

MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
GOOD NEWS
OCTOBER 2024



A Note From the Pastor

By Rev. Barrett Abernethy

Editor's Note: You will receive this Stewardship letter in the mail along with a pledge card. We look forward to joining you for Stewardship Sunday on November 3.

Dear Mount Vernon Family,

This past year has been one of celebration and great change. On the one hand, we continue to celebrate 70 years of serving Christ in the heart of Sandy Springs. On the other hand, our location in the center of a bustling community has led to several physical alterations of our campus. Acknowledging these changes, we have spent this fall *"Planting Trees"* in worship as we recognize the need to replant where our landscape has been uprooted while studying how this biblical metaphor roots us firmly to God in Christ. It is from this inspiration that we are calling this year's Stewardship Campaign ***Sowing Seeds in Faith.***

We offer this mantra not as a call to something you are not doing but rather thanking you for what you continue to do. We know 2025 at MVPC will be full of more celebration and change, but one of the constants we witness as the seasons and years progress is your commitment to be a church *Reaching Out To... Welcome. Worship. Share. Serve.* You have embodied who we are, and you continue to sow these seeds. We are excited to share that as of this writing Giving is up by 15% compared to last year. It is through your communal generosity that we can sustain current ministries and invest in new ones.

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Here are a few highlights:

1. We have welcomed Jill Hudson and Rev. Jonathan Freeman whose musical gifts allow us to live into the modern worship service we offer by blending our traditional roots with contemporary elements.

2. We have celebrated as Shari Freeman graduated from Columbia Seminary and has transitioned from Intern to Director of Spiritual Care. In this new role, she has improved our pastoral care for homebound members and envisioned new ministries with senior adult living facilities.

3. More people continue to utilize our campus as a hub for spiritual and intellectual knowledge. Recently, our Senior Adults collaborated with Emory's Alzheimer's Research Faculty to bring 180 community members together to gain insight into healthy aging.

4. Over the last year our Children's Ministry has seen greater participation on Sundays, and we have developed a consistent Young Adult Ministry that comes together for Small Group studies and off campus fellowship events.

5. We were able to make the first churchwide trip to Zambia in more than 5 years.

There are so many other highlights beyond this list (that you probably can name), but that is the beauty of sowing seeds. We know there is always another seed that must be sown, watered, and cultivated. In this hope we invite you to join us on Sunday, November 3, during worship, as we make our pledge to continue to sow the seeds so that the ministry of God can flourish here at MVPC.

Grace and Peace,

Rev. Barrett Abernethy
Mr. Charlie Gray

Jan - August 2024	Actual YTD	2024 Budget
Member Giving Pledge	\$369,711	\$509,000
Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$46,415	\$60,000
Loose Offerings	\$21,394	\$9,000
Total YTD	\$437,520	\$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

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

OUTREACH

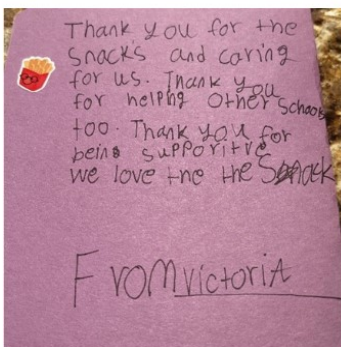
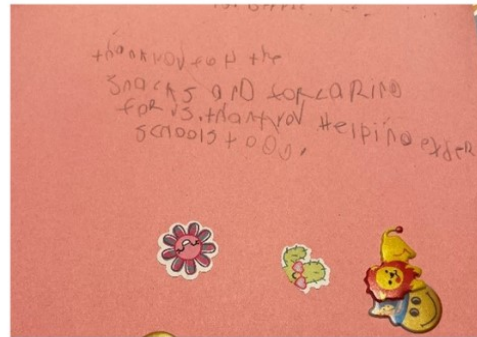
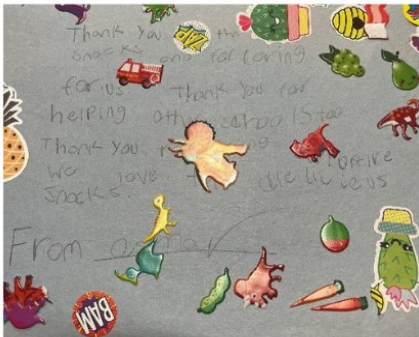
Our August Communion Offering of school supplies for Sandy Springs Education Force (SSEF) and Stirred-Up was a huge success. 52 orders were filled in the first four weeks that the Teacher Supply Closet was open! A thank you note from a high school teacher receiving supplies noted:

"On behalf of my students, I want to thank you for helping them get off to a great start! Some of them were taking some time to bring supplies for various reasons such as waiting for a parent's next payday, making sure younger siblings have supplies first, or they had no transportation to shop. We received our order, so instruction didn't miss a beat."

"Thanks so much for your donations! They really make a difference in our community."



With the start of new school year, the Outreach Ministry Team (OMT) has been able to continue to utilize our new budget line to support local schools. \$200 in various gift cards were donated to Ridgeview Elementary to support their Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS) Program. Also, see thank you notes written by Ison Springs Elementary students for donations snacks for end-of-year testing.



Our September Communion Offering was for the CAC Food Pantry. We focused on providing children's items like diapers, formula, and snacks. Our October Communion Offering is treats for various schools' Trunk-or-Treat festivities. See our call for volunteers in this month's newsletter. We're also collecting new & gently used socks for SOCKtober to benefit multiple outreach partners.



ZAMBIA COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Celebrating Ten Years of Changing Lives!

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 - Stan'.

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



Ten years ago the Zambian College Fund was established by Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church to educate deserving students in an effort to break cycles of poverty, hopefully changing the trajectory of their lives for generations to come. According to recent studies, 70% of children in Zambia live in poverty with over 1.2 million children identified as orphans. These are the young people that we hope to reach with this program. These deserving students are able to continue the hard work they have completed in High School and begin to realize the dreams they have of being teachers, pharmacists, engineers, doctors, and more.

In the past ten years, 17 students have graduated from various programs and 15 students are currently enrolled. The first student who completed her education is Cecilia Mvulva. She graduated from the Helen DeVos Christian School (HDCS), ACE's main secondary school and did not have the means to continue her education. The Zambian College Fund awarded her a scholarship and she was able to complete her degree as a Clinical Medical Officer in 2017. Cecilia came back and volunteered at the high school she loved while she looked for a job in her field. In 2018, she was deployed by the Zambian government to be a Medical Officer in the Southern part of Zambia where she now serves her fellow countrymen in that capacity she says: "I have loved my work experience so far! Working directly with people when they are in need physically is both a call and a blessing. With God's help, I am able to have patience, understanding and confidence in my work! I am so grateful to you all for sponsoring me - here I am today, smiling!"

Lloyd Chama was the first of our Pharmacy students to graduate. Lloyd was raised in the Kanyama neighborhood where the Helen DeVos Christian School (HDCS) is located. His father was very sick and his mother couldn't afford to send him to school. ACE stepped in and Lloyd was sponsored through high school by a member at Mt. Vernon. When he graduated, it was a natural progression to award him a scholarship for college. Lloyd did very well in pharmacy school and now works for the government in rural areas in Zambia - giving back to his community. He dreams of raising enough money to start his own pharmacy and eventually would like to go back to school and lecture in Chemistry.



ZAMBIA COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP FUND



Brighton Mambwe began his education in one of ACE's FaithWorks primary schools. After graduating from the Helen DeVos Christian School (HDCS), he earned his college degree in secondary education. Following graduation, Brighton started a career as a volunteer teacher at Helen DeVos Christian School. From January to December 2020, he worked as an intern for the Ministry of Youth and Sports. His commitment to education throughout the years led the Alliance For Children Everywhere Zambia to hire him as a teacher at the Helen DeVos Christian School, where he is currently employed.

Jack Mwale is a married father of two kids, he was one of the first pupils sponsored by ACE through Helen Devos School. He completed his Secondary Teachers' Diploma under ACE's sponsorship from 2013 to 2015, graduating in 2016. He started working for the Ministry of Education in 2017 as a secondary instructor. He went onto receive his Bachelor of Science in Education and currently, the scholarship program is helping him to get a master's in mathematics so that he can continue to achieve his dreams.



The current scholarship students are studying various subjects, including medicine, education, food production, pharmacy, fashion design and engineering. Pharmacy student, Jonah Mutambo shares: "I would like to specifically state that your continuous sponsorship and support has given me the resilience to carry on up to this far. As it would have not been easy for me to reach this part of a milestone with only hard work considering the current financial state and background of my family. It is my desire to do my level best in order to successfully complete my course so that I can in turn return the favor by helping people who would be in need of academic help in my community. Thank you!"

Thank you so much for your faithfulness in answering the call to care for orphans in their time of need. It is hard to express the true gratitude from the students whose lives have been changed by your generosity and response to their call for help. This is not an easy task but, as you consider how God may be calling you to sponsor further students, take heart. "He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it" (1 Thessalonians 5:24).

Thank You



GIFT OF WISDOM



Heather and Heath beneath treading feet, the day's journey filled with defeat.

The heather shares its resiliency to nature's call; its early blooms, supporting bees and butterflies through the Fall. The rich nectar gifting prolific blooms, there is plenty for all.

Endurance, surrounded, though thriving in harsh conditions, commanding admiration and protective solutions.

Treasured by a Queen, embraced for independence, confident in its solitude, worn in her hair and gifted without pretense.

We wonder of this journey down an unknown, yet welcoming path.

Leaning on all of these traits, reflecting, as the path beckons.

Thankful for the heather and the heath, purposely placed. An ancient beauty covering the ground as we reckon.

Look closely, there is always a treasure to be found.

Dee Bradford-Smith

GETTING TO KNOW ...

OUR NEWEST MEMBER, KATHY HARBIN

What would you change about yourself if you could?

I would like to have a little more self-confidence. As a child, I was very shy and through the years I have overcome most of that.

If you could live anywhere, where would it be?

I used to want to live in Paris, but now I'm happy living near family and friends.

What is your favorite thing about your career?

I'm retired, but there were many things I enjoyed about my career. I had always wanted to travel, so I was thrilled to be hired by Delta as a flight attendant. More than just the travel aspect was the opportunity to work with so many different people, whether they were coworkers or passengers. I also appreciated the fact that it wasn't a 9-5 job, 5 days a week. I usually worked 3 days and had 3 days off. It suited me.

What was the last movie you went to? What did you think?

The Boys in the Boat. It was a true story and very inspiring.

Which would you rather do: wash dishes, mow the lawn, clean the bathroom, or vacuum the house?

Wash dishes, for sure. It actually brings back memories of being alone in the kitchen after the family finished dinner and listening to the latest tunes on the radio.



Stephen Ministry is ready to meet people where they are, floundering with a personal issue too tough to handle alone. That's where we enter, listening and encouraging, and just being there with you as you begin to solve the problem. Often, we can help you in clarifying problems and offer resources and perspective. Please utilize our skilled, trained laypeople who start with 50 hours of training but are continually adding to their knowledge base to best serve our congregation.

Contact Pat Bartee, Stephen Ministry Leader or a pastor to get connected.



CELEBRATIONS

We have a lot to be thankful for!

Braves Game



We loved going to the Braves game - even though we lost!

Connections Appreciation Tea



Hazel Cofield turned 102!!



Each attendee chose a painting to take home.



January



February & March



April



May & June



July & August



September

Mailing Address:

MVPC

P.O. Box 76051

Sandy Springs, GA 30358

404.255.2211

mvpchurch.org



CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY-THURSDAY

8AM-4PM

FRIDAY 8AM - 2PM

This & That

OCTOBER EVENTS

Committees & Coffee

10/13

Pumpkin Palooza

10/20

All Saints Day

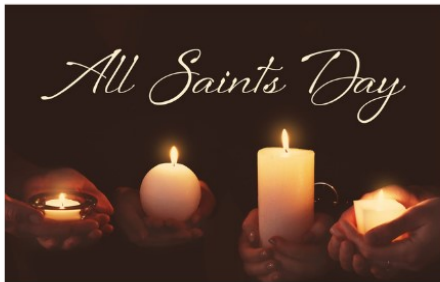
10/27

Taize

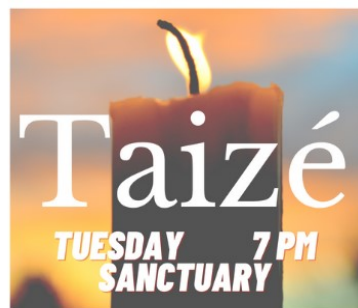
10/22



Don't forget to wear your costumes!



Outdoor service with the John Mohr
McIntosh Pipe and Drum Band.



*Photos courtesy of: Dee Bradford-Smith, Barrett Abernethy, Braegan
Abernethy, Shari Freeman*

(Please send any pictures of your events to debbie@mvpchurch.org)

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY



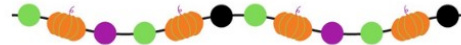
TRUNK OR TREAT

Volunteers needed

October 24 Dunwoody Springs Elementary

October 25 Ison Springs Elementary
Spalding Drive Elementary
Woodland Elementary

November 1 Lake Forest Elementary



Enjoy a fun evening supporting our local schools by decorating your car and passing out books and treats. Contact Beppie (beppielever@earthlink.net) to reserve a date.

WORLD FOOD DAY

Did you know that October 16, 2024, is World Food Day? World Food Day commemorates the founding of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization in 1945 and is celebrated every year on October 16. The organizations that oversee World Food Day adopt a different theme each year to highlight areas needed for action and provide a common focus. The theme for 2024 is "Right to foods for a better life and a better future," which aims to highlight the immediate and long-term benefits of prioritizing access to safe and nutritious food for all.

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), The World Council of Churches, and many other groups promote World Food Day by highlighting groups and initiatives across the world that are building equitable and sustainable food systems and encouraging their members to engage in working for food justice.

Mount Vernon supports programs focused on eradicating hunger and food insecurity throughout the year. Each month, the Outreach Committee organizes a communion offering to support a local ministry or non-profit, often focused on food availability.

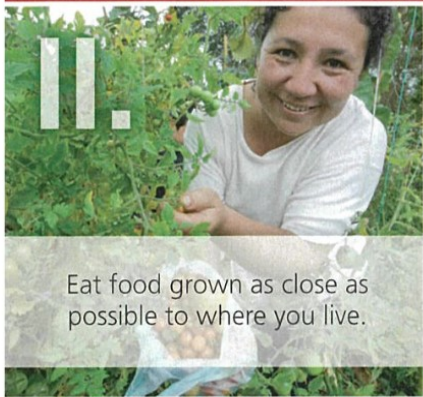
Check out the following page to see the Ten Commandments of Food, developed by the World Council of Churches. Which of these commandments resonates with you?

WORLD FOOD DAY

TEN COMMANDMENTS OF FOOD



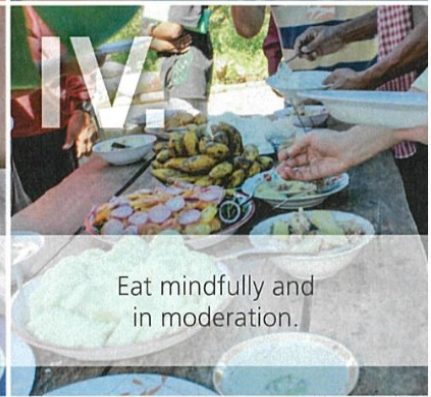
Give thanks for the food you eat.



Eat food grown as close as possible to where you live.



Strive for all people to have knowledge about and access to affordable, nutritious food.



Eat mindfully and in moderation.



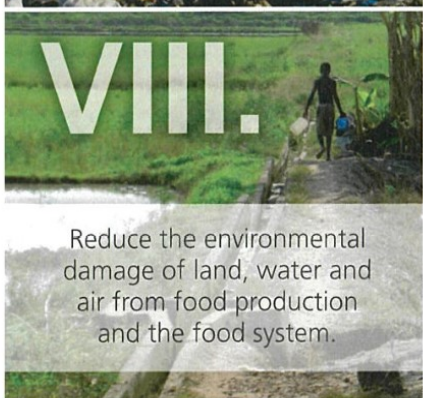
Do not waste food.



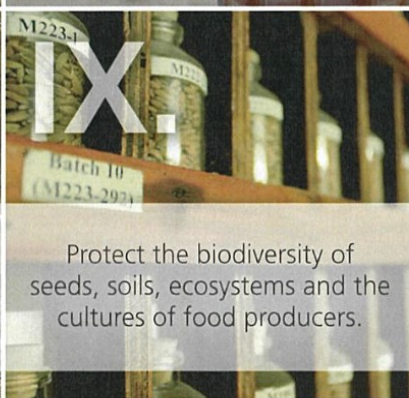
Be grateful to those who grow and prepare food for your table.



Support fair wages for farmworkers, farmers and food workers.



Reduce the environmental damage of land, water and air from food production and the food system.



Protect the biodiversity of seeds, soils, ecosystems and the cultures of food producers.



Rejoice and share the sacred gift of food with all.



www.oikoumene.org/foodweek

Photos: Paul Jeffrey, Mike Garcia, Nicole Benz, Sean Hawkey, Armin Paasch, Celestine Ngulube, WCC-EAA | Design: Nicole Benz

Food for Life 



World Council of Churches

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Todd Simon	10/2
Tara Allen	10/5
Madison Hahn	10/5
Rita Sheffey	10/5
Sarah Chalpan	10/6
Ellen McCormick	10/6
Ann Williams	10/9
Marion Satterfield	10/10
Ian Hughes	10/11
Susan Hasell	10/11
Lisa Cumming	10/13
Lucy Pugmire	10/14
Marguerite Nelson	10/14
Leah Reid	10/15
Wright Hardy	10/17
Barbara Bruce	10/18
Charlie Bryson	10/20
Lisa Gray	10/20
Charley Plumly III	10/22
Bryce Cumming	10/23
Bryan Jackson	10/28
Kwaku Boadi	10/28
Mary Beth Combs	10/28
Hannah Hagenau	10/29
Jack Sims	10/31
Amy Kiley	10/31
Kathy Havey	10/31



If you have a birthday in October 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
Jill Hudson	October 21
Rev. Barrett Abernethy	October 30
Steve Ray	December 1

OCTOBER CALENDAR

Oct 2024 (Eastern Time - New York)

MVPC Events, barrett@mvpcchurch.org

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
		10am - Staff Meeting @ 1:30pm - Staff Worship 5:30pm - CE Meeting 7pm - AA-Women's Big 8pm - AA @ Fellowship	8am - School Chapel @ 10am - Busy 1pm - PS weekly meet @ 2:30pm - Stephen 5:30pm - Presbytery 7pm - Choir Rehearsal @	7:45am - MVAA @ 7pm - Busy 7pm - LNP Board Meeting 8pm - AA @ Kirk Center	8pm - AA-Primary	9am - Bagpipes @ Gailey
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9:30am - Crossroads 9:30am - Discovery 10:30am - Worship @ 7pm - AA @ Kirk Center 7pm - Atlanta Concert	1pm - Senior Adult 6:30pm - Al Anon @ 7pm - Scouts @ Gailey 8pm - AA @ Kirk Center	7:30am - MV Parent 9am - Staff Retreat @ 10am - PW Coordinating 10:30am - PW Day Circle 7pm - AA-Women's Big 8pm - AA @ Fellowship	8am - School Chapel @ 1pm - PS weekly meet @ 2pm - Worship 7pm - Choir Rehearsal @	11am - Vernon Springs 2pm - General Ledger 8pm - AA @ Kirk Center	8am - Finance/Admin 10am - PW Book Circle @ 8pm - AA-Primary	9am - Bagpipes @ Gailey 9am - LNP @ Session
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
9:30am - Crossroads 9:30am - Discovery 10:30am - Worship @ 11:30am - Committees 4:30pm - Book Sorting @ 7pm - AA @ Kirk Center	2:30pm - Busy 5:30pm - Busy 5:30pm - Monthly FAMT 6:30pm - Al Anon @ 7pm - Scouts @ Gailey 8pm - AA @ Kirk Center	10am - Staff Meeting @ 1:30pm - Staff Worship 4pm - Stephen Min. - 7pm - AA-Women's Big 8pm - AA @ Fellowship	8am - School Chapel @ 1pm - PS weekly meet @ 7pm - Choir Rehearsal @	8pm - AA @ Kirk Center	8pm - AA-Primary	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
9:30am - Crossroads 9:30am - Discovery 10:30am - Worship @ 11:30am - Session Mtg @ 4pm - Pumpkin Palooza 7pm - AA @ Kirk Center	6pm - Magic Club @ 6:30pm - Al Anon @ 7pm - Scouts @ Gailey 8pm - AA @ Kirk Center	10am - Staff Meeting @ 1:30pm - Staff Worship 7pm - AA-Women's Big 7pm - Taize @ Sanctuary 8pm - AA @ Fellowship	Newsletter Deadline 8am - School Chapel @ 12pm - SSICA @ Session 1pm - PS weekly meet @ 7pm - Choir Rehearsal @	7pm - LNP Board Meeting 8pm - AA @ Kirk Center	8pm - AA-Primary	8am - Emily's Trick or
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
9:30am - Crossroads 9:30am - Discovery 10:30am - Worship @ 11:30am - Coffee & 7pm - AA @ Kirk Center 7pm - Atlanta Concert	6:30pm - Al Anon @ 7pm - Scouts @ Gailey 8pm - AA @ Kirk Center	10am - Staff Meeting @ 1:30pm - Staff Worship 7pm - AA-Women's Big 8pm - AA @ Fellowship	Barrett Birthday 8am - School Chapel @ 1pm - PS weekly meet @ 7pm - Choir Rehearsal @	8pm - AA @ Kirk Center		

Go to our website for a live view of the calendar!

SESSION SUMMARY

Stated Session Meeting Summary

September 15, 2024

The following items of interest were addressed at the September Session meeting:

- The Presbytery of Greater Atlanta will host the fourth quarter Presbytery Meeting on the MVPC campus on Saturday, November 9th. The Session is asking for volunteers to sign-up to help with various responsibilities related to this meeting. People can use Sign-Up Genius or notify the church office. We expect about 300 people from across the Presbytery to arrive on our campus for this meeting.
- The Finance and Administration Ministry Team (FAMT) reports that member giving continues to be strong when compared to previous years. Collections are running about 15% ahead of schedule.
- The church and the city have finalized the transfer of land and funds related to road construction. Money received from the city will be invested until needed; FAMT is investigating the best ways to approach this investment.
- The annual Pumpkin Palooza event is coming up on October 20th. This year there will be a costume contest for adults - get your costumes ready!
- The Session approved a Mount Vernon Foundation Grant for Garden Presbyterian Church in Zambia to build the roof for the church manse.
- The Facility Use Task Force has begun work to examine the various groups that use our campus and how we might better address campus security and building clean-up and maintenance related to use by outside groups. This task force will develop a Facility Use Policy.

PRAYER VINE



Christian Sympathy for the families of Nancy Nutter who died September 20, and Philip Dreger, III (father of James Dreger) who died suddenly on Sept. 7.

Bob Addison - faith and courage as he battles bladder cancer. His next round of chemo begins Oct. 16.

Jeannie Chettleburgh - sister-in-law of Shari Freeman, is seeing an oncologist who is able to try innovative ways to treat her glioblastoma brain tumor.

Lorry Clark - has recently made Addington Place in Johns Creek her home and is on hospice care. As she says, "Bloom where you are planted".

A.J. Cole - full recovery from bladder surgery.

Gene Elder - full recovery from a rare skin cancer and is receiving radiation.

Allison Eustis - gratitude for the quick recovery from shoulder surgery.

Bruce Hagenau - courage and endurance for the last 6 treatments for his cancer.

Barbara Hughes - is recovering from surgery to place a pacemaker.

Megan Kendall - has a well-deserved respite from treatment and rests for surgery on Nov. 8 for breast cancer.

Erven Kimble - peace and contentment for him and his wife as he transitions after a diagnosis of incurable cancer.

Corny Laube - comfort and faith as he enters hospice care.

Chitip Likitcharoen - sister of Chantima who works in Children's Church, relief of severe back pain and lives in Thailand.

Chuck McCrory - thankful that he was able to travel and attend Jay and Amy (Kiley) McCrory's wedding here at MVPC.

Karen Morine - wise counsel from physicians as they view a scan and determine the path ahead.

Andy Nelson - total recovery after transplant surgery.

Ann Young - is recovering from hip replacement surgery.

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

Maeve Ross - wisdom from physicians as they tend to chronic problems. She goes to the hospital for weekly therapies

Katherine Slayback - praise and joy for her reawakening and beginning to recognize family. She was the caregiver for Anna Morine.

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

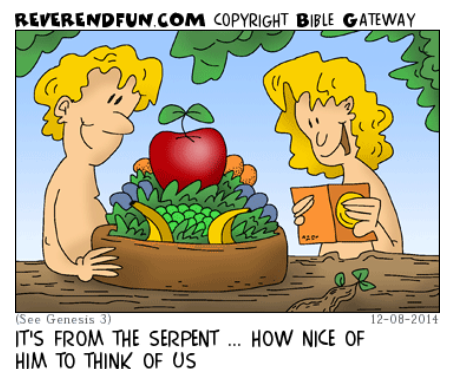
Got News? We'd love to hear from you! Send us your news so we can celebrate, laugh, and/or cry with you. After all, we are FAMILY. Deadline for news is the third Wednesday of each month for the *next month's* newsletter. Send your submissions to debbie@mvpchurch.org.

If you no longer wish to receive the Good News, please send an email to debbie@mvpchurch.org.

**Good
News!**

Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church Staff

Rev. Barrett Abernethy	<i>Senior Pastor/Head of Staff</i>	barrett@mvpchurch.org
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Yvonne White	<i>Financial Assistant</i>	yvonne@mvpchurch.org
Jill Hudson	<i>Music Director</i>	jillh@mvpchurch.org



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