

GOOD NEWS

APRIL 2024





A Note From The Pastor

BY REV. BARRETT ABERNETHY

It's Anniversary Month!

It's here! It's here! We have been talking about our 70th Anniversary Service for almost a year (if you have not RSVP'd, please do so by calling or emailing the church). There will be other Sundays, however, so we hope you will join for what will be a wonderful May that will catapult us into the sermon series *Summer Fruit* where we will look at the various fruits of the spirit. Here is a preview of what is to come:

May 5: History of the Church Hymn Sing

The church's first formal service at MVPC occurred on May 2, 1954, so it makes sense that we begin this month of celebration by what this church does best - sing! Those of you who joined us on Memorial Day weekend, 2022, may see some similarities to this service but we have changed it up enough and brought up different historical moments that you will enjoy this walk down hymnody lane! Stay after the service and live more into the present by getting involved in one of our hard-serving ministry teams as we hold Coffee & Committees in the Fellowship Hall.

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May 12: Mother's Day/Senior Day

Celebration on the Courtyard We will continue with our second (and final) outdoor service of the spring season. Shari Freeman (who graduates from Columbia Seminary on May 18!) will lead this service as we sing hymns composed by women and celebrate the gifts of our lone senior this year, Emi Lutz. As most of you know, Emi attends The Mount Vernon School and has been with us throughout her senior year helping using her gifts on the guitar to help us lead worship. Next fall, she will matriculate to Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio. Please extend to her our sincere thanks for the joyful noise she has fostered.

May 19: 70th Anniversary Service

By now I hope you know the schedule. Fellowship on the courtyard begins at 9am; Worship begins at 10:30am; Luncheon to follow in the Fellowship Hall. During the day we will welcome back the following former pastors: Asa Meadows, Rick Sommers, Ron Gilreath, Carol Strickland, and Jodi Martin. We will also welcome former church members who answered the call to serve: Phillip and Caroline Dennis, and Nicole Howard Lock.

As of this writing, we have more than 200 RSVPs and we anticipate welcoming between 250-300 people. Please let us know if you are coming and/or if you would like to help us by volunteering (contact the church office). We want to be prepared to welcome you (and your family/friends). WEAR RED: it will be a Pentecost Sunday to remember!

May 26: Trinity Sunday

What our culture calls Memorial Day the church calls Trinity Sunday. Help us ring in summer by exploring the wonderful Trinitarian mystery of how our God can be three persons. Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt will help us ponder this and no doubt leave us with new questions to deepen our faith.

We look forward to seeing you on these Sundays or anytime as we begin the next 70 years of reaching out to welcome, worship, share, and serve at Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church!

Grace & Peace, Barrett

January-March, 2024	Actual YTD	2024 Budget
Member Giving Pledge	\$182,329	\$467,555
Member Giving Non- Pledge	\$14,074	\$60,000
Non member giving & Loose offering	\$16,910	\$9,000
Total Received	\$213,313	\$578,000

2024 Session Members & Ministry Teams

Moderator(s)
Rev. Barrett Abernethy
Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

Clerk of Session
David Hill

Christian Education
Mary McClurg
Meg Christian

<u>Congregational Care</u> Pat Bartee Htet Nyunt

<u>Fellowship</u>
David Barclift
Keith Bumgarner

<u>Finance/Administration/</u>
<u>Stewardship</u>
John Hibbard

Outreach Beppie Lever Braegan Abernethy

Senior Adults
Dee Bradford-Smith

Witness
Lois Johnson

Worship Gloria Gillespie Malinda Holmes

EASTER













OUTREACH

April was a busy month for the Outreach Ministry Team. Our March Communion Offering was for the Columbia Theological Seminary Student Food Pantry. Your donations helped to completely restock this invaluable resource. Students helped Shari and Beppie unload the supplies and restock the pantry, and this was the largest amount of donations OMT has received for a Communion Offering so far this year! Thank you for your generosity!





We received a thank you from Dr. Kathryn Threadgill, VP and Dean of Student Formation and Campus Culture:

Thank you, And for the incredibly wonderful pictures. I am in awe of what Mt. Vernon Presbyterian has shared with CTS students. Thank you so much, Shari to you and your awesome church congregation on all that was so generously shared with us. This has made a huge difference in students' lives as they go through this Spring Break Week and beyond. We are thankful for your compassion and celebrate the relationship you all share with CTS's beloved community. We could not do this without you all in relationship together. Finally, thanks to all who helped unload and stock the pantry. I am thankful to see smiling faces in these photos and know that the Lord has blessed us all. Thanks to you all. And blessings to you in this Eastertide Season.



OMT hosted another successful Spring Cleaning Drive-Thru event on April 7. We collected items for the Community Assistance Center, Stirred-Up Ministries, International Women's House, Sandy Springs Education Force, Clifton Sanctuary Ministries, and Foster Care Support. Thanks to the volunteers who helped sort and prepare donations for delivery!



We also received a thank you note for the supplies donated for our February Communion Offering from Lori White, Director of Community Relations for Clifton Sanctuary Ministries:

Dear Mt. Vernon, Thank you so much for the most recent generous donations to Clifton. We are most grateful for all the essentials! You all bless us greatly and we are so thankful for your partnership as we work to transform lives.

The May Communion Offering is for Stirred-Up Ministries, and the June offering is for International Women's House.

CHRISTIAN VOCATION SHARI FREEMAN

What is our Christian Vocation?

I recently completed a questionnaire for the Presbyterian ordination process, and one of the questions asked was about Christian vocation. I suspect this question was included so that those in the ordination process could reflect on how God calls all of us to serve God and the Church, not just ministers.

"Christian vocation" means the call on Christians to live their lives as disciples of Christ. Presbyterians believe that we all have a vocation as Christians, which the Book of Order describes as "Honoring and Serving God at all times and in all places." (W-5.0105) The protestant reformers Luther and Calvin emphasized that the Christian calling was not just salvation but service to the world as disciples of Christ. Calvin developed a doctrine of vocation emphasizing that our calling encompasses the entire scope of our lives, stating, "The Lord bids each one of us in all life's actions to look to our calling." This vocation includes our work lives, home lives, thoughts and actions, and private and public engagements with others, and the Holy Spirit empowers us with gifts to enable us to live out this calling.

What are your spiritual gifts? How can you use these gifts in service to God and the church? There are several different areas for ministry here at Mount Vernon – including music, worship, Christian education, outreach, witness, pastoral care, and fellowship. I encourage you to reflect on your own spiritual gifts and how you might live out these gifts and your calling here at Mount Vernon.



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Outreach Ministry Team is taking a break from your regularly scheduled Volunteer Spotlight, to highlight an opportunity for you to get involved with one of our ministry partners.

Who are we Spotlighting?

In May, we're spotlighting meals for Clifton Sanctuary Ministries. Clifton provides a transformational experience for homeless men through comprehensive life skills training, purposeful and assertive case management, collaborative community partnerships, and dedicated volunteers. Clifton is a Presbyterian-



affiliated ministry and is the oldest house-of-worship shelter in Atlanta, operating 365 days a year. In addition to preparing and serving dinner each 3rd Sunday of the month, MVPC provides financial support and donations (sandwiches/sack lunches, gently used clothing, and paper products/cleaning supplies) thorughout the year.

How can you help?



We need volunteers (individuals, families, or ministry teams) to prepare or shop for a hot meal and dessert for 20 men (ready to heat and serve). Some homemade or store-bought options include:

- 2.5 gallons of soup or stew with bread and salad
 - Costco Pizza with salad
 - Costco Chicken Pot Pies
- Fried Chicken (Legs and Thighs) and side dishes
 - Pasta/Chicken/Meat Casseroles

Sign up now!

Meals are delivered on the third Sunday of each month. May-December spots are still available! You can help deliver and serve dinner or have another volunteer deliver it for you. Contact Beppie Lever at beppielever@earthlink.net to sign up.

If you have an event and have full leftover pans of entrees or individual desserts for 20 or more that can be frozen for a later date, contact Carol Beckman at carol.beckman@att.net.



MEMBER RECIPES

Friends, starting in June we will begin our "Summer Fruit" sermon series. We will focus on a different fruit of the spirit (Galatians 5: 22-23). Each week we will delve into the cookbooks of MVPC past for a tasty fruity treat to enjoy! To get a head start, grab your MVPC cookbook off the shelf or enjoy these treats for Memorial Day Weekend!

Moma's Apple Cake

1 tsp. baking soda 2 tsp. vanilla extract 1 ½ c. salad oil

2 c. sugar 3 c. chopped apples (Granny Smith are best)

1 1/2 c. chopped pecans 3 c. flour

1 tsp. salt

Topping:

1 c. brown sugar

1 stick butter

¼ c. milk

Mix eggs, salad oil, and sugar and blend well. Add flour, salt and soda, mixed well. Add vanilla, apples, and nuts. Grease and flour pan. Put into greased 8 or 9 inch tube pan. Bake at 350° for 1 hour. While cooking, make topping.

Combine all ingredients and cook 2 1/2 minutes. When cake is removed from oven, poke holes in the cake with a toothpick or small fork. Pour topping over hot cake in pan. Let set until completely cool, and then remove from pan.

Elizabeth Small

Banana Bread

4 ripe mashed bananas 1 ½ c. flour ¾ c. sugar 2 eggs 1 tsp. salt 1 tsp. lemon juice Grated rind from 1/2 of a lemon 1tsp. baking soda 1/4 c. wheat germ ½ c. bran flake cereal (if I use Rasin Bran, I don't ½ c. chopped nuts mind if some raisins sneak in)

Preheat oven to 350°. Grease and flour loaf pan. Beat together bananas, eggs, lemon juice and rind. Add cereal and let set for 5 minutes. Sift together flour, sugar, salt, and soda. Add sifted ingredients to banana mixture. Fold in wheat germ and nuts. Pour into prepared pan and bake for 1 hour (45 minutes if using 3 mini pans). Serves: 1 large loaf or 3 mini loaves.

Debbie Barclift

Orange Blossom Muffins

Glaze (blend well):

Juice of 1 lemon 1 box powdered sugar Grated rind of 1 orange Juice of 2 oranges

½ tsp. salt 3 eggs 1 tsp. vanilla 1 1/3 c. sugar

14 c. orange juice, fresh or frozen ¼ c. water

1/4 tsp. baking soda 1 ½ c. flour

1 1/2 c. baking powder

Make glaze by blending sugar, oranges, lemon, and rind. Set aside. Beat eggs well. Sift dry ingredients and add alternately to eggs with liquids. Add vanilla. Fill small muffin pans 1/2 full and bake 10 minutes at 375°. While warm, dip in glaze. Place on wax paper. Makes 3-4 dozen small muffins. Be sure not to overbake. Can be frozen.

Anne Bavnham



CELEBRATIONS

Children received their bibles!

Thank you to
everyone who helped
fill the shelves at
Columbia
Theological
Seminary!

Spring cleaning was a great success!

We did it! We met the challenge to fill a pickup with food for CAC!









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

> Church Office 404.255.2211



MONDAY-THURSDAY 8 A M - 4 P M

FRIDAY 8AM - 2PM





Emi Lutz, Senior The Mount Vernon School

70th Anniversary Service & Celebration May 19

THIS &

THAT

May

Events:

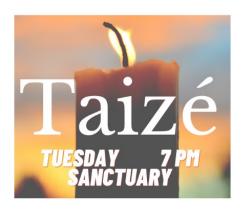
Outdoor Service

Mother's Day &

Senior Recognition

May 12





Taize May 28

Photos courtesy of: Dee Bradford-Smith, Christy Hill, Donna Martin, Beppie Lever, Barrett Abernethy, Isaac Toney-Schmitt, Shari Freeman (Please send any pictures to debbie@mvpchurch.org)

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
Spencer Ponsell	5/29
Wynn Sims	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

MAY CALENDAR

May 2024 (Eastern Time - New York) 9am - Bagpipe Practice @ Gailey 822 - LNP School (Beditesfion 2 30 j m · Eo ›k so rán j (2) Galley 12:30pm - Bagpipe Practice @ 8am - LNP @ Fellowship Hall 11am - Gil Hastings Funeral @ 8:30am - Senior Adult Trip To 8am - LNP @ Fellowship Hall 5pm - AA @ Fellowship Hall 9am - LNP celebration @ 9am - LNP @ Kirk Center 2pm - Prep Sanctuary @ 24 8am - Finance/Admin PRE-MEET 10am - Book Circle, Presbyterian 4pm - MVSchool Baccalaureate 8pm - J.O.-Primary Purprise @ Spm - AA-Primary Purpose @ 8pm - AA-Primary Purpose @ 8pm - AA-Primary Purpose @ 8pm - AA-Primary Purpose @ 4pm - LNP @ Fellowship Hall 8am - LNP @ Session Room **1.** 23 30 7:45nm - MVAA @ Session Room 12:45pm - PreSchool meeting @ 12:45pm - Preschool meeting @ 8:30am - MVPN @ Session Room 12:45pm - PreSchool meeting @ 12:45pm - PreSchool meeting @ 5:45pm - YMSL- Sanc Choir @ 7pm - LNP Board Meeting @ 11am - Vernon Springs Bible 9:30am - Clark Simmons-Pari . A.A. @ Kit Centar 3pm - AA @ Kirk Center 8pm - AA @ Kirk Center 8pm - AA @ Kirk Center 8pm - AA @ Kirk Center **F** 2pm - General Ledger 9pm - LNP FH 53 6pm - 70th Anniversary Meeting @ 23 10:30am - Staff Meeting @ Chapel 8am - School Chapel @ Sanctrery 8ат - School Chapel @ Sanctuary 8am - School Chapel @ Sanctuary 8ат - School Chapel @ Sanctuary 8am - School Chapel @ Sanctuary 4pm - LNP @ Fellowship Hall and 7pm - Chol≻Refurareal@Chol≻ 7pm - Choir Rehearsal @ Choir 2pm - Worship Committee 3 9pm - LNP FH Maritza Morelli Appreciation Day 10:30ат - Staff Meeting @ Chapel 10:30am - Staff Meeting @ Chapel 10:30am - Staff Meeting @ Chapel 10:30am - Staff Meeting @ Chapel 3pm - Stephen Ministry @ Session 6pm - 70th Anniversary @ Session 3pm - Stephen Ministry @ Session 3pm - Stephen Ministry @ Sesslon 3рт - Stephen Ministry @ Session 1:30pm - Staff Worship Planning 7:30am - MV Parent Network @ 7pm - AA-Women's Big Book @ 8am - SSICA Breakfast @ City 4pm - Stephen Min. - Session 10am - Presbyterian Women 3pm - AA @ Fellowship Hall 10am - Day Circle - Session 3pm - AA @ Fellowship Hall pm - AA @ Fellowship Hall 3pm - AA @ Fellowship Hall 7pm - Taize @ Sanctuary 5pm - CE Meeting Zoom Tre 53 12pm - Senior Adult Meeting @ 6pm - Magic Club @ Fellowship 6:30pm - Al Anon @ Chapel CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 5:30pm - Monthly FAMT 8pm - AA @ Kirk Center 3pm - AA @ Kirk Center 8pm - AA @ Kirk Center 8pm - AA @ Kirk Center Low 28 11:30am - Luncheon @ Fellowship 9:30am - Discovery Class, Sunday 9:30am - Discovery Class, Sunday 9:30am - Discovery Class, Sunday 10:30am - Worship @ Sanctuary 10:30am - Worship @ Sanctuary 7pm - Atlanta Concert Band @ 7pm - Atfanta Concert Band @ 10:30am - Worship @ Outdoor 7pm - Atlanta Concert Band @ 7pm - Atlanta Concert Band @ 9:30am - Crossroads Class, 11:30am - Committees and 9:30am - Crossroads Class, 10:30аm - 70th Anniversary 9:30am - Crossroads Class, 9am - Fellowship Hour @ 7pm - AA @ Kirk Center 5

click on "Calendar". This is our Google calendar and is the The church calendar is now available on our website! Go to the website, click on "News & Events" at the top, then most current calendar.

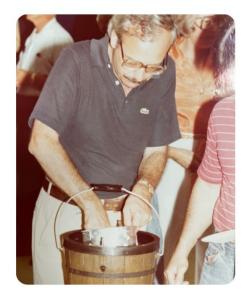
MVPC Events

WHO ARE THESE PEOPLE?

As we prepare to celebrate 70 years, take a moment to look at the following photos of the past. Test your knowledge to see if you know who's who... answers can be found on This & That page.















Getting to Know...

MARGARET SCHAFER

In celebration of our 70th anniversary, this month we are featuring a previous member who now lives in Houston, TX.



Would you rather vacation in Hawaii or Alaska?

Definitely Alaska. I prefer mountains and colder climates (I know, and I live in a hot one!). I am already near the beach so the cold of Alaska beckons me. It's on my bucket list of trips.

List two pet peeves.

#1: When people don't use their turn signal while driving.

#2: When people litter.

What is the tallest building you've ever been in?

The World Trade Center in 1982. We went to Windows on The World with a group from Washington, D.C. when I was working there.

What was your favorite subject in school?

History

What do you do to keep fit?

I walk an average of 12,000 steps per day and work out with weights a couple of times a week. I also play golf.

Stephen Ministers are here when life's problems are too heavy to bear alone. So often, we tend to wear ourselves out trying to solve our own issues and forgetting that God gave us a built-in need for "community" and for help when we need it most. Please utilize these trained, skilled partners in Ministry at our church by contacting a pastor or contacting Pat Bartee, Stephen Leader.



SESSION SUMMARY

Session Meeting Summary April 21, 2024

The Session met for its regularly scheduled meeting on April 21 and conducted the following business:

- · Planning for the 70th year celebration is in its final stages. May 19 is the date of the anniversary service.
- · Years ago, MVPC created a small endowment fund at Presbyterian College to provide scholarships. This year's scholarship recipient is Thomas Hollingsworth from Spartanburg, SC. Thomas is a physics and history major.
- · A note was received from Columbia Seminary thanking MVPC for helping restock the student food pantry.
- · The Session welcomed back into membership Sharon Murphy.
- · The Book of Order (the governing document of PC(USA) requires that each church do a yearly review of its financial procedures. The Session voted to ask Bruce Morine and Katherine Koops to conduct this review of the 2023 church year and report the results to the Session.
- · As part of the implementation of the MVPC Safety Policy, a security officer has been hired to work three-hours on Sunday mornings with the responsibility of unlocking designated doors, assisting with car rider drop-off, and generally keeping an eye on things. A familiar face will be doing this work Jason Locke who formerly was our church sexton will handle security and sexton roles.
- · MVPC will be hosting the November Presbytery Meeting on our campus. Barrett recently met with Andy James, the Presbytery's Stated Clerk to begin the planning process for that meeting. Generally, several hundred Commissioners from the 80+ churches of our Presbytery attend these quarterly meetings. The Session will be asking for volunteers to serve in various capacities to prepare for and welcome Commissioners to our campus on Saturday, November 9.

PRAYER VINE



Christian Sympathy to the family and friends of Gil Hastings, Jr. who died April 18. Service will be held at MVP on May 11 at 11:00am.

Bob Addison - praise that his CT scan came back with no signs of metastasis of his bladder cancer.

Jeannie Chettleburgh - courage and faith for Shari Freeman's sister-in-law, as she undergoes chemo and radiation after brain surgery.

Will Deal - patience & hope for brother of Malinda Holmes, as he has surgery for cardiac issues.

Alma Dowdakin - joy that she received quick medical care For AFib while in Utah attending a wedding. Eliana - rejoicing that back surgery went well and is experiencing pain relief.

Bruce Hagenau - continued success as he continues his new treatment for cancer.

Mark Hughes - peaceful, loving transition for Julie Chestnutt's brother-in-law in hospice care.

Megan Kendall -strength and stamina as she undergoes very challenging & experimental treatment for breast cancer.

Chuck McCrory - strength and faith for Amy Kiley's boyfriend's father, as he is experiencing more complications.

Karen Morine - continued mercies as she is battling the spread of cancer.

Dr. Jane Morrison - wise descision-making and comfort for her family, friend of Beth Abernethy.

Meredith Nash - gratitude for this kindergartner as her cancer is holding steady as she recovers.

Maria Nyunt - comfort and peace for Htet Nyunt's mother in Myanmar who is gravely ill but at home surrounded by family.

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

Greg Slingerland - strength and progress for grandson of Bob Martin and nephew of Donna Martin as he works with physical therapists and begins to look for work in CT.

Maeve Ross - courage and faith for the parents of this toddler whose tumor continues to grow and is inoperable. Doctors will perform a high-risk surgery to remove some of the tumor.

Will Rownd - Joan Rownd's son was diagnosed with Guillain Barre Syndrome and is the hospital.

Linda Thomas - continued recovery after elbow surgery.

Isabelle Vanucci - strength and resolve for a friend of Christina Toney-Schmitt in CA as she struggles to regain the ability to walk.

Allen Wade - continued mercies as he settles into long-term care.

Gail Williams - gratitude that she is back home after another stay in the hospital.



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@mypchurch.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 Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt Shari Freeman Steve Ray Debbie Nysewander Yvonne White Senior Pastor/Head of Staff
Associate Pastor of Faith Formation
Director of Spiritual Care
Church Finance and Operations
Administrative Assistant
Financial Assistant

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WHAT? ... I THOUGHT MY CUP RUNNING OVER WAS A GOOD THING

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