

MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
GOOD NEWS
DECEMBER 2024



A Note From the Pastor

By Rev. Barrett Abernethy

A Final 70th Hurrah!

"People, look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year!" We will sing these appropriate lyrics on December 8th as we make our Advent preparations for another joyful Christmas. I find these lyrics apt as we tie a bow on what has been an incredible year at MVPC. Together, we committed to celebrating 70 years as a church and we did so with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love. Let's recap:

In **January**, we leaned into our new tagline by preaching on the ideals of "Welcome, Worship, Share, Serve." After

worship, you helped us by getting your picture taken as the process of creating a new church pictorial (our first in 12 years) began.

In **February**, we held our annual meeting in which we were excited to share that for the first time in a long time we could present a balanced budget that included a nearly 40% increase in missional giving from the previous year!

In **March**, we processed through Lent looking at the crosses we found on our campus, and concluded the season on the final day of the month by celebrating the resurrectional hope of Easter.

continued on next page

IN THIS ISSUE

Greater Atlanta Presbytery Meeting

Outreach

Alliance for Children Everywhere

Volunteer Spotlight

This & That/Celebrations

Gift of Wisdom

Getting to Know

Advent Calendar

Birthdays

December Calendar

Prayer Vine

In **April**, we spent many a meeting and sent many an email in preparation for our 70th Anniversary Service. Along the way, we welcomed the new President of Columbia Theological Seminary, Rev. Dr. Victor Aloyo, who recognized our service to God and the greater church – including the new food bank we funded on the CTS campus!

In **May**, we had that 70th CELEBRATION and 284 of our best friends attended! They all received a copy of the new pictorial and we unveiled our new church logo! It was a glorious day complete with former pastors and former members uniting with us to rejoice the past and envision a bright future.

In **June**, we started our Summer Fruit sermon series that enlivened our faith and our tastebuds! We also hosted the largest Los Niños Sunday ever as hundreds of children and their parents helped us celebrate 24 years of our partnership.

In **July**, we commissioned several (including yours truly) for service in Zambia. While there we reconnected with old friends and renewed a partnership formed in the unity of Christ.

In **August**, we welcomed friends from Emory Healthcare as we explored what Healthy Aging is and how we can embody practices that support physical, mental, and spiritual well-being.

In **September**, we celebrated 25 years of the MVP Foundation and the more than \$600k it has given to various ministries. We also kicked-off our “70 for 70” Campaign which is raising (notice it’s not too late to contribute!) \$140k for future capital projects on our campus.

In **October**, we palooza-ed with pumpkins and recognized the Saints with the Bagpipes for our final Outdoor service (we said goodbye to many loved ones this year who helped us thrive for many of those initial 70 years).

In **November**, we welcomed our friends from the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta (see photos throughout the newsletter)! It was a joyous day of recognizing our connection in Christ.

In **December**, we will conclude our Planting Trees sermon series with the Chrismon Tree, while giving thanks for how each of us comes together from different directions and different experiences of life to be molded by the potter who comes into the world to share the light.

What a journey of faith it has been this year. Thank you for all the ways you made this a memorable time at MVPC!

*Grace & Peace,
Barrett*

Jan - October 2024	Actual YTD	2024 Budget
Member Giving Pledge	\$439,145	\$509,000
Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$53,704	\$60,000
Loose Offerings	\$22,177	\$9,000
Total YTD	\$515,026	\$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

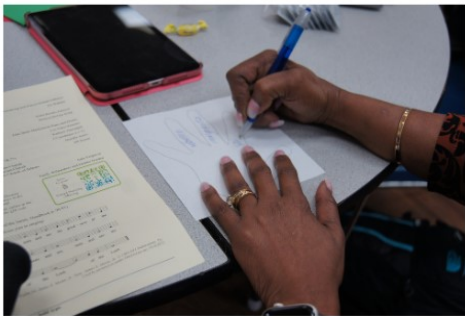
Witness

Lois Johnson

Worship

Gloria Gillespie
Malinda Holmes

GREATER ATLANTA PRESBYTERY MEETING



OUTREACH

Our November Communion Offering was non-perishable food and gift cards to Stuff the Bus for Stirred Up Ministries Thanksgiving Baskets. We collected more canned goods than ever and provided gave them \$950 to purchase turkey's and other items. Stirred-Up prepares over 100 baskets and MVPC makes the largest donation. Thank you for giving so generously!



The November Clifton Sanctuary Ministries meal was prepared by the children of the church. They helped prepare taco soup, rolls, and Rice Krispy treats with sprinkles!



OUTREACH



Master Sponsor



MOUNT VERNON
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



ALLIANCE FOR CHILDREN EVERYWHERE



The Fall season brings about a time of reflection and a new energy infuses the air. Ecclesiastes 3 says, "To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven." If there is anything constant, it is that things change. November is seeing increased challenges as we grieve the loss of a dear friend, and the ripple effects of a historic drought in Zambia continue to be felt by children and families across the country. Learn how you can help bring urgent relief to the Zambian people below. But first, let's take a moment to celebrate the life of Barbara Hughes, and all the lives that she touched.



"We recently lost a dear friend and faithful supporter. Barbara Hughes had a tremendous and sustained positive impact on the entire organization of Alliance for Children Everywhere. For decades Barbara served as a catalyst for the work of ACE both as a supporter and board member. I am hard pressed to think of a single individual that has had a greater impact on where ACE is today than Barbara. Her service to ACE was always at the benefit of the most vulnerable. Barbara's unique and enduring relationship with the ACE Zambia staff and board will be forever remembered. There are few words that can be written to truly express the legacy and impact of Barbara in Zambia and beyond. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family. Barbara will be greatly missed."

-Gabriel Walder (CEO)

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Thank you to all the MVPC members who donate their time and energy to benefit our community and our world! 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.

Amy Kiley McCrory, MVPC board member for Clifton Ministries

I've been attending monthly Clifton Sanctuary Ministries board meeting as the MVPC representative for about a year. Clifton provides shelter, meals and services to a limited number of guests experiencing homelessness thanks to a collaboration between several Presbyterian churches. Since it's just a few blocks from my home, serving there is a wonderful way for me to be involved with both our church and my Lake Claire/Candler Park community.

If you'd like to help, please check out Clifton's donation needs and volunteer opportunities at cliftonsanctuary.com.



Our next Communion
Offering for Clifton will be
February 2025.





CELEBRATIONS



We always welcome our neighbors from Vernon Springs!



Senior Adults welcome our new Elder,
Mary Lea Woods!



Seniors Adults at Booth Western Museum

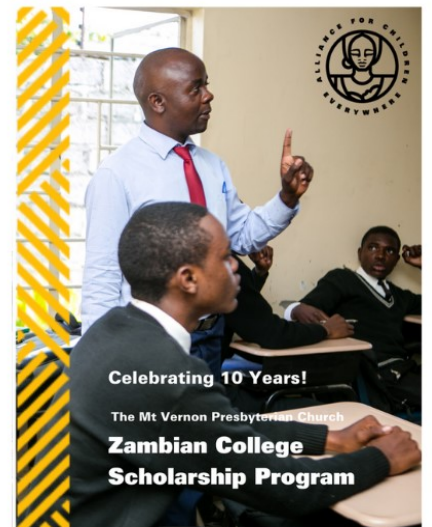


DeDe Callahan turned 99!

To a most generous congregation,

The most recent effort to raise \$10,000 annually to fund the Zambia Scholarship Fund has been achieved! Because of this success 15 students will pursue college degrees and vocational training studying Medicine (1 as an MD), Pharmacy, Computer Tech, Education, Auto Engineering/Mechanics, Fashion Design and Hospitality. All following their dreams because of you. You are changing lives! THANK YOU!!

In Christ's Name,
Stan & Ann Williams



Mailing Address:

MVPC

P.O. Box 76051

Sandy Springs, GA 30358

404.255.2211

mvpchurch.org

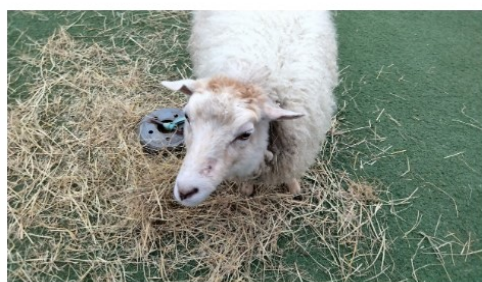
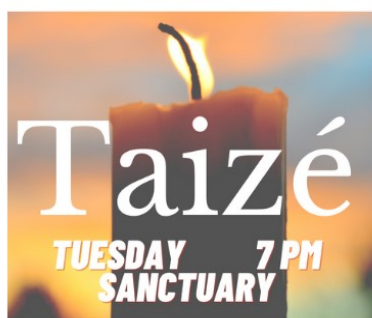


CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY-THURSDAY

8AM-4PM

FRIDAY 8AM - 2PM



This & That

DECEMBER EVENTS

Hanging of the Green

12/1

Senior Adults

Christkindl Market

12/5

Atlanta Concert Band

12/15

4pm

Taizé

Longest Night Service

12/17

Christmas Eve

Live Nativity

4:30pm

Candlelight Service

5:30pm

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

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

GIFT OF WISDOM



Snuggled under a blanket of snow
The grain begins to take root to grow
Provided for, wherever we go.

Manna in the desert
Fishes and loaves on the Mount,
Nature is our fount.

All we need is seen here.
The beauty of a reflecting amber sun,
The lake lapping at the shore,
Equal portions of beauty and nourishment,
Never less, never more.

Poem: Dee Bradford-Smith

Artwork: Donna Martin

GETTING TO KNOW ...

WENDY HAGENAU

What is your favorite vacation?

We have had so many wonderful trips but there are several that stand out. In 2000, before Hannah was born, Bruce, Halle and Kyle and I rented an RV and traveled 3000 miles in 30 days around the west visiting all the national parks. So many beautiful sights and fun times. In 2015, Bruce, Halle, Kyle and Hannah and I all went to Alaska. We had many adventures with helicopters, planes, RV's, trains and fishing. In 2019, Bruce, Hannah and I went to Banff and then we joined Kyle and Halle and their spouses at Glacier National Park. It was our first trip with our expanded family and was so special including them. And this year, Bruce and I took an epic road trip to New England and Canada, covering 3000 miles in 17 days!



What was the favorite thing about your career?

I was a bankruptcy judge and my favorite thing was being able to provide assistance and guidance to people in tough situations. I loved being able to spend the time needed on the issue regardless of the amount at stake because it was still important to the parties.

What did you want to be when you were small?

When I was a child (and in to my freshman year in college), I wanted to be an actress, preferably on Broadway!

If you could choose to do anything for a day, what would it be?

I would spend the whole day outside with my family. We could play games, sit by the fire, see a waterfall, hike or explore. As long as we are together, it's my favorite day!

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

I listen to the Bridge on Sirius (70's soft rock) and 680 the Fan (for sports info, particularly college football).

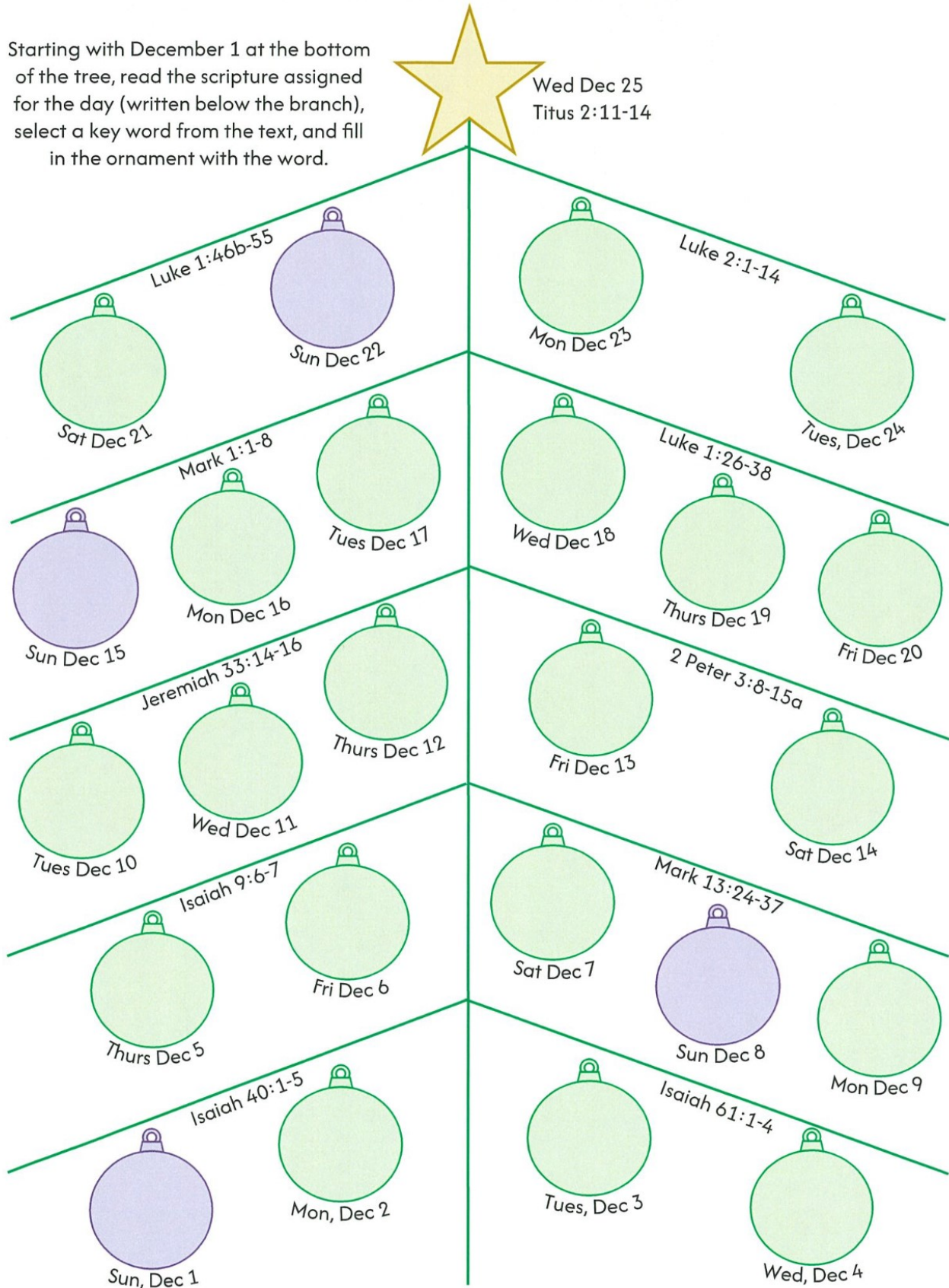


Holidays bring joy to many but raise up old wounds for others. Please utilize our Stephen Ministers if you feel especially sad or lonely at this time to help you gain perspective and decide on new goals going forward. Please contact Pat Bartee, Stephen Leader, or a pastor to get connected.

ADVENT CALENDAR

2024 Advent Calendar

Starting with December 1 at the bottom of the tree, read the scripture assigned for the day (written below the branch), select a key word from the text, and fill in the ornament with the word.



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Steve Ray	12/1
Joey Noszek	12/2
Angie Ponsell	12/3
Bob Martin	12/3
Cathy Jenkins	12/5
Linda Young	12/6
Wit Truitt III	12/7
Malinda Holmes	12/8
Sibyl Plumly	12/8
Geral Fudge	12/9
Ross Mielke	12/10
Lisa Grove	12/12
Callum Lever	12/15
John Chesnutt	12/17
Sujay Galen	12/17
Nicholas Peji	12/22
Sybil Washington	12/22
Moira O'Hare	12/26
Patsy Plumly	12/28
Bob Addison	12/29
Ross Spain	12/30



If you have a birthday in December 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

DECEMBER CALENDAR

MVPC Events, barrett@mvpchurch.org Dec 2024 (Eastern Time - New York)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1</p> <p>Steve Birthday 9:30am - Crossroads 9:30am - Discovery 10:30am - Worship @ 5pm - Hanging of the 7pm - AA @ Kirk Center</p>	<p>2</p> <p>12pm - Zoomin Through 1pm - Senior Adult 4pm - Busy 4pm - MVP Church MV 6:30pm - AI Anon @ 7pm - Scouts @ Gailey</p>	<p>3</p> <p>10am - Staff Meeting @ 12pm - Zoomin Through 1:30pm - Staff Worship 5:30pm - CE Meeting 7pm - AA-Women's Big 8pm - AA @ Fellowship</p>	<p>4</p> <p>8am - School Chapel @ 11am - Busy 12pm - Zoomin Through 1pm - PS weekly meet @ 2:30pm - Stephen 7pm - Choir Rehearsal @</p>	<p>5</p> <p>7:45am - MVA @ 10am - Busy 12pm - Zoomin Through 12:30pm - Staff Lunch, 3:30pm - Senior Adults- 8pm - AA @ Kirk Center</p>	<p>6</p> <p>12pm - Zoomin Through 8pm - AA-Primary</p>	<p>7</p> <p>8am - Glenridge</p>
<p>8</p> <p>9:30am - Crossroads 9:30am - Discovery 10:30am - Worship @ 12pm - Seniors' 12pm - Session @ Kirk 7pm - AA @ Kirk Center 7pm - Atlanta Concert</p>	<p>9</p> <p>12pm - Zoomin Through 5:30pm - Busy 5:30pm - Monthly FAMT 6:30pm - AI Anon @ 7pm - Scouts @ Gailey 8pm - AA @ Kirk Center</p>	<p>10</p> <p>7:30am - MV Parent 10am - PW Coordinating 10am - Staff Meeting @ 10:30am - PW Day Circle 12pm - Zoomin Through 1:30pm - Staff Worship 7pm - AA-Women's Big</p>	<p>11</p> <p>8am - School Chapel @ 12pm - Zoomin Through 12:30pm - Caroling at 1pm - PS weekly meet @ 7pm - Choir Rehearsal @</p>	<p>12</p> <p>12pm - SSICA @ Holy 12pm - Zoomin Through 8pm - AA @ Kirk Center</p>	<p>13</p> <p>10am - PW Book Circle @ 12pm - Zoomin Through 8pm - AA-Primary</p>	<p>14</p> <p>10am - Children's Xmas 1pm - Movie Matinee 5pm - AA @ FH</p>
<p>15</p> <p>9:30am - Crossroads 9:30am - Discovery 10am - Called Session 10:30am - Worship @ 4pm - Christmas Concert 7pm - AA @ Kirk Center 7pm - Atlanta Concert</p>	<p>16</p> <p>12pm - Zoomin Through 6pm - Magic Club @ 6:30pm - AI Anon @ 7pm - Scouts @ Gailey 8pm - AA @ Kirk Center</p>	<p>17</p> <p>10am - Staff Meeting @ 12pm - Zoomin Through 1:30pm - Staff Worship 4pm - Stephen Min. - 7pm - AA-Women's Big 7pm - Taize - Longest 8pm - AA @ Fellowship</p>	<p>18</p> <p>8am - School Chapel @ 12pm - Zoomin Through 1pm - PS weekly meet @ 7pm - Choir Rehearsal @</p>	<p>19</p> <p>12pm - Zoomin Through 8pm - AA @ Kirk Center</p>	<p>20</p> <p>12pm - Zoomin Through 8pm - AA-Primary</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22</p> <p>FAMILY PROMISE FHGH</p> <p>9:30am - Crossroads 9:30am - Discovery 10:30am - Worship - 5pm - Caroling 7pm - AA @ Kirk Center</p>	<p>23</p> <p>6:30pm - AI Anon @ 7pm - Scouts @ Gailey 8pm - AA @ Kirk Center</p>	<p>24</p> <p>10am - Staff Meeting @ 1:30pm - Staff Worship 7pm - AA-Women's Big 7pm - Taize @ Sanctuary 8pm - AA @ Fellowship</p>	<p>25</p> <p>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED Newsletter Deadline 8am - School Chapel @ 1pm - PS weekly meet @ 7pm - Choir Rehearsal @</p>	<p>26</p> <p>8pm - AA-Primary</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p> <p>FAMILY PROMISE FHGH</p> <p>9:30am - Crossroads 9:30am - Discovery 10:30am - Worship @</p>	<p>30</p> <p>6:30pm - AI Anon @ 7pm - Scouts @ Gailey 8pm - AA @ Kirk Center</p>	<p>31</p> <p>10am - Staff Meeting @ 1:30pm - Staff Worship 7pm - AA-Women's Big 8pm - AA @ Fellowship</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>

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

PRAYER VINE

Christian Sympathy for the family of Walt Walker who died November 13.

Bob Addison -successful minor surgery and as he waits for the results to determine the next step.

Jeannie Chettleburgh - sister-in-law of Shari Freeman, hope as she finishes chemo in preparation for a new treatment.

Mary Collins - joy that she is home and getting stronger after her brain aneurysm.

Viola Crawford - recovering from cataract surgery.

Mike Damron - thankful for a successful start to immunotherapy for his stage 4 metastatic melanoma, brother-in-law of Mary Lea Woods.

Joann Egan - a frequent visitor who is undergoing treatment for cancer.

Gene Elder - gratitude that radiation is complete and recovers from the side effects.

Malinda Holmes - for successful breast surgery on December 5 and recovery.

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

Megan Kendall - thanksgiving for a wonderful pathology report - no cancer! She has had a long and painful journey.

Erven Kimble - comfort and peace for his family as he died the week before Thanksgiving.

Corny Laube - 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 manages the symptoms with severe cirrhosis, father-in-law of Amy Kiley McCrory.

McLeish Family - a return to health for Susan as she recovers from heart surgery, and Bill is being treated for leukemia.

Karen Morine - hope as she started chemo for her invasive cancer, sister-in-law of Bruce Morine.

Andy Nelson - continued good health as he recovers from his transplant.

Maeve Ross - grace and improvement as she begins a new medication after being hospitalized.



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!

REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT BIBLE GATEWAY



I'M USING JESUS THEMED WRAPPING PAPER SO I WON'T FEEL AS BAD ABOUT FIXATING SO HEAVILY ON PRESENTS THIS YEAR

Follow Us
mvpchurch.org

