



MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

GOOD NEWS

NOVEMBER 2023



A Note From The Pastor

BY REV. BARRETT ABERNETHY

SAVE THE DATE!

Mount Vernon Family,

We are already hard at work in preparation for the church's 70th Anniversary! In 1954 we started as a humble church plant of Peachtree Presbyterian Church and today we are a thriving 375 person church in the heart of Sandy Springs. Here is a smattering of what we are doing this coming year. Mark your calendars!



January-February: Come (with your family) to take a picture for the new directory. Think less traditional/Olan Mills and more iPhone/DIY. Church member Mike Gillespie will serve as our in-house photographer. You won't need an appointment. Just stay after church for a quick shot. We hope to have it ready for...

IN THIS ISSUE

Pumpkin Palooza

Outreach

Fall Train Ride

Zambia

This & That/
Celebrations

Calendar/Birthdays

MVPC Takes a Hike

Getting to Know...

Session Summary

Prayer Vine

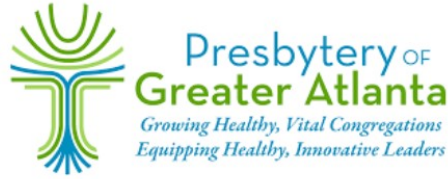
continued on next page



May 19, 2024: Homecoming Sunday! THIS IS THE BIG ONE! Don't plan a vacation for this Sunday. We will welcome back former pastors and friends and enjoy a lunch following worship.



Fall 2024: MVP Foundation Sunday: Within the 70th Anniversary, it is also the 25th Anniversary of the Mount Vernon Presbyterian Foundation! To celebrate the benevolence (over \$500k in grants given to date) MVPF is promoting the "\$70k for 70 years" campaign. Due to a generous donor, this dollar-for-dollar matching campaign is hoping to raise \$140,000 as we envision our ministry serving the community and beyond for the next 70 years!



November 9, 2024: Hosting the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta's Fall Presbytery Meeting. We will need volunteers this Saturday (around 8am-2pm) as we welcome all of our sister churches from the largest (numerical by members) Presbytery in the country.

Beyond these events, we also have other events planned that we hope you will join us as we celebrate the past and look excitedly into the future.

*Grace & Peace,
Barrett*

January 1 - September 30, 2023	Actual YTD	2023 Budget
Member Giving Pledge	\$364,723	\$421,275
Member Giving Non- Pledge	\$63,020	\$60,000
Non member giving & Loose offering	\$5,417	\$9,000
Total Received	\$433,160	\$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

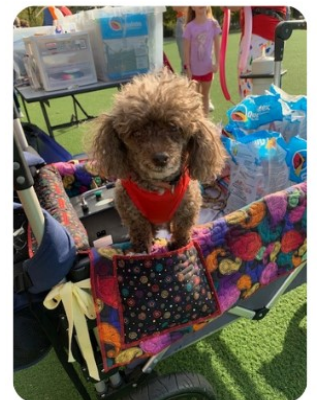
Witness

We are all witnesses to the love of Jesus Christ.

Worship

Gloria Gillespie
Malinda Holmes
Amy Kiley

PUMPKIN PALOOZA



OUTREACH

Our September Communion Offering brought in over \$1000 worth of School Supplies that were given to Stirred Up Ministries and the Teacher's Supply Closet, a collaboration of the Sandy Springs Education Force (SSEF) and the Community Assistance Center (CAC), which is available for teachers to request required classroom supplies for their economically disadvantaged students.

We received a note from one of the teachers:

I wanted to thank you for supplying my students with new classroom supplies. It is a great feeling to know we have the community's support to assist us in making sure our students at Lake Forest have the supplies they need to achieve their academic goals. Thank you again for your support!



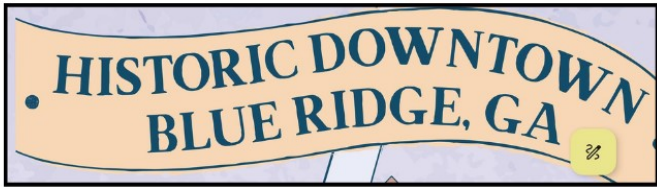
As a new initiative we celebrated Socktober. New socks are always on the wish list from Clifton Night Shelter, the VA Domiciliary, International Women's House, and Stirred Up Ministries. Gently used socks will be donated to the Thrift Store at Community Assistance Center.

We also collected candy, salty snacks and drinks for Trunk or Treat events at Lake Forest Elementary School, Dunwoody Springs Elementary School, and Ison Springs Elementary School, where church members decorated cars and handed out the treats.

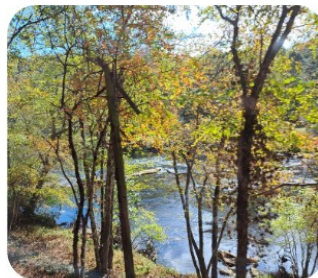
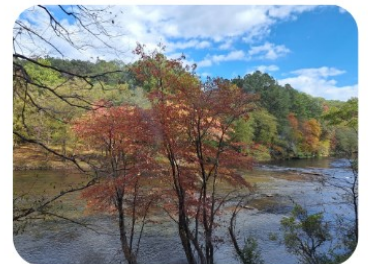


Looking towards November and December, we will continue the traditions of Stuff the Bus for Thanksgiving food for Stirred Up Ministries, the Advent Tree, and hosting for Family Promise the week of Christmas.

SENIOR ADULTS



Blue Ridge Train Trip
Saturday, October 14



ZAMBIA SCHOLARSHIP



The Mt Vernon Presbyterian Church

The Zambian College Scholarship Program

Nine years ago we established the Zambia College 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, Engineering and Culinary Arts. We strive to keep nine to ten 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 eight years and we ask that you do so again. This mission has, is and will continue to change the lives of these students, their families and communities for many years to come.

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 at: mvpchurch.org/give/ and select 'Zambia College Fund'.

For more information or to discuss a contribution, please contact Stan Williams, aswilliams@bellsouth.net 404.245.6749

Thank You



ZAMBIA SCHOLARSHIP

Highlighting Five of our Fourteen Graduates

Vandetta Mulenga graduated with her degree in Clinical Medicine in 2018. She is presently employed as a volunteer clinical officer in Rural Health for the Ministry of Health's Outpatient Department (OPD), where her duties include managing and diagnosing patients clinically and referring them to larger hospitals as necessary. In addition to her regular community outreach activities, she is hoping to further her education to become a surgeon and a mental health activist.



In 2021, **Priscovia Daka** received her diploma in secondary education. She is mostly interested in teaching and learning as a means of assisting the community. While she waits to be deployed by the government, she is now employed in the private sector.

Lloyd Chama graduated from HDCS and was offered a college scholarship to study to become a Pharmacist. As a graduate working for the Zambian government in the rural areas, he is employed as a district pharmacist in the Ministry of Health. He owes it all to God for transforming his life and his tale, he is incredibly appreciative of the organization.



Suzyo Nyirenda is a former student of HDCS and one of the Stewart Scholars in the class of 2017. In 2019 she was offered a sponsorship to study Registered Nursing, and she completed her degree in 2021. Currently, she waits to be deployed by the government. she is working as an intern at a private clinic.

Rosemary Mumba earned a Bachelor of Arts with Education from the University in 2021. She used to be a child who resided in the House of Martha, which was the first crisis nursery run by ACE. She is currently employed by the Zambian Army as an instructor. "She uses a powerful force in the workplace, and her positive attitude is to encourage learners to work hard and succeed."



Current Students

- Jonah Mutambo - 2023**
Pharmacy
- Esther Phiri - 2023**
Elementary Education
- Erick Munyenemba - 2023**
Education
- Kelvin Kabwe - 2023**
Biomedical Engineering
- Patrick Mubanga - 2023**
Biomedical Engineering
- Chishala Misozi - 2024**
Food Production
- Innocent Chileshe - 2024**
Pharmacy
- Chitalu Taonga - 2024**
Education
- Ruth Malunga - 2025**
Fashion Design
- Leonard Sakala - 2027**
Medicine - Surgery





Labyrinth



The labyrinth on the playground has been relocated outside the Chapel.



Amy Kiley will be joining the Clifton Sanctuary Board beginning in January 2024!

Stewardship Sunday



Church members placing their pledge cards in the basket!

We had a wonderful Stewardship Sunday on Oct. 22. It is not too late to turn in a pledge card. Contact Yvonne in the church office for more information.

I see God's face in you.



The children "hid" these wonderful notes of love throughout the church office! Thank you children!



Columbia Theological Seminary Fundraiser



Church members gathered at Trinity Presbyterian Church on Oct. 18 in support of Columbia Theological Seminary. Carol Beckman's father-in-law, Rev. Eugene Beckman, was in the first graduating class in 1928 after the seminary moved to Decatur from Columbia, SC.

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

THIS & THAT

Office Closed
Nov. 23 & 24

"Here's Your Sign"

Don't forget to
turn your clocks
back!



November
Events:
Men's Breakfast
Nov. 12

Hanging of the
Greens & Dinner
Nov. 26

Church Bulletin Bloopers:

"Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our church and community."

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

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

NOVEMBER CALENDAR

November 2023

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
AA-Chapel Mon 6:30pm AI-Anon Tues 7:00pm Thurs 8:00pm Fri - 8:00pm	AA Kirk Center Mon 8:00pm Wed. 8:00pm Fri. 8:00pm	Fellowship Hall Tues. 8:00pm Thurs. 8:00pm	1 8am School Chapel 9:30am Staff Meeting 1pm Stephen Ministry 7pm Choir Rehearsal @ Holy Innocents 5:30 70th Mtg. - Session	2 1:30pm Villages Bible Study 5:30pm M&M - Session	3 9:30am Presbytery in Decatur LNP Sat. School	4 9:30am Presbytery in Decatur LNP Sat. School
5 Time Change Worship 10:30am 9:30am Adult Sunday School 10am Connection Snacks 11:30am Officer Training 4pm Book Sorting - GH	6 1pm Senior Adult Mtg.-Session	7 10am - PW CT Chapel 1pm Staff Meeting 5pm CE Meeting	8 8am School Chapel 7pm Choir Rehearsal @ Temple Sinai	9 11am Vernon Springs Bible Study 2pm Ledger Meeting 7pm CAC Concert @ Temple Sinai	10 10am Book Circle-Session 8am Budget Prep	11 LNP Sat. School
12 Worship 10:30am 8:30am Men's Breakfast 9:30am Adult Sunday School 10am Connection Snacks 7pm ACB-FH	13 5:30pm FAMT - Session	14 10am Day Circle-Chapel 1pm Staff Meeting 5pm Worship Meeting 7pm Taizé	15 8am School Chapel Noon Volunteer Lunch 7pm Choir Rehearsal Good News Deadline	16	17 4pm CAC Dinner-FH	18
19 Worship 10:30am 9:30am Adult Sunday School 10am Connection Snacks 7pm ACB-FH	20 6pm Magic Club-FH NO SCHOOL	21 1pm Staff Meeting NO SCHOOL	22 7pm Choir Rehearsal NO SCHOOL	23 	24 CHURCH CLOSED	25
26 Worship 10:30am 9:30am Adult Sunday School 10am Connection Snacks 11:30am Lunch Bunch 5pm Hanging of the Greens & Dinner	27 8:15am Hike NO SCHOOL	28 1pm Staff Meeting 6pm AMIS - Session Good News Published	29 8am School Chapel 7pm Choir Rehearsal	30		



Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church
www.mvpchurch.org
 404-255-2211

Blessed to be a Blessing

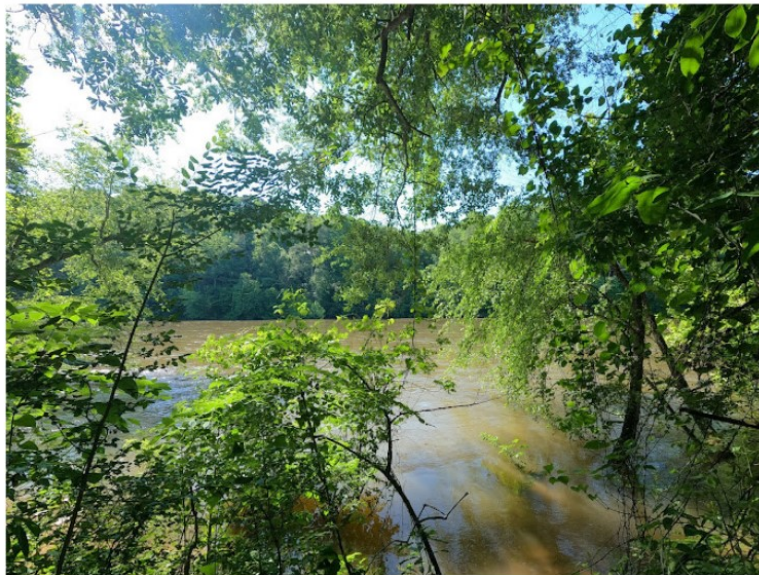
Sunday Worship
 10:30am Sanctuary

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

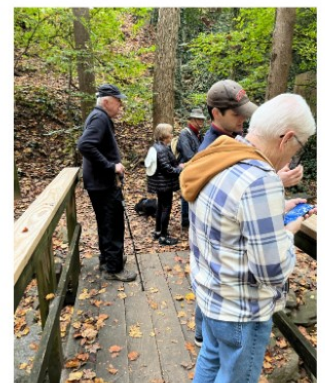
MVPC TAKES A HIKE

An easy hike for all ages!
HIKING WITH THE SAINTS
Monday, November 27 @ 8:15AM

Meet at the church at 8:15am to carpool for a hike on one of the Chattahoochee River NRA Trails off Columns Drive in East Cobb.



Thanks to Bob Addison for providing photos of our hike at Big Trees Preserve here in Sandy Springs.



Getting to Know...

KEITH BUMGARNER

If you could live anywhere, where would it be?
Manhattan

What is your proudest accomplishment?
Helping to raise our children to be happy, productive, and self-sustaining.

Would you rather win the lottery or work at the perfect job? And why?
Win the lottery. I love to work and I'd use part of the money to start a company that affords me the best job ever, so I'd get both.

What is your favorite game or sport to watch and play?
Baseball. It's always been baseball, since I was a little kid and I still love the sport.

What was the last book you read?
The Qur'an, a recent and probably currently the best translation by M.A.S. Abdel Haleem. I've read it through several times and it's one of the most peaceful writings I've ever read.



Stephen Ministry is made up of skilled, trained lay people who, like Stephen of old, feel their spiritual gifts are found in helping others cope, understand, and grow. Please utilize them when a problem in your life becomes too hard to carry alone. In confidentiality, they help one unburden, unpack, clarify, and move forward, in companionship along the way. Suggest them for a friend or neighbor as they also serve the community. Contact Pat Bartee or a pastor to get involved.

Candidates for Stephen Ministry training will be in January.

SESSION MEETING SUMMARY

Stated Session Meeting October 15, 2023

The Session met on October 15 for its monthly meeting. Following is a summary of that meeting:

- Rev. Abernethy is contacting various ministry partners and asking them to participate in Advent candle lighting this year.
- The Finance and Administration Ministry team has been working with Mount Vernon School to update the Memorandum of Understanding which defines the financial responsibilities of both church and school in maintaining the MVPC campus. The MOU has been finalized and signed.
- The Outreach Ministry Team announced a trip to Zambia is being planned for July 10-24, 2024.
- The Safety Committee has worked over the past few months to create a church safety policy that addresses four areas of safety: medical, fire, weather, and intruder. The committee presented the policy which was approved by the Session.
- MVPC Commissioners who will represent MVPC at the November 4th Presbytery Meeting were elected. These include Gloria Gillespie, David Hill, Beppie Lever, and Malinda Holmes.
- Communion dates for 2024 were approved.

*The next Session Meeting will be
December 10.*

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

If you have a birthday in November 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

PRAYER VINE



Dede Callahan - continued healing and renewal of strength as she recovers at the Breman House.

Fay Hendricks - renewed health for Betsy Cozine's friend who struggles with heart issues.

Megan Kendall - Hill's niece, needs a strong sense of God's presence as she starts more intense treatment for breast cancer.

Mary Lynch - mother of Felicia Hutt is undergoing radiation treatment for breast cancer.

Chuck McCrory - Amy Kiley's boyfriend's father, discernment and decision-making for cirrhosis issues.

Karen Morine - Bruce Morine's sister-in-law in New Zealand needs hope and faith as her cancer has spread to other areas.

Meredith Nash - Hill's friend's 4 year old daughter, strength and courage as she continues treatment for several health issues..

Andy Nelson - healing and hope as continues treatment for leukemia.

Mrs. JB - still waiting on a bone marrow donor.

Carter Ramsey - Steve Whisenant's relative in a north GA boarding school needs renewed health as he battles a rare infectious disease.

Virginia Woods - mother of Mary Lea Woods in her final days in Iowa.

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

Blessings upon the ministries our church supports here and in Zambia.

Faith and courage for those reeling from disaster, gun violence, oppression, and injustice and those fighting for freedom and identity.

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



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.

Good News!

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

REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT BIBLE GATEWAY



Thanks to Zachary J. Schertz

11-25-2013

Follow Us
mvpchurch.org

