



MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

GOOD NEWS

REACHING OUT TO ... WELCOME. WORSHIP. SHARE. SERVE.

MARCH 2026



A Note From the Pastor

Rev. Kate Colussy-Estes

Friends, by the time you read this we'll be closer to Holy Week and Easter than to the beginning of Lent. We've spent this season engaging scripture and our own lives asking new questions, questions meant to help us deepen our faith. Many of you have been gathering in small groups and engaging scripture and questions together.

In his book, *Letters to a Young Poet*, the 20th Century Austrian Poet, Rainier Maria Rilke advised his reader, *"Live the questions now. Perhaps then, someday far in the future, you will gradually, without even noticing it, live your way into the answer."* These questions won't necessarily

lead to answers, but they can help us find clarity and a new perspective. Ultimately, we pray they lead to a new beginning, a restoration, a wider grace.

Mount Vernon Presbyterian is in a season of seeking, a season of learning more about ourselves so that when the time comes, we will be ready for what is next. To do that it's important to stay curious and open, to soften our assumptions and expand our perspectives. Over the coming months you will see an expansion of interim activity - we'll work on our mission and

continued on next page

IN THIS ISSUE

P4BG

Gift of Wisdom/Birthdays

This & That

Calendar

Session Summary

Outreach

Communion Offering

Prayer Vine

demographic studies, and we'll elect a PNC. This season of transition is something of a spiritual quest, which invites us to look at our life together with fresh eyes, and connect with the longing that each of us feels, and that we feel as a community of faith. This quest calls us to honesty and bravery, and to ask questions of ourselves out of that curiosity.

Questions that come from curiosity lead us to wonder and mystery, and open us to new ways of seeing. Questions of judgement do exactly the opposite, entrenching us in old, and often broken, ways of seeing and understanding. So I hope that as we wind down the season of Lent you will keep seeking, keep questioning. May our faith deepen in the wonder and mystery of it all.

Peace,
Kate



seeking:
honest questions
for deeper faith

January 31, 2026	Actual YTD	2025 Budget
Member Giving Pledge	\$87,241	\$460,000
Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$16,162	\$60,000
Loose Offerings	\$267	\$7,500
Total YTD	\$102,670	\$527,500

2026 Session Members & Ministry Teams

Moderator(s)

Rev. Kate Colussy-Estes
Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt
Rev. Shari Freeman

Clerk of Session

Donna Neumann

Christian Education

Carrie Southard

Congregational Care

Barbara Brooks
Sharon Murphy

Fellowship

Keith Bumgarner
Joey Noszek
Ed Spain

Finance/Administration/ Stewardship

Ben Cumming

Outreach

Mike Havey
Kathryn Wade

Senior Adults

Mary Lea Woods

Witness

Lois Johnson

Worship

Penny Kiel
Donna Martin

P4BG



Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church has been active during this state legislative session, following the lead of the group Presbyterians For a Better Georgia. We attended training and have responded to two alerts.

In early February, we responded to an advocacy alert regarding House Bill 973, which addresses property tax relief. The bill included \$50 million to help communities address homelessness. We contacted our representatives, and the bill passed and was signed into law by the Governor on March 3.

On February 25, we responded to an advocacy alert regarding House Bill 295, which would have increased the arrest of people who are homeless. As a group, we contacted each member of the House Rules Committee, urging them to oppose this bill. In our talking points, we pointed out that homelessness is not a criminal offense, and pressuring municipalities to arrest people who are homeless doesn't solve the problem; instead, it disrupts the work of assisting people with obtaining shelter. We also emphasized that the core issues surrounding homelessness are affordable housing and services for those who struggle with mental illness and other underlying conditions.

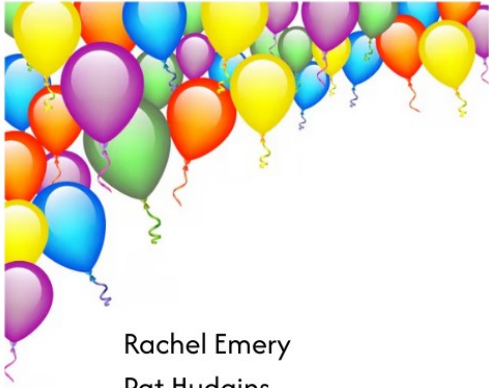
Other bills to watch during the legislative session include the following:

- \$9.3 M add to DBHDD Budget for 404 new Georgia Housing Voucher Program vouchers to provide supportive housing to chronically homeless people with severe mental illness. (Support)
- HB 689 to provide flexible local grants for short-term emergency rental assistance to keep working families stably housed. (Support)
- HB 295, which would pressure local governments to arrest people for being homeless. (Oppose)
- HB 61, which would end the right of eviction for thousands of families living long-term in extended stay hotels and subject them to immediate lockout and arrest. (Oppose)
- SB 427, which would provide a waiver for Medicaid coverage for mental health services for vulnerable Georgians. (Support)
- HB 131, which would help enforce Georgia's mental health parity laws. (Support)

We would love for you to join us in our advocacy work!

- Sign up to receive alerts from Presbyterians for a Better Georgia at p4bg.org
- Contact Pat Bartee (pbartee@yahoo.com) to join our committee
- Join us for Lobby Day at the Capitol, March 18, 2026

GIFT OF WISDOM



Rachel Emery	3/1
Pat Hudgins	3/1
Alice Ann Lever	3/3
Gill Hutt	3/6
Bruce Northrop	3/11
Alex Sprung	3/12
Pat Davis	3/13
Elo Small	3/14
Deborah Galloway	3/18
Michelle Smart	3/20
Mary Kilgore	3/21
Bruce Hagenau	3/22
Mike Gillespie	3/23
Connor Plumly	3/24
Jodi Jackson	3/26
Kirk Chalpan	3/27
Katie Sprung	3/27
Beppie Lever	3/28

New Beginnings

Our world fills with color,
Birds are nesting,
resting between their winged journeys, welcoming Spring.
Hope begins under a bright blue sky, the thoughts are clear
as goals appear.

We feel anything is possible
in this interim of time,
the delights in finding the perfect rhyme.
A joy is found as words provide a cadence,
thought provoking creativity abounds
as we listen to nature's sound.

A collaboration of three years of
sharing the gifts of Art and Verse, I have listened to another
calling, to expand the Verse to publishing beyond the
painting and our congregation, to the universe.

The painting remains to bring us joy as I pursue my goal.
With the blessings from our Artist, Staff and the birth of
Spring, thank you Mt. Vernon for the gift of your audience as I
spread my wings.

With great gratitude.



Poem: Dee Bradford-Smith

Artwork: Donna Martin

THIS & THAT



Isaac teaching the Presbyterian Women Tuesday group



Seniors at Fun and Games
Barbara, Kirk, Mary & Mary Lea

Watercolor class with Mary Lea, Donna, Mary



Holy Week and Easter Events

March 29

Palm Sunday
Lunch and Egg Hunt

April 1

Wednesday Service - Noon

April 2

Maundy Thursday Service & Agape Meal
6:30pm

April 3

Good Friday Service
Noon

April 5

Easter Sunrise - 7:00am
Worship Service - 10:30am



Scan here to sign up for the
Maundy Thursday Agape Meal

MARCH CALENDAR

Mar 2026 (Eastern Time - New York

MVPC Events barrett@mvpchurch.org

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:30am - Crossroads 9:30am - Discovery Class, 10:30am - Worship @ 12pm - MV Foundation 5pm - Small Group @ Kirk 7pm - AA @ Kirk Center	2 9am - Los Niños Primero 6:30pm - AI Anon @ 7pm - NABB 7pm - Scouts @ Gailey 8pm - AA @ Kirk Center	3 10am - Staff Meeting @ 11am - Staff Worship 1pm - Music Lessons @ 4:30pm - ES BB @ gym 5:30pm - CE Meeting 7pm - AA-Women's Big	4 7:30am - Chapel @ 11:30am - Book Sorting- 1pm - Preschool meeting 5pm - Los Niños Primero 7pm - AA @ Kirk Center 7pm - Choir Rehearsal @	5 4:30pm - ES BB @ gym 5pm - Los Niños Primero 7pm - North Atlanta	6 5:30pm - Los Niños 8pm - AA-Primary Purpose	7 6:30am - Los Niños 2pm - Organ Practice @
8 9:30am - Crossroads 9:30am - Discovery Class, 10:30am - Worship @ 5pm - Circle of Grace 5pm - Small Group @ Kirk 7pm - AA @ Kirk Center 7pm - Atlanta Concert	9 Monday FAMT @ zoom 9am - Los Niños Primero 5:30pm - Busy 6:30pm - AI Anon @ 7pm - NABB 7pm - Scouts @ Gailey 8pm - AA @ Kirk Center	10 10am - Presbyterian 10am - Staff Meeting @ 11am - Staff Worship 1pm - Music Lessons @ 4:30pm - ES BB @ gym 7pm - AA-Women's Big 7pm - North Atlanta	11 7:30am - Chapel @ 11:30am - Book Sorting- 1pm - Preschool meeting 1pm - Worship Meeting @ 2:30pm - Stephen Ministry 5pm - Los Niños Primero 7pm - AA @ Kirk Center	12 11am - Vernon Springs 2pm - General Ledger 4:30pm - ES BB @ gym 5pm - Los Niños Primero 7pm - North Atlanta	13 8am - Finance/Admin 10am - PW Book Circle @ 5:30pm - Los Niños 8pm - AA-Primary Purpose	14 2pm - Organ Practice @ 5pm - AA Ftb speaker
15 9:30am - Crossroads 9:30am - Discovery Class, 10:30am - Worship @ 11:30am - Session Mtg @ 5pm - Movie Night - 5pm - Small Group @ Kirk	16 9am - Los Niños Primero 6pm - Magic Club @ 6:30pm - AI Anon @ 7pm - NABB 7pm - Scouts @ Gailey 8pm - AA @ Kirk Center	17 10am - Staff Meeting @ 11am - Staff Worship 1pm - Music Lessons @ 4pm - Stephen Min. - 4:30pm - ES BB @ gym 7pm - AA-Women's Big	18 7:30am - Chapel @ 11:30am - Book Sorting- 1pm - Preschool meeting 5pm - Los Niños Primero 6:30pm - Scouts @ Gailey 7pm - AA @ Kirk Center	19 12pm - Sandy Springs 4:30pm - ES BB @ gym 4:30pm - school function 5pm - Los Niños Primero 7pm - North Atlanta	20 5:30pm - Los Niños 8pm - AA-Primary Purpose	21 6:30am - Los Niños 1pm - Barbara Bruce 2pm - Organ Practice @
22 9:30am - Crossroads 9:30am - Discovery Class, 10:30am - Worship @ 2pm - YMSL @ Sanc Chol 5pm - Small Group @ Kirk 7pm - AA @ Kirk Center	23 9am - Los Niños Primero 6:30pm - AI Anon @ 7pm - NABB 7pm - Scouts @ Gailey 8pm - AA @ Kirk Center	24 10am - Staff Meeting @ 11am - Staff Worship 1pm - Music Lessons @ 4:30pm - ES BB @ gym 7pm - AA-Women's Big 7pm - North Atlanta	25 Newsletter Deadline 7:30am - Chapel @ 9:30am - Senior Adults - 11:30am - Book Sorting- 1pm - Preschool meeting 5pm - Los Niños Primero	26 4:30pm - ES BB @ gym 5pm - Los Niños Primero 7pm - North Atlanta	27 5pm - Pinewood Derby @ FH 8am - MVS Prayer Group 5:30pm - Los Niños 8pm - AA-Primary Purpose	28 2pm - Organ Practice @
29 9:30am - Crossroads 9:30am - Discovery Class, 10:30am - Worship @ 5pm - Small Group @ Kirk 7pm - AA @ Kirk Center	30 9am - Los Niños Primero 6:30pm - AI Anon @ 7pm - NABB 7pm - Scouts @ Gailey 8pm - AA @ Kirk Center	31 10am - Staff Meeting @ 11am - Staff Worship 1pm - Music Lessons @ 4:30pm - ES BB @ gym 7pm - AA-Women's Big	1 10am - Staff Meeting @ 11am - Staff Worship 1pm - Music Lessons @ 4:30pm - ES BB @ gym 7pm - AA-Women's Big	2	3	4

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

SESSION SUMMARY

The MVPC Session met for its regular February meeting on February 22 and conducted the following business:

- Corporation Officers were nominated to be presented for congregational election at the Annual Meeting on March 8, 2026
- Bruce Morine was nominated and elected to serve as church Treasurer.
- Carrie Southard and Kate Colussy-Estes provided a summary of the February 2026 meeting of the Atlanta Presbytery. Much of that meeting focused on discussion and votes on proposed Bills and Overtures to be submitted to General Assembly.
- Pastor Kate shared there are ongoing conversations about support of a former staff member. No action is needed by Session at this time.
- Session identified congregation members who will be invited to serve on the 2026 Nominating Committee. Nominees for the Nominating Committee will be presented for congregational election at the Annual Meeting on March 8, 2026.
- Pastor Kate shared observations about volunteer gaps she is seeing. Session will explore these areas in the coming months.



OUTREACH

MVPC was the Congregation of the Month for CAC in January. We collected food and diapers for the pantry through the January blue bag Communion Offering, and we purchased additional items to supplement the collection. The women of MVPC also donated many pieces of costume jewelry to the CAC Canopy Thrift Shop.

We purchased travel sized toothbrushes and toothpaste for Sandy Springs Charter Middle School Beta Club members who were putting together hygiene kits for the Ronald McDonald House.

MVPC members sorted books for the Sandy Springs Education Force on February 22 in Gailey Hall.

Clifton Sanctuary Ministries:

The February blue bag Communion Offering supported the Clifton Night Shelter by collecting food, paper products, cleaning supplies, bedding and bathroom items, and Home Depot/Lowes gift cards.



Your Stephen Ministers feel called to be here for you when times are especially hard and you could use a dependable, non-judgmental person in your life. That person could help you keep moored, offer perspective, and make life lighter, with a burden shared. That difficulty may not be an urgent event but could be a long-standing fear or loneliness or grief.

Please connect with Pat Bartee, Leader, or a pastor to get started.

COMMUNION OFFERING

February Communion Offering Clifton Sactuary Ministries

Dear Mt. Vernon PC,

The Board, Staff and guests of Clifton Sanctuary Ministries would like to say a great big THANK YOU for the collection of donations you all gifted us. We are so grateful, and the items are much needed and appreciated! We are so thankful for our partnership with Mt. Vernon PC. Please know your support allows us to live out our mission of making a difference in the lives of those experiencing homelessness in our community.

Blessings.

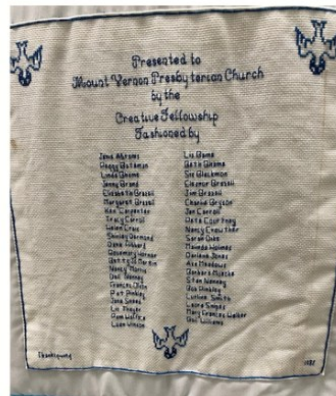
Lori White

Director of Development & Communications
Clifton Sanctuary Ministries



The quilt that was made by many women of the church in 1982 has been cleaned and hung! Take a look at it in the stairwell heading down to the Kirk Center.

One of our small groups



PRAYER VINE

Christian sympathy to friends and family of **Barbara Bruce** who died January 10. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, March 21 at 1pm in the Sanctuary.

Christian sympathy to friends and family of **Mary Smith** who died March 1. A memorial service will be held at Mount Vernon Towers on Sunday, March 22 at 2pm.

Christian sympathy to friends and family of **Sam Brasher** who died March 16. A service is TBD.

Thankful for new members **Angela Graham & Barbara Pirkle** who joined the church March 1!

Carol Beckman - prayers for comfort, strength and healing as she goes through chemo treatments

Jack Bobeng - prayers and comfort from a recent fall and broken neck. He has been moved to an assisted living facility

Shari Freeman - prayers for patience and recovery from knee replacement surgery

Gerald Fudge - praise that he received a good report from a biopsy several weeks ago

Bruce Hagenau - prayers for comfort and healing as he continues radiation infusion treatments

George Hammett - recovery and healing for a heart condition being treated with medication and for treatment of his prostate

Megan Kendall - continued prayers for her medical team as they determine the best plan to manage her pain

Mary Kilgore - prayers for relief from pain and complete healing from shingles

Kathryn Mackie - recovery & healing for Moira Speirs' sister. Thankful that Moira is in Scotland helping.

Una Milne - prayers for comfort and peace for her family on her recent death (cousin of Moira Speirs)

Nikki & Richard Player - congratulations of the birth of their son, Arthur, on March 13

Elizabeth Small - prayers for a successful cataract surgery

Linda Young - prayers for comfort & recovery in the Personal Care Center at MV Towers



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. Kate Colussy-Estes	<i>Interim Senior Pastor</i>	kate@mvpchurch.org
Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt	<i>Associate Pastor</i>	isaac@mvpchurch.org
Rev. Shari Freeman	<i>Associate Pastor</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

Follow Us
mvpchurch.org

