



MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

GOOD NEWS

OCTOBER 2022



A Letter From The Pastor

BY REV. BARRETT ABERNETHY

Serving the Community

Friends, on Sunday October 23 we will celebrate Stewardship Sunday during worship. By the time you read this, I hope you will have read the campaign letter we mailed to the congregation. Within that letter is our theme for the year: Serving the Community. Throughout our history, Mount Vernon has been a place of communal gathering. Recently, I asked some of your fellow church members what it means to serve the community. Here are some of their responses:

"Serving the community means that we are aware of the needs in the community and actively engage in meeting those needs. It also means that our space is open and accessible to the community."

"Every person has a moral obligation to serve the community, both locally and beyond. When individuals organize in the fellowship of a worshipping community, our ability to serve is exponentially increased. Why serve? The last part of Matthew 25 lays that out for us. Thanks be to God; we are pretty good at serving as the corporate body of MVPC."

"Serving the community means we are a light on a hill! A place where everyone in the community is welcome. It means we can and are making a difference."

That we identify the needs in the community; explore how our gifts and facilities can serve; and trust that our gifts will meet the needs."

"We are called to 'love thy neighbor'- so we are responding in many ways to the various needs of the diverse members in our community."

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Initiative

"To welcome the community into our church as visitors, members, and to be part of our mission. It also means to us our collective time, talents, money, and reach through our communication to support those in need in our community and around the world through organizations chosen as our community partners."

"To spend time understanding who is in our community and open our resources/hospitality to them."

"Serving the community is serving our church family through fellowship activities. More broadly, its about continuing to support our various outreach- CAC, Los Niños, Family Promise, and beyond."

"It means to actively and suitably contribute to the immediate vicinity, the nation, and even to the very ends of the world."

"To me, serving the community means to connect everyone together and bring them together."

I hope you see the richness of these responses. Serving the Community in our varied ways is the identity of who have been and who we are called to be. I look forward to joining with you this season as we live out this calling together.

Grace and Peace,

Barrett



| January - August 31, 2022 | Actual YTD | 2022 Budget |
|------------------------------------|------------|-------------|
| Member Giving Pledge | \$346,371 | \$449,000 |
| Member Giving Non-Pledge | \$32,053 | \$60,000 |
| Non member giving & Loose offering | \$6,401 | 10,000 |
| Total Received | \$384,825 | \$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

FALL KICK-OFF



Ministry Tables



Corn Hole Tournament
was a great success!



The Winners (L to R):
Richard Player, Paul O'Hare,
Wit Truitt, Nikki Player, Mackenzie
Truitt, Moira O'Hare



Outreach

The Outreach Ministry Team promoted our Community Partners at the Kick-Off Luncheon. In September, we collected Food and Personal Items for the Food Pantry at the Community Assistance Center. We also welcomed Gabriel Walder with Alliance for Children Everywhere at multiple events to promote the Atlanta Campaign to raise money for the Lusaka, Zambia Garden Presbyterian School Capital Improvements. Our October Communion Offering will be Treats for Lake Forest Elementary School.



On October 22 the SSEF annual Lightning 5K/10K race will be held. We need volunteers to assist with the race for several hours that morning. The work will be fun and easy. David Hill is the race course volunteer coordinator. Let David know you are willing to help – see him after the service or email him at david.hill321@comcast.net

Want to walk or run in the race go to
www.sandyspringseducationforce.org/lightning-run-2022/

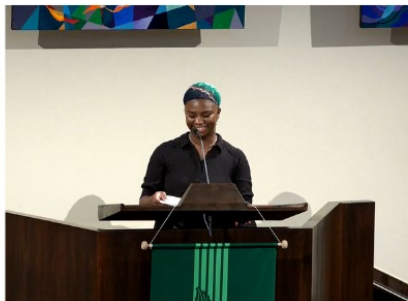
Interested in volunteering in one of the Sandy Springs Public Schools as a speaker, mentor or Reading Buddy, or donating gently used books for children or teens contact bepielever@earthlink.net or go to
www.sandyspringseducationforce.org/volunteers



CAC needs more volunteers! For Food Pantry, Thrift Shop and other volunteer opportunities go to

www.ourcac.org/individual-volunteer-opportunities

World Communion & Friends from Zambia





CELEBRATIONS!

Welcome back,
Seminary Intern,
Shari Freeman!

On September 20, Rev.
Barrett Abernethy, Rev.
Isaac Toney-Schmitt,
and Shari Freeman
went to Columbia
Theological Seminary to
meet with students and
develop relationships
for our next seminary
intern!

Our "Super Hero" youth
survived another
Escape Room!



On Sunday, September 18, we celebrated the
PCUSA's commitment to Theological Education
and our connection to:



COLUMBIA
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY





CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

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

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



Church Bulletin Blooper:

Stewardship Offertory: "Jesus Paid It All"

This & That

Connection Snacks

Daylight Saving Time
Ends
November 6
(Turn your clocks
back)

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

Presbyterian Women

INSTALLATION
SUNDAY, AUGUST 28



CIRCLE OF
GRACE



Getting to Know...

MARY KILGORE

SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY TEAM

Pet Peeves - People who drive the wrong way in one way parking lots and drivers who ride practically on your rear bumper.

Super Hero - I would love to have the power to eliminate wars of any kind.

If I won the lottery - It would be so much fun to share that money with everyone in my family, plus friends, and give a bunch to the church, hopefully anonymously.

Last book I read - "West with Giraffes" - fun book. I highly recommend it! Giraffes are also my favorite zoo animal.

Favorite teacher - My fifth grade teacher, Evelyn Thompson, who loved every child in the class. As an adult, I exchanged Christmas cards with her for many years, until she passed away.



"Sometimes the only way to carry a heavy burden is to share it with another."

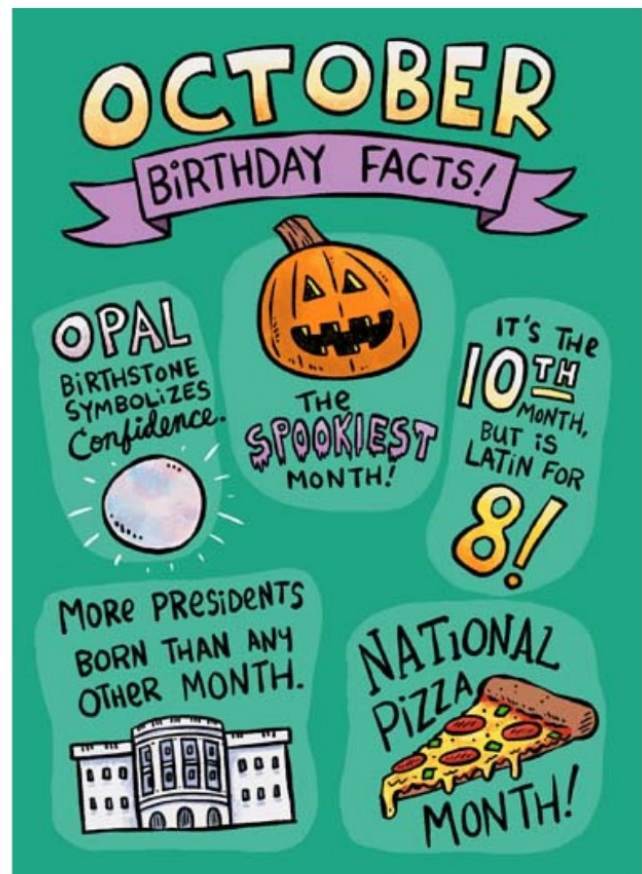
Unknown



Stephen Ministers believe in the power of relationships to help people through rough patches, grief, and when facing what seem like mountains. Having a partner to walk through it with you, sharing the problem, eases that burden. When the partner is a skilled, trained layperson, the experience is magnified. Please utilize the relief and power available by contacting a pastor or Pat Bartee, Stephen Leader.

October Birthdays

| | |
|--------------------|-------|
| Sophie Galen | 10/2 |
| Todd Simon | 10/2 |
| Tara Allen | 10/5 |
| Madison Hahn | 10/5 |
| Rita Sheffey | 10/5 |
| Sarah Chalpan | 10/6 |
| Ellen McCormick | 10/6 |
| Paula Fisher | 10/6 |
| Ann Williams | 10/9 |
| Marion Satterfield | 10/10 |
| Ian Hughes | 10/11 |
| Susan Hasell | 10/11 |
| Eleanor Brazell | 10/13 |
| Lisa Cumming | 10/13 |
| Lucy Hibbard | 10/14 |
| Marguerite Nelson | 10/14 |
| Leah Reid | 10/15 |
| Wright Hardy | 10/17 |
| Barbara Bruce | 10/18 |
| Charlie Bryson | 10/20 |
| Lisa Gray | 10/20 |
| Charley Plumly III | 10/22 |
| Bryce Cumming | 10/23 |



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 October and don't see your name on the list, please contact debbie@mvpchurch.org or call the office.

October Calendar



| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Saturday, October 1 | Los Niños Primero Gala - 6:00pm |
| Sunday, October 2 | Worship - 10:30am Adult Sunday School - 9:30am Blessing of the Animals - 2-4:00pm Youth - 5:00pm |
| Tuesday, October 4 | Staff Meeting - 9:30am PW CT - 10:00am CE Meeting - 5:00pm Choir Rehearsal - 7:00pm No School |
| Wednesday, October 5 | Outdoor Worship - 10:30am |
| Friday, October 7 | Adult Sunday School - 9:30am |
| Sunday, October 9 | Inquirers' Lunch - 11:30am Sunday Circle - 12:15pm Youth - 5:00pm |
| Monday, October 10 | Stephen Ministry Team - 2:15pm FAMT - 5:30pm |
| Tuesday, October 11 | Staff Meeting - 9:30 Day Circle - 10:00am Worship Committee - 4:00pm |
| Wednesday, October 12 | Vernon Springs Bible Study - 11:00am Witness Meeting - 4:00pm Choir Rehearsal - 7:00pm Book Circle - 10:00am |
| Friday, October 14 | Worship - 10:30am |
| Sunday, October 16 | Adult Sunday School - 9:30am Called Congregational Meeting - 11:30am Session Meeting - 12:00pm Youth - 5:00pm |
| Tuesday, October 18 | Staff Meeting - 9:30am |
| Wednesday, October 19 | Choir Rehearsal - 7:00pm GOOD NEWS DEADLINE |
| Saturday, October 22 | Senior Fall Day Trip Emily's Trick or Treat |
| Sunday, October 23 | Worship - 10:30am Adult Sunday School - 9:30am Pumpkin Palooza - 4-7:00pm Youth - 5:00pm |
| Tuesday, October 25 | Staff Meeting - 9:30am |
| Wednesday, October 26 | VCI - 5:30pm Choir Rehearsal - 7:00pm GOOD NEWS PUBLISHED |
| Thursday, October 27 | LNP - 7:00pm |



Tallulah Gorge





Prayer Vine

Gratitude for the life of **Jeannie Lee** who died September 21 in Florida.

Gratitude for the life of **John Robert Christian**, son of John and Meg Christian, who died September 24.

Dee Bradford-Smith - is home recovering from knee replacement surgery and having physical therapy. Cards can be sent to: 6520 Roswell Rd., Unite 69, Atlanta, GA 30328

Nicole Brown - friend of Jeanne Mielke, test results came back and the stem cell implant was not successful. The good news is she is out of her quarantine, has returned to work, and can be with her family.

James Ballew - Patricia Hibbard's brother, has begun post-surgical chemo for bladder cancer.

Eliana - Carrie Southard's niece who is in in-patient therapy, has a new doctor, and new medicine.

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

Neill Ferrill - former member, begins clinical trials for his brain tumor in early October.

Alistair & Karen Morine - in New Zealand as he battles a brain tumor. Karen is home and beginning chemo for stage 2 ovarian cancer.

Irene Nelson - mother of Andy Nelson and Martha Baitcher, as she works hard in physical therapy to get back in her home.

Rob Southard - needs prayers for resolve and readiness as he transitions to his new job.

Wilma Turner - Braegan Abernethy's mother, as she goes through 16 weeks of chemo for breast cancer.

Blessings for the ministries of our church here and in Zambia. It was a blessing to have several from Zambia and the Alliance for Children with us to make their successes and needs more visible and clear to us.

Faith and fortitude for the freedom fighters of Ukraine, their displaced families, and their advisors from other countries. Courage for the Ukrainians in conquered territory, particularly with the newest election plans of the Russians.

Do you need prayer?

Have our Prayer Vine pray for you!

Email your requests to pbartee@yahoo.com

Summary of Session Meeting

Stated Session Meeting September 18, 2022

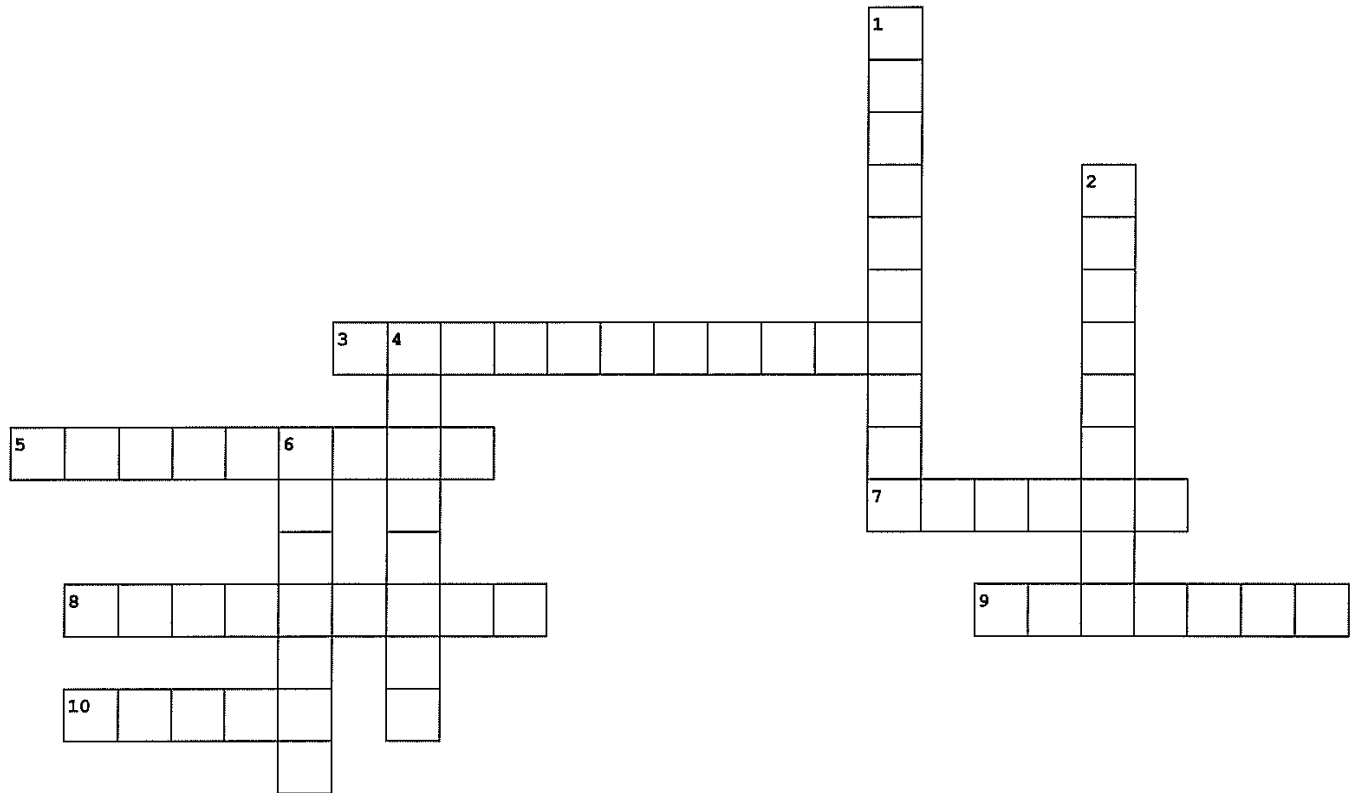
Following is a summary of the meeting:

- The Witness Ministry Team is working with Rev. Abernethy to plan an Inquirers' Lunch after church on October 9. This is open to visitors and new members who have an interest in learning more about MVPC.
- The Finance & Administration Team reports that member giving continues to be strong. The team continues to seek funding for the HVAC replacement. A congregational meeting in October is scheduled to seek congregational approval of a loan that will cover the cost of this work.
- The Senior Adult Team is planning a leaf tour trip to north Georgia on October 22.
- Three Ministry Teams – Fellowship, Christina Education, and Witness – are working on plans for the annual Pumpkin Palooza event scheduled for October 23.
- The Session elects Commissioners to represent our church at Presbytery Meetings. Representing MVPC at the November 12 meeting are Mary McClurg, Gloria Gillespie, Malinda Holmes, and Dee Bradford-Smith.
- The theme for this year's Stewardship campaign is "Serving the Community."
- Session approved serving Communion in the worship service on September 25.

*The next Stated Session Meeting will be
October 16.*

FUN & GAMES

Church Crossword



Across

- 3. a relationship with other members
- 5. our neighbors
- 7. a private time with God
- 8. where we worship God
- 9. how we praise God
- 10. giving back to God

Down

- 1. fun time with friends & other members
- 2. giving of your time
- 4. this is how we give to the community
- 6. the lobby of the church

Answers:: 3. connections, 5. community, 7. prayer, 8. sanctuary, 9. worship, 10. tithe, 1. fellowship, 2. volunteer, 4. outreach, 6. narthex

Vital Congregations Initiative

Explore your Surroundings with Prayer

Our goal is to get to know more about the neighborhood and its people. We will do this with all five senses, inspired by curiosity, and led by scripture. We are not going to teach anything, to convert anyone, or to change the neighborhood, just to learn from the people who know more about it than we do. Tear this activity out and leave it in Isaac's office box to be used in our Vital Congregations Initiative!

Luke 10:1-11 – Sending out Disciples

10 After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go...

Alone or with a partner, find a place on our campus (or your home) to be. You may stand, sit, or walk. Take time to recognize your breath. Invite God to be with you where you are. When you feel ready, engage your senses:

What do you see? _____

What do you smell? _____

What do you hear? _____

Turn your attention to life on this campus (or your neighborhood):

Who do you see? Describe the people

What are they doing?

What sorts of conversations do you hear?

What type of housing do you notice?

Is there anything you feel is missing?

What types of businesses do you see?

What sorts of leisure activities are around, if any



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!

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I'VE NEVER SLEPT SO WELL IN MY LIFE

10-14-2011

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