



MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

GOOD NEWS

NOVEMBER 2024



A Note From the Pastor

By Rev. Barrett Abernethy

The Talk of Fall Sunday Mornings

Now that the calendar has turned to November we are in the throes of two different seasons. One of those is rearing its head somewhere in the background as you read this in the form of a political ad. The other is college football.

Since we are in polite company we are told to not talk about the former, but oh, do we love to talk about the latter come Sunday mornings this time of year. This past month, I was able to make a quick trip to the cathedral known as Bryant-Denny Stadium and there I met up with a pastor friend of mine who had never been to an Alabama game. If you have never had the privilege to take in this sociological experiment, out in front of the stadium,

there are larger than life size statues of each coach who has won a National Championship for the beloved Crimson Tide. As we walked past these idols commemorating former glory, my friend asked, "How did this all begin? Why is this so important?"

The answer to this question is the 1925 Rose Bowl, the so-called "Game that changed the South." On that New Year's Day, Alabama did the unthinkable. They beat the mighty Washington Huskies, 20-19, delivering the first title for the team and ensuring the edifice of Coach Wallace Wade would forever tower over all who made the pilgrimage to Tuscaloosa. Today, we wouldn't think much of such a score

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(of course Alabama would beat Washington), but back then this game had the capacity to change how people saw themselves as Southerners. For at that time, the south and football did not go together like peas and carrots. In fact, the south was the laughingstock of the gridiron.

Adding insult to injury, Auburn University Professor Wayne Flynt has remarked, "In 1925 the KKK amassed the largest membership in their history and the Scopes-Monkey Trial in Tennessee inspired New York based reporters to question the intellectual capacity of the Southerner." Hence, the conventional wisdom of a majority of Americans was that the south was a backwater, still reeling mentally, spiritually, and economically from the Civil War.

That's why that game on the first day of 1926 still shapes our Sunday morning fall conversations to this day. It's why Rev. Jesse Jackson told then LSU head coach Nick Saban in 2007, "Your team on a Saturday night in Tiger Stadium is closer to the kingdom of God than my church." That game nearly 100 years ago fostered a common identity. It's why when a southern team wins outside the region the fabled "S-E-C" chants emerge. The collective myth was created on that California winter day. The southern working man might have lost the war, might have been seen as backwards and racist, but he could say proudly, "Our boys can beat your boys."

Thankfully, I would like to believe, that much of that initial thinking has dissipated. I don't believe Rev. Jackson, a man who marched with King, would have seen such a vision of Tiger Stadium otherwise. Rather, today, what compels the narthex echoes of "Did you see that game?" each Sunday morning, or the chuckling, "Barrett, how did Alabama lose to Vandy?" comes from a place of shared identity rooted in a common connection forged over generations. It's why people who live in these parts but don't like football are forced to learn the pigskin parlance. Because it connects and allows us an opening to get to those deeper truths. Because beneath every Roll Tide or Go Dawgs is a longing to be a part of a communal identity. That's why, at its best, the fall Saturday is a gateway to the fall Sunday, because as these last 100 years have revealed, we long, through integration and opportunity, to see more and more welcomed to the table.

So while many, if not all of us, can't wait for the seasons that divide us to end, I hope you will relish the season meant to bring us together to celebrate competition, courage, and the inevitable conversation that comes after we say hello on Sunday mornings in the fall.

Jan - September 2024	Actual YTD	2024 Budget
Member Giving Pledge	\$401,378	\$509,000
Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$51,556	\$60,000
Loose Offerings	\$21,880	\$9,000
Total YTD	\$474,814	\$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 Barclift
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

PUMPKIN PALOOZA



OUTREACH

Our October Communion Offering was treats for various schools' Trunk-or-Treat festivities. We also collected new & gently used socks for SOCKtober to benefit multiple outreach partners.

We solicited a call for items needed for Hurricane Helene relief in Asheville, NC and surrounding communities. Former church member Syliva McAdam visited church on October 13 to share a message and pick up the donations for delivery. In addition to our congregation's generous donations of diapers, wipes, and feminine products, OMT also used \$500 of undesignated funds to purchase those items as well as disposable hazmat coveralls, heavy duty rubber gloves, and respirator masks.



Senior Adults and friends met in October to prepare SSEF books for Trunk-or-Treat and fall festivals at local schools. We also used our local schools support fund to purchase new blankets to go in holiday baskets for Riverwood students whose families are homeless.

In November, our Communion Offering will be Thanksgiving food items for Stirred up Ministries and we will be promoting participation in CAC's Hope for the Holidays program (see our Volunteer Opportunity Spotlight also in the Good News).



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY SPOTLIGHT



HOPE FOR THE HOLIDAYS



The adoption portal opens on November 1 and closes in the first week of December. Visit <https://ourcac.org/give-to-youth-programs/> for more info. Don't have time to shop? Visit <https://mvpchurch.org/give/> and select Special Offerings, designating Hope for the Holidays or send a check to the church with CAC Holidays in the memo line. Donations will be used by OMT to purchase gift cards for older children in the portal.

You can make a child's holiday season a little happier! Give holiday gifts to children of local families in need through the **Community Assistance Center**. CAC has created a portal to help pair families in need with neighbors who can provide help. You'll be able to view families and their stories, and select a family to sponsor for the holidays. Donors are asked to spend ~\$100 per child and bring their new and unwrapped gifts to CAC. The program serves about 1,500 local children each year.

GIFT OF WISDOM



Birch

The beauty of the woods leading the way,
framing the frozen road's Winter journey,
protecting the new beginnings of the day.

Worshipped before the Word was written,
Kindling for Beltane fires while the Maypole dances,
taking no chances,
to assure abundant crops. Beautiful boughs
dressed in red and white rags,
hang over Midsummer's door tops.

So many gifts the Birch leaves,
Brewed medicinal teas,
Canoes for hunting,
stitched bark as vessels,
Toasting sap into mead.

The birch lined road beckons the sentinel pines on the ridge.
The new beginnings build the bridge, the birch takes the lead.

ALL SAINTS' DAY



All Saints' Sunday

Dale Turner	8/26/23
Eleanor Brazell	1/16/24
Louise Lord	3/18/24
Gilbert Hastings, Jr.	4/19/24
David Whitacre	8/3/24
Barbara Bush	8/17/24
Nancy Nutter	9/20/24
Barbara Hughes	10/14/24



Staff Retreat

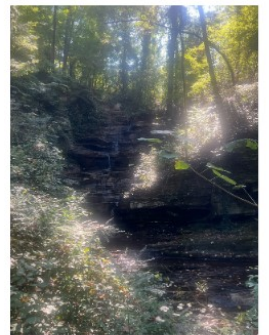
Last month, the church staff embarked on their first staff retreat in years. Thanks to a wonderful grant from the Mount Vernon Presbyterian Foundation, the seven of us enjoyed the day at the Ignatius House Jesuit Retreat Center in Sandy Springs. While there, we focused our time and exploration on the concept of vocation. To do this, we used the following quote by PCUSA Pastor and Scholar Frederick Buechner:

"Vocation is the place where our deep gladness meets the world's deep need."

Through this quote we engaged in past celebrations and team building exercises. We also welcomed one of the Ignatius House onsite spiritual directors, Father Jim Fleming. Overall, this was a tremendously enriching day that offered the staff a respite from the daily grind and provided us ways to support one another.

Thank you for your support of the staff. They do so much that often goes unseen.

Peace,
Barrett





CELEBRATIONS

Barrett's 40th
Birthday



Lordy-lordy! Barrett's 40!

*My cup is full. Thank you for all the wonderfully
kind birthday greetings!
Barrett*



New Members!
Kathy Harbin
Judith Roe



MVPC went to a Braves
game!



The staff was treated to
lunch by the radio
station 104.7 The Fish



Young Adults
Feasted at the Barcliff's



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

This & That

NOVEMBER EVENTS

Stewardship Sunday

11/3

Greater Atlanta
Presbytery Meeting

11/9

Taizé

11/26

2025 MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ESTIMATE OF GIVING

2025 Stewardship: Sowing Seeds in Faith



Name(s): _____

My total gift for 2025 will be \$ _____

I plan to give:

1 Time

Weekly

Monthly

Quarterly

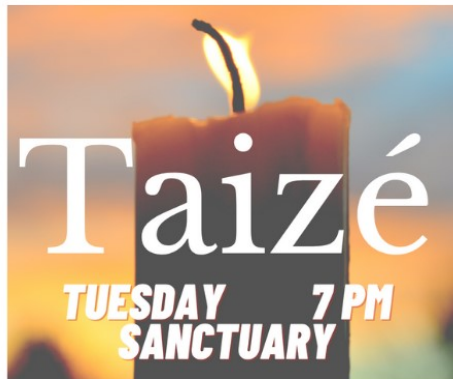
Yes, please send me a Contribution Book.

Using the enclosed envelope, please bring your pledge card on Stewardship Sunday, November 3; or mail your pledge card to: P.O. Box 76051, Sandy Springs, GA 30358; or send an email to yvonne@mvpchurch.org.



Presbytery OF
Greater Atlanta

*Growing Healthy, Vital Congregations
Equipping Healthy, Innovative Leaders*



*Photos courtesy of: Barrett Abernethy, Braegan Abernethy, Shari
Freeman, Steve Ray*

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

THANKSGIVING PRAYER

Thanksgiving Prayer

This Thanksgiving, Dick and I will gather for a meal with family, and Dick will offer a prayer before the meal while we stand in a circle holding each other's hands. Will you be gathering with family or friends for a meal this Thanksgiving? If so, is it your custom to pray before the meal?

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Directory for Worship reminds us that we "bear witness to the good news of Jesus Christ when we pray in the presence of others, particularly at interreligious gatherings. Such gatherings are opportunities to live and share our faith, even as we listen to and learn from others."

Here is a Thanksgiving prayer that you could use at your gathering.

*God of Love and Abundance,
We come before you today with grateful hearts.*

We see the work of your hands in the beauty of creation.

We see the abundance of your provision in the food and drink before us.

We experience your own love for us through the friends and loved ones who surround us.

*May this meal nourish and strengthen us so that others
may experience your love and abundance through our
kindness, care, and concern.*

*Let us live true lives of gratitude as we pray in thanks to
you, our God, who lives forever and ever. Amen.*

Shari Freeman



GETTING TO KNOW ...

DALE MORINE

If you could live anywhere, where would it be?

I would live overlooking the beach at St. Helliers Bay, Auckland, NZ

What two radio stations do you listen to in the car the most?

I listen to NPR when I'm in the car.

What are your hobbies?

My hobbies are travel, gardening, hiking, swimming, racquet sports and reading.

What is your favorite childhood memory?

My favorite childhood memory would have to be the annual August school holidays on my uncles dairy farm in NZ.

Is your glass half full or half empty?

I definitely look at the glass half full.



"Ask for help not because you are weak. But because you want to remain strong."

Les Brown



It just takes a phone call or email to get connected with our Stephen Ministry. It offers you weekly encouragement, resources, comfort, and clarity. Help is dependable, confidential, and one-on-one. We look forward to helping you through rough patches.

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

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS



Barbara Brooks	11/1
Donna Martin	11/2
Anne Baynham	11/5
Kyle Cumming	11/5
Sam Brasher	11/5
Ken Mead	11/6
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
Barbara Williams	11/30

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 October and don't see your name on the list, please contact debbie@mvpchurch.org or call the office.

NOVEMBER CALENDAR

Nov 2024 (Eastern Time - New York)

MVPC Events, barrett@mvpchurch.org

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
9:30am - Crossroads 9:30am - Discovery 10:30am - Worship @ 11:30am - Officer 7pm - AA @ Kirk Center 7pm - Atlanta Concert	1pm - Senior Adult 6:30pm - AI Anon @ 7pm - Scouts @ Gailey 8pm - AA @ Kirk Center	10am - Staff Meeting @ 1:30pm - Staff Worship 5:30pm - CE Meeting 7pm - AA-Women's Big 8pm - AA @ Fellowship	8am - School Chapel @ 10am - Presbytery 1pm - PS weekly meet @ 2:30pm - Stephen 7pm - Choir Rehearsal @	7:45am - MVAA @ 2pm - General Ledger 8pm - AA @ Kirk Center	8pm - AA-Primary 8am - Finance/Admin 10am - PW Book Circle @ 8pm - AA-Primary	7am - Presbytery - Stated
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9:30am - Crossroads 9:30am - Discovery 10:30am - Worship @ 11:30am - Officer 3:30pm - XC Banquet 7pm - AA @ Kirk Center 7pm - Atlanta Concert	1pm - Staff Meeting @ 1:30pm - Bulletin 5:30pm - Busy 5:30pm - Busy 5:30pm - Monthly FAMT 6:30pm - AI Anon @ 7pm - Scouts @ Gailey 8pm - AA @ Kirk Center	7:30am - MV Parent 10am - PW Coordinating 10:30am - PW Day Circle 12:30pm - Roswell, 7pm - AA-Women's Big 8pm - AA @ Fellowship	8am - School Chapel @ 1pm - PS weekly meet @ 2pm - Worship Team 6pm - MVPS SL @ GH 7pm - Choir Rehearsal @	11am - Vernon Springs 6:30pm - Magic Club @ 8pm - AA @ Kirk Center	8pm - AA-Primary	8am - Finance/Admin 10am - PW Book Circle @ 8pm - AA-Primary
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
9:30am - Crossroads 9:30am - Discovery 10:30am - Worship @ 11:30am - Officer 3:30pm - XC Banquet 7pm - AA @ Kirk Center 7pm - Atlanta Concert	1pm - Staff Meeting @ 1:30pm - Bulletin 5:30pm - Busy 5:30pm - Busy 5:30pm - Monthly FAMT 6:30pm - AI Anon @ 7pm - Scouts @ Gailey 8pm - AA @ Kirk Center	7:30am - MV Parent 10am - PW Coordinating 10:30am - PW Day Circle 12:30pm - Roswell, 7pm - AA-Women's Big 8pm - AA @ Fellowship	8am - School Chapel @ 1pm - PS weekly meet @ 2pm - Worship Team 6pm - MVPS SL @ GH 7pm - Choir Rehearsal @	11am - Vernon Springs 6:30pm - Magic Club @ 8pm - AA @ Kirk Center	8pm - AA-Primary	8am - Finance/Admin 10am - PW Book Circle @ 8pm - AA-Primary
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
8:30am - Men's Breakfast 9:30am - Crossroads 9:30am - Discovery 10:30am - Worship @ 11:30am - Officer 3pm - YMSL @ Sanctuary 7pm - AA @ Kirk Center 7pm - Atlanta Concert	2:30pm - Busy 6pm - Magic Club @ 6:30pm - AI Anon @ 7pm - Scouts @ Gailey 8pm - AA @ Kirk Center	10am - Staff Meeting @ 1:30pm - Staff Worship 4pm - Stephen Min. - 6:30pm - AMIS Board @ 7pm - AA-Women's Big 8pm - AA @ Fellowship	8am - School Chapel @ 9am - Busy 9am - Prep for Session @ 1pm - PS weekly meet @ 7pm - Choir Rehearsal @	12pm - SSICA @ Session 4pm - Busy 8pm - AA @ Kirk Center	4:30pm - CAC @ FH 8pm - AA-Primary	12pm - AA Region
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
9:30am - Crossroads 9:30am - Discovery 10:30am - Worship @ 7pm - AA @ Kirk Center 7pm - Atlanta Concert	6:30pm - AI 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 @ 1pm - PS weekly meet @	CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 7pm - LNP Board Meeting 8pm - AA @ Kirk Center	8pm - AA-Primary	8pm - AA-Primary

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

SESSION SUMMARY

Stated Session Meeting Summary

October 20, 2024

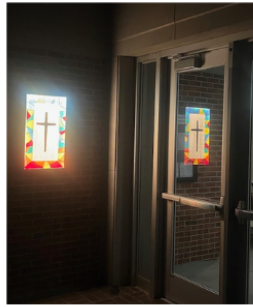
The Session met on October 20 for its regular monthly meeting. The following business was conducted:

- Members were reminded the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta will hold its quarterly meeting on November 9 on the MVPC campus. Volunteers are needed to help welcome people to our campus and to help with meeting logistics. Volunteers can contact the church office or sign-up on SignUp Genius.
- Communion dates for 2025 were approved by the Session.
- Stated Session Meeting dates for 2025 were approved.
- Fellowship events dates for 2025 were also approved.
- The Session elected Commissioners for the November 9 Presbytery meeting. Those elected included Pat Bartee, Htet Nyunt, Beppie Lever, and David Hill.
- The Session voted to increase the Mount Vernon Foundation Grant to Garden Presbyterian School in Zambia by \$1,400. This will allow the school to buy appropriate infrastructure and supplies.

The Session **does not** hold a Stated Meeting in November.

The next meeting will be on December 8.

PRAYER VINE



*Cross picture in the Narthex
was beautifully
handcrafted by Bruce
Hagenau!*

Christian Sympathy for the family of Barbara Hughes who died October 14.

Bob Addison - Stamina while he endures six treatments before surgery on November 25.

Jeannie Chettleburgh - sister-in-law of Shari Freeman, renewed faith and hope as she tries a new vaccine to combat her glioblastoma.

Lorry Clark - peace and comfort while she's on hospice care at Addington Place.

Hazel Cofield - gratitude for the steady return to good health as she recovers from pneumonia.

Mary Collins - friend of Charlie Gray suffered a brain aneurysm.

Viola Crawford - recovering from cataract surgery.

Mike Damron - brother-in-law of Mary Lea Woods, healing and strength who has stage 4 metastatic melanoma.

Gene Elder - strength and comfort as he continues with radiation treatment for skin cancer.

Bruce Hagenau - has positive results from a trial treatment for his cancer.

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

Megan Kendall - good health and stamina as she anxiously awaits her surgery on Nov. 8.

Erven Kimble - comfort and faith as he spends his last days with family.

Corny Laube - faith and peace 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 - continued good health as he deals with severe cirrhosis.

Karen Morine - peace and joy as she spends the rest of her life helping other women afford chemotherapy and enjoying her family.

Andy Nelson - joy that he could attend a recent outdoor service and continue to pray for full recovery.

Maeve Ross - return to health while she is in the hospital with a pesky fever and bloated stomach.

Chandler Shaefer - has been diagnosed with early onset ALS.

Katherine Slayback - courage as she recovers from a summer car accident.

Yvonne White - prayers for her family as they had two deaths in their family in Mississippi.

Ann Young - is recovering from hip replacement surgery.

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.

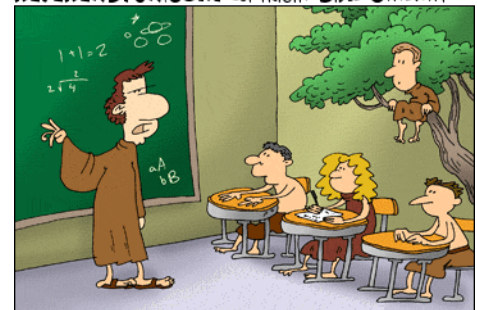
If you no longer wish to receive the Good News, please send an email to debbie@mvpchurch.org.

Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church Staff

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
Shari Freeman	<i>Director of Spiritual Care</i>	shari@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 Assistant</i>	yvonne@mvpchurch.org
Jill Hudson	<i>Music Director</i>	jillh@mvpchurch.org

Good News!

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(See Luke 19:1-10)

YOUNG ZACCHAEUS IN SCHOOL

11-28-2011

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