



MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

GOOD NEWS

MAY 2023



A Letter From The Pastor

BY REV. BARRETT ABERNETHY

Leaving a Legacy

On Sunday, May 7 MVPC will celebrate Legacy Sunday. Legacy Sunday is an opportunity for the church as a whole and individuals like you to prayerfully consider how the Saints that follow you can serve God and live out God's mission here at Mount Vernon. In my relatively short tenure as your pastor, I can tell you these gifts have proven to be critical to sustaining the mission of the church. Here are some examples:

Sustains the Mount Vernon Presbyterian Foundation

Gifts that have been given at the time of death to the Mount Vernon Presbyterian Foundation have been critical to the mission mindset that shapes the core of the MVPC identity. Through gifts from people that you have shared the pews with, the Foundation Board has been able to fund priorities within the church (Youth mission trips in the past and more recently the Seminary Intern position held by Shari Freeman), as well as priorities for our mission partners (CAC, Los Niños Primero, Alliance for Children Everywhere, The Mount Vernon School, and others). To date, your gifts have allowed more than \$500,000 to be given to various mission partners.

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Session Summary

Enables MVPC to Meet Infrastructure Needs

Last year with the church needing sufficient funds to meet their share of costs to replace an aging HVAC unit in the sanctuary, MVPC was blessed with an anonymous gift. This gift had been planned by the donor to be received upon their death, but seeing the great need in the present, this person was kind enough to go ahead and bequeath the funds. This allowed us to do two important things: (1) We were able to meet our financial obligations and (2) do so without further dipping into our reserve funds. As you know, our church plant is significant and the need to meet these important needs will only grow over time. Giving a gift of this kind will be essential to the church sustaining its mission.

Endow a Particular Ministry

Leaving a Legacy can also be a gift to a particular ministry. Each Sunday, our church benefits from having paid staff singers bolster the joyful noise we ring in God’s name.

This is partially due to a fund left in the name of Polly Russell. Polly and her husband, Gadson (Gad), were longtime church members and lived, coincidentally, in the Mount Vernon Woods home now owned by Steve and Shelley Ray. Because of this Legacy gift, we are able to enjoy a more fulfilling worship experience. There are many ministries you can endow- from children to music, personnel to mission- we encourage you to speak with some of our church leaders and share with them what you want to help sustain.

We hope you will join us May 7. Whether you are ready to leave a legacy or want to simply learn more at our Fox Brothers BBQ luncheon afterward, we hope you will be present so together we can envision a sustainable future.

Grace and Peace,
Barrett

January 1 - March 31, 2023	Actual YTD	2023 Budget
Member Giving Pledge	\$155,323	\$421,275
Member Giving Non- Pledge	\$13,128	\$60,000
Non member giving & Loose offering	\$1,934	\$9,000
Total Received	\$170,385	\$540,275

2023 Session Members & Ministry Teams

Moderator(s)

Rev. Barrett Abernethy
Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

Clerk of Session

David Hill

Christian Education

Mary McClurg
Meg Christian

Congregational Care

Pat Bartee
Htet Nyunt

Fellowship

David Barclift

Finance/Administration/ Stewardship

Charlie Gray
John Hibbard

Outreach

Beppie Lever
Braegan Abernethy

Senior Adults

Dee Bradford-Smith

Witness

TBD

Worship

Gloria Gillespie
Malinda Holmes
Amy Kiley

HOLY WEEK & EASTER



SENIOR ADULTS



Columbia
Seminary
Open House
April 20



LEARNING ALONG WITH Shari Freeman



On April 20, 12 MVPC members attended the “Come See Columbia” event at Columbia Theological Seminary. We started our morning with an inspiring worship service led by two Columbia students who are scholarship recipients from the Columbia Friendship Circle (and are both friends of mine!). We then attended a lecture led by one of Columbia’s professors. Dr. William Brown’s lecture was on ecological themes in the Bible. Dr. Brennan Breed talked about the different images of God that we see throughout the Old and New Testaments. A few of us chose to sit in a Theology class lecture led by Dr. Tim Hartman and Dr. Martha Moore-Keish. After the lecture, we had a delicious lunch in the Columbia dining room and learned more about the work of the Columbia Friendship Circle. Several of us ended our visit with a tour of Mission Haven, a ministry of the Presbyterian Women, which provides housing for missionaries transitioning between different field assignments. I was thankful to have so many Mount Vernon members on campus with me, sharing a bit of my Seminary journey. Thank you to the Senior Adult Ministry Team for coordinating this event!



Youth Sunday



Spring Cleaning
for our Outreach
Partners!



The Choir enjoyed
some of Barrett's
homemade bread
pudding!

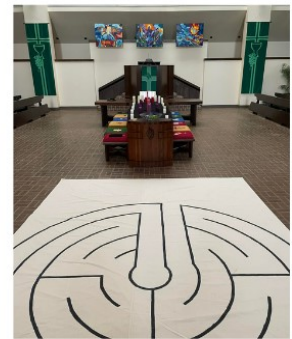
WORSHIP

Taize

This service takes place every fourth Wednesday at 8:15pm.

What is Taize? This is a service of songs, silence, and scripture. It began in 1940 amid the violence of World War II in France. In line with these beginnings, Taize prayer is intended to suspend time for the parishioner. The simplistic songs are meant to be a chant that become prayers, while the silence invites one to talk to God, or more importantly, for God to speak to you.

Next service: Wednesday, May 24 at 8:15pm.



Summer at MVPC

Join us for casual worship in the air conditioned Fellowship Hall and Gym in June and July!

Come climb the mountain (hint, hint) with the pastors this summer!



New Members!

Hannah
Hagenau
thanks you!



We continue to grow with
our newest members!
Mike & Kathy Havey



Thank you to everyone who has donated to the Garden Hill Scholarship Fund for over the past 6 years! The impact that these donations have made is immeasurable! Thanks to your support we have paid the tuition for an average of 31 students a year, with 2023 having a record high of 49 students (significantly more than the first class of 14). This group of students includes 10 eighth graders, 10 ninth graders, 15 tenth graders, 11 eleventh graders, and 3 twelfth graders. The three seniors are Benson Mumba, who has been sponsored since 10th grade, Angela Musonda, who was sponsored in 11th grade, and Kutawila Mwendani, who has been sponsored since 9th grade. All three of these students likely would have been unable to complete their secondary school education without the support of the congregation.

Looking into 2023, we will continue to accept donations through the MVPC website. You can go to the give page and enter “Garden Hill Scholarship” or “Zambia High School Fund” at checkout. Thank you again for all your support through the years.

Hannah Hagenau

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

Church Office
404.255.2211



CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

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



Church Office will be closed Monday, May 29



Outdoor Worship
May 14
(weather permitting)

Church Bulletin Bloopers:

"Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It is a good chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands."

Photos courtesy of: Dee Bradford-Smith, Donna Martin, Beppie Lever, Barrett Abernethy

THIS & THAT

Memorial Day Holiday

Lost & Found

Outdoor Worship in May

Senior Recognition:

- Jack Allen
- Ben Barber
- Kyle Cumming
- Marilyn Minton
- Jack Nelson
- Aidan Ray
- Luke Van Putten
- Taylor Wade

The Spring Issue of
THE MVPC MEMBERS' GIFT OF WISDOM
will be available soon.

MAY CALENDAR

May 2023

SUN

MON

TUES

WED

THURS

FRI

SAT



Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church

Blessed to be a Blessing

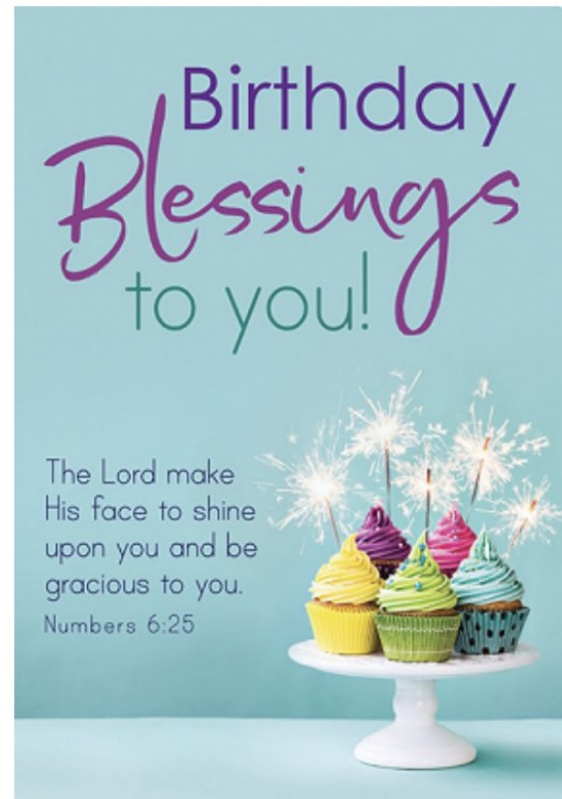
Sunday Worship
10:30am Sanctuary

Office Hours
M-Th 8am - 4pm
Fri 8am - 2pm

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	1 1pm Senior Adult Mtg. - Session	2 9am Presbyterian Zoom 10am - PW CT Chapel 1pm Staff Meeting 5pm CE Meeting	3 8:30am School Chapel 5pm Search Comm 7pm Choir Rehearsal	4 2pm Ledger Meeting	5 8am Budget Prep	6 LNP Sat. School 9am Bagpipes-GH
7 Worship 10:30am 9:30am Adult Sunday School 11:30am BBQ Lunch/C&C 3pm MV Soccer Banquet 7pm ACB - FH	8 5:30pm FAMT - Zoom	9 10am Day Circle-Chapel 1pm Staff Meeting 5pm Worship Meeting-Session	10 8:30am School Chapel 7pm Choir Rehearsal	11 8:30 MVPN-Session 2pm Vernon Springs Bible Study 4:30pm Piano recital	12 10am Book Circle-Session 10:30 Faculty Lunch-GH	13 LNP Parent Orientation 4-6pm 9am Bagpipes-GH
14 OUTDOOR Worship 10:30am Senior Recognition 9:30am Adult Sunday School 7pm ACB - FH	15 6pm Magic Club-FH	16 1pm Staff Meeting	17 8:30am School Chapel 7pm Choir Rehearsal	18 5:30pm M&M	19 6pm Baccalaureate	20 MV Graduation 9am Bagpipes-GH
21 Worship 10:30am 8:30am Men's Breakfast 9:30am Adult Sunday School 11:30am Session Mtg. KC 7pm ACB - FH	22 1pm Staff Meeting	23 1pm Staff Meeting	24 8:30am School Chapel 7pm Choir Rehearsal 8:15pm Taize Good News Deadline	25 6:30pm LNP	26 Last Day of School	27 9am Bagpipes-GH
28 Worship 10:30am 9:30am Adult Sunday School 7pm ACB - FH	29 OFFICE CLOSED	30 1pm Staff Meeting	31 7pm Choir Rehearsal Good News Published		AA - Chapel Mon 6:30pm Al-Anon Tues 7:00pm Thurs 8:00pm Fri - 8:00pm	AA Kirk Center Mon 8:00pm Tues 8:00pm Wed. 8:00pm Thurs. 8:00pm Fri. 8:00pm

MAY BIRTHDAYS

Shelly Ray	5/1
David Hill	5/2
Andrew Nelson	5/2
Sam Nelson	5/2
Brad Skidmore	5/4
Guy Lever	5/6
Kendra Boyer	5/7
Helen Johnson	5/13
Tim Southard	5/15
Anmadri Badenhorst	5/16
Catie O'Hare	5/20
Robin Lindsey	5/20
Nathan Abernethy	5/20
Helen Bigham	5/22
Jon Barber	5/22
Ed Spain	5/23
Laura Northrop	5/26
Wynn Sims	5/29
Spencer Ponsell	5/29



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

Staff Birthdays

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

ZAMBIA 7 SCHOOLS

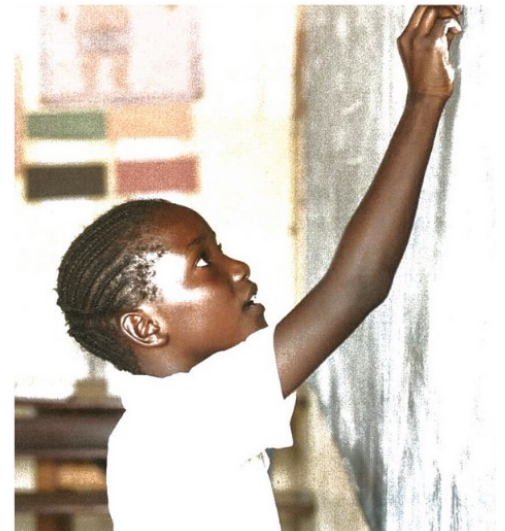
SEATTLE for TRUE GOSPEL
PORTLAND for EDWIN KING
LOS ANGELES for NG'OMBE
TUCSON for TITHANDIZE
HOUSTON for ST. STEPHEN AGAPE
GRAND RAPIDS for FREE BAPTIST
ATLANTA for GARDEN PRES



Thanks to the generous support of the MVPC congregation, the 7 Schools Campaign was a resounding success!

SEVEN SCHOOLS EVENTS

Last year we piloted a new campaign to help renovate each of our seven FaithWorks schools in Zambia. In seven major cities across the United States (Seattle, Portland, Los Angeles, Grand Rapids, Tucson, Houston, Atlanta). With seven in-person events, you listened and learned about all the ways that God is working on the ground in Zambia and what more is in store. As our FaithWorks schools help students perform at a high percentile, the demand is evergrowing to enroll. Last year, you helped break ground on new classrooms to accommodate more students, fences to secure school campuses, build new restrooms and give access to electricity to each of our community schools. Education is a globally recognized solution to help solve poverty and through your giving, vulnerable children in Zambia today can become the changemakers of tomorrow. With rising food costs and economic instability, you also helped us raise the salaries of teachers who not only are educators but role models, confidants, and advocates for our students. Many students in our FaithWorks schools have felt so touched by our programs that upon graduation, they themselves return to their alma mater not as students, but as teachers. Thank you for keeping the chain of change-making going, and helping to expand the reach of quality education to some of the most materially poor children in Zambia.



DID YOU KNOW?

OUR FAITHWORKS STUDENTS PERFORM AT A HIGHER RATE LEVEL ON NATIONAL EXAMS THAN THOSE ENROLLED IN GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS

Getting to Know...

AMY KILEY
WORSHIP MINISTRY TEAM

Who is your hero?

I suppose God/Jesus/the Holy Spirit is my three-in-one hero.

What motivates you to work hard?

Knowing our feeble efforts to emulate Christ can do a little good while we're in this world is what motivates me to work hard.

What is your favorite thing about your career?

I love being a journalist because recognizing someone's personal story is a way of contemplating how our Creator made that person in God's image. It also inherently acknowledges our ability to love each expansively since "human interest" stories would seem irrelevant without that capacity.

What is your biggest complaint about your job?

Love brings us joy, but it also makes us emotionally vulnerable. My current work at CNN forces me to watch videos and write stories that capture some of the worst aspects of humanity, and it's heartbreaking to see fellow children of God enduring or inflicting such pain.

What would you sing at a Karaoke night?

I usually avoid Karaoke because – trust me -- no one wants to hear a classical interpretation of the latest Miley Cyrus hit.



Stephen Ministry, wanting to gain expertise and broaden our service to our church and community, is beginning training on a second book dealing with ministry to people with memory loss and dementia. We are learning ways to help people retain their dignity and personhood and receive encouragement and comfort as they experience change.

We will continue assisting with people in grief, during a divorce, experiencing a move, job loss, or a new health diagnosis or any life change that causes turmoil. Please contact a pastor or Pat Bartee, Stephen Leader, to get connected to this ministry.

Please contact a pastor or Pat Bartee, Stephen Leader, to get started.

PRAYER VINE



Becky - Mary Lea Wood's sister-in-law has swallowing and mobility issues after a bad fall. Going from full health to dealing with several disabilities is difficult. Pray that she can remain positive, optimistic, and hopeful.

David Barclift - is recuperating for six weeks from rotator cuff surgery followed by six weeks of rehab.

David Cullen - Mary Kilgore's son-in-law is receiving dialysis in rehab for kidney issues.

Dave Malloy - friend of Charlie Gray, is now on a long-term regime of antibiotics to fight his infection.

Frank Mayer - Colleen Nelson's father is in long-term treatment for cancer.

Karen Morine - continues to fight ovarian cancer.

Neil Morrison - Betsy Cozine's friend's niece is nearing the end of her treatment for breast cancer.

Andy Nelson - needs strength and faith as he receives treatment for leukemia.

Jill Thompson - former MVPC Administrative Assistant is recuperating from back surgery.

Blessings to our homebound members who often tune into our services.

Blessings for all ministries our church supports in Atlanta (CAC, Stirred-Up Ministries, Clifton Shelter, International Women's House, SS Education Force) and 2 crisis nurseries, a church, and 2 schools in Zambia. Bravery, courage, and faith for the people of Ukraine, Myanmar, Syria, and Turkey. Also for the victims of the recent tornadoes here in the U.S.

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

SESSION MEETING SUMMARY

Stated Session Meeting April 16, 2023

The Session met in its regular monthly meeting on April 16. Following is a summary of that meeting:

- The Finance and Administration Ministry Team gave the Session an update of the ongoing discussions with Mount Vernon School regarding revisions to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The MOU describes the financial sharing arrangements between the church and school related to repairs and upkeep of the campus buildings and grounds as well as funding a capital reserve account to pay for major expenses (such as replacing the HVAC system). The MOU has been updated several times over the years, but the current MOU has not been updated since 2014, five years beyond its scheduled revision date.

- The Outreach Ministry Team reported that Family Promise has approved Misty Creek Church as a Family Promise partner congregation. They will work with MVPC and B'nai Torah when we host Family Promise twice each year.

- Session is proposing a trip to a Braves game following the worship service on a Sunday in June or July. Charlie Gray is getting information about group tickets.

- The Session heard a report on the annual financial audit. Everything is good. The audit committee suggests the church create a financial procedures handbook.

- Commissioners were elected for the May 2 Presbytery meeting. Representing MVPC will be Malinda Holmes, David Hill, David Barclift, and Pat Bartee.

- Rev. Abernethy reported on a very successful Holy Week with excellent attendance at the various Holy Week services.

- With the HVAC repair to begin soon in the Sanctuary Building, we will move worship services to Fellowship Hall beginning June 4.



*The next Stated Session Meeting will be
May 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

Rev. Barrett Abernethy	<i>Senior Pastor/Head of Staff</i>	barrett@mvpchurch.org
Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt	<i>Associate Pastor of Faith Formation</i>	isaac@mvpchurch.org
Steve Ray	<i>Church Finance and Operations</i>	steve@mvpchurch.org
Debbie Nysewander	<i>Administrative Assistant</i>	debbie@mvpchurch.org
Yvonne White	<i>Financial Secretary</i>	yvonne@mvpchurch.org
Shari Freeman	<i>Seminary Intern</i>	shari@mvpchurch.org

Good News!

REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT BIBLE GATEWAY



Thanks to Rick Martin 06-03-2003
GOOD THING I'M A CHRISTIAN ... AT LEAST I KNOW SOMEONE SAW THAT HOLE IN ONE

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