



December 2021

Good News



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PASTOR'S DESK

Welcome!

My Favorite Moments of 2021!

How is it already December? How is it already 2022? Hopefully I will finally get the date right on those checks this month. Just in time, right!

As we come to the end of the year, here are my favorite moments of 2021 (in no particular order):

Easter Sunday: We had 154 people join us on the courtyard. The weather was perfect. We had a bagpiper at sunrise service and brass at 11am.

Pentecost Sunday: We returned to indoor worship. Red Doves adorned the pulpit as we returned to our sanctuary celebrating the birth of the church.

Welcoming Guest Speakers: throughout the summer, the Outreach Team invited our various partners to share how they benefited from the Covid-19 funds you all donated throughout 2020-21.

Conversation, Connection, Church: as we returned to the sanctuary, we realized more than ever the desire to be in community. This evolved as Conversation (Sunday School), Connection (Fellowship), and Church (Worship).

Congregational Singing: hearing the body ring a joyful noise again was cathartic!

Return of Fellowship Gatherings: in the Fellowship Hall, a backyard, courtyard, or someone's house, reconnecting again has brought joy to everyone!

Pastoral Care in Homes: probably my favorite part of ministry if I am honest. The chance to share lunch, coffee, or celebrate communion together was a reminder of how we are bonded together by Christ.

Return of Small Groups: Hearing wonderful stories come out of Presbyterian Women, Small Groups, Young Adults, Youth, Children's Ministry, and Men's Breakfast that forged deeper connections.

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Christmas Eve, 2020: I know it is from last year, but it snowed right in the middle of the service. If you have never seen this service, scroll through our archives on our website to witness a beautiful glimpse of Christ coming into the world.

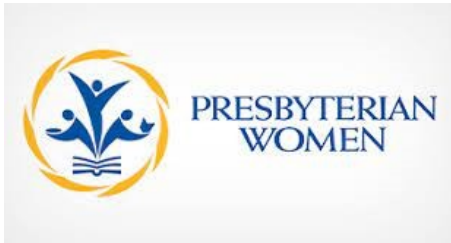
Which leads me to what I am most excited for this month. Join us this Christmas Eve (indoors!) for worship - and yes, the parade of the animals! I suspect for many, it will be their first time to come back to the sanctuary since December 2019, and as the title of the homily, "Eternal Emmanuel" suggests, God has been present, at Mount Vernon and everywhere else, since that night.

Grace and Peace to you as we begin a new list.

Barrett



Photos courtesy of Dee Bradford-Smith, Wendy Hagenau



The Presbyterian Women's Christmas Lunch and Celebration will be on **December 12** in the Kirk Center after the Sunday service. Rev. Isaac and Christina Toney-Schmitt will share some *Advent Poems*.

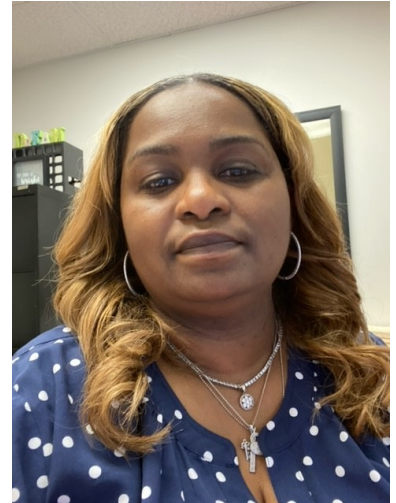
In November Shari Freeman led the Bible study for the Day Circle and the Sunday Circle. The Book Circle discussed *A Prayer for Owen Meany* by John Irving. The Circle of Grace met at the home of Meg Christian and assembled care packages for college students.



The Winter Issue of THE MVPC MEMBERS' GIFT OF WISDOM will be available in January.

Getting to know.....

Yvonne White
Financial Assistant



What did you want to be when you were small?

Nurse

What is your favorite game or sport to watch and play?

Basketball

What was your favorite subject in school?

Math

If you had a warning label, what would yours say?

"I love unconditionally."

What celebrity would you like to meet at Starbucks for a cup of coffee?

Kevin Durant or Mary J. Blige

Contact: yvonne@mvpchurch.org

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS



L to R: Aidan Ray, Ben Barber, Kyle Cumming

Photos courtesy of Dee Bradford-Smith & Wendy Hagenau



Piper Neumann

Young Adult Small Group

Dinner @
the Player's
home



L to R: Christina & Isaac, Braegan Abernethy,
Mackenzie Truitt, Gill & Felicia Hutt, Catie
O'Hare, Nikki & Richard Player

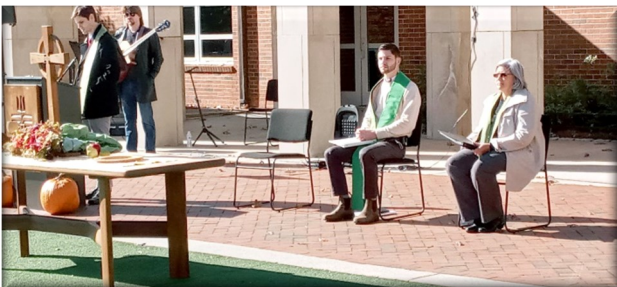
Sunday Mornings at MVPC

Coffee & Conversation November 14



All bundled up
for the last
outdoor
service of
2021!

November 14



Photos courtesy of Dee Bradford-Smith

Mt. Vernon Presbyterian Church

The Zambia College Scholarship Program

Seven years ago we established the Zambia College Scholarship fund for deserving students. These students must have successfully completed high school, be very bright, motivated and demonstrate extreme financial need. The fields of study include Health Sciences, Clinical Medical Sciences, Pharmacy, Education, Teaching & Engineering. We strive to keep 9 to 10 students enrolled in college at all times.

This effort requires that \$10,000 be raised each year. The initial \$5,000 in seed money is in place and now we are seeking contributions from the congregation and friends of MVPPC to reach the goal. You have supported this mission faithfully for 7 years and we ask that you do so again. This mission *has, is and will change the lives of the students, their families and their communities.*

We thank you for your loyal support.

Stan and Ann Williams

To make a contribution please make a check payable to MVPPC and mark 'for Zambia College fund' in the memo line, or give online on our website: mvpchurch.org/give/ & select Zambia College Scholarship-Stan

For more info or to discuss a contribution, please contact Stan Williams, aswilliams@bellsouth.net 404.245.6749



Education: A way out of Poverty.

The Zambia College Scholarship Fund was established seven years ago out of a desire to help vulnerable students who have graduated from high school in Zambia obtain a college education. The scholarship program gives priority for enrollment to orphans and materially deprived students. So far, **twelve students** have **graduated through** this program with two more graduating in 2022.

We aim to sponsor nine students total in 2022, by adding two students to our current roster of seven. There is no way for us to truly understand the difference education can make in the lives of these students. You are helping to make dreams a reality!

An Update on our Graduates:

I am Lloyd Chama, I graduated with my degree in pharmacy in 2019 and I am so thankful for the support you showed me in reaching my goals.

I am currently interning at Levy Mwanawasa University Teaching Hospital as I prepare for my licensing exams. Working in the medical field at this moment of time has not been easy. Every day we deal with Covid cases since late last year when my hospital was declared an isolation center for Covid.

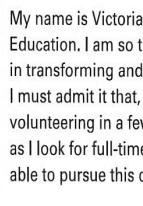
After licensing, I plan to join the government for a while. This will allow me time to raise enough money to start my own pharmacy, go to school again and become a lecturer in medicinal chemistry. My goal in life is to have many pharmacies and eventually a pharmaceutical company so that by God's grace I can become one of the best distributors of health commodities in Africa.



My name is Tanangachi Mvula, with your help and sponsorship, I graduated in 2019 with my degree in Development Studies. After graduation, finding full-time employment has been difficult, but I am not letting that get me down.

Since graduating, I ventured into a carpentry business as I already have skills in that craft. In this venture, I use social media to find clients and I intend to continue this business even after I begin working full-time.

I am also interning with the City Planning Department as a Social Economic Planner. This is helping me to gain relevant experience so that I can hopefully get a job in this industry. I am hoping to work with a local Non-Profit eventually as my heart lies in helping others as I have been helped.



My name is Victoria Mwansa, I graduated in 2020 with a degree in Early Childhood Education. I am so thankful for the grace you all have shown me and for being God's vessel in transforming and molding my life.

I must admit it that, due to COVID, it has not been easy to find a good job but I have been volunteering in a few of the schools in my area in order to gain more experience to help me as I look for full-time work in education. I am hopeful that as we progress into 2022, I will be able to pursue this dream of educating the next generation here in Lusaka.



Hi! My name is Cecilia Mvula. I was the first graduate from the Zambia Scholarship Fund. I earned my degree as a Clinical Medical Officer in 2017. After graduation, I volunteered for ACE Zambia at the House of Moses and the Bryant Nurseries. In 2018, I was deployed by the Zambian government's Ministry of Health in the Southern part of Zambia. I have loved my work experience so far! Working directly with people when they are in need physically is both a call and a blessing. With God's help, I am able to have patience, understanding and confidence in my work! I am so grateful to you all for sponsoring me - here I am today, smiling!

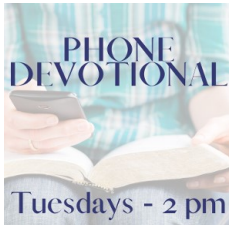
Current Students:

Innocent Chileshe - Pharmacy, Graduating 2023
 Esther Phiri - Education, Graduating 2023
 Erick Munyemyemba - Education, Graduating 2022
 Jacob Kwangu - Education, Graduating 2023
 Patrick Mubanga - Engineering, Graduating 2023
 Kelvin Kabwe - Engineering, Graduating 2023
 Francis Hanyama - Education, Graduating 2022

**Two more Students
will be added in 2022!**

THANK
YOU

This and That!



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



Church Office will be
closed:

December 24
December 31



Join us every week-
day in December at
noon!

Zoom link is
emailed each
morning.



Taizé is a simple, meditative form of
worship.

December 14, 7pm in the Sanctuary



Welcome to our newest members!
Htet, Sophie, Sujay Galen



CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

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

Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church
471 Mount Vernon Hwy., NE
Sandy Springs, GA 30328

**Mailing address:
MVPC
P.O. Box 76051
Sandy Springs, GA 30358**

December Calendar of Events



December 1

Ministry & Mission – 5:30pm

December 4

Choir Rehearsal – 7:00pm

December 5

Senior Adult Luncheon – 12:30pm

Worship – 10:30am

Elder Training – 11:30am

Youth – 5-6:30pm

December 7

Staff Mtg. – 9:30am

PW – 10:00am – Zoom

Phone Devotional – 2:00pm

Christian Ed. – 5:00pm Zoom

December 8

Choir Rehearsal – 7:00pm

December 12

Worship – 10:30am

PW Christmas Luncheon – 11:30am

Elder Training – 2:00pm

Atlanta Concert Band – 4:00pm

Youth Caroling – 5:00pm

FAMT – 5:30pm Zoom

December 13

Staff Mtg. – 9:30am

December 14

Phone Devotional – 2:00pm

Worship Committee – 4:00pm Zoom

Taizé – 7:00pm

December 15

Christmas Volunteer Lunch – noon

Choir Rehearsal – 7:00pm

GOOD NEWS DEADLINE

December 16

LNP – 7:00pm

December 19

Worship (Lessons & Carols) – 10:30am

Session Meeting – 11:30am

Longest Night – 5:00pm Chapel

Staff Mtg. – 9:30am

Phone Devotional – 2:00pm

December 21

Choir Rehearsal – 7:00pm

December 22

Live Animals – 5:00pm

December 24

Christmas Eve Service – 5:30pm

Carols & Casseroles – 10:30am

Family Promise Arrives

December 26

GOOD NEWS PUBLISHED

December 27

Staff Mtg. – 9:30am

December 28

Phone Devotional – 2:00pm

December 29


Choir Rehearsal – 7:00pm



December Birthdays


Steve Ray	12/1
Angie Ponsell	12/3
Bob Martin	12/3
Linda Young	12/6
Wit Truitt, III	12/7
Malinda Holmes	12/8
Sibyl Plumly	12/8
Gerald Fudge	12/9
Gil Hastings, Jr.	12/9
Catherine Bathgate	12/9
Ross Mielke	12/10
Lisa Grove	12/12
Callum Lever	12/15
John Chesnutt	12/17
Bryan McClintock	12/19
Pamela Wall	12/20
Nick Peji	12/22
Patsy Plumly	12/28
Bob Addison	12/329
Ross Spain	12/30






**WAYS
TO
GIVE**

ONLINE




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

MAIL



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

QR CODE





January 1 - November 30, 2021	Actual YTD	2021 Budget
Member Giving Pledge	\$455,177	\$438,290
Member Giving Non- Pledge	\$38,906	\$70,000
Non member giving & Loose offering	\$8,279	\$6,000
Total	\$502,362	\$514,290

If you have a December 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.

Carol Beckman – prayers for recovery from recent treatments in the hospital and remission of non-Hodgkins lymphoma. She is home and will quarantine at home for 7 weeks.

Inez Cole – prayers for perfect healing following a broken hip.

Bruce Hagenau – prayers for renewed strength and healing for perfect heart rhythm and elimination of prostate cancer.

Susan Haynes – prayers for her family for the sudden death of her son-in-law, Michael Moore.

Alistair Morine – prayers for complete healing from brain cancer for Bruce Morine's brother, Alistair.

Harry Nelson – father of Martha Baitcher for surgery on a pinched nerve in his neck.

Richard Player – prayers for pinpoint accuracy for his diagnosis, medication and plan of action going forward.

Rob Southard – prayers for freedom from addiction.

Katie Spotloe – prayers for healing and the elimination of a blood clot near her brain with medication. Katie is Charlie Gray's niece.

Dave Whitacre – prayers for healing and reduction of pain.

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

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



The Christmas gift of Christ to our world fills most people with joy and makes the season brighter, but, for those in emotional or physical pain, that is not so. If you are sad in this merry time, please be aware that you are not alone, you do not have to endure and walk through it alone, and there is help. Your Stephen Ministry team is waiting for your call.

Contact a minister or Pat Bartee, Stephen Ministry Leader, to get assistance immediately.





SESSION MEETING

Summary of Session Meeting November 21

The Session met for its regular monthly meeting on November 21. Highlights of the meeting include:

Refreshments during the Sunday 10:00 Connections time will be coordinated in the future by the Witness Ministry Team rather than the Worship Team. Connections fits better with the mission of the Witness Team.

Transportation of members who reside at Mount Vernon Village and Mount Vernon Towers continues to be difficult since many who need transportation have difficulty getting into and out of cars. The Session will explore possible ways to improve transportation that will be appropriate for older members.

Our Stephen Ministers are hard at work. All of the Stephen Ministers are working with clients. Mike Gillespie who is trained as a Stephen Minister has agreed to become part of the Stephen Ministry team. He is a welcome addition to this important work.

The Finance and Administration Ministry Team reports that member giving has continued to be strong. Hopefully this will continue through the end of the year. The 2021 church budget has been an austere budget so if giving exceeds what is expected it will help the church do some needed things that were not in the budget.

“Stuff the Bus” for Stirred Up Ministries was a real success. The bus load of food items made Thanksgiving a little brighter for families served by Stirred Up Ministries. Thanks to everyone who brought food items for this event.

The Witness Ministry Team is busy planning ways to advertise the Christmas activities at MVPC including signs and announcements in various community online bulletin boards.

A report was given summarizing the recent Presbytery Meeting. The New Church Development Commission (NCDC) announced a successful year in forming new churches. Two new churches have been added to the Presbytery as a result of NCDC efforts. Rev. Toney-Schmitt's wife, Christine, is part of the NCDC staff. Commissioners to the upcoming General Assembly were elected including our Clerk of Session, David Hill. These Commissioners will work for two weeks this summer conducting the business of PCUSA.

Rev. Abernethy reported that staff reviews have been conducted and recommendations for staff bonuses have been made to the Finance and Administration Ministry Team. In addition, Matthias Young, our Music Director, has moved from part-time to full-time status.



2021 Session Members and Ministry Teams

Moderator

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



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 no longer wish to receive the Good News, please send an email to debbie@mvpchurch.org.

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	Director of Worship	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
Dr. Kenneth Sass	Principal Organist	
Shari Freeman	Seminary Intern	shari@mvpchurch.org

Good News!



I WANT TO GET GOD SOMETHING AWESOME FOR CHRISTMAS THIS YEAR, BUT WHAT DO YOU GET THE GUY WHO MADE EVERYTHING?

Follow Us
mvpchurch.org

