



March 2022

Good News



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PASTOR'S DESK

Welcome!

A Firm Foundation

If it's March, that means it is grant season for the Mount Vernon Presbyterian Foundation! Started in the late 1990s by saints of the church, the Foundation is a supporting organization of our church and exists to live into the mission that is central to our identity- to serve those within and beyond the church walls who are serving God.

Last month I had the pleasure of sitting alongside the Foundation Board as they prepared for this season and I wanted to take this opportunity to share gratitude for what you have done- after all, the capital which makes up the core of this money is all from you and the people beside you in the pews- and offer ideas for how you can help going forward.

Thank You!

Because of your generosity over the years, the Foundation ended 2021 with a portfolio of just over \$1.5 million. This growth continues to ensure that the Foundation will exist into perpetuity, continuing to thrive and be a source of stewardship for the Church and our other mission partners. This comes in the form of providing stipends to the church so we can have Seminary interns like Shari Freeman or supporting Youth Mission Trips. Beyond the church walls, organizations like Los Ninos Primero, CAC, or Alliance for Children Everywhere- our partner organization in Lusaka, Zambia- have greatly benefitted from the more than \$450,000 given since the Foundation began.

How can you help now?

The Foundation invites you to support their "\$22,000 in '22" campaign. Last year, the "\$21,000 in '21" was hugely successful! Thanks to the benevolence of two anonymous donors who pledged to match dollar for dollar up to \$21,000, the church was able to raise nearly \$50,000 for the campaign which incentivized the Foundation to give \$50,000 to partner organizations- the highest amount for any single year! This year, donors have once again pledged to match dollar for dollar up to \$22,000, so let us once again respond in kind so the Foundation can continue to be a beacon for so many.

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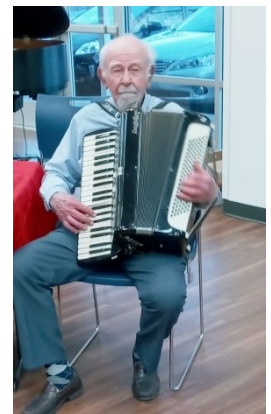
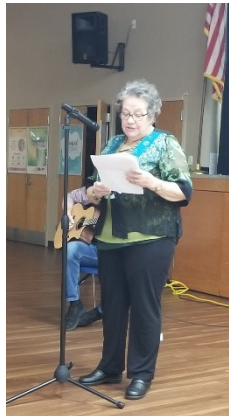
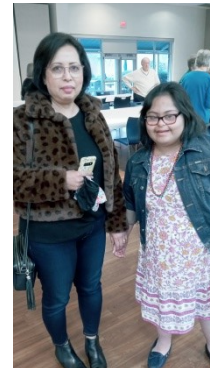
The Foundation also invites you to consider putting the Foundation in your Will. Bequests of this nature ensure the purpose and mission of the Foundation will continue, and the fidelity the Board holds to these gifts means those monies will go toward building the Kingdom of God.

Learning about how the Foundation works and the good it has done and will do has been one of the joys of serving MVPC. I invite you to live into this important ministry of our church.

Grace and Peace,

Barrett

Winter Dinner and Variety Show Sunday, February 20



Photos courtesy of Dee Bradford-Smith



In February, we enjoyed the presentation by Nancy Dimmock, a second-generation missionary. She and her husband, Frank, have served 30 years with the Presbyterian Church in Lesotho, Malawi and Zambia, mainly in healthcare and care of vulnerable children.



Beginning of Presentation



A picture of some of the babies in the crisis nursery.



A pictures of Nancy and her family – they had children of their own and they adopted 6 children.



In March, the **Day Circle** will meet on the 8th, and the **Sunday Circle** will meet on the 13th. They will study lesson 6, *Bathsheba*, in our Bible study book, *What My Grandmothers Taught Me*.

The Winter Issue of THE MVPC MEMBERS' GIFT OF WISDOM available [CLICK HERE](#) for online or in the Narthex.

Getting to know.....

Debbie Nysewander
Administrative Assistant



If you could live anywhere, where would it be?

France. We went there in 2013 and I felt so comfortable there. I took 7 years of French and loved seeing that they actually do carry their daily baguette under their arm everyday! I loved hearing them talk and I miss what I called "French chatter". It was strange that although I haven't taken a French class since college, the longer we were there, the more French words were flooding my mind. Oh, and of course, I loved the food!

What did you want to be when you were small?

Astronaut. Having grown up during the growth of the space age and seeing them walk on the moon, I thought that would be fun. Then I realized it took a lot of intelligence to be an astronaut.

Would you rather vacation in Hawaii or Alaska?

Hawaii. I went on an Alaskan cruise in 2015. I always wanted to see a glacier – they are amazing and beautiful to watch. Not sure I'll ever get to Hawaii though.

What is your favorite family recipe?

I have several, but I guess it would be my grandmother's recipe for clam chowder (chowda). My grandparents lived on Cape Cod and as children we would go down to the beach, collect clams (soft shell, quahogs, or mussels) and she would make chowder from what we brought back for her. It is now my traditional Christmas Eve dinner (I don't go to the beach any more digging for clams though). My brother, who was a chef, had her clam chowder on his menu (Fram's Chowder) in Albuquerque.

What is your favorite movie?

I never get tired of watching "The Sound of Music". It was my first movie as a child. If it's on TV, I'll watch it. I also have the DVD to watch any time I want without commercials. I also listen to the soundtrack in my car driving to/from work!

Contact: debbie@mvpchurch.org

2022 Lenten Calendar

(Based on the Seven Marks of Vital Congregations)

Dear MVPC Family,

Our 2022 Lenten Calendar is focused on the Seven Marks of Vital Congregations that we are exploring in worship throughout this season. Each day of every week corresponds with one of the different marks. Our hope is that these activities will be helpful in preparing your heart for the celebration of the Resurrection on Easter Sunday.

Sunday: Spirit-Inspired Worship

Thursday: Empowered Servant Leadership

Monday: Lifelong Discipleship Formation

Friday: Caring Relationships

Tuesday: Intentional Authentic Evangelism

Saturday: Ecclesial Health

Wednesday: Outward Incarnational Focus

Blessings to you on Lenten journey,
Barrett, Isaac, and Shari

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			March Attend Ash Wednesday service and supper ²	Sign up for a MVPC commit- tee ³	Practice self-care by taking a walk ⁴	Join the choir ⁵
Draw image of where you noticed the Holy Spirit in worship ⁶	Read a chapter of Scripture ⁷	Join us for Taize at 7pm ⁸	Volunteer at CAC ⁹	Reach out to someone you have not seen in church for awhile ¹⁰	Connect with the Stephen Ministry ¹¹	Tithe ¹²
Draw image of where you noticed the Holy Spirit in worship ¹³	Introduce yourself to a neighbor ¹⁴	Call in to the Phone Devotional ¹⁵	Make a meal for someone who is ill ¹⁶	Send a thank you note to an MVPC volunteer ¹⁷	Give someone a ride to church ¹⁸	Contact a pastor and let them know how they can support you ¹⁹
Draw image of where you noticed the Holy Spirit in worship ²⁰	Go to a nearby park and notice what you see ²¹	Put a MVPC magnet on your car ²²	Put an item in the Outreach Donations Box ²³	Help with Youth Group as a second adult or provide food ²⁴	Read about the history of indigenous people in Sandy Springs ²⁵	Consider putting MVPC foundation in your will ²⁶
Draw image of where you noticed the Holy Spirit in worship ²⁷	Have lunch with a church member you don't know really well ²⁸	Watch a worship service for a different religion ²⁹	Send a card to someone homebound or lonely ³⁰	Sign up to lead a prayer of thanksgiving ³¹	Keep a bag of food in your car for someone in need ^{April 1}	Re-post the MVPC worship service to your Facebook page ²
Draw image of where you noticed the Holy Spirit in worship ³	Plan to attend Sunday School next week ⁴	Invite someone to church ⁵	Pray for your neighbor ⁶	Sign up to bring doughnuts for connection time ⁷	Make cookies for your local fire department ⁸	Volunteer to help with AV during worship – we will train you! ⁹
Draw image of where you noticed the Holy Spirit in worship ¹⁰	Join us at 12:30 for Holy Week service and lunch ¹¹	Join us at 12:30 for Holy Week service and lunch ¹²	Join us at 12:30 for Holy Week service and lunch ¹³	Join us at 6:30 for Maundy Thursday service and dinner ¹⁴	Join us at 12:30 for Good Friday service and lunch ¹⁵	Join the VCI mission in ministry committee ¹⁶

Committees & Coffee



This is a time for the various committees to come together to discuss upcoming programs and network with each other every quarter. If you are curious what a committee does or would like to join one, you are welcome to come to our next gathering, April 10.



OUTREACH



The March Communion Offering is for the International Women's House, a shelter for abused refugee and immigrant women and their children.

Most needed items include:

- Diapers – all sizes
- Paper towels and bathroom tissue
- Laundry and dish detergent
- Household cleaning products
- Non-perishable/child friendly foods (juice boxes, granola bars, snacks, etc.)
- Cereal and oatmeal
- New underwear for women and children – all sizes
- Walmart gift cards

Donations may be brought to the church at any time during the month of March. Thank you for your generosity.

For more information about the shelter, please go online to internationalswomenhouse.com.

Covid Fund Update:

The Covid Fund was established by Session in April 2020 with \$91,000+ donated by July 2021. A donation by a generous donor plus some funds added by the MVPC Foundation in December 2021 brought the total to \$100,000. As of late January 2022, all funds have been dispersed to various ministry partners to help address food scarcity, housing insecurity, lack of medical equipment and school supplies, and other challenges caused by the pandemic.

Most recent recipients include: Garden Presbyterian Church in Zambia, the Alliance for Children Everywhere in Zambia, Stirred Up Ministries, International Women's House, the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta's New Church Development Commission, and the Sandy Springs Education Force. All these groups continue to express gratitude for MVPC's very generous support during these difficult times.

THIS AND THAT!



Welcome to our Newest
Members:
Worth & Barbara Williams



Taizé is a simple, meditative form of
worship.
March 8, 7pm in the Sanctuary



Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt
baptizing one of the
Nelson twins.



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



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

March Calendar of Events

Tuesday, March 1

Staff Mtg. - 9:30am
PW - 10:00am - Zoom
Phone Devotional - 2:00pm
Christian Ed. - 5:00pm Zoom



Wednesday, March 2

ASH WEDNESDAY
Pancakes - 5:30pm
Ash Wednesday Service - 6:15pm
Choir Rehearsal - 7:00pm

Sunday, March 6
Tuesday, March 8

Worship - 10:30am
Staff Mtg. - 9:30am
Phone Devotional - 2:00pm
Worship Committee - 4:00pm
Taize - 7:00pm



Wednesday, March 9

Witness Committee - 4:00pm
Choir Rehearsal - 7:00pm
Book Circle - 10:00am

Friday, March 11
Sunday, March 13

Worship - 10:30am
Sunday Circle - 12:15pm

Monday, March 14
Tuesday, March 15

FAMT - 5:30pm Zoom
Staff Mtg. - 9:30am
PW Day Circle - 10am
Phone Devotional - 2:00pm
Choir Rehearsal - 7:00pm



PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN

Wednesday, March 16
Sunday, March 20

Worship - 10:30am
Session Meeting - 11:30am
Youth - 5:00pm

Tuesday, March 22

Staff Mtg. - 9:30am
Phone Devotional - 2:00pm
Choir Rehearsal - 7:00pm

Wednesday, March 23

Good News Deadline
Outdoor Worship - 10:30am
Youth - 5:00pm

Sunday, March 27

Staff Mtg. - 9:30am
Phone Devotional - 2:00pm
Choir Rehearsal - 7:00pm

Tuesday, March 29

Wednesday, March 30

Publish Good News



March Birthdays

Rachel Emery 3/1
 Pat Hudgins 3/1
 Alice Ann Lever 3/3
 Gill Hutt 3/6
 John Hibbard 3/9
 Alex Sprung 3/12
 Pat Davis 3/13
 Elizabeth Small 3/14
 Deborah Galloway 3/18
 Avery Fisher 3/18
 Mary Kilgore 3/21
 Bruce Hagenau 3/22
 Mike Gillespie 3/23
 Connor Plumly 3/24

Jodi Jackson 3/26
 Kirk Chalpan 3/27
 Katie Sprung 3/27
 Beppie Lever 3/28





**WAYS
TO
GIVE**

ONLINE



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

MAIL



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

QR CODE





January 1- 31 2022	Actual YTD	2022 Budget
Member Giving Pledge	\$ 73,110	\$449,000
Member Giving Non- Pledge	\$1,320	\$60,000
Non member giving & Loose offering	\$1,615	10,000
Total Rec'd	\$76,045	\$519,000

If you have a March 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.

Pat Bartee – doing well and is working with PT following knee replacement surgery and is driving now! Prayers for perfect healing and recovery.

Bruce Hagenau – prayers for elimination of prostate cancer.

Alistair Morine – stopped treatment and at a three-month check-up the cancer had not grown or moved! The doctors were very surprised with such good news, and Alistair told them that he had many people praying for his healing! The doctors replied that the prayers are working!

Rob Southard – prayers for freedom from addiction.

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
pbartee@mvpchurch.org
or call the church office at
404.255.2211



"Ring the bells that still can ring
Forget your perfect offering.
There is a crack in everything.
That's how the light gets through."

Leonard Cohen

Stephen Ministers are imperfect lay people who have trained to be useful and encouraging to other imperfect people. They engage in unconditional, caring, confidential, one-on-one relationships that help clarify issues and goals and rekindle joy. If you are temporarily struggling with loss, grief, mild depression, loneliness, or any other debilitating angst, please let us walk through it with you. Call a pastor or Pat Barte, Stephen Ministry Leader, for help.





SESSION MEETING

Summary of Session Meeting February 20, 2022

The regular monthly Session meeting for February was held on February 20, 2022. Following is a summary of the that meeting:

The Presbytery's Vital Congregations Initiative (VCI) provides a variety of resources for congregations including monthly cohort meetings for pastors and elders. In addition, support materials are available at www.atlpcusa.org/vital.

Some of the highlights of Ministry Team reports include:

FAMT reported that January finances were right on target.

Upcoming HVAC work in the Sanctuary Building likely will not be done until summer 2023.

The Senior Adult team is planning a trip to Gibb's Gardens in April. Our oldest member, Laura Snipes (100 years old), was honored by the City of Woodstock – the mayor declared a "Laura Snipes Day".

People who want to take their turn as Greeters during the Connections time will be able to sign-up on Sign-Up Genius.

Small Group sign-ups are underway. A variety of group learning opportunities are available.

Session elected Carol Beckman and David Barclift as co-chairs of the 2022 Nominating Committee. The congregation will elect the other three members of the committee.

Session has created a Ministry and Mission Planning Team that will serve as an ad hoc coordinating team for the Vital Congregations Initiative.



2022 Session Members and Ministry Teams

Moderator

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

Clerk of Session

David Hill

Christian Education

Mary McClurg

Congregational Care

Pat Bartee

Fellowship

David Barclift

Finance/ Administration/ Stewardship

Charlie Gray
John Hibbard

Outreach

Carol Beckman
Beppie Lever
Brent Schwieger

Senior Adults

Mary Kilgore

Witness

Angie Hawthorne
Dee Bradford-Smith

Worship

Gloria Gillespie
Malinda Holmes
Amy Kiley

Youth

Kyle Cumming



PO Box 76051
Sandy Springs, GA 30358

Return Service Requested

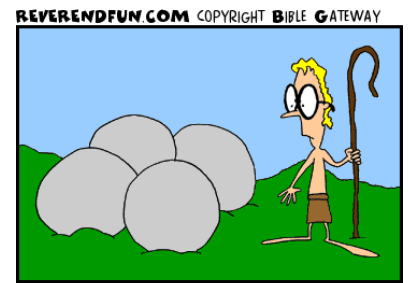
Got News? We'd love to hear from you! Send us your news so we can celebrate, laugh, and/or cry with you. After all, we are FAMILY. Deadline for news is the third Wednesday of each month for the *next month's* newsletter. Send your submissions to debbie@mvpchurch.org.

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!



JOEY THE SHEPHERD HAS ALWAYS BEEN PROUD OF THE FACT THAT HE HAD NEVER LOST A SHEEP UNTIL HE GOT HIS NEW PRESCRIPTION GLASSES

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