



MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

GOOD NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2022



A Letter From The Pastor

BY REV. BARRETT ABERNETHY

Ministry Team Spotlight: Fellowship

Several months ago, someone asked me what it was like to serve at Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church. I told them that it is a "Ministry of ones and twos." What I meant is that serving this church, especially during the week, is serving the one across from me in my office, or the couple I am getting to know at the local restaurant. Inevitably though, that is how all of us come together, and the most fundamental way we do that is in fellowship.

David Barclift leads our Fellowship Ministry Team, and he does so with a revolving door of faithful saints, and as he puts it, "What we do is all about community building and it brings me joy to see people enjoy what we are doing."

This fall, we will have several formal fellowship opportunities in addition to those informal ones such as before and after church. We hope you will join us, or perhaps reach out to David and help lead these great events.

BBQ Kickoff Lunch, September 11, 11:30am

Join us immediately after lunch Sunday worship for our annual BBQ lunch. This is great way to not only connect with one or two people in the church, but to also reconnect with the small group you aim to join, or to jump on one of our 9 ministry teams. This year we will also have a cornhole tournament, so it should be a time of good food and good-natured fun.

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Session Meeting

Pumpkin Palooza, October 23, 4pm

Once again, we will celebrate fall and Halloween out on the courtyard with games and activities for all ages. This is a great way to fellowship with people from both the church and the local neighborhood, and of course, there will be dinner!

Hanging of the Greens, November 27, 5pm

Personally, I think this is one of the best things we do at MVPC! I love how it brings together the entire church as we sing carols, decorate the church, and prepare for the Advent and Christmas seasons. We always conclude this gathering with Brunswick stew. We hope you will be there!

Men's Breakfast, September 25 and November 20, 8:30am

A great breakfast awaits in the Fellowship Hall if you are willing to come early to the church! Sometimes I share stories of church history, other times we have a guest speaker, but all the time we have great fellowship.

Contact David or the church office directly if you want to support this ministry team. We can always use one or two more as we seek to live out the ministry of ones and twos.

To God be the Glory,
Barrett

THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING FELLOWSHIP VOLUNTEERS

Ann Williams
Malinda Holmes
Debbie Barclift
Steve Ray
Bruce & Dale Morine
Angie & Robbie Hawthorne
Guy Lever
David Hill
Penny Kiel
Jeanne Mielke



January 1- July 31, 2022	Actual YTD	2022 Budget
Member Giving Pledge	\$312,888	\$449,000
Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$22,507	\$60,000
Non member giving & Loose offering	\$5,988	10,000
Total Received	\$341,383	\$519,000

2022 Session Members & 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

SATURDAY VBS



Senior Adults

GOVERNOR'S MANSION

July 28, 2022



FIRST WATCH BRUNCH

August 14, 2022



Outreach



Dear MVPC Members and Foundation Board,

On behalf of Sandy Springs Education Force (SSEF), I want to thank you for your continued support of our programs. At SSEF we work with the administrators at all eleven public schools to create targeted programs with positive outcomes that educate, inspire and prepare students for a competitive world. The MVPC Foundation Grant awarded to our Summer Book Club helped us put on our fourth annual weekly literacy program that has historically maintained or increased elementary student reading levels over the summer. A combination of professional teacher led virtual book clubs and in person Pizza and Book Reward Parties inspired our students to read more and engage in literacy activities over the summer.

The recent Communion Offering of School Supplies brought in over \$400 worth of new school supplies that will be distributed through our Teacher Supply Closet. The purpose of the closet is to supplement classroom supplies when families of economically disadvantaged students aren't able to provide supplies. This saves the teachers time (and frequently their own money) and ensures that all students have equal access to classroom supplies to prepare them to learn.

To learn more about the programs and volunteer opportunities with the Sandy Springs Education Force visit Home - Sandy Springs Education Force or feel free to reach out to me.

Thanks!

Beppie Lever

beppielever@earthlink.net

MVPC Elder, Outreach

Sandy Springs Education Force Board Member and Volunteer



Outreach

A Thank You for the August Communion Donations



Dear wonderful congregants of Mount Vernon
Presbyterian Church,

Each time I sit down to write a thank you letter to your congregation; I try to find the right words to express the gratitude we feel and each time it just doesn't seem adequate. What you do for us goes so far beyond words. Therefore, I apologize for the repetition, but on behalf of International Women's House, please accept my gratitude for your generous donation of new sheets and towels, paper goods, detergent, cleaning supplies, and non-perishable food. I want to include a very special thank you to the children of Mount Vernon for sending us your favorite cereals. You have made our children here very happy!

The items you donated will be very much appreciated and enjoyed by those receiving them. It is individuals such as yourself who help make the journey from living with violence to violence-free living an easier path to travel.

Gratefully,

Lynn Tarnow
International Women's House
Volunteer/Outreach Coordinator



Our Communion Offering for September will be items for the Community Assistance Center Food Pantry. Pick up a blue bag with the shopping list starting on Sunday, September 4.

Don't forget to return any blue **Shopping for Outreach** bags (empty or filled) that you have in your car or at your home.

Getting to Know...

CAROL BECKMAN

OUTREACH MINISTRY TEAM



Have you ever had a nickname? What is it?

My brothers always called me Sister (shortened to Sis many years ago) and still use that name. Other relatives also refer to me as Sis.

Would you rather vacation in Hawaii or Alaska and why?

Alaska. I've been to Hawaii and loved it. Alaska is at the top of my bucket list

Are you a clean or a messy person?

More clean than messy

What's your favorite family recipe?

My mom's pecan pie, a recipe she adapted from the traditional pecan pie recipe.

Is your glass half full or half empty?

Always half (or more) full. Life is good and I am blessed!



"Not all storms come to disrupt your life, some come to clear your path"

Paulo Coelho



One special skill of Stephen Ministers is to help you find calm. Another is to help you clarify your situation and make plans for change. If the storms in your life are intense, please seek help from our Stephen Ministry.

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

CELEBRATIONS!

Hazel Cofield turns
100 years old!



Welcome to Donna
Maini, Accompanist



Rev. Isaac Toney-
Schmitt 2 years at
MVPC





CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

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



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

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



Church Bulletin Bloopers:

*"The sermon this morning: Jesus Walks on the Water. The
sermon tonight: Searching for Jesus."*

This & That

Church Office Closed
Labor Day
Monday, September 5

Phone Devotional
Every Tuesday
2pm
701.802.5094
Access Code:
5154569

Connection
Snacks

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

ALLIANCE FOR CHILDREN EVERYWHERE, ZAMBIA

I am always amazed at how members of Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church are always loyal and generous in their support for Outreach. Thank you for your donations and encouragement as I traveled once again to Zambia. The total contribution collected for “much needed items” was over \$3,000 and Daisy Muzukutwa, Executive Director of ACE-Z, and I enjoyed shopping for pots and pans, 3 sizes of diapers, baby wipes, plate and sippy cup sets, sugar, washing powder (BOOM) and especially the most expensive, latex gloves used when changing the babies. Thank you! (see photos).

What a wonderful experience! After five years, I had the opportunity to return to Zambia to visit my friends and see, once again, how our Lord is blessing this ministry. Even though I was only there for 6 days, I visited both nurseries and 5 Faith Works Schools including Garden Presbyterian and Helen DeVos Christian School (HDCS).

As always, the House of Moses and Bill & Bette Bryant Nursery continue to be very busy, especially B&B with 18 active 2-4 year olds, of which 15 were BOYS! Talk about energy! There were 17 babies at the House of Moses, one just 4 weeks old. All the babies looked healthy and are receiving wonderful care from the ACE staff.

On Sunday, I attended worship at Garden Presbyterian Church and returned the next day to the Garden School, where there are over 300 students in grades 1 to 7. They have a waiting list for students wanting to attend. Since 2006, Garden Presbyterian has provided nutrition and education to thousands of young children who would otherwise miss out on school. As a result of the pandemic, the church has begun a new “Chicken Project”. A small area of land outside of Lusaka has been purchased that includes a structure for housing the chickens and also space for a caretaker. The need for this project came out of the pandemic as there was much hunger for some of their church members. The young session wanted a way to feed these members should something like this ever happen again. The project will also be income generating. (see photos - one of Pastor Jane Nyirongo with several elders and their families.)

About 10 years ago, Robby Kangwa, Faith Works Schools Coordinator, shared a dream of building a Science Center at HDCS. On my last trip, as construction was about to begin, we dedicated this dream to Robby with a plaque to be placed outside the building. Imagine my surprise when I walked into a beautiful, well equipped laboratory that can accommodate 50 students studying chemistry, etc.

We are excited that Gabriel Walder, Chief Executive Officer of ACE, will be worshipping with us on September 25, 2022. I hope you are planning to come as you really do not want to miss his sermon.

AGAIN, THANK YOU, Barbara Hughes

ZAMBIA



September Calendar



Fall Kick-Off 2021



Sunday, September 4

Monday, September 5

Tuesday, September 6

Friday, September 9

Sunday, September 11

Monday, September 12

Tuesday, September 13

Wednesday, September 14

Sunday, September 18

Tuesday, September 20

Wednesday, September 21

Thursday, September 22

Sunday, September 25

Tuesday, September 27

Wednesday, September 28

Worship - 10:30am

Sunday School - 9:30am

OFFICE CLOSED

Staff Meeting - 9:30am

PW CT - 10:00am

Phone Devotional - 2:00pm

CE Meeting - 5:00pm

Book Circle - 10:00am

Worship - 10:30am

Sunday School - 9:30am

Called Session Meeting - 10:00am

Fall Kick-off - 11:30am

Sunday Circle - 12:15pm

Youth - 5:00pm

Stephen Ministry Team - 2:15pm

FAMT - 5:30pm

Staff Meeting - 9:30

Day Circle - 10:00am

Phone Devotional - 2:00pm

Worship Committee - 4:00pm

Vernon Springs Bible Study - 11:00am

Witness Committee - 4:00pm

Outdoor Worship - 10:30am

Sunday School - 9:30am

Youth - 5:00pm

Vespers @ Towers - 5:30pm

Staff Meeting - 8:10am

Phone Devotional - 2:00pm

GOOD NEWS DEADLINE

LNP - 7:00pm

Worship - 10:30am (World Communion)

Men's Breakfast - 8:30am

Sunday School - 9:30am

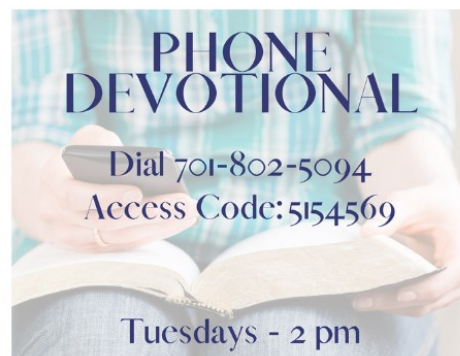
Called Congregational Meeting - 11:30am

Youth - 5:00pm

Staff Meeting - 9:30am

Phone Devotional - 2:00pm

GOOD NEWS PUBLISHED



September Birthdays



Betsy Cozine	9/3
Nancy Kennedy	9/3
Kirk Pumphrey	9/4
Chris Gray	9/4
Hazel Cofield	9/4
Ginny Little	9/5
Emma Plumly	9/6
Carolyn Spain	9/6
Lee Wall	9/6
Jim Loth	9/13
Meg Christian	9/14
Sam McClurg	9/15
Stephanie Skidmore	9/20
McLaren Christensen	9/20
Minnie Robinson	9/21
George Henry	9/24
Penny Kiel	9/26
Barbara Wasson	9/26
Jack Bobeng	9/30

Staff Birthdays

Yvonne White	January 26
Shari Freeman	June 11
Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt	June 14
Debbie Nysewander	July 2
Matthias Young	July 15
Rev. Barrett Abernethy	October 30
Steve Ray	December 1

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



Prayer Vine

Dee Bradford-Smith - had knee replacement surgery and is recuperating with a friend in Cartersville.

Nicole Brown - friend of Jeanne Mielke is still in quarantine but able to take walks and work remotely from home..

James Ballew - Patricia Hibbard's brother needs prayers, faith, and confidence in doctors for the next steps in his treatment for bladder cancer.

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

John Robert Christian - is in critical condition at Emory/St. Joseph's.

Allison Eustis - had back surgery and is recovering at home for the next 3 months.

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

Alistair & Karen Morine - in New Zealand as he battles a brain tumor and she faces surgery and treatment for ovarian cancer.

Irene Nelson - mother of Andy Nelson and Martha Baitcher, as she recovers from a sudden illness and returns to assisted living.

Karla Schultz - daughter of Jane Schultz continues to recuperate at home from encephalitis.

Laura Snipes - needs healing and comfort from shingles.

Rob Southard - is grateful for a new job.

Dave Whitacre - is recovering from a small fall.

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

August 21, 2022

Following is a summary of the business conducted at this meeting:

- It was announced that the Church Year will kick-off on September 11 with lunch in Fellowship Hall following the worship service. Ministry teams will have tables set up so everyone can see the work of these teams. Members are encouraged to join a ministry team!
- Shari Freeman returns after Labor Day to continue her MVPC internship. She will be preaching on September 18.
- The Witness Ministry Team is working with Rev. Abernethy to plan an Inquirers' Lunch to be held on October 9. This will give visitors and new members a chance to learn more about MVPC and many of our programs.
- The Christian Education Ministry Team is organizing Small Groups for the Fall. Sign-ups will be the first three Sundays of September and groups will begin meeting the week of September 25.
- The FAMT announced that offerings continue to be sufficient to meet the budget projections; however, on our older campus, property expenses are running higher than expected. Work continues to secure a contractor for the HVAC system replacement in the Sanctuary Building. This work is likely to take place next summer.
- The Vital Congregations Initiative is shifting into its next phase where we will conduct a Neighborhood Analysis. Rev. Toney-Schmitt will meet with various groups in the church to explain how this process will work.
- Commissioners were elected for the November 12 Presbytery meeting. John Hibbard, Gloria Gillespie, Malinda Holmes, and Dee Bradford-Smith will represent MVPC at this meeting.
- Commissioners who represented MVPC at the August Presbytery meeting (Mary McClurg, Carol Beckman, Malinda Holmes, and David Hill) gave a report of actions taken at the meeting.
- A Congregational Meeting will be held on September 25 to hear the report of the Nominating Committee and to act on that report.
- The September communion will be moved from September 4 to September 11.

The next Stated Session Meeting will be September 18.





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
Shari Freeman	Seminary Intern	shari@mvpchurch.org

Good News!



IN THIS CHART WE CAN SEE YOUR
PROMISED GOOD DEEDS COMPARED TO YOUR
ACTUAL FOLLOW THROUGH

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