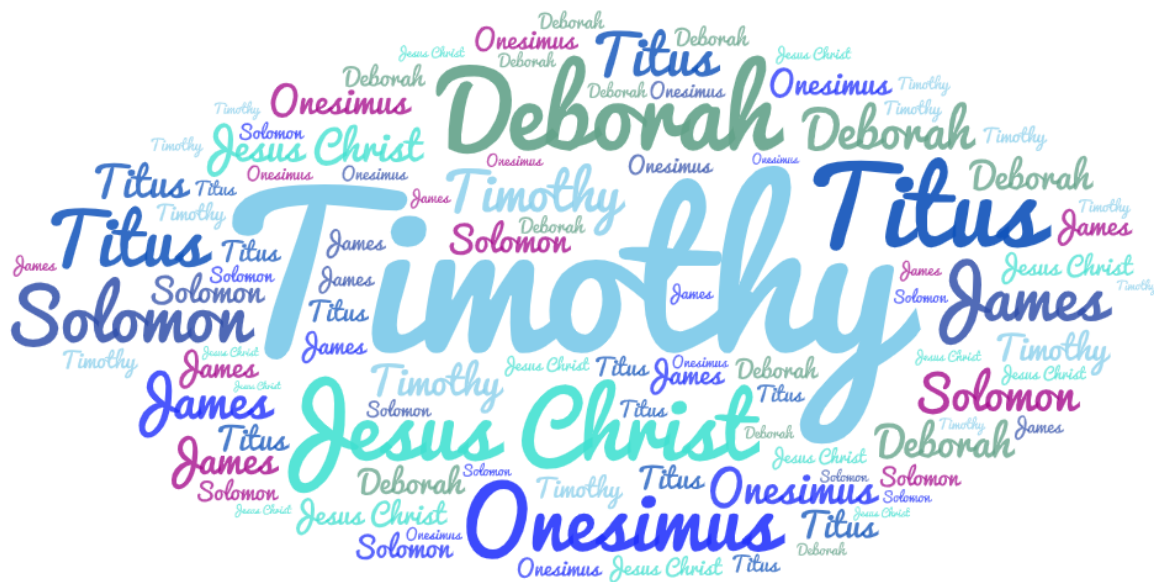




September 2021

Good News

Sermon Series September 12-October 31 Faithful Characters of the Bible



Fellowship
Luncheon
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New Sunday Schedule

BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 12, 2021

Conversation
(Sunday School) 9:30-10:15am

Connection
(Fellowship) 10-10:25am

WORSHIP
Church
(Worship) 10:30-11:30am

Calendar/Birthdays
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PASTOR'S DESK

Welcome!

A few weeks ago, I shared with you that I believe we are at a liminal space, a threshold, a fork in the road. We have been discerning what Sunday will look like for much of the summer. We have held Town Halls, exchanged emails, and even had those parking lot conversations that pastors normally dread. This past month your church Session gathered to take action on the fruit that came from this labor, and we are excited to share with you that beginning September 12 Sunday mornings at MVPC will be as follows:

Conversation | Sunday School: 9:30-10:15
Connection | Fellowship: 10:00-10:25
Church | Worship: 10:30-11:30

I know some of you are excited about this new schedule, and I know some of you may be dismayed. I want you to know that this is not permanent. We will try this schedule through January 2022 at which point your church Session will gather for its annual retreat and discuss its progress and how you, as a congregation, are responding.

Some of you, particularly those who attended our First Cup service prior to the pandemic may be wondering what will Church look like. Our hope is that this service in the sanctuary will be a blended service that represents the best of what First Cup offered as well as the best of our Traditional service. We will incorporate a diverse repertoire of music and we hope to keep things fresh and engaging for you, the congregation. Throughout this process we encourage you to send us feedback.

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We hope you will join us September 12 as we celebrate this new schedule with our fall kickoff. You will have the opportunity to join a **Small Group** or learn more about our various **Ministry Teams** as we kickoff our **Faithful Character Stewardship Campaign**. You, MVPC, have shown a great deal of that character these past 18 months and I look forward to seeing where God will move us this fall and beyond.

Grace and Peace,
 Barrett

Fellowship Luncheon August 1



Alma Dowdakin, Mary Kilgore, Beth Abernethy



Robby & Angie Hawthorne



Malinda Holmes, Ann Williams,
David Barclift, Rev. Abernethy



Betsy Cozine &
Barbara Bruce



Christina Toney-Schmitt



Bob & Ann Addison, Barbara Hughes,
Sandra Bullock, Sam & Mary McClurg



Barbara Hughes & Pat Bartee



Alma Dowdakin, Mary Kilgore,
Melinda Carden, Joy Carden



Carlton & Melinda
Carden



Evie Abernethy



Rev. Barrett Abernethy &
Carol Beckman



David Hill & Guest



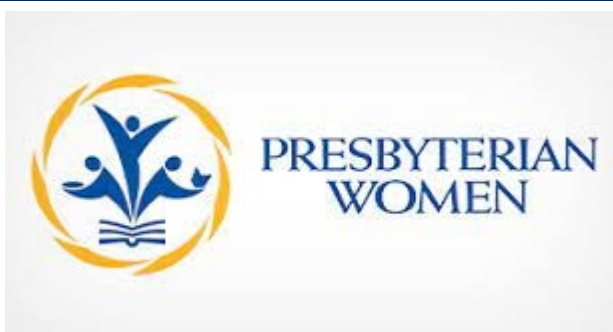
Minnie Robinson, Steve Ray, David Barclift



Malinda Holmes, Ann Williams



David & Debbie Barclift



Next year we will be doing the Horizons Bible Study, ***What My Grandmothers Taught Me: Learning from the Women in Matthew's Genealogy of Jesus***, by Meryll Blair. The study guide will be for sale during August before and after the Sunday service. The cost is \$10.

Also, **save the date!** The fall retreat will be on September 26, after the Sunday service. Mazi Robinson will lead the retreat and present the program, **Using Our Gifts**.

The coordinating team will meet on September 7 at 10:00am via Zoom. The Sunday Circle and the Day Circle will **not** meet in September. The Book Circle will meet on Friday, September 10 at 10:00am in the Session Room. They will review *Anxious People* by Fredrik Backman.

God's Grandeur

by Gerard Manley Hopkins

The world is charged with the grandeur of God.
It will flame out, like shining from shook foil;
It gathers to a greatness, like the ooze of oil
Crushed. Why do men then now not reck his rod?
Generations have trod, have trod, have trod;
And all is seared with trade; bleared, smeared with toil;
And wears man's smudge and shares man's smell: the soil
Is bare now, nor can foot feel, being shod.

And for all this, nature is never spent;
There lives the dearest freshness deep down things;
And though the last lights off the black West went
Oh, morning, at the brown brink eastward, springs —
Because the Holy Ghost over the bent
World broods with warm breast and with ah! bright wings.

The Fall Issue of THE MVPC MEMBERS' GIFT OF WISDOM will be available in September at the entry table, or online.

Family Promise

July 4 - 18

The MVP & B'Nai Torah partnered to provide temporary assistance, hospitality, and case management for families with children experiencing homelessness.



Activity Table



Andrea Brantley & Penny Kiel



Moira Speirs



Moira Speirs



Movin' In!



Penny Kiel

COVID FUND FINAL REPORT

"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me." Matthew 25

Since the Covid Fund was established by Session in April 2020, the congregation has responded generously: **\$90,074** has been donated! These funds enabled our ministry partners to help meet the overwhelming challenges caused by the pandemic. \$88,171 was dispersed by mid August. Final allocations will be made by September 1.

More than 50% of the donations were allocated to address food scarcity in the greater Atlanta area and across the world in Zambia with the remaining funds used for basic human needs such as medical supplies, emergency assistance to homeless families, school supplies to allow at-risk students to learn virtually, and other necessities of life.

Recipients of funding include:

- Community Assistance Center
- New Church Development Commission, Presbytery of Greater Atlanta
- Family Promise of North Fulton/DeKalb
- Alliance for Children Everywhere/Zambia
- Garden Presbyterian Church/Zambia
- Los Niños Primero
- Stirred Up Ministries
- International Women's House
- Drake House
- Sandy Springs Education Force

One of our ministry partners wrote:

"Thank you, Mount Vernon. You provided life-altering emergency assistance. You also provided outreach, care, love, and support to people who could easily feel overlooked, helpless, hopeless, and unloved. Because of you, they had needs met and they know your love and care."

Please continue to pray for our ministry partners who will face challenges for months, even years, to come and continue your financial support through the MVPC general budget and the MVPC Foundation.

Thank you, Mount Vernon, from the Covid Fund Task Force:

- Carol Beckman
- Christy Hill
- Jeanne Mielke

Covid Funds provided food for vulnerable families in the Sandy Springs/Atlanta area and in Zambia



CAC Food Pantry



NCDC



Zambia



Zambia



Zambia



Funding to Los Niños Primero, the Teacher's Supply Closet at CAC, and Stirred Up Ministries provided necessary tools for at-risk children to continue their studies virtually.



Funding from Mount Vernon helped the Family Promise Emergency Assistance program assist homeless families (some living in their cars) with food, gasoline, and an occasional night in a hotel while they waited for placement in a shelter.



Los Ninos Primero



Christina Toney-Schmitt
New Church
Development Commission



Tim Southard
Darrell Jones
Stirred-Up
Ministries

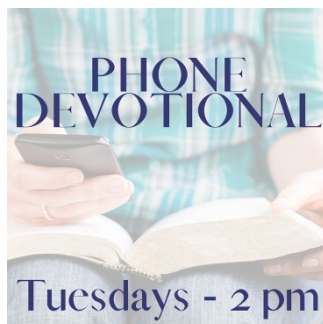


Sandy Springs Education
Force (SSEF)

*Covid Fund
Recipient
Display at
Fellowship
Luncheon,
August 1*



Alliance for Children Everywhere/
Zambia



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



Taizé is a simple, meditative form
of worship.
**September 14, 7pm in the
Sanctuary**

Staff News



CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

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



"If telemarketers call, invite them to church."



We celebrated Ryan Sawyer, guest organist, on Sunday, August 29 with a reception. Pictures will be in the October Good News.



Shari Freeman will join us on Sunday, September 19 as our Seminary Intern.



Dr. Kenneth Sass joins us on Sunday, September 5 as our Principal Organist.

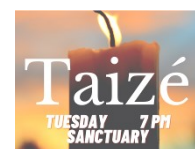


Monday, September 6

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

September Calendar of Events

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| September 5 | Worship - 10am |
| September 6 | OFFICE CLOSED |
| September 7 | Staff Mtg - 9:30am
Phone Devotional - 2pm
Worship Ministry Team - 4pm |
| September 10 | Book Circle - 10am |
| September 12 | Worship - 10:30am
Fall Church Kick-off - 10:30am
Youth - Braves Baseball |
| September 13 | FAMT - 6:30pm |
| September 14 | Staff Mtg. - 9:30am
Phone Devotional - 2pm
Taize - 7pm
Nominating Committee - 7pm |
| September 19 | Worship - 10:30am
Church BBQ - 11:30am
Session Mtg. - 12:30pm |
| September 21 | Staff Mtg.- 9:30 am
Phone Devotional - 2pm |
| September 22 | GOOD NEWS DEADLINE |
| September 23 | Los Niños Board Mtg. - 7pm |
| September 26 | Worship - 10:30am
PW Retreat - 11:30am
Youth - 5pm |
| September 27 | Good News published |
| September 28 | Staff Mtg. - 9:30am
Phone Devotional - 2pm |



PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN

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.](#)

September Birthdays

Betsy Cozine	9/3	Sylvia McAdam	9/12
Hazel Cofield	9/4	Jim Loth	9/13
Kirk Pumphrey	9/4	Meg Christian	9/14
Christ Gray	9/4	Sam McClurg	9/15
Channing Snypp	9/5	McLaren Christensen	9/20
Ginny Little	9/5	Minnie Robinson	9/21
Lee Wall	9/6	George Henry	9/24
Carolyn Spain	9/6	Penny Kiel	9/26
Emma Plumly	9/6	Ellen Lesser	9/27
Suzanne Snypp	9/10	Jack Bobeng	9/30
Mary Lou Newman	9/12		



**WAYS
TO
GIVE**

ONLINE



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

MAIL



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

QR CODE



January 1 - July 31, 2021	Actual YTD	2021 Budget
Member Giving Pledge	\$318,288	\$438,290
Member Giving Non- Pledge	\$23,816	\$70,000
Non member giving & Loose offering	\$6,878	\$6,000
Total	\$348,982	\$514,290

If you have an September birthday and your name does not appear in our birthday list, please contact Debbie@mvpchurch.org.



Please keep these individuals and their families in your prayers.

Ann Addison – successful second knee replacement

Julie Chesnutt – she has 2 infusions left until September 15, she is happy she feels well enough to babysit her grandson, Jack!

Iva Corbin – pray for perfect healing following surgery to repair a broken ankle

Eleanor – suffers from severe depression, nine year old granddaughter of Tom Rounds, prayers also for her parents Joel & Betsy

Bruce Hagenau – his blood tests are improving and he is going through a full course of cancer treatments

Corny Laube – slow recovery and movement

Alistair Morine – he is tolerating the chemotherapy and radiation treatments for brain cancer, brother of Bruce Morine

Richard Player – waiting on test results and good results, member of MVPC young adult small group

Kirk Pumphrey – gain strength and movement in left hand and arm

Kirby Smith – praise for successful surgery and recovering at daughter's home

Rob Southard – freedom from addiction

Dave Whitacre – suffered a stroke and making good progress but not independent yet

Do you feel a need for prayer?
Have our Prayer Vine pray for you!
Email your requests to
prayerrequests@mvpchurch.org
or call the church office at
404.255.2211



What makes a Stephen Ministry relationship work ? And how are the relationships different ?

People who have been in a Stephen Ministry relationship consistently say these (para-phrased) things about it:

- * My Stephen Minister never made comparisons to her life. The focus was totally on me and my life. Being able to put my feelings into words and to be heard and understood meant everything. Hearing myself say what I was feeling, helped unburden me and freed me to begin working on the future.
- * I felt my Stephen Minister was a constant in my life when so much else was in confusion. Having that steady, loving, helpful presence in my life gave me the courage I needed to move ahead.
- * After listening intently to me , my Stephen Minister made statements and asked me questions that helped me clarify and redirect my thinking. She did not advise but helped me become clearer on issues that would help me grow.
- * My Stephen Minister helped by sharing scripture and biblical stories much like my own dilemma. He prayed with and for me.
- * I was having deep feelings over a health issue. I knew my family was fearful and didn't want to share my fears with them. My Stephen Minister listened to all my worries and fears , not downplaying my anxiety, and encouraged and comforted me.
- * I learned new resources and options to help me change the direction of my life that I had not known about. My Stephen Minister presented them as possible ideas and new paths to explore.

If you need a temporary companion during a tough time, or know someone who does, we are here for you. Please utilize our skills and caring. Call or email our ministers or Pat Bartee, Stephen Leader, to get started.



Summary of Session Meeting August 15

Ministry Team Reports:

Christian Education reminded the Session that Small Groups will be organizing soon. The start date for Small Groups is September 26. Groups will run for five to six weeks. Opportunities to sign-up will begin on September 5.

Fellowship reminded Session we will have a church barbeque on September 19 as we welcome our new intern, Shari Freeman. Ms. Freeman comes to us from Columbia Seminary and will spend the academic year at MVPC.

The Finance Team reported that offering collections for the month remain on track for what they should be at this point in the year. There was a discussion regarding the fact that so many people give electronically, offering plates are pretty empty. This could be a poor example for children and visitors. More discussion will follow as we seek solutions to this issue.

Under **Old Business**, ministry teams continued presentations regarding the duties and functions of their teams. Session members posed questions and offered suggestions as a way for the teams to improve their work. This month we heard from Finance, Fellowship, and Senior Adult. Next month we will complete presentations as we hear from Youth, Personnel, and Worship.

2021 Session Members and Ministry Teams

Moderators

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

Clerk of Session

David Hill

Christian Education

Carrie Southard

Congregational Care

Joy Carden

Fellowship

David Barclift

Finance/ Administration/ Stewardship

Charlie Gray
John Hibbard

Outreach

Carol Beckman
Brent Schwieger

Personnel

Vacant (merged with
FAMT for 2021 only)

Senior Adults

Mary Kilgore

Witness

Angie Hawthorne

Worship

Wendy Hagenau
Dale Morine
Amy Kiley

Youth

Jon Barber
Ben Barber

Under **New Business**, the Session reviewed a proposed structure for Sunday mornings based on information gathered over several months. Discussion included the pros and cons to the proposed structure. Previous communications have outlined the Sunday morning schedule to be:

Conversations (Sunday School or Bible Study)

from 9:30 to 10:15

Connections (Fellowship) from 10:00–10:25

Church (Worship) from 10:30 to 11:30.

In an effort to be consistent with three Cs, the idea of calling worship Communion was a concern to Session members since it easily could be interpreted as the sacrament of Communion, implying that Communion would take place each Sunday.

The Session unanimously approved the proposed schedule to be implemented beginning September 12. At the Session Retreat in January the schedule will be evaluated, and any needed changes will be made at that time. The decision emphasized the need to ensure worship services are consistently a blend of traditional and contemporary structures and music.



PO Box 76051
Sandy Springs, GA 30358

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 Wednesday of each month for the *next month's* newsletter. Send your submissions to debbie@mvpchurch.org. *If you'd no longer wish to receive the Good News, please email send an email to 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
Yvonne White	Financial Secretary	yvonne@mvpchurch.org

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OH MAN ... THIS SACKCLOTH TOTALLY FIT ME THE LAST TIME I WORE IT

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mvpchurch.org

