



MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

GOOD NEWS

AUGUST 2022



A Letter From The Pastor

BY REV. BARRETT ABERNETHY

Senior Adult Happenings

One of the old adages around the Presbyterian Church is that we are a connectional church. You can see these connections at General Assembly or at the Presbytery level in various ways as well as in the local congregation. One of the connections I am excited about at Mount Vernon is currently taking place in our Senior Adult Ministry (SAM). Over the past few months, Mary Kilgore, our SAM elder, along with Dee Bradford-Smith, one of our Witness Elders, have been collaborating on ideas for our Senior Adults that will inspire service, fellowship, and friendship. As Dee shares, "I have a passion for this

age group. My work was spent serving this group of people and my goal is for us to have a stable, consistent program for our church members to do once a month." Mary, for her part, is grateful for Dee's help, "She has jumped in with both feet and trying to get more people to participate."

Perhaps some of you are already witnessing the fruits of these labors as in late July, the SAMs toured the Governor's Mansion and enjoyed lunch afterward. Coming up this month, they are planning a lunch outing following worship and later this fall they plan to support our partnership with Clifton Sanctuary Ministries and take a day trip up to north Georgia to sightsee and fellowship.

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The goal of this collaboration is simple: they want you to get involved. As your pastor it warms my heart to see this type of energy and love being fostered for the people in our midst. This is how we build and grow community so I hope you will sign-up and if you think there are barriers to you participating, let us know. We, after all, are a connectional church and we want you to be connected.

Grace and Peace,
Barrett

Coming Up in the Fall:

August 28: lunch at First Watch Restaurant

September: "Serving Seniors Month"

September 17: Prep party to prepare sandwiches for Clifton House

October 22: Day Trip to North Georgia including waterfalls, Tallulah Gorge, Wine Tasting, Art Galleries



Photos courtesy of Dee Bradford-Smith, LNP, Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt, Carol Beckman, Stan Williams, Penny Kiel

January 1- June 30, 2022	Actual YTD	2022 Budget
Member Giving Pledge	\$266,367	\$449,000
Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$20,912	\$60,000
Non member giving & Loose offering	\$5,837	10,000
Total Received	\$293,116	\$519,000

2022 Session Members & Ministry Teams

Moderator

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

Clerk of Session

David Hill

Christian Education

Mary McClurg

Congregational Care

Pat Barte

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

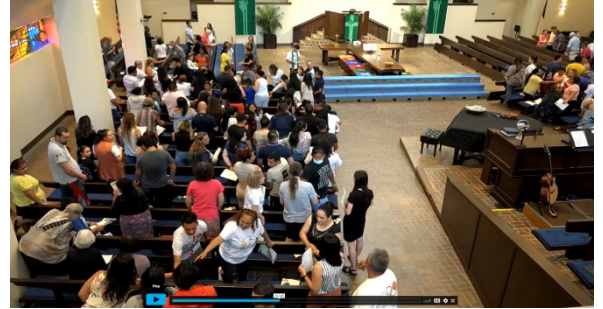
Youth

Kyle Cumming

Los Ninos Sunday



3-5 year olds



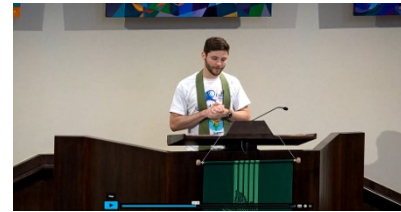
Passing of the Peace



Valeria Escobar



Hannah Nohstadt



6-8 year olds



Maritza Morelli & Ken Mead



SUMMER COOKOUT WITH LOS NINOS



Outreach



The Communion Offering for August will be for the International Women's House, a shelter for refugee and immigrant women and the children who are the victims of domestic abuse. Most needed items include:

- Paper products (paper towels, bathroom tissue)
- Non-perishable food items
- Household cleaning supplies
- Laundry and dish detergent
- Women's and children's underwear (new)
- Grooming supplies (toothbrushes, toothpaste, etc.)
- Grocery store cards
- Gasoline cards

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

The "Shopping for Outreach" blue bags with a more detailed shopping list will be available beginning on August 7. (If you have empty bags at home, please return them.)



Bepie Lever and Andrea Brandley
with Family Promise



Sharing News from Zambia

Recent letters from four of our nine Zambian students enrolled in various colleges in Zambia. The scholarship funds enabling all of the students to attend college are provided by generous annual contributions from members of MVPC. Thank you for your continued support.

For more information contact Stan Williams at aswilliams@bellsouth.net or 404.245.6749

Dear Sponsors,

Greetings to you all my dear sponsors. Hope these greetings reach you all in good faith and health. Approaching the mid of the year brings forth hope and happiness because you and I are totally convinced that our creator God almighty is and will be with us throughout this year as long as we remain in faith and hopeful in him who created us, and gives us life each and every day.

This semester was full of challenges which include a lack of food stuffs and proper gadget making studying very hard. Adding to these the studying period was too short but thanks to you my dear sponsors for your unceasing support which made me to concentrate only on the studies. I promise to continue working very hard to the end of my studies.

This semester I look to having good results has never before all due to your support that you all my dear sponsors who are working hard to make sure I remain in school and finish my studies. To this effect I thank you all for being there for me through to this year. I just finished the exams but I have to admit that the exams were very hard and am just hoping for good results because I worked very hard this semester like every semester.

To this end I want to wish you all my dear sponsors a healthy and happy life as we continue to live under the protective wings of our loving creator. Thank you all my dear sponsors.

Yours faithfully

Innocent Chileshe



Dear sponsor,

I greet you in the blessed name of our Lord Jesus. My name is Phiri Esther a 2nd year student at Chalimbana University studying ICT.

I write this letter to say thank you and to update you on my school, and to continually thank you for your unconditional love and generosity, I know it may not be easy for you as well but I know the almighty will reward you. Though school has been a bit tough, but I put in all my efforts and was able to pass my exams and now I am doing my first teaching practice at the government school next to Helen Devos called Twashuka secondary School here in Lusaka. I promise to do my very best and never to let you down at any point.

In conclusion, I really want to say thank you for all your hard work and the help you generously render to me, I may not be able to repay you but only God almighty will continue to bless and flourish the works of your hands. The support and love that you have shown me I given me a reason to help someone else out there someday. May the Lord continue to bless and protect you.

Yours sincerely,
Esther Phiri

Sharing News from Zambia



I am writing this letter as I am thankful for the support that you have provided by sponsoring my education at the college. Words can't possibly measure the happiness I felt when I was informed that I was chosen to be sponsored by ACE.

This sponsorship is like a blessing after all the problems I have been through in life. Your generosity gives me the confidence to be hopeful and pursue my academic dream of being a teacher in Computer and Business studies. Your assistance has made all of it much easier for me. It is my hope that this letter serves as a reflection of the impact your organization has on me, throughout my career there have been many obstacles, finances being one of the greatest, that I have to address along the way by awarding me this sponsorship, you have lessened my financial burden which grants me the opportunity to concentrate as the most imperative element of my education.

You have inspired me a lot. I wish to give back to the community when I attain my goals in the future. I hope that I will be able to follow your example and help inspire

those who are in need. I am now in the second year and I am currently doing my Teaching Practice at school within Kanyama, neighbors with Helen Devos School, New Kanyama Primary School. It's a great experience and I have learnt a lot from both the permanent and student teachers during this short period.

It's good to note and remember that there are people out there who are concerned about the underprivileged. You have shown your concern by stretching your hands towards my education. A lot of great things can be said about you, more than you can ever know, and I thank you for everything. God bless you and your families.

Most sincerely,
Munyenembe Eric

Semester V11
Date: 31/05/2022

Dear Sponsor,

This report is to provide an update on semester V11 progress that will be due on the 17th June 2022. The semester started on the 7th March 2022, without any balance of my tuition fees. I have been a hard working student to pursue my passion for computer technology, being the most leading industry of innovation in the world today. I completed my previous semesters with distinctions by the Grace of God.

Before my scholarship, I had difficulty writing my end semester exams at the same time as my fellow class mates. Thanks to you my Sponsors, I can now be able to write my examinations with a free mind and concentrate more to my studies without thinking about where I will get my tuition fees to clear balances.

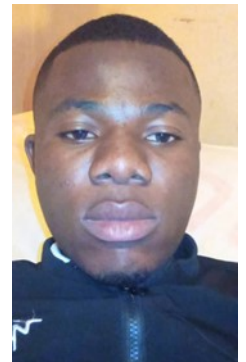
However, there are some of the challenges I encounter through my studies. Being a computer scientist requires a lot of practice. I haven't been able to practice enough for I do not have my personal computer. I have been doing a side job that helps in transportation and other small necessities for school.

Through it all, I thank the Almighty that He has sent forth His People to help my household through my Education at a Higher Level. As it is, this is my Final Year of Studies.

I believe Education will lift my Family from Lacking Basic Needs.

I Submit.

Francis Hanyama.



CELEBRATIONS!

Lou Baine turned 93

Former Pastor,
Rev. Carol Strickland
Retired

Welcome New
Member:
Ed Taylor

Sophie Galen
Graduated from
Riverwood High
School



Family Promise



Thank You (once again) to our MVPC, B'nai Tora, Dunwoody Community Church, Misty Creek Community Church (and the newest Church to join the Family Promise Program, Rivercliff Lutheran Church) volunteers for taking such great care of our three families July 3 thru July 17. Our Covid protocols lightened up a bit this time around and some of the volunteers enjoyed being able to engage with our guests on a more personal level.

Our next hosting session will be on Sunday, December 17 - December 25 and yes, it will cover Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Please put your 'thinking caps' on to figure out how we can make this a special time for our families without overly burdening our own church families. We can do this!

August Calendar

Tuesday, August 2

Staff Meeting - 10:00am
Phone Devotional - 2:00pm
Stephen Ministry - 2:15pm
CE Meeting - 5:00pm

Sunday, August 7

Monday, August 8

Tuesday, August 9

Worship - 10:30am

FAMT - 5:30pm

Staff Meeting - 10:00am

Phone Devotional - 2:00pm

Worship Meeting - 4:00pm

Taizé - 7:00pm

Wednesday, August 10

Vernon Springs Bible Study - 11:00am

Witness - 4:00pm

Saturday, August 13

VBS - 9-3:30pm

Sunday, August 14

Worship - 10:30am

Tuesday, August 16

Phone Devotional - 2:00pm

Sunday, August 21

Worship - 10:30am

Session Meeting - 11:30am

Tuesday, August 23

Staff Meeting - 9:30am

Phone Devotional - 2:00pm

Wednesday, August 24

GOOD NEWS DEADLINE

Thursday, August 25

LNP - 7:00pm

Sunday, August 28

Worship - 10:30am

PW Installation & Lunch - 11:30am

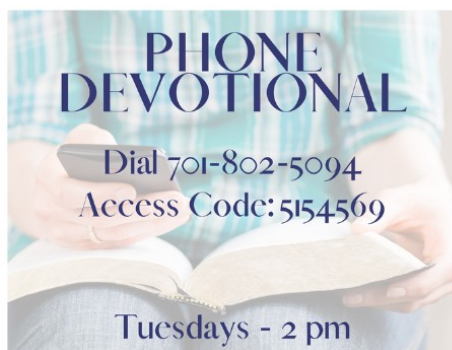
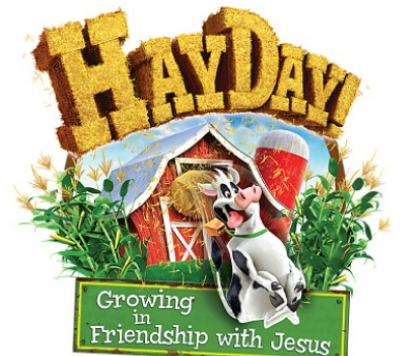
Monday, August 29

GOOD NEWS PUBLISHED

Tuesday, August 30

Staff Meeting - 9:30am

Phone Devotional - 2:00pm



August Birthdays

Jeff Chesnutt	8/1
Joanna Mielke	8/3
Julia Northrop	8/4
Moirra Speirs	8/6
Sarah Northrop	8/6
Wendy Hagenau	8/7
Martha Chambliss	8/8
Bob Boyer	8/14
Alma Dowdakin	8/14
Brad Hahn	8/16
David Barclift	8/18
Pat Bartee	8/20

If you have a birthday in August and don't see your name on the list, please contact debbie@mvpchurch.org or call the office.

If you were **BORN** 
in **AUGUST**,
That means
you are **INTUITIVE**,
CREATIVE,
thoughtful,
WISE BEYOND your YEARS,
FUN-Loving, And HAVE A
BIG HEART. 

Young Adult dinner at
Isaac's new home



Getting to Know...

JOHN HIBBARD
FINANCE/ADMIN



What makes me laugh the most?
Young Frankenstein

What two radio stations do I listen to in the car the most?
WSB and Classic Rewind (Sirius XM). A close 3rd is Sirius XM's classical channel.

What form of travel do I prefer?
Air. Even with all the problems, gripes, delays, etc., it's just fascinating that we can travel somewhere at over 500 mph.

What was my favorite subject in school?
Must've been band. Got me out of more classes than any other!

What do I do to keep fit?
Walk



Are you having difficulty holding all the pieces together? Sometimes things get to be too much. It might be the tiniest event that topples you. Please contact Stephen Ministry and we can provide you a skilled layperson companion who can listen and hear you, give you strategies and coping mechanisms, and help you move through difficulty to higher ground.

Contact a minister or Pat Bartee, Stephen Leader, to get involved.



CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

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



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



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

Church Bulletin Blooper:

"The third verse of Blessed Assurance will be sung without musical accomplishment."

This & That

No Taize
in August

Church Office Closed
Labor Day
Monday, September 5

Phone Devotional
Every Tuesday

The Spring/Summer Issue of
THE MVPC MEMBERS' GIFT OF WISDOM
is available online or in the Narthex.



Prayer Vine

Nicole - friend of Jeanne Mielke had successful stem cell transplant surgery and is in a 100-day quarantine at home.

James Ballew - Patricia Hibbard's brother will be having bladder cancer surgery.

Mrs. JB - is in need of a bone marrow transplant.

Iva Corbin - thankful for healing prayers.

Neill Ferrill - former member undergoing radiation and chemo for a brain tumor.

Patti Gambrell - recovering from eye surgery, friend of Louise Lord.

Rev. Susan Haynes - Grateful for speedy recovery and is back at work.

Jeannie Lee - pray for peace, protection, and comfort as she battles pancreatic cancer.

Alistair Morine - Bruce Morine's brother in New Zealand is on a new drug to slow the progression of his brain tumor.

Irene Nelson - mother of Andy Nelson and Martha Baitcher, is making enough progress that she will be returning to her senior community.

Bev Northrop - recovering from a small fall and back in occupational therapy.

Sibyl Plumly - pray for a quick recovery after heart valve surgery.

Karla Schultz - daughter of Jane Schultz is recuperating with Jane from encephalitis.

Rob Southard - is saving money to live on his own.

Dave Whitacre - is dealing with issues from a chronic infection.

Yvonne White - is very grateful for all the thoughts, prayers, and cards after the death of her father in Mississippi.

Bravery, faith, and determination for Ukrainians fighting for their freedom and for their refugee families struggling to survive.

Continued blessings on our church's ministries in Atlanta and Zambia.

It is a blessing to be part of a praying church and to see God working through our communal prayer.

Do you need prayer?
Have our Prayer Vine pray for you!
Email your requests to pbartee@yahoo.com

Summary of Session Meeting

July 17, 2022

The Session met for its monthly meeting on July 17. Following is a summary of the meeting:

- MVPC sends four Commissioners to the quarterly Presbytery meetings. Representing MVPC at the August 16 meeting will be Carol Beckman, David Hill, Malinda Holmes, and Mary McClurg.
- A thank you note was received from Los Ninos Primero thanking MVPC for a successful Los Ninos Sunday and the hospitality we extended by hosting the cookout that followed the service.
- The Witness Ministry Team reports that almost all of the slots for providing refreshments and serving during the Connections time between Sunday School and Church have been filled. We are so thankful for our newer members who have jumped in to be part of this fellowship opportunity.
- A joint effort between MVPC and Pleasant Hill PC has been underway to share ideas of how to strengthen the Senior Adult programs and services in the two churches. The MVPC Witness and Senior Adult Ministry Teams are partnering in this work.
- The Finance and Administration Ministry Team announced we continue to be on track with member giving. Bids are being received to address purchase and installation of a new HVAC system. This will be a long process that will likely last well into next year.
- Family Promise just completed a two-week stay on our campus. Penny Kiel is the MVPC coordinator on our campus and it was noted the program functions very smoothly as a result of Penny's excellent organization of this vital service to homeless families.
- Rev. Toney-Schmitt announced the Vital Congregations Initiative is about to move into the Neighborhood Analysis stage. There is a training on July 24 following worship for those who want to help with this analysis.
- A report was given regarding the business conducted at the 225th General Assembly of PC(USA). A summary of this General Assembly is available on the PC(USA) website.

The next Stated Session Meeting will be
August 21.



P.O. Box 76051
Sandy Springs, GA 30358

Return Service Requested

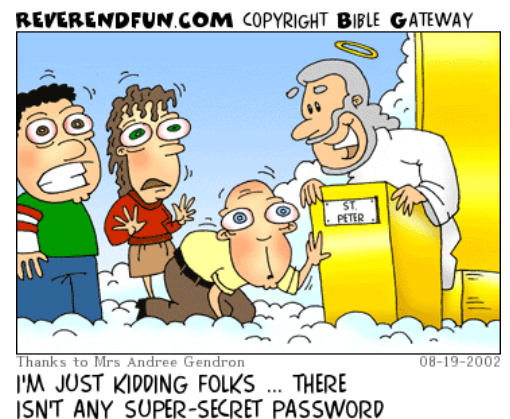
Got News? We'd love to hear from you! Send us your news so we can celebrate, laugh, and/or cry with you. After all, we are FAMILY. Deadline for news is the third Wednesday of each month for the *next month's* newsletter. Send your submissions to debbie@mvpchurch.org.

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	Senior 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

Good News!



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