

MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

GOOD NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2025



A Note From the Pastor

Rev. Shari Freeman

On August 10, we launched our Fall sermon series, "Navigating Roads," exploring how the roads in the Bible lead us to the story of God. The people traveling those Biblical roads encountered danger and peril, people in need, and sometimes Jesus himself. In all the road stories, the people faced unexpected circumstances and needed to decide what direction to take. Do they return home, or do they continue forward? Do they stop their journey to help someone in need, or continue ahead? Do they travel alone or commit themselves to traveling with someone else?

This series feels appropriate for us at this time because Barrett's resignation was an unexpected event on the road we are traveling as a congregation. Over the past month, we faced this unexpected circumstance the way many of the people in the Bible did – we processed the news, held space for our grief, and looked to God for direction. We said goodbye to Barrett in a lovely farewell celebration on August 10. And like those people in the Bible, having encountered this unexpected turn, we move forward and continue traveling down the road.

continued on next page

IN THIS ISSUE

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

Outreach

Gift of Wisdom

Volunteer Spotlight

VBS 2025

This & That/Celebrations

Getting to Know

Session Summary

P4G

September Calendar

September Birthdays

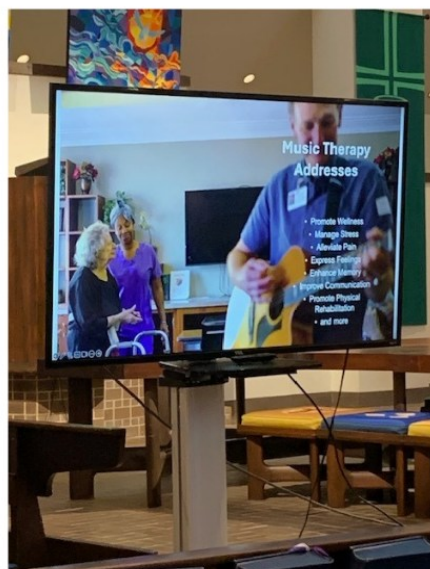
Prayer Vine

We did not miss a beat in continuing our ministry here at Mount Vernon. On August 3, we hosted Emory University's Goizueta Brain Health Institute for a workshop on dementia. This workshop, now in its second year, is a gift to our community, offering caring, support, and resources to families and organizations who care for those with dementia. We welcomed children from our congregation and community to a Yee-Haw themed Vacation Bible School on August 9. The Presbyterian Women kicked off their fall study with a luncheon on August 24. The Christian education committee started sign-ups for small groups beginning on September 14. The CE committee is also rolling out plans for a Little Blessings Room that will be available for parents with small children during the worship service. Finally, we are looking forward to our September 14 fall kick-off and Foundation lunch, the same day we welcome Isaac back from leave!

All of these events confirm Mount Vernon's commitment to being the church. We continue to travel down the road that God has set forth for us, and to live into our mission to be a church Reaching Out To Welcome. Worship. Share. Serve.

Peace,

Shari



2025 Session Members & Ministry Teams

Moderator(s)

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt
Rev. Shari Freeman

Clerk of Session

David Hill

Christian Education

Carrie Southard

Congregational Care

Barbara Brooks
Htet Nyunt

Fellowship

Keith Bumgarner
Ed Spain

Finance/Administration/ Stewardship

Ben Cumming

Outreach

Kathryn Wade
Mike Havey

Senior Adults

Mary Lea Woods

Witness

Lois Johnson

Worship

Penny Kiel
Malinda Holmes

July 31, 2025	Actual YTD	2025 Budget
Member Giving Pledge	\$347,397	\$500,000
Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$39,550	\$60,000
Loose Offerings	\$4,532	\$26,000
Total YTD	\$391,479	\$586,000

REV. BARRETT ABERNETHY



VBS 2025



P4BG

Presbyterians for a Better Georgia (P4BG)

Our church's non-partisan advocacy group has joined Presbyterians for a Better Georgia to better support and advocate for our community. We have had two "learning" meetings this summer to better understand the issues of our Latino neighbors and partners in Los Ninos Primeros and to hear our partners, Family Promise and CAC, along with others, talk about poverty, homelessness, and the lack of affordable housing in North Atlanta. We will attend a fall informational meeting with the other 19 churches in P4BG, continue sharing with legislative representatives as bills move through committees , and go to the Capitol on Lobby Day in March. Last year, with guidance from the P4BG paid lobbyist, we advocated for changed sentencing for those with 70 IQ or below, use of the state surplus to increase spending on affordable housing , and tax credits for the purchase of lockboxes for weapons in Georgia homes.

If more congregational members would like to join us, we would welcome it! Call Pat Bartee for information to get registered with P4BG.



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 Kathryn Wade, Mike Havey or Christy Hill.

Mike and Kathy Havey
Neighbors Helping Neighbors at CAC



How long have you worked with the Community Assistance Center (CAC)?

We started volunteering at the South Sandy Springs food pantry in early 2023, shortly after it opened.

What type of work do you do?

When we get there in the morning, we begin removing items from the shelves that are out-of-date and restocking items that are in short supply. We also unload, sort, weigh and shelf new items that come in off the delivery truck.

After the store opens for business, we are usually at the check-out counter - Kathy ringing people up and Mike bagging their groceries.

How much time each week or how often are you involved with the program?

We are at CAC most Friday mornings for about 2 ½ hours.

Why do you like working at CAC?

There are two main reasons that we like working with CAC. First, we believe in the mission of the agency: providing compassionate assistance to neighbors facing times of need who have nowhere else to turn for help.

We also enjoy the clients. They are friendly and appreciative of the services provided.

How can others get involved?

Anyone interested in volunteering can sign up by visiting this web site:

<https://ourcac.org/individual-volunteer-opportunities/>.

You can also send an email to volunteers@ourcac.org.

Interested volunteers can also drop by either of the food pantries at 8607 Roswell Rd or 120 Northwood Dr, Suite 150.

OUTREACH

Carol Beckman and Christy Hill recently cleaned out, sorted and delivered all usable left-over Family Promise supplies to our various outreach partners: International Women's House, Clifton Sanctuary Ministries, CAC, Sandy Springs Education Force, Stirred Up Ministries, Foster Care Support Foundation.

Vacation Bible School children donated several boxes of cereal (always a popular item) for the Community Assistance Center. CAC volunteers Mike & Kathy Havey delivered them to the South Sandy Springs food pantry on August 16.

The Mount Vernon Foundation along with individual Congregational members provided \$4500 for improvements {roof & plumbing} to the newly constructed Manse for the minister of Garden Presbyterian Church in Zambia. Earlier in 2025 the Foundation provided \$10,000 in emergency relief funds for Alliance for Children Everywhere due to the loss of a significant USAID grant.

On August 12 six congregation members met with representatives of Sandy Springs Together, Family Promise, CAC, and Bridge Communities for an informational session to learn about the serious problems of a lack of affordable housing and homeless in the Sandy Springs area.

Opportunities to get involved with our outreach partners continue to be shared in the weekly Happenings email. Make sure you are signed up and reach out to a member of the Outreach Team if you have questions.





C E L E B R A T I O N S



We continue to grow as we welcome the
Duncan family!
Chris & Holly Duncan
Eloise, Alice Ann, Graham

Finley Nelson finished in first place for his age group at the local tournament of the Drive, Chip, Putt competition at Bobby Jones Golf Course in June. As well as finishing first overall, he finished first in the putting portion of the competition by sinking two putts - a 6 foot putt and a 15 foot putt. Drive, Chip, Putt is a national junior golf competition. Finley's next step in the competition is the sub-region tournament in Savannah, GA on August 17.



Blessing of the Backpacks



Presbyterian Women Luncheon



Mailing Address:

MVPC

P.O. Box 76051

Sandy Springs, GA 30358

404.255.2211

mvpchurch.org

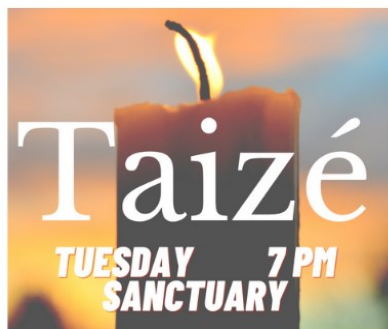


CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY-THURSDAY

8AM-4PM

FRIDAY 8AM - 2PM



This & That

SEPTEMBER EVENTS

Presbyterian Women

9/9

Book Circle

9/12

Fall Kick-Off

9/14

Taize

9/23

7pm

Outdoor Worship

Blessing of the Animals

9/28

Lunch Bunch

9/28

*Photos courtesy of: Shari Freeman, Christy Hill, Jeanne Gilliland, Donna Martin, Dee Bradford-Smith, Penny Kiel, Mary McClurg
(Please send any pictures of your events to debbie@mvpchurch.org)*

GIFT OF WISDOM



Stepping Stones

The journey is a stoney path
Filled with life and all it's wrath.
We tentatively move forward alone.

Each stone prepares a settled space
as we look cautiously at each other's face.
Some confident in their faith.

Other's show a worried brow.
Who will lead us now ?
How can we unify our strength?

By reaching out to those behind, lifting up as we form a line.
Gazing ahead to the next stone.
So thankful we are not alone.
The Holy Spirit is our home.

*Poem: Dee Bradford-Smith
Artwork: Donna Martin*

GETTING TO KNOW ...

ANUBHAV TIRKEY

NEW MEMBER IN JULY



If money was no object, what would you do all day?

Travel the world but I am sure I would still complain about airplane legroom.

Would you rather vacation in Hawaii or Alaska, and why?

Alaska. Northern Lights beat nightclub/party lights any day.

What's your favorite holiday?

Christmas. When I was a kid, it meant the whole family piling into one room, the smell of food everywhere, and waking up to presents under the tree felt like pure magic.

What is your favorite childhood memory?

Napping without guilt. Now if I nap, I feel guilty of being lazy.

If you could go back in time, what year would you travel to?

Probably the '90s—just to relive my childhood when there was no WiFi.

"You may not control all the events that happen to you, but you can decide not to be reduced by them."

Maya Angelou



Your church Stephen Ministry team is here to help you manage and master a difficult time in your life. Sometimes, all it takes is new perspective and clarity, offered by a non-judgmental person who calmly listens and helps you to see your own way forward.

Please call on us by contacting Pat Bartee, Stephen Leader, or Shari.

SESSION SUMMARY

Summary of the August 17, 2025, Stated Session Meeting

The Session met for its regularly scheduled meeting on August 17 and conducted the following business:

- Heard a report from the Campus Construction Committee that is planning parking lot and playground improvements
- Received the Annual Financial Review Report (the review committee is made up of Bruce Morine, Katherine Koops, and Gloria Gillespie)
- Heard a report from the Interim Pastor Nominating Committee regarding its work to date
- Reviewed the process for updating the church roll
- Accepted the resignation of Braegan Abernethy as a Session member since she now resides in Louisville, KY
- Approved two proposed amendments to the MVPC By-Laws to take to the congregation for a vote at the September 28 Congregational Meeting: one to replace the old Mission Statement with the new Mission Statement, and another to reduce the number of Sundays required to announce the call for a congregational meeting (current four Sundays and changing this to two Sundays)
- Approved the call for a Congregational Meeting on September 28 immediately following the worship service for the purpose of receiving and acting upon the recommendations of the Nominating Committee and for the purpose of acting upon the Session's recommendations for changes to the church By-Laws
- Session reviewed a To Do List of work to be done to complete this church year
- Rev. Freeman announced that the worship services are planned through October with most services being led by Rev. Toney-Schmitt

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

Sep 2025 (Eastern Time - New York)

MVPC Events: barrel@mvpcchurch.org

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
	CHURCH OFFICE CLOSE 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 7pm - NABB @ gym 8pm - AA @ Fellowship	2:30pm - Stephen Ministry 5pm - LNP @ GH 6pm - IPNC @ Session 7pm - AA @ Kirk 7pm - Choir Rehearsal @ 7pm - NABB @ gym	2pm - General Ledger 5pm - LNP 7pm - NABB @ Gym	8am - Finance/Admin 5:30pm - LNP @ field 8pm - AA-Primary Purpose	8:45am - Bagpipes @ GH 9am - AA @ FH 1pm - Movie Matinee -
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
9:30am - Crossroads 9:30am - Discovery Class, 10:30am - Worship @ 5pm - Circle of Grace 7pm - AA @ Kirk Center 7pm - Atlanta Concert	1pm - Senior Adult 5:30pm - Busy 5:30pm - Monthly FAMT 6:30pm - AI Anon @ 7pm - Scouts @ Gailey 8pm - AA @ Kirk Center	10am - PW @ Session 10am - Staff Meeting @ 1:30pm - Staff Worship 7pm - AA-Women's Big 7pm - NABB @ gym 8pm - AA @ Fellowship	2:30pm - Stephen Ministry 5pm - LNP @ GH 6pm - IPNC @ Session 7pm - AA @ Kirk 7pm - Choir Rehearsal @ 7pm - NABB @ gym	6:30am - school 9 11 11am - Vernon Springs 5pm - LNP 7pm - NABB @ Gym	10am - PW Book Circle @ 5:30pm - LNP @ field 8pm - AA-Primary Purpose	6:30am - LNP Sat School 8:45am - Bagpipes @ GH
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
8am - reverie @ gym 9:30am - Crossroads 9:30am - Discovery Class, 10:30am - Worship @ 11:30am - MVP 2pm - YMSL @ Sanc Choi	2pm - Songs for the Soul 6pm - Magic Club @ 6:30pm - AI Anon @ 7pm - Scouts @ Gailey 8pm - AA @ Kirk Center	10am - Staff Meeting @ 1:30pm - Staff Worship 4pm - Stephen Min. - 7pm - AA-Women's Big 7pm - NABB @ gym 8pm - AA @ Fellowship	5pm - LNP @ GH 6pm - IPNC @ Session 6:30pm - Scouts @ GH 7pm - AA @ Kirk 7pm - Choir Rehearsal @ 7pm - NABB @ gym	10am - Senior Adults 5pm - LNP 7pm - NABB @ Gym	5:30pm - LNP @ field 8pm - AA-Primary Purpose	8:45am - Bagpipes @ GH
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
9:30am - Crossroads 9:30am - Discovery Class, 10:30am - Worship @ 11:30am - Session Mtg @ 5pm - Small Group @ 5pm - Vespers at Mount	8:30am - Staff Retreat @ 6:30pm - AI Anon @ 7pm - Scouts @ Gailey 8pm - AA @ Kirk Center	10am - Staff Meeting @ 1:30pm - Staff Worship 7pm - AA-Women's Big 7pm - NABB @ gym 7pm - Talize @ Sanctuary 8pm - AA @ Fellowship	Newsletter Deadline 5pm - LNP @ GH 6pm - IPNC @ Session 7pm - AA @ Kirk 7pm - Choir Rehearsal @ 7pm - NABB @ gym	5pm - LNP 7pm - NABB @ Gym	5:30pm - LNP @ field 8pm - AA-Primary Purpose	6:30am - LNP Sat School 8:45am - Bagpipes @ GH
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
9:30am - Crossroads 9:30am - Discovery Class, 10:30am - Worship @ 11:30am - Connections 5pm - Small Group @ 7pm - AA @ Kirk Center	6:30pm - AI Anon @ 7pm - Scouts @ Gailey 8pm - AA @ Kirk Center	10am - Staff Meeting @ 1:30pm - Staff Worship 7pm - AA-Women's Big 7pm - NABB @ gym 8pm - AA @ Fellowship				

Go to our website under "News & Events" for a live view of the calendar!

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Betsy Cozine	9/3
Nancy Kennedy	9/3
Chris Gray	9/4
Kirk Pumphrey	9/4
Ginny Little	9/5
Carolyn Spain	9/6
Emma Plumly	9/6
Suzanne Snypp	9/10
Jim Loth	9/13
Meg Christian	9/14
Sam McClurg	9/15
McLaren Christensen	9/20
Stephanie Skidmore	9/20
Minnie Robinson	9/21
Barbara Wasson	9/26
Penny Kiel	9/26
Jack Bobeng	9/30



If you have a birthday in September and don't see your name on the list, please contact debbie@mvpchurch.org or call the office.

STAFF BIRTHDAYS

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

PRAYER VINE



Carolyn Bowen - comfort and relief from pain and serious health issues with her kidneys - friend of Charlie Gray

Diane Bumgarner - continued prayers for complete healing following another foot surgery.

Lorry Clark - comfort and strength

Allison Eustis - thankful that her shoulder surgery went well.

Gerald Fudge - prayers for recovery from another infection after surgery. He will meet with his radiologist to devise a plan for treatment.

Malinda Holmes - comfort and peace after her move into an Assisted Living community.

Megan Kendall - strength, comfort and healing as she fights an aggressive form of cancer. Megan is the niece of David & Christy Hill.

Penny Kiel - comfort and healing after a fall and injury to her back.

Karen Morine - comfort for her family and friends after her death from cancer.

Sharon Murphy - peace and comfort for her family as they mourn the death of her mother-in-law, Barbara Murphy

Ongoing Prayers: Interim Pastor Nominating Committee, Los Ninos Primero, Clifton Sanctuary

Do you need prayer?

Have our Prayer Vine pray for you!

Email your requests to barbara@babrooks.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. Isaac Toney-Schmitt	<i>Associate Pastor of Faith Formation</i>	isaac@mvpchurch.org
Rev. Shari Freeman	<i>Associate Pastor 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

REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT BIBLE GATEWAY



(See John 2:1-11)

10-05-2012

IS THERE ANY CHANCE YOU COULD TURN
JUST A LITTLE BIT OF THAT WINE BACK
INTO WATER?

Follow Us
mvpchurch.org

