



MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

# GOOD NEWS

NOVEMBER 2022



## *A Letter From The Pastor*

BY REV. BARRETT ABERNETHY

### What's Happening with Our Youth?

Last month, I had the opportunity to join with our youth in Gailey Hall as we volunteered for the Sandy Springs Education Force. This is a new partnership to help local students and their families get access to supplies and books. Our job that Sunday evening was to organize these materials. What I loved about this opportunity is that it was a glimpse of what our youth and our church embodies in this moment. We had people of all ages and abilities gathered, and our youth welcomed them into "their" space and together we lived into the image of the Mount Vernon community. Later, I would ask youth members Ben Barber and Kyle Cumming to name one thing

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt has taught them and they replied, "He is a welcoming, open guy. He talks to everyone the same. He leads by example and connects everything to God." This example was carried out by our youth that night.

In addition to continuing this monthly mission work with the Sandy Springs Education Force, the youth have a big November planned. During the first weekend, Isaac will be leading middle school youth like Samantha Fifield down to Camp Calvin for a retreat with other area Presbyterian Churches. They will draw on Matthew 25- "the least of these" - as they connect to God through worship, workshops, and fellowship. The following weekend our high school youth will enjoy a two-night camping trip in the north Georgia mountains with Isaac.

*continued on next page*

## *IN THIS ISSUE*

Pumpkin Palooza

Zambia

This & That

Senior Adult  
Day Trip

Getting to Know....

Calendar/Birthdays

Worship & Stewardship

Outreach

Session Meeting



Beyond quality time for boys and their dads, who will also join on the trip, there will be time for devotion and mission planning for the winter and spring seasons.

Please continue to support our youth. We always need someone to provide food when they gather on Sunday evenings from 5-6:30pm in Gailey Hall and Isaac would like volunteers to serve as a second adult to meet the needs of our youth protection policy. Finally, and most importantly, pray for our youth as they are formed by God here at Mount Vernon to go out and serve this world. Encourage them to engage in hopefulness and show them that the peace of Christ is very much alive.

May you have a blessed Thanksgiving and I look forward to sharing the Advent and Christmas season with you.

Barrett

MVPC Youth volunteering their time for the Sandy Springs Education Force.



## 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

January - September 30, 2022	Actual YTD	2022 Budget
Member Giving Pledge	\$379,427	\$449,000
Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$34,943	\$60,000
Non member giving & Loose offering	\$6,719	10,000
Total Received	\$421,089	\$519,000

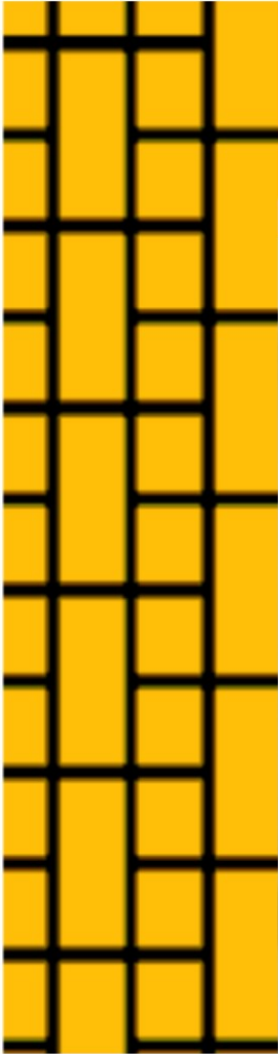


# PUMPKIN PALOOZA!





# THE ZAMBIAN COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM



## The Zambia College Scholarship Program



Eight 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 12 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 MVPC to reach the goal. You have supported this mission faithfully for 8 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 MVPC and mark 'for Zambia College fund' in the memo line, or give online on our website: [mvpchurch.org/give/](http://mvpchurch.org/give/) & select Zambia College Scholarship - Stan



# THE ZAMBIAN COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM



## Education: A way out of Poverty.

The Zambia College Scholarship Fund was established eight 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, **fourteen students** have graduated through this program with five more graduating in 2023.

We aim to sponsor twelve students total in 2023, by adding three students to our current roster of nine. 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 Current Students:

### Francis Hanyama



Francis is pursuing a degree in Computer Technology and will graduate at the end of 2023 after finishing his school work towards this end. He says that before this scholarship program, he was unable to really concentrate on his work as he was constantly worried about paying for school and how that would happen. He has had many challenges in life but says, "Through it all, I thank the Almighty that He has sent forth His people to help my household with my education. I believe education will help my family from lacking basic needs."

### Innocent Chileshe

Innocent is studying to be a Pharmacist. He reports that this year, he has better results in his studies than he has had before and he credits the support of this program for helping him to succeed. He says that this year has been hard but, "I have hope and happiness because you and I both are convinced that our Creator Almighty is and will be with us as long as we remain in faith and hopeful in Him who created us and gives us life each and every day!"



### Esther Phiri



Esther is in her third year studying Education. This year, she began her first student teaching assignment at a local government school and she is loving it so far! She is so grateful for the help she receives through this program. She says, "I really want to say thank you for the help you generously render me. I may not be able to repay you, but God Almighty will continue to bless and flourish the work of your hands. The support and love that you have shown me gives me the means and a reason to help someone else someday!"

### Chishala Misozi

Chishala is working on a diploma in Food Production at the Institute of Hospitality and Tourism. He is grateful for the generosity of this program that helps him continue his path to becoming a professional chef. He says, "Your gift gives me hope, words cannot express how appreciative I am. I may not be able to show you my thankfulness, but I am grateful."



## Current Students:

Innocent Chileshe - Pharmacy, Graduating 2023  
Esther Phiri - Education, Graduating 2023  
Erick Muyenyembe - Education, Graduating 2023  
Jacob Kwangu - Education, Graduating 2023  
Patrick Mubanga - Engineering, Graduating 2023  
Kelvin Kabwe - Engineering, Graduating 2023  
Francis Hanyama - Computer Technology, Graduating 2023  
Chitalu Taonga - Music, Graduating 2025  
Chishala Misozi - Food Production, Graduating 2024  
Leonard Sakala - Medicine/Surgery, Graduating 2028  
Guide Zulu - Heavy Equipment Engineering, Graduating 2025  
Gift Mbaso - Clinical Medicine, Graduating 2025

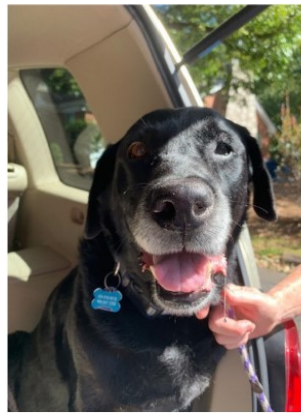


**For More Info: Stan Williams [aswilliams@bellsouth.net](mailto:aswilliams@bellsouth.net) 404.245.6749**





## Blessing of the Animals October 2



## Inquirers Luncheon October 9



## Small Group

## Congregational Care at work!







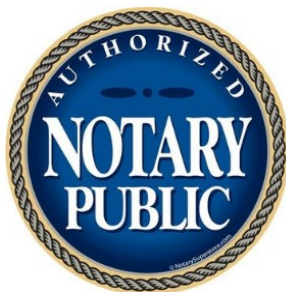
## CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

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

# This & That

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

Did you know  
Steve Ray and  
Debbie  
Nysewander are  
notaries?



Connection  
Snacks



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

### Church Bulletin Bloopers:

*"The church will host an evening of fine dining, superb entertainment, and gracious hostility."*

*Photos courtesy of: Gloria Gillespie, Christy Hill, Steve Ray, Dee Bradford-Smith, Shari Freeman, Donna Martin, Carrie Southard*

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





# Senior Adults



**Day Trip, Oct. 22**

Tallulah Gorge  
Sky Valley  
Dry Falls  
Jaemor Farms



## *Getting to Know...*

DEE BRADFORD-SMITH  
WITNESS MINISTRY TEAM



### **What is your favorite thing about your career?**

I have been fortunate to be an entrepreneur by creating and developing marketing projects within the top ten global companies in the pharmaceutical industry. On the nonprofit side, serving on various Boards of Healthcare Services and writing successfully funded grants for Indigent Hospice Care and Housing.

### **What is your proudest accomplishment?**

Serving as the caregiver for my husband for six years and my mother for 10 years. The gift of service shifted my focus from accomplishment to purpose.

### **How would your friends describe you?**

Foremost gregarious and verbose!! However, I am a trained Patient Advocate (UGA) and General Civil Mediator (Emory), skills which have made me a resource for their life journeys, creative, thoughtful, grateful, loyal, and persistent.

### **What's the most daring thing you've ever done?**

Achieved my goal to travel the world to five of the seven continents. Each journey was personally planned and navigated without professional tours.

### **What song would you say best sums you up?**

"To Dream the Impossible Dream"



Ghosts of the past haunting your dreams? Masking yourself as happy to avoid facing deep sorrow? At MVPC we offer a solution! Our Stephen Ministers are ready to walk with you through the gloom and help you to a less burdened and lighter future. If you are going through a "hard patch" and would benefit from companionship, encouragement, clarification, resources, and the renewal of your spirit, contact a pastor or Pat Bartee, Stephen Leader.



# November Calendar



Tuesday, November 1

Wednesday, November 2

Friday, November 4-5

Sunday, November 6

Tuesday, November 8

Wednesday, November 9

Friday, November 11

Saturday, November 12

Sunday, November 13

Monday, November 14

Tuesday, November 15

Wednesday, November 16

Sunday, November 20

Monday, November 21

Thursday, November 24

Friday, November 25

Sunday, November 27

Tuesday, November 29

Wednesday, November 30

Staff Meeting - 9:30am

PW CT - 10:00am

CE Meeting - 5:00pm

Choir Rehearsal - 7:00pm

Middle School Retreat

**Outdoor Worship - 10:30am**

Adult Sunday School - 9:30am

Elder Training - 11:30am

Staff Meeting - 9:30am

Day Circle - 10:00am

CE Meeting - 5:00pm

Worship Committee - 4:00pm

Vernon Springs Bible Study - 11:00am

Witness Meeting - 4:00pm

Choir Rehearsal - 7:00pm

Book Circle - 10:00am

High School Camping Trip

Presbytery Meeting - 9:00am

High School Camping Trip

**Worship - 10:30am**

Combined Adult Sunday School - 9:30am

Elder Training - 11:30am

Sunday Circle - 12:15pm

Stephen Ministry Team - 2:15pm

FAMT - 5:30pm

Staff Meeting - 8:30am

Volunteer Luncheon - 12:00noon

AMIS Board Meeting - 6-9:00pm

Choir Rehearsal - 7:00pm

**Worship - 10:30am**

Men's Breakfast - 8:30am

Adult Sunday School - 9:30am

Session Meeting - 12:00pm

Youth - 5:00pm

Staff Meeting - 9:30am

**GOOD NEWS DEADLINE**

**THANKSGIVING**

**OFFICE CLOSED**

**Worship - 10:30am**

Adult Sunday School - 9:30am

Hanging of the Greens - 5:00pm

Youth - 5:00pm

Staff Meeting - 9:30am

**GOOD NEWS PUBLISHED**

VCI - 5:30pm

Choir Rehearsal - 7:00pm





# November Birthdays

Steve Whisenant	11/1
Barbara Brooks	11/1
Donna Martin	11/2
Anne Baynham	11/5
Kyle Cumming	11/5
Ken Mead	11/6
Jeanne Hagenau	11/11
Jeanne Mielke	11/12
Carolina Kirby-Smith	11/12
DeDe Callahan	11/15
Lindsay Southard	11/17
Kate Bissell	11/17
Mary McClurg	11/20
Bruce Morine	11/20
Caroline Ballard	11/25
Nathan Peji	11/26
Ilandi Badenhorst	11/29
Jessie McCormick	11/30
Barbara Williams	11/30

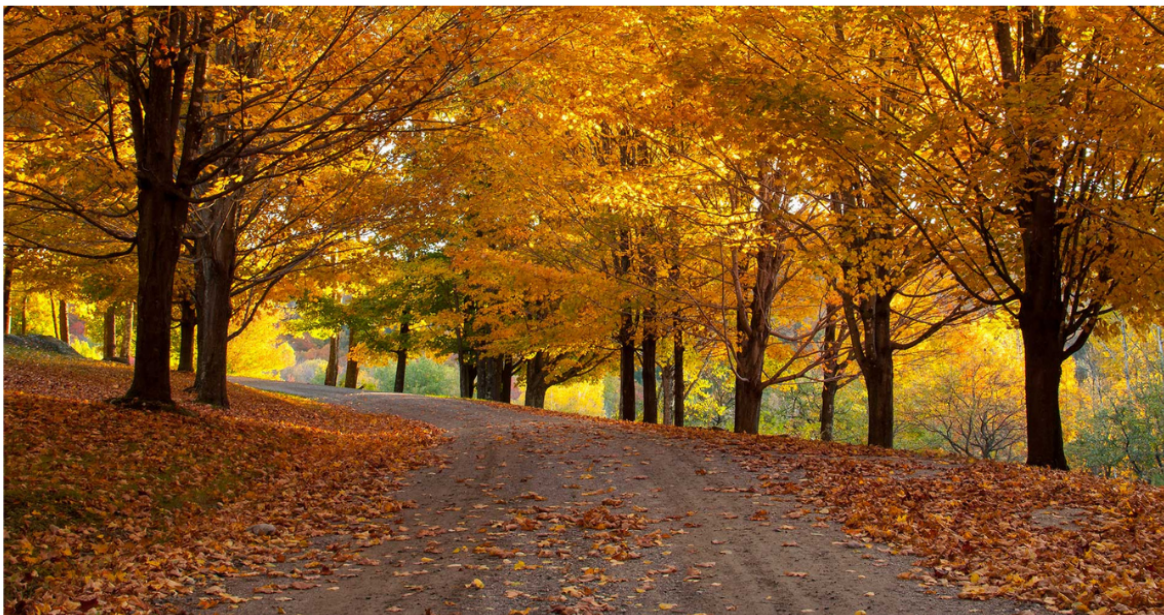


## Staff Birthdays

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 November and don't see your name on the list, please contact [debbie@mvpchurch.org](mailto:debbie@mvpchurch.org) or call the office.





# Prayer Vine

**Dee Bradford-Smith** - renewed strength as she completes physical therapy and resumes session responsibilities. Also, for friends in NC as they address long-term care issues.

**Nicole Brown** - friend of Jeanne Mielke, has begun receiving infusions for her Multiple Myeloma. She is connecting with other Multiple Myeloma patients who are encouraging and inspiring.

**James Ballew** - Patricia Hibbard's brother, is recovering from a second surgery and has begun post-surgical chemo for bladder cancer.

**Eliana** - Carrie Southard's niece has great improvement and is in out-patient therapy now and new medications.

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

**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, has returned to her home and has a caregiver.

**Jerniyah Paris** - Anna Morine's Support Coordinator fractured her ankle.

**Elaine Rawlings** - Martha Baitcher's friend who has oral cancer complications.

**Wilma Schmidt** - Braegan Abernethy's mother, as she continues treatment for breast cancer in California.

**Rob Southard** - needs prayers for confidence and readiness for a new job.

Blessings for all ministries our church supports in Atlanta and in Zambia. Faith and fortitude for the freedom fighters of Ukraine.

*My move to Sandy Springs in 2011, was after 20 years on N. Highland Ave, with my first community of college friends. Then there was a second community in Chamblee for 18 years, with gardening neighbors. I knew my first priority in Sandy Springs was to find a Church Community. My MVPC community is so much more, you are my FAMILY. Your gifts of food, services in transportation, errands, groceries, medicine, pre-op, post-op, therapy appointments, Prayer Vine, cards, beautiful flowers and more were so kind and gracious. I am blessed to spend these years with you, embraced by your love and giving spirit. Thank you for the privilege. God Bless You Always and in All Ways. Dee Bradford-Smith*

Do you need prayer?  
Have our Prayer Vine pray for you!  
Email your requests to [pbartee@yahoo.com](mailto:pbartee@yahoo.com)



# Outreach

We welcomed Gabriel Walder, Executive Director of Alliance for Children Everywhere - Zambia, to worship and meet with us in October. We are excited to report that ACE reached their goal in Atlanta of raising \$30,000 for capital improvements at our partner school Garden Presbyterian School.



September Shopping for Outreach for the Community Assistance Center yielded 310 pounds of their most needed non-perishable food and toiletry items.

October Shopping for Outreach was for candy, treats and water bottles for the Lake Forest Elementary School Fall Carnival.



Our partnership with Sandy Springs Education Force is expanding with church members volunteering at their Lightning Run Race on October 22. The Mount Vernon Presbyterian Youth is adopting their Mini Libraries Program which provides free books to all eleven public schools in Sandy Springs. The youth will be receiving donations, counting, sorting, stamping, and storing books to prepare them for delivery to the schools. They are also assisting in testing and packing “gently used” school supplies for the Teacher Supply Closet.


At the Blessing of the Animals, we collected food for Stirred-Up Ministries. Our November Shopping for Outreach will be collecting more food to Stuff the Bus for Stirred-Up Ministries. All donations must be brought by November 20 to be loaded onto the Big Blue Bus.





# WORSHIP & STEWARDSHIP

2023 MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ESTIMATE OF GIVING

 Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

My total gift for 2023 will be \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I plan to give:

☐ 1 time   ☐ Weekly   ☐ Monthly   ☐ Quarterly

**SERVING THE COMMUNITY**

Using the enclosed envelope, please bring your pledge card by Commitment Sunday, October 23; mail your pledge card to: P.O. Box 76051, Sandy Springs, GA 30358; or send an email to [yvonne@mvpchurch.org](mailto:yvonne@mvpchurch.org).

It's not too late to turn in your pledge card! We have extra cards at the church if you misplaced your card. Or go to the website: [mvpchurch.org](http://mvpchurch.org)

The Staff will be doing two different sermon series in 2023 and they need your help!

Let us know your **favorite** bible verse and your **least favorite** bible verse. Send an email to Barrett, call the church office, or tear the corner off the Announcements on Sunday.

## *SAVE THE DATE!*

Our Annual Hanging of the Greens is the Sunday after Thanksgiving, November 27 at 5pm.

Come help decorate the Sanctuary for Advent!





# Summary of Session Meeting

## Stated Session Meeting October 16, 2022

Following is a summary of that meeting:

- Representatives of the Presbytery's Committee on Preparation for the Ministry (CPM) met with the Session to provide training in how the Session should support pastoral Inquirers and Candidates. Part of the work of the Session is to educate the congregation on the identification, preparation, and support of those who feel called to the ministry.
- Shari Freeman wishes to enter the Inquirer phase (the first phase of answering the call to ministry; this phase is followed by candidacy phase, and the ordination phase). The Session interviewed Shari and following a time of Q & A, voted unanimously to support her in the Inquirer, Candidacy, and Ordination processes.
- Beppie Lever has been asked to be the MVPC liaison who will work directly with Shari Freeman and CPM.
- The Finance and Administration Ministry Team reported that giving continues to be on track to fund this year's budget but reminded the Session that this is a deficit budget.
- The Outreach MT reported that we have exceeded our goal for funding the Garden School in Zambia.
- The Senior Program has had such a strong response to the north Georgia trip on Oct. 22, a bus has been secured to take the group to see the fall colors in the mountains.

*The next Stated Session Meeting will  
be November 20.*





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](mailto:debbie@mvpchurch.org).

*If you no longer wish to receive the Good News, please send an email to [debbie@mvpchurch.org](mailto:debbie@mvpchurch.org).*

## Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church Staff

<b>Rev. Barrett Abernethy</b>	<i>Senior Pastor/Head of Staff</i>	<a href="mailto:barrett@mvpchurch.org">barrett@mvpchurch.org</a>
<b>Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt</b>	<i>Associate Pastor of Faith Formation</i>	<a href="mailto:isaac@mvpchurch.org">isaac@mvpchurch.org</a>
<b>Matthias Young</b>	<i>Director of Worship</i>	<a href="mailto:matthias@mvpchurch.org">matthias@mvpchurch.org</a>
<b>Steve Ray</b>	<i>Church Finance and Operations</i>	<a href="mailto:steve@mvpchurch.org">steve@mvpchurch.org</a>
<b>Debbie Nysewander</b>	<i>Administrative Assistant</i>	<a href="mailto:debbie@mvpchurch.org">debbie@mvpchurch.org</a>
<b>Yvonne White</b>	<i>Financial Secretary</i>	<a href="mailto:yvonne@mvpchurch.org">yvonne@mvpchurch.org</a>
<b>Shari Freeman</b>	<i>Seminary Intern</i>	<a href="mailto:shari@mvpchurch.org">shari@mvpchurch.org</a>

Good News!



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