

- High School Graduates: Gill Christian, Bryce Cumming, Nicholas Peji, Emma Plumly, Ethan Ray, Zack Van Putten, Charlie Hale, Grace Sawyer, and Jack Sims.
- College Graduates: Sarah Northrop (UGA) and Lucy Kilgore (Samford).

Prayers for Christy Hill for healing and a successful upcoming surgery: Christy is recovering from pneumonia at home and feeling stronger, and her heart surgery is scheduled for June 1st.

Prayers for complete healing and skilled doctors for Bruce Hagenau for two conditions: aggressive prostate cancer and asynchronous heartbeat caused by atrial fibrillation and atrial flutter. Bruce is scheduled for a heart ablation procedure to alleviate atrial fibrillation, so prayers for complete success.

Prayers for perfect healing for Anne Baynham following her second knee surgery.

Prayers for healing for Dave Whitacre, who suffered a major stroke.

Prayers for complete healing for Ann Addison from knee replacement. She is at home recovering well.

Prayers for healing so that Rylynn can walk independently.

Prayers for Kirk Pumphrey to gain strength and movement in his left hand and arm.

Prayers for Julie Chesnutt; she has started infusions every three weeks until July as the final round of treatment.

Prayers for recovery and improvement for Corny Laube. Corny fell and is bruised.

Prayers for freedom from addiction for Rob Southard.

Prayers for strength and provision for vulnerable children, families, and staff we support at schools and an orphanage in Zambia, with Los Niño's Primero, Community Assistance Center,

and with Family Promise.

Barrett is requesting prayers for our church and churches worldwide, for pastors and church leaders, and for congregations as we move forward from the pandemic. Prayers for wisdom and guidance to worship safely.

Godly Play will resume in August.



Children making sandwiches for Clifton Night Shelter.



2021 Session Members and Ministry Teams

Christian Education
Carrie Southard

Clerk of Session
David Hill

Congregational Care
Joy Carden

Fellowship
David Barclift

Finance/
Administration/
Stewardship
Charlie Gray
John Hibbard

Moderators
Rev. Barrett Abernethy
Rev. Isaac Toney-
Schmitt

Outreach
Carol Beckman
Brent Schwieger

Personnel
Vacant (merged with
FAMT for 2021 only)

Senior Adults
Mary Kilgore

Stewardship
Wit Truitt

Witness
Angie Hawthorne

Worship
Wendy Hagenau
Dale Morine
Amy Kiley

Youth
Jon Barber
Ben Barber

Session Meeting Summary
Sunday, May 16, 2021, 1:00 PM
Zoom Video Conference

The Session met Sunday, May 16th for its May Stated Session Meeting. Following is a summary of that meeting.

The Atlanta Ministry with International Students (AMIS) sent a letter of thanks to MVPC resulting from the \$1,000 recently donated from the MVPC Outreach Ministry budget. Last year AMIS served 300 international students at 15 Atlanta area colleges and universities from over 40 countries. Over 100 volunteers were involved in AMIS's Amigo Friendship Partners program. Many of this year's functions have been hosted outdoors because of the pandemic. AMIS thanks MVPC for our ongoing support of their ministries.

Ministry Team Work

The Christian Education Ministry Team is having discussions regarding what CE might "look like" when the new church year begins in September. Two questions are guiding the discussion: what have we learned during the pandemic that will expand CE and how will we offer programs for children when we have so few children.

Finance/Administration/Stewardship reports that giving remains strong. This summer new doors are being installed throughout the campus since many doors are difficult to operate and lock. The school will share a large part of the replacement cost.

The MVPC Foundation has an anonymous donor who will match donations up to \$21,000. The Foundation has just finished its giving season distributing \$42,000 to those organizations that submitted requests.

The Outreach Ministry Team is working with Family Promise in preparation for the two-week July period when MVPC will host the families on our campus. Safety for the families and hosts is a primary concern so details are being worked out.

The COVID Fund is still in need of donations. People who are living on the edge have been most impacted by the pandemic. Recovery will be a slow process for these people so the fund will continue to play an important role for them.

The Witness Ministry Team is distributing visitor bags to first time visitors. Upcoming events include Blessing of the Animals combined with a food drive. These events will be advertised through the Next-Door app and signs around campus entrances. The ministry team is working on the idea of creating a Love Your Neighbor Day.

The Worship Ministry Team has made revisions to procedures for funerals and for worship service ushers.

Session Business

Session voted to return to indoor worship and indoor Sunday School beginning May 23rd. The Worship Ministry Team and staff have worked out details regarding pandemic safety measures that comply with guidelines issues by the CDC. Specific details will be announced.

A fellowship luncheon was approved to follow the church service on June 6th. Since the weather is warming up Session members agreed it will be best to have the lunch indoors in Fellowship Hall as well as provide outdoor seating on the patio next to Fellowship Hall.

A letter to the Sandy Springs City Council in support of the proposed Holocaust Museum as proposed by the Georgia Holocaust Commission was approved by Session.

Communion will be served at the June 20th service when we welcome the Los Niños Primero children and their parents.

MVPC Commissioners who attended the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta meeting reported approval by the Presbytery to readmit Rev. Rick Sommers to the Presbytery. Rick is a former MVPC pastor.

MVPC will host a Columbia Seminary intern who will be with us beginning in September. Shari Freeman will work with church staff in various capacities throughout the first and second semesters.

The Session will not meet in June. The next Stated Session meeting will be July 18th.

Gloria Gillespie's last patio group meet.





Presbyterian Women

We held our picnic on the patio last Saturday, May 15. Joan Rownd, Pat Bartee, Marguerite Nelson, and Sarah Chalpan were installed in new officer positions. We then enjoyed box lunches, fellowship, and a beautiful day. Thank you, Rev. Toney-Schmitt for doing the installation. We also accepted donations to be given to the Community Assistance Center.

Have a wonderful summer!

Fides Quaerens Intellectum or Are You Reading This?

The first half of this title refers to the Latin phrase *Faith Seeking Understanding* which was a favorite theological view of early Christian scholars like Augustine. What it means is that we are called to constantly question and refine our belief. As Presbyterians, or Reformed Christians, we believe this process of questioning, discerning, praying, and refining is core to living out our faith.

Which gets me to the second part of the title. Not long ago I told a church member that in some ways I feel like we are living out the plot of *Apollo 13*. You remember how the astronauts had to shut down their spaceship in order to survive the trip but that upon reentry they start everything back up. With each press of the button, they wondered what would happen. That's where your staff and I am. We are pressing buttons. Wondering what will happen when the light comes back on.

That's why I am asking if you are reading this. Pastors like me spent our pandemic becoming content creators. We created this content because after we shut everything down and told you to stay home, we believed content would keep the church alive and you engaged. You saw this in the form of online Sunday worship, Wednesday Taizé services, and (almost) daily Mount Vernon Moments. Now as we reenter the world, we are asking what do we need, what do we want, and, most importantly, what helps us celebrate the gospel of Jesus Christ.

So, for starters, I have been asking do we need this newsletter? And if we do, should we keep it in its current mold. We already have Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, a weekly email, and Sunday announcements, and we are asking do we really need all this or do

we need to be using it differently to communicate effectively and efficiently.

Beyond this though, we are asking more fundamental questions around the worship of God. Should we continue with two services? Should we have a permanent outdoor service? Should we move a service back into the Fellowship Hall? Mind you, these are not my thoughts. These are thoughts you have shared with me. This summer we will have two townhall style sessions immediately following Sunday worship on June 27th and July 25th for you to offer input on the future of our worshipping life.

All of these questions surround identity. Who are we and how do we want to exercise our faith? I believe this is no different from many if not all churches right now. Our location in suburban Atlanta with its changing identity is calling us to respond to these important questions and to begin the process of living into our new normal, whatever that may be. And that process begins with a simple question: Are you reading this?

Grace and Peace,

Barrett

The Spring-Summer Issue of THE MVPC MEMBERS' GIFT OF WISDOM is available at the entry table, online, or by [clicking here!](#)



**WAYS
TO
GIVE**

ONLINE



<https://mvpchurch.org/give/>

MAIL



Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church
PO BOX 76051
Sandy Springs, GA 30358

QR CODE



Please enjoy this letter from the very first student to graduate from our Zambia Scholarship College Fund who is now pursuing her medical career!



My name is Cecilla Mulva; I am a graduate and one of ACE scholarship beneficiaries. I received a Diploma as a Clinical Officer General. I would like to thank ACEZ for sponsoring me. Here I am today smiling.



After my graduation I volunteered to work at HOUSE OF MOSES and Bill and Betty Nursery for 5 months thereafter, I was deployed in government under the Ministry of Health in Southern province in Choma district in 2018. My journey after graduation wasn't so rough in terms of job hunting. I thank God for that.

Everything is going well with lots of different clients, with different conditions, which I am able to handle professionally and with passion.

Working with people is a call and a blessing. It needs a lot of patience, understanding, and passion. Being in the health care system requires a lot of sacrifices too. My experience has been overwhelming because my work is very real and practical. It is becoming part of me day by day.

ACEZ is the organization that oversees our Scholarship effort in Zambia. I wish to thank the Mount Vernon members for their continued support of the Scholarship Program. It is truly changing lives.

Stan Williams

For more info contact Stan Williams 404-245-6749.

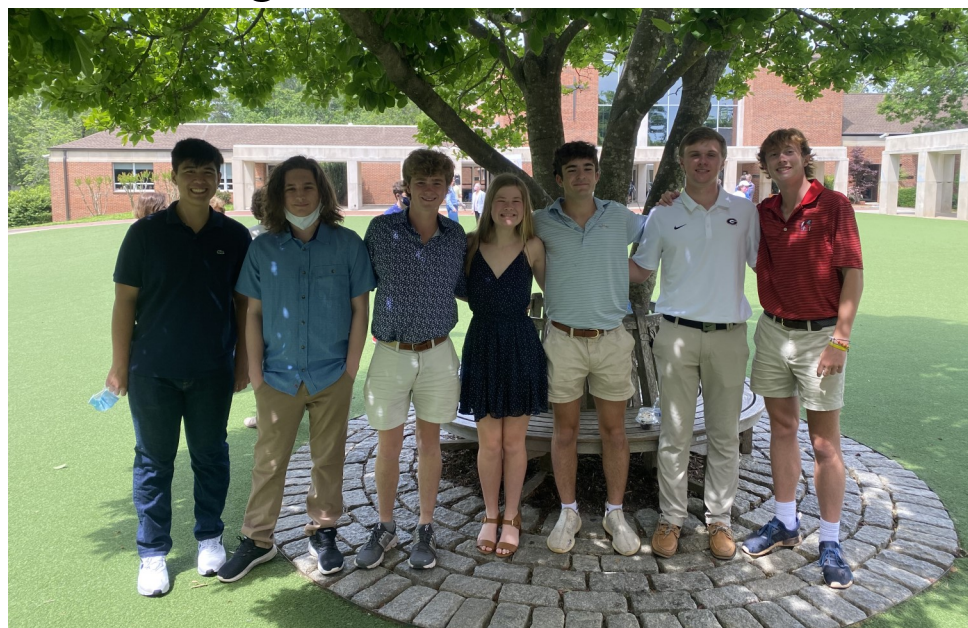
aswilliams@bellsouth.net



The Community Assistance Center (CAC) is expanding the hours of the Food Pantry and Thrift Shop and needs volunteers to assist with client services. Please go online to ourcac.org and click on “volunteers” or contact Nolan Feintuch, volunteer coordinator, at volunteer@ourcac.org for more information.

May 20-26	Actual	Actual YTD	2021 Budget
Member Giving Pledge	\$3,645	\$236,724	\$438,290
Member Giving Non- Pledge	\$1,270	\$12,655	\$70,000
Non member giving & Loose offering	\$50	\$5,519	\$6,000
Total for week	\$4,965	\$254,898	\$514,290

Congratulations class of 2021!



Do you feel a need for prayer?
 Have our Prayer Vine pray for you!
 Email your requests to
prayerrequests@mvpchurch.org

COVID 19 Fund Update

Looking Ahead

We rejoice in signs that life is slowly returning to “normal” as warmer weather approaches and more people are vaccinated. Unfortunately for our ministry partners, many will continue to face challenges for months and possibly years



ahead. Reductions in individual donations and the inability to do large group fundraisers during the pandemic along with a tremendous increase in requests for assistance have all contributed to a financial crisis for some of our longtime partners.

The COVID 19 Fund Task Force has identified several outstanding ministries that continue to need our financial support. These include:

Family Promise of North Fulton/DeKalb – In addition to providing shelter and support for 3 – 4 homeless families, the program also provides emergency assistance to additional families (some currently living in their cars) while they wait for space in a shelter. This assistance includes gasoline cards, grocery cards, sometimes an overnight stay in a hotel to give the family a chance to shower and get a good night’s sleep, and assistance by a social worker to help them find long-term solutions.

Stirred-Up Ministries – After more than a year of virtual tutoring and other enrichment programs, Stirred-Up Ministries has plans to again operate its summer camp program for at-risk youth in the East Lake area of downtown Atlanta. Strict procedures will be followed to insure the health and safety of all volunteers and participants. Funding is needed for gasoline to operate the bus, tutoring supplies, meals/snacks, and other necessities.

Alliance for Children Everywhere and Garden Presbyterian Church in Zambia – Zambia continues to struggle with challenges from the pandemic. Donations from the COVID Fund can assist in providing food to vulnerable children at the House of Moses and Bill and Betty Bryant Home as well as elderly members of Garden Presbyterian Church.

The New Church Development Commission (Presbytery of Greater Atlanta) – Additional funding will provide food and other assistance to members of new worshipping communities who continue to struggle with the aftereffects of the pandemic.


We ask for your continued prayers for these organizations and the people they serve.

Donations as of May 20 – \$80,882

Disbursements – \$80,071

Balance – \$811

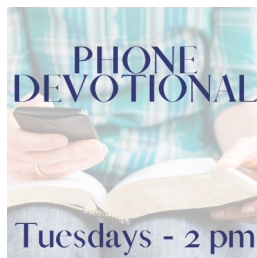
June

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.
		1 Phone Devotional 2pm	2 Staff Meeting 9:30am	3	4	5
6 Worship 10am Sanctuary Fellowship Luncheon 11am	7 Preschool Zoom 1:30pm LNP Summer School Begins	8 Staff Meeting 9:30am Phone Devotional 2pm Worship Committee 4pm CE 5pm	9	10	11 Budget Prep 9am	12
13 Worship 10am Sanctuary PW 12:30pm LNP Summer School Begins Vespers 5pm	14 Preschool Zoom 1:30pm Finance Admin. 5:30pm	15 Staff Meeting 9:30am Phone Devotional 2pm	16	17	18	19
20 Worship 10am Outdoor Los Niño's Sunday Father's Day	21 Preschool Zoom 1:30pm	22 Phone Devotional 2pm	23 Staff Meeting 9:30am	24 LNP Board 7:30pm	25 Staff luncheon noon	26
27 Worship 10am Sanctuary Worship Town Hall 11am Men's Breakfast 8:30am FH 	28 Preschool Zoom 1:30pm	29 Staff Meeting 9:30am Phone Devotional 2pm	30			

New Mailing address:
MVPC
PO BOX 76051
Sandy Springs, GA 30358

June Birthdays

Jack McGuire	6/3	Addison Baitcher	6/18
Heidi Nelson	6/5	Cole Truitt	6/18
Jeff Schneider	6/6	Ross Truitt	6/18
Tracy Hahn	6/7	MacKenzie Truitt	6/18
Jack Allen, Jr.	6/9	Dee Bradford-Smith	6/18
Dale Morine	6/9	Don McAdam	6/20
Melisha Gilreath	6/13	Amanda Badenhorst	6/20
Robert Barclift	6/13	Mavis Boadi	6/21
Allison Eustis	6/13	Beverly Northrop	6/23
Brent Schwieger	6/13	Lou Baine	6/25
Carrie Southard	6/14	Julie Chesnutt	6/25
Isaac Toney-Schmitt	6/14	Denise Hunt	6/26
Rachel Reid	6/15	Joan Rownd	6/28
Susan Simon	6/16	Lauren McClintock	6/28
Braegan Abernethy	6/16	Katy Thompson	6/29



Join us on Tuesdays at 2 pm
for a phone devotional!
Dial 701-802-5094
Access Code: 5154569



Taizé will resume in August
in the narthex.

If you have a June or July birthday and your name does not appear in our birthday list, please contact Debbie@mvpchurch.org.

July

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.
				1	2 Church Office Closed	3 Karl Hagenau memorial 10am
4 Sanctuary Worship 10am Independence Day	5 Preschool Zoom Church Office Closed	6 Staff Meeting 9:30am Phone Devotional 2pm CE Meeting 7pm	7	8	9	10
Family Promise						
11 Sanctuary Worship 10am	12 Preschool Zoom Finance Admin. 6:30pm	13 Staff Meeting 9:30am Phone Devotional 2pm Worship Committee 4pm	14	15	16	17
18 Sanctuary Worship 10am Session Meeting 12:30pm	19 Preschool Zoom	20 Staff Meeting 9:30am Phone Devotional 2pm Good News Deadline	21	22	23	24
25 Sanctuary Worship 10am Worship Town Hall 11am	26 Preschool Zoom	27 Staff Meeting 9:30am Phone Devotional 2pm	28	29 Good News Published	30	31

July Birthdays

Mary Sanford	7/1	Chris Sprung	7/14
Rebecca Simon	7/3	Debbie Barclift	7/15
Joy Carden	7/3	Aubrey Forlines	7/16
Lorry Clark	7/4	Carly Forlines	7/18
Barbara Hughes	7/5	Connor Hughes	7/18
Robin Truitt	7/5	Glenn Grove	7/24
Susan Fields	7/5	Gail Williams	7/24
Carol Beckman	7/7	Gill Christian	7/25
Linda Bhame	7/7	Warren Gray, Jr.	7/26
Peter Thomas	7/11	Ellen Ballard	7/27
Martha Baitcher	7/12	Verne Bliss	7/30
Sally Williams	7/12		



SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

**MONDAY-THURSDAY
8 AM - 4 PM
FRIDAY
8 AM - 2 PM**



Now available during
worship!



PO Box 76051
Sandy Springs, GA 30358

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. *If you'd no longer wish to receive the Good News monthly, please email Debbie at debbie@mvpchurch.org.*

Good
News!

Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church Staff

Rev. Barrett Abernethy	Pastor/Head of Staff	barrett@mvpchurch.org
Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt	Associate Pastor of Faith Formation	Isaac@mvpchurch.org
Matthias Young	Music Director	matthias@mvpchurch.org
Steve Ray	Church Finance and Operations	steve@mvpchurch.org
Debbie Nysewander	Administrative Assistant	debbie@mvpchurch.org
Terri Clayton	Communications Coordinator	terri@mvpchurch.org
Yvonne White	Financial Secretary	yvonne@mvpchurch.org

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I ASKED GOD TO SEND ME A SIGN AND NOW
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH IT

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