



MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

# GOOD NEWS

JUNE/JULY 2024



## A Note From The Pastor

BY REV. BARRETT ABERNETHY

### *What's the Deal with the New Logo?*

It's been whispered about in the pews since our wonderful 70th Anniversary service this past May 19 and I know you have driven past it while dodging the construction on both Mount Vernon and Johnson Ferry - I am of course talking about the new logo (above)! Several of you have looked at me blankly and said, "What is that?" Well, consider this your tutorial.

### **Where did the new logo come from?**

We can thank our hard-working Mission and Ministry Team who have been gathering for over 2 years to discern how God is calling us in this season of ministry and how can we express that belief. They

have and continue to spend hours deliberating about fonts, taglines, and logos. They have looked at numerous other churches and taken information that we, the church body, has offered through surveys and conversations.

### **What does it mean?**

That is really up to interpretation. Officially, the Mission and Ministry Team are calling it a "star" but that is just one way to look at it. I would also invite you to look at in the same way we are called to look at the PCUSA Seal (pictured on next page). Looking at the seal, you can see a cross, a dove, a fish, a pulpit, a font, a Bible, and the flames denoting the Holy Spirit. Others have even noticed more symbols such as the Trinity within this seal.

*continued on next page*

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So what can we find with this Mount Vernon Presbyterian Seal?

Of course, you can see the star as the Mission and Ministry suggests, but there is so much more:

**1.Cross:** This is at the heart of the seal. It represents the heart of our faith- Jesus Christ, the Crucified and Risen Lord.

**2.The Star:** often seen as a symbol of hope and usually connected to the story of the Magi who followed the star in the night to meet the newly born Christ- the savior had come into the world.

**3.The Flower:** the flower that blooms is often connected to Easter and resurrectional hope.

**4.Butterfly:** Much like the flower, the butterfly is also seen as a resurrectional symbol since much like Christ emerging from the tomb, the butterfly breaks forth from a cocoon.

**5.The Fish:** Have you noticed that each petal when connected to the cross in the middle makes the fish image. The earliest image for Christianity is the fish- as in we disciples are called to be fishers of people.

**6.Reaching Out... to Welcome.**

**Worship. Share. Serve.:** Each petal/fish is a call for us at MVPC to live into our calling as disciples. The way we profess that spirit is to welcome, worship, share, and serve. How are you and how are we living out each petal/fish or platform for discipleship?

Admittedly, I struggle to see much more, but I am curious, what do you see? Keep looking at it- after all, it will be at the top of each bulletin going forward.

*Grace & Peace,  
Barrett*



**PCUSA SEAL**

How many different symbols can you find in this logo?

**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

**Congregational Care**

Pat Bartee  
Htet Nyunt

**Fellowship**

David Barcliff  
Keith Bumgarner

**Finance/Administration/  
Stewardship**

John Hibbard

**Outreach**

Beppie Lever  
Braegan Abernethy

**Senior Adults**

Dee Bradford-Smith

**Witness**

Lois Johnson

**Worship**

Gloria Gillespie  
Malinda Holmes

Jan - April 2024	Actual YTD	2024 Budget
Member Giving Pledge	\$226,213	\$509,000
Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$19,604	\$60,000
Loose Offerings	\$17,287	\$9,000
Total for week	\$263,104	\$578,000



# 70th ANNIVERSARY





# 70th ANNIVERSARY





# OUTREACH



Our April Communion Offering was for the Community Assistance Center. We collected 575 pounds of food and supplies! Francis Horton, CEO of CAC, personally picked up our donations.



The Young Adults gathered on Sunday, April 21 to prepare and serve food at Clifton Sanctuary Ministries.

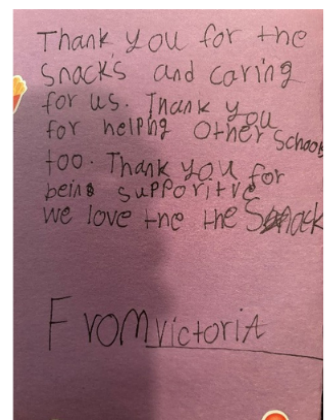


MVPC received recognition as Volunteer of the Year from Sandy Springs Education Force at the Volunteer Breakfast, for our work in sorting, storing, and distributing books.

We received a thank you note from Victoria, a student at Ison Springs Elementary: "Thank you for the snacks and caring for us. Thank you for helping other schools too. Thank you for being supportive. We love the snacks." We also received a thank you from Ms. Burnett at Sandy Springs Charter Middle School for providing treats for the celebration of six students who graduated out of the English Language Learner program. She wrote, "This is a wonderful surprise and testament that God answers prayers."

Thank you for your generous donations to the PCUSA One Great Hour of Sharing offering. We collected \$1,713.23.

Our May Communion Offering was summer camp supplies for Stirred Up Ministries, and our June Communion Offering is for the International Women's House.





# GIFTS OF WISDOM

REV. ISAAC TONEY-SCHMITT

## “Share”

Mount Vernon Presbyterian is a church  
*Reaching out to ... Welcome. Worship. Share. Serve.*

Our tagline pairs clear purpose with creative potential. We ARE a church that welcomes and worships and shares and serves; but if you ask two members what those words mean to them you will likely hear a variety of answers.

‘Share’ has the most potential for creative interpretation. Do we share resources and space with other organizations? Do we share the Gospel message? Do we share the stories of our lives? Do we share our full selves with one another in an honest and authentic way? All of these hold a bit of the truth about MVPC! We are a congregation that shares and looks forward to the new ways that God invites us to share.

I feel like I’ve been ‘shared’ by this congregation to work out in the community, and the end of this school year marks the end of this ‘sharing,’ for now! My Leadership Perimeter class met twice a month since the early Fall of 2023. We learned about the politics, education system, non-profit organizations, school systems, and much more of Dunwoody, Brookhaven, and Sandy Springs. We completed multiple civic projects across the cities, rebuilding canopies at fire stations and hosting book drives for the Sandy Spring Education Force. Importantly, we broadened our vocational connections across the three cities so that we may share in one another’s projects. I’m grateful to now know so many community leaders who want to work together to improve our community, and I feel that my call to make meaningful spiritual space for our community was strengthened.

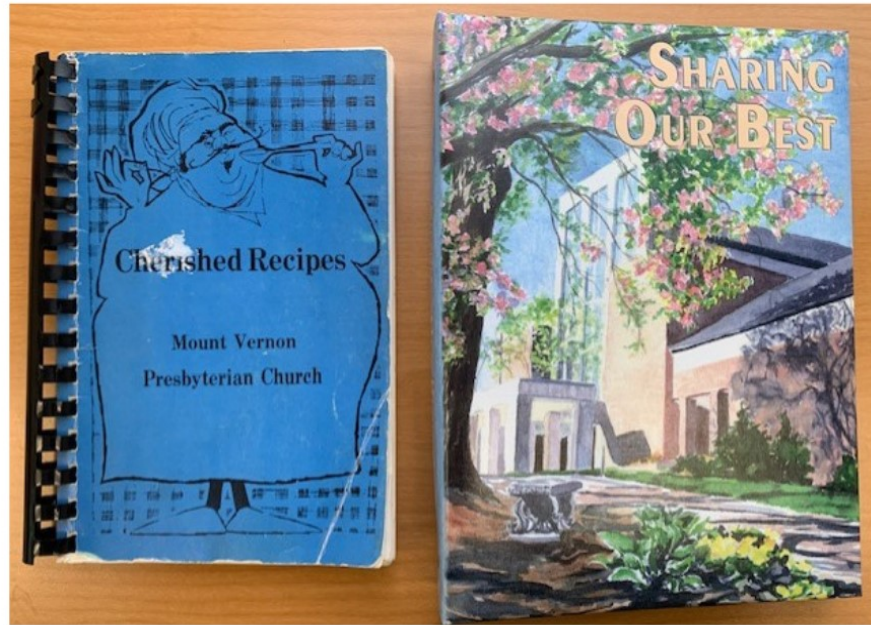


Isaac graduated from his  
Leadership Perimeter class!



# SUMMER FRUITS

SHARI FREEMAN



On June 2, we launch our “Summer Fruit” sermon series, which examines each of the Fruits of the Spirit from Galatians 5:22-23. The Fruits of the Spirit are listed in a section of Galatians that focuses on Christian freedom. In this section, the Apostle Paul warns against the “works of the flesh” and then encourages the Galatians to rely instead on the Spirit’s power for experiencing true freedom. The Fruits of the Spirit, love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control, sum up the attributes of a person or community experiencing freedom and living in accord with the Holy Spirit.

In addition to the Fruits of the Spirit, during this series we will highlight fruit-based desserts from the Mount Vernon cookbooks, the “Cherished Recipes” cookbook from the 1970s, and the 2004 “Sharing our Best” cookbook. Each weekly email will include a recipe from these cookbooks, and we will offer a taste of the recipe during the connections time before worship. The authors of the original recipes (or their children or friends) will prepare the recipes for each week. So, get ready for Banana Bread, Apricot Bars, Lemon Cake, Date Nut Cake, Cherry Cheesecakes, Pineapple Cake, Clafouti, Lizzies, and more!





# CELEBRATIONS

We have a lot to be thankful for!



Senior Adults present Shari Freeman a book from their Monastery trip for congratulations on her graduation!



Our guitarist, Emi Lutz, graduated from The Mount Vernon School and received the David Barclift Service Award at their commencement.



End of Year party with the Choir.



Mount Vernon Presbyterian was collectively recognized as the Volunteer of the Year by the Sandy Springs Education Force.



Congratulations to Shari Freeman who graduated with her Master of Divinity from Columbia Theological Seminary!



David & Debbie Barclift introduce their new grandson, Leo Preston Rene Emery



Congratulations to Judge Wendy Hagenau on her retirement!



Mailing Address:

MVPC

P.O. Box 76051

Sandy Springs, GA 30358

404.255.2211

mvpchurch.org

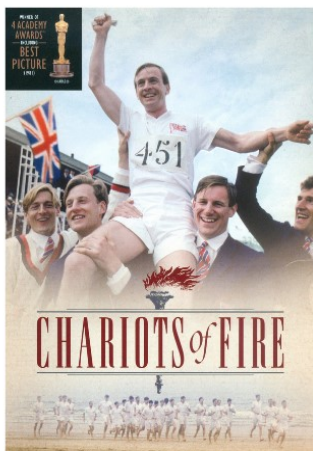


## CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY-THURSDAY

8 AM-4 PM

FRIDAY 8 AM - 2 PM



Did you get your new pictorial directory? If not, be sure to pick one up in the Narthex.

*Photos courtesy of: Dee Bradford-Smith, Christy Hill, Donna Martin, Barrett Abernethy, Napat McCabe (70th Anniversary Photographer)  
(Please send any pictures to [debbie@mvpchurch.org](mailto:debbie@mvpchurch.org))*

# This & That

**Juneteenth  
Office Closed**  
June 17

**Senior Adults  
Movie Matinee**  
June 22

**Family Promise**  
July 7 - July 21

**"Jersey Boys"**  
July 16

**New Pictorial Directory**





# JULY CALENDAR

Jul 2024 (Eastern Time - New York)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
	12pm - Senior Adult Meeting @ 6:30pm - AI Anon @ Chapel 8pm - AA @ Kirk Center	10:30am - Staff Meeting @ Chapel 1:30pm - Staff Worship Planning 3pm - Stephen Ministry @ Session 5pm - CE Meeting Zoom 7pm - AA-Women's Big Book @ 8pm - AA @ Fellowship Hall		<b>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</b> 7:45am - MVAA @ Session Room 8pm - AA @ Kirk Center	8pm - AA-Primary Purpose @	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
<b>FAMILY PROMISE FHTGH</b> 9:30am - Crossroads Class, 9:30am - Discovery Class, Sunday 10:30am - Worship @ Sanctuary 7pm - AA @ Kirk Center 7pm - Atlanta Concert Band @	5:30pm - Monthly FAMT 6:30pm - AI Anon @ Chapel 8pm - AA @ Kirk Center	7:30am - MV Parent Network @ 10am - Day Circle - Session 10:30am - Staff Meeting @ Chapel 1:30pm - Staff Worship Planning 3pm - Stephen Ministry @ Session 7pm - AA-Women's Big Book @ 8pm - AA @ Fellowship Hall		2pm - General Ledger 8pm - AA @ Kirk Center	8am - Finance/Admin PRE-MEET 10am - Book Circle, Presbyterian 8pm - AA-Primary Purpose @	9am - Bagpipe Practice @ Galley
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
<b>FAMILY PROMISE FHTGH</b> 9:30am - Crossroads Class, 9:30am - Discovery Class, Sunday 10:30am - Worship @ Sanctuary 7pm - AA @ Kirk Center 7pm - Atlanta Concert Band @	6pm - Magic Club @ Fellowship 6:30pm - AI Anon @ Chapel 8pm - AA @ Kirk Center	10:30am - Staff Meeting @ Chapel 1:30pm - Staff Worship Planning 3pm - Stephen Ministry @ Session 4pm - Stephen Min. - Session 7pm - AA-Women's Big Book @ 8pm - AA @ Fellowship Hall		8pm - AA @ Kirk Center	8pm - AA-Primary Purpose @	9am - Bagpipe Practice @ Galley
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
<b>FAMILY PROMISE FHTGH</b> 9:30am - Crossroads Class, 9:30am - Discovery Class, Sunday 10:30am - Worship @ Sanctuary 11:30am - Session Mtg @ Kirk 7pm - AA @ Kirk Center 7pm - Atlanta Concert Band @	6:30pm - AI Anon @ Chapel 8pm - AA @ Kirk Center	10:30am - Staff Meeting @ Chapel 1:30pm - Staff Worship Planning 3pm - Stephen Ministry @ Session 7pm - AA-Women's Big Book @ 7pm - Taize @ Sanctuary 8pm - AA @ Fellowship Hall	<b>Newsletter Deadline</b>	7pm - LNP Board Meeting @ 8pm - AA @ Kirk Center	8pm - AA-Primary Purpose @	9am - Bagpipe Practice @ Galley
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
9:30am - Crossroads Class, 9:30am - Discovery Class, Sunday 10:30am - Worship @ Sanctuary 7pm - AA @ Kirk Center 7pm - Atlanta Concert Band @	6:30pm - AI Anon @ Chapel 8pm - AA @ Kirk Center	10:30am - Staff Meeting @ Chapel 1:30pm - Staff Worship Planning 3pm - Stephen Ministry @ Session 7pm - AA-Women's Big Book @ 8pm - AA @ Fellowship Hall				

# VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Hannah Hagenau: "Hannah's Zambia Fund"



*Thank you to all the MVPC members who donate their time and energy to benefit our community! The Outreach Ministry Team "spotlights" our members to share their volunteer experiences and the many opportunities available. If you know of someone who should be spotlighted, please contact Beppie, Braegan, or Christy.*



"I feel lucky and blessed to help..."

Along with others from MVPC, Hannah is returning to Zambia this summer. This will be her third trip. Moved to help Zambian students continue their education on through high school and even beyond, Hannah initiated a campaign to fund tuition for students to attend Garden Hill. Below, she shares her story, how it started and grew and the amazing difference her commitment has made in the lives of so many.

"In 2015, I was starting 9th grade at MVPS and was looking for a topic for my iProject. iProject was a year-long project that each MVPS high schooler was required to do, but they could choose to do anything. Before the school year started I attended a meeting with members of the church who had just returned from Zambia. My parents had gone previously and my confirmation project was fundraising for soccer nets for the local girls tournament, so I was already familiar with our church's work there. The returning members told us they had learned on their trip that many graduates of Garden Presbyterian School could not afford the tuition at the local high school, Garden Hill, and that any free schools were too far to travel. I was moved by this story and convinced two of my friends to help me come up with a solution to the problem. Ultimately, we decided to fundraise to pay for the student's tuition beginning in the 2016 school year (Zambia's schools start in January). That first year we successfully paid the tuition of 14 high school students who had graduated from Garden Presbyterian. In 2024, the church and I are paying the tuition for 46 students. In total, over 260 scholarships have been paid for through the generosity of so many of our members. Several of the students that have been funded over the past several years have even been offered positions at elite private schools and several have gone on to college."

"I have been very blessed to have visited Zambia twice and am visiting a third time this summer. Being able to meet the students is what makes this project so special to me. I have always enjoyed being able to relate to them and find our shared experiences even though we are from different continents. Every one of these students is extremely deserving of a high school education and I feel very lucky that I am blessed to be in a position to help. If you are interested in helping these students, please make a donation to the church marked for "Hannah's Zambia Project" or "Garden Hill Fund"."



# Getting to know...

**PATRICIA HIBBARD**

## **Is your glass half-full or half-empty?**

When bad things happen, the glass is still half-full. Most of the time it feels more like an all-day water bottle than a little juice glass. I'm very grateful.

## **Do you collect anything?**

When I was young, I collected bears. I tried stamp collecting for a Girl Scouts badge, but that didn't stick. As an adult, I collect blue and white china and antique thimbles, but the collection that has found me is fabric. Using it up is my favorite hobby.

## **Is there anything you wished would come back into fashion?**

This is going pretty far back, but hats and gloves. My grandmother wore beautiful, small hats. I had a great aunt who had gloves to match all her dressy clothes-I have a lot of good memories of trying on her gloves. I prefer a floppy sun hat myself, and consider garden gloves essential.

## **Have you ever had a surprise party?**

(that was an actual surprise) I've actually had three. One was when I was 5-the whole family was sitting down to dinner, my big sister asked me to get her an apron-and surprise! All my gifts were there in the closet (and I got to open them before dinner!) My work friends in the client service department of BDA/BBDO gave me a surprise bridal shower. The third was right after my 24th birthday-I picked up John at D/FW airport and he wanted to go straight to our favorite Tex-Mex spot and all our small-group friends were there to celebrate!

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

FAMILY. I'm proud of my daughters and their husbands, the people they've become and their accomplishments. I'm proud of my husband and of the many good things he does. Of course, I'm proud of our little granddaughter! I'm proud of our church family and the things we have done and are doing. But I can't take credit for these things, other than being a part of the working together for good. And it's almost always good!

## **What is your biggest fear?**

My biggest fear is that I won't live long enough to use all of my craft supplies! I focused on work for 42 years while collecting them; now I want to use every piece of paper, stamp and die cut to make more greeting cards for friends and family.



Stephen Ministry is open to church members and the community. Many just need someone to walk through a difficulty with them, many need clarification in a confusing situation, many have let a loss overwhelm them, many have a chronic or new disease that is hard to handle alone, or it may be that one has many problems but the latest one just toppled the whole mess. We can help, by listening without judgment, by asking questions that help you clarify your goals, by being dependable and confidential, and by offering comfort and resources.

Call Pat Bartee, Stephen Leader, or a pastor to get involved.

# JUNE/JULY BIRTHDAYS

Jack McGuire 6/3  
 Heidi Nelson 6/5  
 Jeff Schneider 6/6  
 Tracy Hahn 6/7  
 Jack Allen, Jr. 6/9  
 Dale Morine 6/9  
 Shari Freeman 6/11  
 Robert Barclift 6/13  
 Allison Eustis 6/13  
 Brent Schwieger 6/13  
 Carrie Southard 6/14  
 Isaac Toney-Schmitt 6/14  
 Rachel Reid 6/15  
 Susan Simon 6/16  
 Braegan Abernethy 6/16  
 Addison Baitcher 6/18  
 Cole Truitt 6/18  
 Ross Truitt 6/18  
 MacKenzie Truitt 6/18  
 Dee Bradford-Smith 6/18  
 Amanda Badenhorst 6/20  
 Mavis Boadi 6/21  
 Julie Chesnutt 6/25  
 Denise Hunt 6/26  
 Joan Rown 6/28



Rebecca Simon 7/3  
 Htet Nyunt 7/3  
 Lorry Clark 7/4  
 Barbara Hughes 7/5  
 Robin Truitt 7/5  
 Susan Fields 7/5  
 Carol Beckman 7/7  
 Ed Taylor 7/7  
 Peter Thomas 7/11  
 Martha Baitcher 7/12  
 Sally Williams 7/12  
 Chris Sprung 7/14  
 Debbie Barclift 7/15  
 Aubrey Forlines 7/16  
 Connor Hughes 7/18  
 Andrew Sevicik 7/19  
 Gail Williams 7/24  
 Mike Havey 7/24  
 Gill Christian 7/25  
 Warren Gray, Jr. 7/26  
 Verne Bliss 7/30

## STAFF BIRTHDAYS

Yvonne White January 26  
 Shari Freeman June 11  
 Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt June 14  
 Debbie Nysewander July 2  
 Jill Hudson October 21  
 Rev. Barrett Abernethy October 30  
 Steve Ray December 1



*If you have a birthday in June or July and don't see your name on the list, please contact [debbie@mvpchurch.org](mailto:debbie@mvpchurch.org) or call the office.*



# PRAYER VINE



**Bob Addison** - resolve and grit as he continues his treatment for bladder cancer.

**Bill Barron** - faith and healing for father of Meg Christian as he heals from hip surgery in Knoxville.

**Jeannie Chettleburgh** - sister-in-law of Shari Freeman, who is recovering from chemo and radiation.

**Lorry Clark** - gratitude she has returned to rehab after a bout with pneumonia.

**Hazel Cofield** - who is in the hospital with bronchitis.

**Will Deal** - wisdom and skill for the surgeons of Malinda Holmes' brother who will have open heart surgery.

**Bill Duncan** - comfort and calm as he begins hospice care in his home.

**Bruce Hagenau** - courage and strength as he continues a trial treatment for his cancer.

**Mark Hughes** - brother-law-of Julie Chesnutt, peace and calm in hospice care in FL.

**Megan Kendall** - strength and hope as she continues her trial treatment for breast cancer.

**Erven Kimble** - Charlie Gray's friend at MD Anderson to eradicate and decide on treatment plan.

**Chuck McCrory** - continuing mercies for Amy Kiley's boyfriend's father, as he battles complication from severe cirrhosis.

**Karen Morine** - renewed hope as she battles her recurring "unwanted tenant", as she humorously puts it.

**Meredith Nash** - gratitude for the overall return to health. Her family is very thankful for our prayers.

**Andy Nelson** - strength, faith, and hope as he faces a transplant soon for his recurring leukemia.

**Marie Nyunt** - gratitude for unexpected improvement for Htet Nyunt's mother in Myanmar.

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

**Will Rownd** - continued healing for Joan Rownd's son who had a sudden onset of Guillain-Barre Syndrome.

**Greg Slingerland** - grandson of Bob Martin and nephew of Donna Martin, joy that he can now drive to his OT and PT appointments.

**Larry Stewart** - relative of Charlie Gray as he recovers from a stroke and is paralyzed on one side but stable.

**Maeve Ross** - faith and strength for the parents who is slowly being weaned from a ventilator and preparing for intermittent dialysis.

Blessings on our new Stephen Ministry trainees as they learn how to minister to our congregation in hard times.  
Mercies and thanksgiving for our homebound members who paved the way for our vibrant congregation response to worship and to service.

Do you need prayer?

Have our Prayer Vine pray for you!

Email your requests to [pbartee@yahoo.com](mailto: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](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>Shari Freeman</b>	<i>Director of Spiritual Care</i>	<a href="mailto:shari@mvpchurch.org">shari@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 Assistant</i>	<a href="mailto:yvonne@mvpchurch.org">yvonne@mvpchurch.org</a>
<b>Jill Hudson</b>	<i>Music Director</i>	<a href="mailto:jillh@mvpchurch.org">jillh@mvpchurch.org</a>

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**Good News!**

