



A Note From the Pastor

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

The Quinn Chronicles

After a summer away on family leave following Quinn's birth, I come back with a full heart and a lot of gratitude for this church. You gave me the space to focus solely on Quinn and Christina; that gift alone is priceless. We filled that space up with holy, sacred, family love in a way I could never have imagined. Many times, even in the middle of the night with an unhappy little baby, Christina and I smiled and laughed because we were doing this new thing together. You all allowed me to give my whole self to Quinn and Christina, and we are so thankful for that.

But, I know that was not easy to do! There were pastoral transitions, new members joining the congregation, new elders joining the Session, and all sorts of daily puzzles and oddities to sift through. You took these changes in stride and continued to look and listen for the path that God calls you to. I return inspired by your commitment to continue the good outreach work of this congregation, encouraged by the excitement I've witnessed for future events and plans, and sustained by the sense of peace and joy in our worship services.

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I have no grand, spiritual revelations to share about being a dad. But, I can already tell that the time spent with Quinn and Christina, the time spent rejoicing with and loving them, has struck a deep, sustaining well of spirituality in me. I want to learn to pull from that well and to share it in worship and work with you.

It is a joy to be back!

Peace,

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

P.S. All the cute pictures of Quinn are here too!









August 31, 2025	Actual YTD	2025 Budget
Member Giving Pledge	\$381,196	\$500,000
Member Giving Non- Pledge	\$52,252	\$60,000
Loose Offerings	\$5,399	\$26,000
Total YTD	\$438,847	\$586,000

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

STEWARDSHIP



Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. (1 Peter 4:10)

October 1, 2025

Dear Mount Vernon,

You are a congregation that is always **Reaching Out**. This past year has been a year of change, both on the pastoral staff and from the construction around the physical campus. Through this change, however, you have never wavered in your calling to **Reach Out** and serve our ministry partners. The only change the Outreach ministry has experienced is an increase in the budget from \$70,000 to \$100,000! We give thanks for the financial stability amidst change to support our ministry partners, and we look to do it again in 2026.

This stewardship season we are reflecting on our mission as a church 'Reaching Out to... Welcome. Worship. Share. Serve.' by calling our 2026 Stewardship Campaign **Reaching Out**. Alongside this letter, every member of Mount Vernon will receive a 2026 pledge card. You are invited to hold onto this card and pray for God's guidance in stewarding your future giving. You'll find a space to estimate your 2026 financial giving; you'll also find a space to estimate your participation in 2026 Outreach, Worship, Fellowship, and Christian Education activities. Will you share snacks at the Connections table before worship? Volunteer at Vacation Bible School? Lead a Small Group or Sunday School class? These estimates help your Staff and Session coordinate the necessary resources for a healthy church in the year to come. You may mail your pledge card to the church P.O. Box or bring it to worship for a dedication on November 2, 2025.

We want the story we tell about MVPC in 2026 to be a story of **Reaching Out** to support ministry partners through finances, volunteering, and community building. Part of that story means we commit to maintain Outreach giving at \$100,000 for 2026. Part of that story means supporting our new space for infants and toddlers during worship. Part of that story means continuing to partner with Emory Healthcare for meaningful conversations about healthy aging. And part of that story means hearing from you about your plans for 2026. We can't wait to hear how you plan to continue to be a part of Mount Vernon's story!

Peace,

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt Pastor, Acting Head of Staff Charles B. Gray
Chair, Finance and Administration Team

STAFF RETREAT



On September 22, the staff at MVPC enjoyed a daylong retreat at the Ignatius House on Riverside Drive. The retreat was a time for us to process the changes we experienced this past summer. Andy Otto, a retreat director, met with us and shared some insights on navigating through times of change in our lives. He shared with us this poem, written by Pierre Teilhard de Chardin (1881-1955). Teilhard de Chardin was a French Jesuit priest, a scientist, a paleontologist, a philosopher, a mystic, and a teacher. His work sometimes put him at odds with the Catholic Church, making this poem especially poignant.

These words spoke to me as they encourage us to trust in God, even when waiting for resolutions or outcomes that seem overdue. May we all trust in the slow work of God.

Patient Trust

Above all, trust in the slow work of God.

We are quite naturally impatient in everything to reach the end without delay.

We should like to skip the intermediate stages.

We are impatient of being on the way to something unknown, something new.

And yet it is the law of all progress that it is made by passing through some stages of instability—and that it may take a very long time.

And so I think it is with you;
your ideas mature gradually—let them grow,
let them shape themselves, without undue haste.

Don't try to force them on,
as though you could be today what time
(that is to say, grace and circumstances acting on your own good will)
will make of you tomorrow.

Only God could say what this new spirit gradually forming within you will be.

Give Our Lord the benefit of believing that his hand is leading you, and accept the anxiety of feeling yourself in suspense and incomplete.



Planting Seeds of Faith, Hope, and Service

The Mt. Vernon Presbyterian Foundation was established in 1998 to extend the mission and ministry of Mt. Vernon Presbyterian Church far beyond Sunday mornings. Through gifts and endowments, the Foundation provides lasting support for the life of the church, as well as for outreach programs that impact on our community and global missions.

Every gift—large or small—helps share God's love in powerful ways. When you give to the Mt. Vernon Presbyterian Foundation, you join a community of faithful stewards dedicated to building a stronger church, a more compassionate community, and a more hopeful world.

We dream, envision, and set things in motion for those who succeed us. The fruition of our decisions will be known to generations we will not meet. We are called to partner in faith with those who have gone before us and to offer the best that we give to those who will follow.

Our Mission Supports:

- Our church campus and buildings, and Youth, Ministry Support, etc.
- Community outreach, such as the Community Activities Center, Los Niños Primero, and more

Why Give to the Foundation?

- Enduring Impact: Gifts are invested, and annual grants distributed for ministry and outreach from investment income.
- Faithful Stewardship: Resources are managed responsibly, ensuring your generosity continues to bear fruit for generations.
- Meaningful Legacy: Honor loved ones or celebrate milestones by creating a legacy of faith and service.
- Global missions, such as building and maintaining schools in Zambia.

Ways to Give

- One-Time Gifts Direct support that immediately strengthens the Foundation's work. "The 25 in 2025 Matching Campaign"
- Planned Giving Include the Foundation in your will or estate
- Honor & Memorial Gifts Celebrate a life, a birthday, an anniversary, or other special occasion with a gift that touches many lives.
- Endowed Funds Establish a named fund to support areas of ministry closest to your heart.

Those options can include wills or living trusts, marketable securities, IRA qualified charitable distributions or other retirement accounts, donor-advised funds and family foundations, real estate, charitable trusts, beneficiary designations, bank, certificates of deposit or brokerage accounts, commercial annuities, life insurance, and more.

There are many ways to benefit those you love, as well as the church, but gifts of this nature take careful planning. Your professional advisors are your best resource in developing gift planning solutions to meet your charitable intent and tax planning strategies. Our church leaders can also be an important resource in helping you decide what legacy you would like to leave for the continued operation and missions of Mt. Vernon Presbyterian Church.



Let us know! Notifying us of your intended gift helps us honor your wishes for using the funds. Please contact John Allen @ johnd.allen@comcast.net or Charlie Gray @ Cgray@wealthenhancement.com.

Mount Vernon Presbyterian Foundation 471 Mount Vernon Hwy, NE, Sandy Springs, GA 30328 404.255.2211

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.



Marion Satterfield Lady with a Servant's Heart

Marion stayed busy working in many areas of Outreach for our church.

- She was a weekly reader with Sandy Springs Education Force at Dunwoody Springs Elementary.
- She was a regular book sorter each month, helping to sort and categorize books gifted to Sandy
 Springs Education Force and used to supplement area schools in classrooms and as gifts.
- Marion served as an usher, greeting people and handing out information before Sunday Services.
- She enjoyed providing snacks at the Connections table on Sundays before church started and remained after the service to send people forth with one more sweet treat.
- One of Marion's favorite outreach activities was participating in Trunk or Treat at Dunwoody Springs
 Elementary a community gathering where children enjoy candy and fun. Mount Vernon will be
 looking for volunteers for this again in the late afternoon on October 24. Marion would have been
 there.

Mount Vernon recently lost Marion after a brief illness. Her presence and energy and enthusiasm will be missed. She never let age stand in her way of being involved in the Lord's work. Marion touched so many lives with her servant's heart.







GIFT OF WISDOM



The beauty of the woods,

Glimmering white birches leading the way.

Proclaiming to the heavens with their colorful display.

Beautiful boughs dressed in their finest gold,
Their long awaited performance of Fall colors, revered for years,
a vision that never grows old.

Leaves giving through medicinal teas, toasted sap turning into mead.

Stitched bark vessels in roaring streams.

Colors so vibrant in our dreams.

With a flare, we are so thankful they are there.

Strong and reliable, each year they bring a lingering beauty to make our hearts sing!

Poem: Dee Bradford-Smith Artwork: Donna Martin





Thank you for your support of Ishaan in completing this project benefiting Solidarity Sandy Springs.



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Scouts from Troop 463 replaced the faded colors at the Church and lower school with a new U.S. flag.





Camille Kesler AMIS



Kathryn Greer Ison Elementary







Mailing Address:
MVPC
P.O. Box 76051
Sandy Springs, GA 30358
404.255.2211
mvpchurch.org

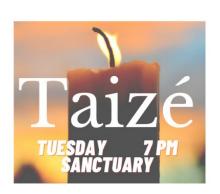


MONDAY-THURSDAY 8AM-4PM FRIDAY 8AM - 2PM











This & That

OCTOBER EVENTS

Presbyterian Women
10/14
Book Circle
10/10

Pumpkin Palooza

10/19

Taize 10/28 7pm

Outdoor Worship All Saints' Day 10/26

> Lunch Bunch 10/26

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)

OUTREACH

This summer our partner agency, Stirred Up Ministries enrolled 52 boys in their camps and provided over 265 dinners or grocery bundles to camper households. In addition, they served more than 300 meals to our homeless neighbors—the People Who Sleep Under the Stars.

We received word (and pictures) that the funds the church provided for Garden Presbyterian Church in Zambia have been put to good use in completing the plumbing for their new manse.

The children's ministry, led by Holly Duncan, provided dinner for Clifton Shelter on Sunday, September 21.

Clifton Sanctuary homeless ministry has raised funds for new doors and security cameras, and it also replaced the water heater and fixed part of the roof. An anonymous donor from MVPC helped with that infrastructure cost.

Senior Adults and Friends sorted books on August 24 and September 21 for Sandy Springs Education Force. MVPC is a sponsor for the Lightning Run Race (Oct. 5) and David Hill is organizing volunteers.

MVPC was well-represented with 10 members at the CAC Gala and the Los Ninos Primero Banquet had over 40 members, both held on September 20.



Children's Ministry preparing dinner for Clifton Sanctuary.



Book Sorting



Los Ninos Gala



Your donations are helping with the plumbing at the Manse in Zambia!



Community Assistance Center Gala

GETTING TO KNOW ...

HOLLY DUNCAN

NEW MEMBER IN JULY

What is your favorite family vacation?

We travel to my parents' house in Naples, Florida, for spring break each year. Having coffee on the back porch, playing at the beach, then eating tacos at our favorite dive joint is just about my perfect day.



What is your favorite book to read?

At the start of every summer, I re-read my all-time favorite book: Gone-Away Lake by Elizabeth Enright. It's a young adult novel published in 1957 about cousins who spend their summer exploring abandoned houses near a lake that dried up years before. So much sweet nostalgia!

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

I teach art classes for kids at the Sandy Springs library, and it's the best part of my week every time. If I could do it all day, every day, I would.

What's your favorite family tradition?

One of my favorite traditions is a new one: Chris and I take each kid on a solo trip to Washington D.C. for their tenth birthday. We took Graham last year, Eloise last month (!), and Alice Anne will get her trip in 2027.

Have you ever had a surprise party? (that was an actual surprise)

So many! I am very, VERY gullible, so my friends and family have pulled off loads of surprise parties for me. The one my friends threw for my sixteenth birthday involved a 5 a.m. wake-up and an appearance on the local NBC morning show in St. Louis!



When you need someone to walk through a difficult time with you or someone to be a sounding board and help you clarify your goals for moving through and out of trouble, a role change, a job loss, an empty house or nest, a new health diagnosis, early dementia, mild depression, a move to a new place or anything you feel you can't share with those around you, please utilize our church Stephen Ministry. Call or email Pat Bartee, Stephen Leader, or Isaac or Shari to get connected.

SESSION SUMMARY

Summary of the Stated Session Meeting September 21, 2025

The Session met for its monthly meeting on September 21, 2025, and conducted the following business:

- Session welcomed Kathryn Wade who replaced Braegan Abernethy and will serve the remainder of that term. At the Congregational Meeting on September 28, Kathryn is being nominated for a full three-year term.
- PC(USA) sent a letter acknowledging MVPC's gift of \$2,078.00 which we collected in the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering in June.
- A committee was appointed to make recommendations regarding the current bulletin boards in the hall near the office. There is little foot traffic in this area so few people see information placed on the boards.
- Commissioners were elected who will represent MVPC at the November 8th Presbytery meeting.
 Commissioners for this meeting include David Hill, Penny Kiel, Carrie Southard, and Mary Lea Woods.
- Session approved membership for MVPC in Presbyterians for a Better Georgia, a nonpartisan group of Presbyterian churches throughout Georgia who support Matthew 25 issues such as affordable housing and legal protection for mentally handicapped people. MVPC will join St. Luke's, Trinity, Morningside, Pleasant Hill, and many others to work on these issues.
- Session will ask the Presbyterians for a Better Georgia team from our church to bring together nonprofits and churches in the Sandy Springs/Dunwoody area to determine what transportation services are available to the elderly and others who do not have transportation to meet medical and other needs.
- Fellowship activities for 2026 were approved.
- The Annual Congregational Meeting date was set for March 8, 2026.
- Session began to implement the PC(USA) required process of periodically removing people from the church roll who no longer attend or engage with the church. People are contacted before being presented to Session. This process will take several months. Six people were removed from the roll dropping current membership to 364.

The next Stated Session Meeting will be on Sunday, October 26.

OCTOBER CALENDAR

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28	58	30	J	2	3	4
			2:30pm - Stephen Ministry	10:30am - Shari Meeting	5:30pm - LNP @ field	6:30am - LNP Sat School
			3pm - LNP @ Chapel	5pm - LNP	8pm - AA-Primary Purpose	8:45am - Bagpipes @ GH
			5pm - Bnai Torah @ FH	7pm - NABB @ Gym		
9	9	7	80	6	10	=
9:30am - Crossroads	9am - LNP @ Chapel	10am - Staff Meeting @	6:30am - school @ GH	11am - Vernon Springs	8am - Finance/Admin	8:45am - Bagpipes @ GH
9:30am - Discovery Class,	1pm - Senior Adult	11am - Staff Worship	1:30pm - Worship	2pm - General Ledger	10am - PW Book Circle @	1pm - Seniors Watercolor
10:30am - Worship @	6:30pm - Al Anon @	11:30am - Music Lessons	5pm - LNP @ GH	5pm - LNP	5:30pm - LNP @ field	
11:30am - Lunch Bunch @	7pm - Scouts @ Galley	5:30pm - CE Meeting	6pm - IPNC @ Session	7pm - NABB @ Gym	8pm - AA-Primary Purpose	
2pm - YMSL @ Sanc Chol	8pm - AA @ Kirk Center	7pm - AA-Women's Big	7pm - AA @ Kirk			
5pm - Small Group @		7pm - NABB @ gym	7pm - Choir Rehearsal @			
7pm - AA @ Kirk Center		8pm - AA @ Fellowship	7pm - NABB @ gym			
12	13	14	15	16	11	18
9:30am - Crossroads	9am - LNP @ Chapel	10am - PW @ Session	10am - Senior Adults Tour	12pm - SSICA - Session	5:30pm - LNP @ field	8:45am - Bagpipes @ GH
9:30am - Discovery Class,	5:30pm - Busy	10am - Staff Meeting @	5pm - LNP @ GH	5pm - LNP	8pm - AA-Primary Purpose	
10:30am - Worship @	5:30pm - Monthly FAMT	11am - Staff Worship	6pm - IPNC @ Session	7pm - NABB @ Gym		
11:30am - Eagle Scout @	6:30pm - Al Anon @	11:30am - Music Lessons	6:30pm - Scouts @ GH			
5pm - Small Group @	7pm - Scouts @ Gailey	7pm - AA-Women's Big	7pm - AA @ Kirk			
7pm - AA @ Kirk Center	8pm - AA @ Kirk Center	7pm - NABB @ gym	7pm - Choir Rehearsal @			
7pm - Alfanta Concert		8pm - AA @ Fellowship	7pm - NABB @ gym			
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
9:30am - Crossroads	9am - LNP @ Chapel	10am - Staff Meeting @	Newsletter Deadline	5pm - LNP	5:30pm - LNP @ field	6am - Emilys Trick Treat
9:30am - Discovery Class,	5pm - Magic Club @	11am - Staff Worship	1:45pm - School @ Gailey	7pm - NABB @ Gym	8pm - AA-Primary Purpose	6:30am - LNP Sat School
10:30am - Worship @	6:30pm - Al Anon @	11:30am - Music Lessons	5pm - LNP @ GH			8:45am - Bagpipes @ GH
4pm - Pumpkin Palooza	7pm - Scouts @ Galley	4pm - Stephen Min	6pm - IPNC @ Session			
7pm - AA @ Kirk Center	8pm - AA @ Kirk Center	7pm - AA-Women's Big	7pm - AA @ Kirk			
7pm - Alfanta Concert		7pm - NABB @ gym	7pm - Choir Rehearsal @			
26	22	28	59	30	31	
9:30am - Crossroads	9am - LNP @ Chapel	10am - Staff Meeting @	12pm - First Call Pastor	5pm - LNP	5:30pm - LNP @ field	
9:30am - Discovery Class,	Zpm - Singing at Vernon	11am - Staff Worship	5pm - LNP @ GH	7pm - NABB @ Gym	8pm - AA-Primary Purpose	
10am - Magic Club @ FH	6:30pm - Al Anon @	11:30am - Music Lessons	6pm - IPNC @ Session			
10:30am - Worship @	7pm - Scouts @ Gailey	7pm - AA-Women's Big	7pm - AA @ Kirk			
11:30am - Session Mtg @	8pm - AA @ Kirk Center	7pm - NABB @ gym	7pm - Choir Rehearsal @			
5pm - Circle of Grace		7pm - Taize @ Sanctuary	7pm - NABB @ gym			
7pm - AA @ Kirk Center		8pm - AA @ Fellowship				

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

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

THE RESIDENCE OF THE OWNER WHEN THE PROPERTY OF THE SAME AND THE PROPERTY OF T	WATER CONTRACTOR
Todd Simon	10/2
Christopher Ufere	10/3
Tara Allen	10/5
Sarah Chalpan	10/6
Ann Williams	10/9
Marion Satterfield	10/10
Susan Hasell	10/11
Ian Hughes	10/11
Lisa Cumming	10/13
Lucy Pugmire	10/14
Marguerite Nelson	10/14
Leah Reid	10/15
Wright Hardy	10/17
Barbary 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 Combes	10/28
Hannah Hagenau	10/29
Jack Sims	10/31
Amy McCrory	10/31
Kathy Havey	10/31



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

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.

PRAYER VINE



Christian Sympathy to the friends and family of Marion Satterfield who died September 17. Her service is scheduled for Saturday, November 1 at 11:30am in the Sanctuary.

Carolyn Bowen - praise that her doctors have found a new medication that has proved helpful in reducing the pain from serious health issues with her kidneys - friend of Charlie Gray

Lorry Clark - comfort and strength

Gerald Fudge - praise that he is feeling much better after completing 12 of his scheduled 33 radiation treatments.

Darrell Jones - prayers for strength and stamina after a hospitalization for heart and blood pressure issues. He is the Founder and Executive Director of Stirred Up Ministries.

Megan Kendall - needs prayers for miracles and healing as she fights an aggressive form of cancer. Megan is the niece of David & Christy Hill.

Penny Kiel - praise that her healing is progressing after a fall and injury to her back.

Ongoing Prayers: Interim Pastor Nominating Committee, Los Ninos Primero, Clifton Sanctuary, World Leaders, Mrs. JB, Joann Egan



Return Service Requested

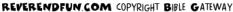
Got News? We'd love to hear from you! Send us your news so we can celebrate, laugh, and/or cry with you. After all, we are FAMILY. Deadline for news is the third Wednesday of each month for the *next month's* newsletter. Send your submissions to debbie@mvpchurch.org.

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



Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt Associate Pastor of Faith Formation isaac@mvpchurch.org Rev. Shari Freeman Associate Pastor of Spiritual Care shari@mvpchurch.org Steve Ray Church Finance and Operations steve@mvpchurch.org **Debbie Nysewander** Administrative Assistant debbie@mvpchurch.org Yvonne White Financial Assistant yvonne@mvpchurch.org Jill Hudson Music Director jillh@mvpchurch.org







GOLIATH'S REPLACEMENT WAS EVEN LESS EFFECTIVE

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