MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

GOOD NEWS

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

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2026

A Note From the Pastor

Rev. Kate Colussy-Estes

As we moved from Summer to Fall, we moved from the Creation Creativity of Genesis to Matthew's Jesus: Stories of the Kingdom. We'll continue to hear and learn more from Matthew's Jesus through the parables as we enter into stewardship season this month. We've also had the opportunity to hear more about our ministry partners, not from their staff, but from our members who have been actively involved in these ministries as volunteers.

We'll move into Stewardship Season in October and November. Our season has kicked-off with a guest preacher whose name you might recognize, Rev. Christina Toney-Schmitt. She laid the groundwork for this year's stewardship theme: Faithful Service.

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Our members are the experts in sharing how Faithful Service has shaped this congregation, and those stories are powerful. When we speak of the growth and expansion of the Community Assistance Center, we recall faithful use of our campus, partnership, and discernment. When we speak of Los Niños Primero, we remember the very first summer programs, Saturday schools, and youth development programs! As we hear stories of Clifton Sanctuary Ministries, Sandy Springs Education Force, partnerships in Zambia, Atlanta Ministry with International Students, and others, we wonder how continued faithful service will make space for more mission partners to grow and flourish.

The new church year is right around the corner. So we'll bid this one farewell by singing our way through the church year on Reign of Christ Sunday, November 22. And then we'll come back that evening and celebrate the coming of the new church year with the Hanging of the Greens. We continue to draw on this congregation's deep well of past service to discern God's call to Reach Out to… Welcome, Worship, Share, Serve, in the year to come.

Peace,

Kate

September 30, 2026	**Actual YTD**	**2026 Budget**
Member Giving Pledge	$374,536	$460,000
Member Giving Non-Pledge	$44,702	$60,000
Loose Offerings	$5,373	$7,500
Total YTD	**$424,611**	**$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

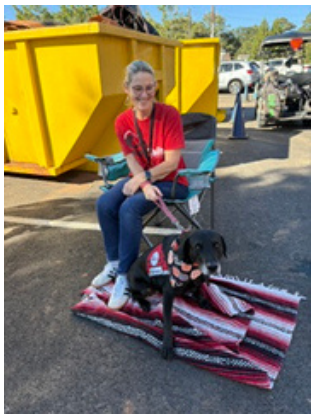
Outreach
Mike Havey
Kathryn Wade

Senior Adults
Mary Lea Woods

Witness
Piper Neumann

Worship
Penny Kiel
Donna Martin

PUMPKIN PALOOZA



Hurricanes are somewhat like emotions, transient, intense for a time, sometimes damaging but always disruptive. When you feel yourself engulfed by emotion over an event, a personal issue, or health, think about including a Stephen Minister on your journey. A Stephen Minister can help you "hear" yourself and your thoughts, assist you in processing the swirl of events and emotions you are feeling, and add perspective and encouragement.

Please contact Pat Bartee, Leader, or a pastor to get involved.

STEPHEN MINISTRY

EMORY BRAIN HEALTH EVENT

On August 23, we once again hosted Emory's Goizueta Brain Health Institute for a workshop on dementia. This year, the focus was on supporting caregivers who were caring for loved ones with dementia. The topic resonated with the community, and we had a great turnout. Overall, we had the most registrations and the largest turnout in our three years of partnering with Emory on brain health events, welcoming over 100 community members to our campus. Thank you to all who volunteered to welcome our visitors and make this event a success.

OUTREACH

Community Action Center: CAC was the recipient of the Communion Offering for September. Kathy & Mike Havey and Anna Morine delivered the donations of food and diapers on September 28 (Anna pictured with some of the donations).

MVPC also sponsored a table at the CAC Annual Gala on September 19, 2026.

AMIS: AMIS hosted their 48th Annual Welcome Reception on Saturday, September 26, 2026 at Georgia Tech Coda Tech Square Plaza. MVPC was a gold sponsor. Sujay Galen and the Haveys attended the event (shown pictured with their new Belgian friend Dom).

Clifton Sanctuary Ministries: MVPC currently provides dinner for the men's shelter on the third Sunday of each month. Kathryn Wade provided the monthly dinner in September, and Holly Duncan coordinated the youth to provide the dinner in October.

Outreach Awareness: MVPC members have been speaking during the Minute for Mission during September and October about how they got involved with a particular ministry partner, the impact that it has had on them personally, the impact we have had on the organization, and current ways others can join them in supporting the organization. Sujay Galen spoke about AMIS, the Haveys spoke about CAC, Stan Williams and Gill Hutt spoke about the various efforts in Zambia, Htet Nyunt and Sophie spoke about SSEF, and Sam McClurg spoke about Los Ninos Primero.

Zambia Mission: MVPC and individual congregation members provided funds to Alliance for Children Everywhere (ACE) for the construction of 8 bathrooms at the Garden Presbyterian School in Lusaka. Construction will begin in October. The MVP Foundation funded the purchase of 5 new computers for Garden Presbyterian School.

PARABLES

As we ponder Jesus's parables this fall, you are invited to write your own parable. A parable is a simple story that uses ordinary, relatable characters, surroundings, and objects to speak to God's larger truth in a fresh, new way.

Four easy steps to writing a parable

1) Sit somewhere, and take one minute to notice what is around you.
   Pick one thing you notice, and write down some details.
   Ponder how this scene reflects a truth about God.

2) Start your parable something like this:
   God's beloved community is like … The realm of God is like …
   The Kingdom of God is like … God's creation is like …

3) Add some descriptive details.

4) Share it with others. Send your parable to debbie@mvpchurch.org, and we will include it in an upcoming weekly email or bulletin.

Example Parables

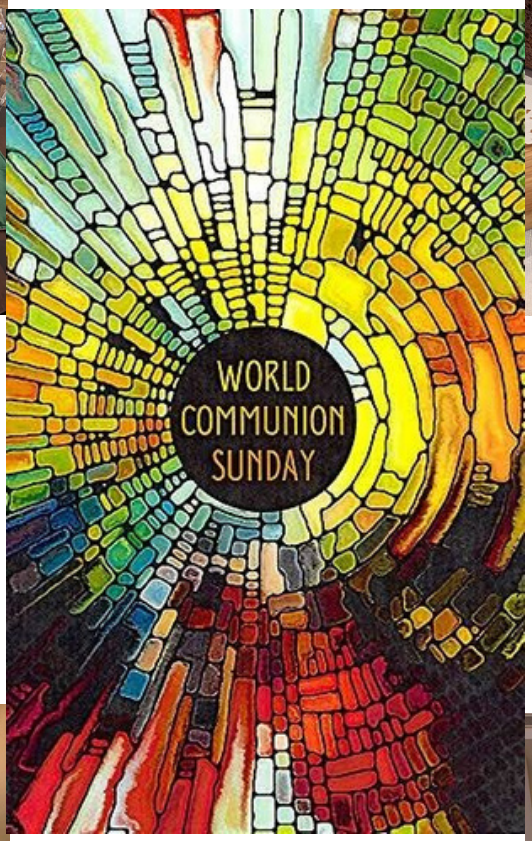
The Kingdom of God is like a man who spends five hours in a parking deck laying in grease stains under cars until he can finally bring a hissing kitten home.

God's creation is like eating a peach while driving home. It is challenging, sweet, and messy all at the same time.

God's beloved community is like customers in a Waffle House on a Wednesday morning. A pink fur coat. A black bathrobe. A red puffy jacket. A Puma hoodie. A down parka warm enough for arctic explorations. A father and daughter with ashes on their foreheads.

The realm of God is a woman, sitting on the bank of a river, tears in her eyes as she prays for a friend half a world away.

WORLD COMMUNION



SESSION SUMMARY

Session Activities – Sept 2026

September 20 Stated Session Meeting

- We ratified the email vote to call a congregational meeting on Sept 27.
- We ratified the email vote to baptize Kris Arthur Player on Sep 20.
- We decided to move the October Stated Session meeting to Oct 18 (was originally scheduled for Oct 25).
- We discussed plans for the upcoming Pumpkin Palooza Community Event on Oct 25.
- We decided to move the annual Hanging of the Greens event to Nov 22, which is the Sunday before Thanksgiving, rather than the Sunday after Thanksgiving. We believe this may work better for those who travel on Thanksgiving.
- We reflected individually and in the full group on questions posed by Pastor Kate about various aspects of the church.

September 27 Congregational Meeting

- Keith Bumgarner, Penny Kiel, Carrie Southard, and Piper Neumann were elected for a one year term on Session in 2027
- Christy Hill was elected for a 3-year term on Session starting in 2027.
- The church nominating committee that served in 2026 was elected to serve again in 2027. Members are Barbara Brooks (appointed by Session), Meg Christian, Charlie Gray, David Hill, Diane Bumgarner.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Neumann
Clerk of Session

CALENDAR

MVPC Events — Nov 2026 (Eastern Time - New York)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8am - ES BB @ gym 9:30am - Crossroads 9:30am - Discovery Class, 10:30am - Worship @ 7pm - AA @ Kirk Center	2 9am - Los Niños Primero 1pm - Active Adults 6:30pm - Al Anon @ 7pm - NABB 7pm - Scouts @ Gailey 8pm - AA @ Kirk Center	3 10am - Staff Meeting @ 11am - Staff Worship 12:30pm - Music Lessons 5:30pm - CE Meeting 7pm - AA-Women's Big 7pm - North Atlanta	4 school late start 6:30am - School Chapel @ 11:30am - Book Sorting- 1:30pm - Stephen Ministry 4:30pm - Pastor 5pm - LNP Karate @ GH	5 1pm - Organ Practice @ 5pm - Los Niños Dance @ 7pm - North Atlanta	6 1pm - Organ Practice @ 5:30pm - Los Niños 8pm - AA-Primary Purpose	7 9am - Presbytery of 2pm - Organ Practice @
8 8am - ES BB @ gym 9:30am - Crossroads 9:30am - Discovery Class, 10:30am - Worship @ 12pm - Volunteer 2pm - YMSL @ all campu	9 9am - Los Niños Primero 5:30pm - Monthly FAMT 6:30pm - Al Anon @ 7pm - NABB 7pm - Scouts @ Gailey 8pm - AA @ Kirk Center	10 10am - Staff Meeting @ 10:30am - PW Bible Study 11am - Staff Worship 12:30pm - Music Lessons 7pm - AA-Women's Big 7pm - North Atlanta	11 6:30am - School Chapel @ 11:30am - Book Sorting- 4:30pm - Pastor 5pm - LNP Karate @ GH 7pm - AA @ Kirk Center 7pm - Choir Practice @	12 11am - Vernon Springs 1pm - Organ Practice @ 2pm - Check Review 5pm - Los Niños Dance @ 7pm - North Atlanta	13 7:45am - Mount Vernon 10am - PW Book Circle @ 1pm - Organ Practice @ 5:30pm - Los Niños 8pm - AA-Primary Purpose	14 2pm - Organ Practice @
15 8am - ES BB @ gym 9:30am - Crossroads 9:30am - Discovery Class, 10:30am - Worship @ 11:30am - Session Mtg @ 5pm - Circle of Grace 7pm - AA @ Kirk Center	16 9am - Los Niños Primero 6pm - Magic Club @ 6:30pm - Al Anon @ 7pm - NABB 7pm - Scouts @ Gailey 8pm - AA @ Kirk Center	17 10am - Staff Meeting @ 11am - Staff Worship 12:30pm - Music Lessons 6:30pm - AMIS Board @ 7pm - AA-Women's Big 7pm - North Atlanta 7pm - Taizé @ Sanctuary	18 6:30am - School Chapel @ 11:30am - Book Sorting- 4:30pm - Pastor 5pm - LNP Karate @ GH 6:30pm - Scouts @ Gailey 7pm - AA @ Kirk Center 7pm - Choir Practice @	19 12pm - Sandy Springs 1pm - Organ Practice @ 5pm - Los Niños Dance @ 7pm - North Atlanta	20 1pm - Organ Practice @ 5:30pm - Los Niños 8pm - AA-Primary Purpose	21 1pm - Active Adults Movie 2pm - CAC annual @ FH 2pm - Organ Practice @
22 8am - ES BB @ gym 9:30am - Crossroads 9:30am - Discovery Class, 10:30am - Worship @ 5pm - Hanging of the 7pm - AA @ Kirk Center 7pm - Atlanta Concert	23 school out 9am - Los Niños Primero 9am - Staff Retreat @ 6:30pm - Al Anon @ 7pm - NABB 7pm - Scouts @ Gailey 8pm - AA @ Kirk Center	24 10am - Staff Meeting @ 11am - Staff Worship 12:30pm - Music Lessons 7pm - AA-Women's Big 7pm - North Atlanta 8pm - AA @ Fellowship	25 Newsletter Deadline 6:30am - School Chapel @ 11:30am - Book Sorting- 4:30pm - Pastor 5pm - LNP Karate @ GH 7pm - AA @ Kirk Center	26 1pm - Organ Practice @ 5pm - Los Niños Dance @ 7pm - North Atlanta	27 1pm - Organ Practice @ 5:30pm - Los Niños 8pm - AA-Primary Purpose	28 12pm - Hills @ GH 2pm - Organ Practice @
29 8am - ES BB @ gym 9:30am - Crossroads 9:30am - Discovery Class, 10:30am - Worship @	30 9am - Los Niños Primero 6:30pm - Al Anon @ 7pm - NABB 7pm - Scouts @ Gailey	1	2	3	4	5

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

BIRTHDAYS

September Birthdays

Betsy Cozine	9/3
NancyKennedy	9/3
Kirk Pumphrey	9/4
Christ Gray	9/4
Ginny Little	9/5
Emma Plumly	9/6
Carolyn Spain	9/6
Jim Loth	9/13
Meg Christian	9/14
Sam McClurg	9/15
Stephanie Skidmore	9/20
McLaren Christensen	9/20
Minni Robinson	9/21
Penny Kiel	9/26
Barbara Wasson	9/26

October Birthdays

Todd Simon	10/2
Christopher Ufere	10/3
Tara Allen	10/5
Sarah Chalpan	10/6
Ann Williams	10/9
Ian Hughes	10/11
Lisa Cumming	10/13
Lucy Pugmire	10/14
Marguerite Nelson	10/14
Leah Reid	10/15
Wright Hardy	10/17
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
Hannah Hagenau	10/29
Amy Kiley	10/31
Kathy Havey	10/31

November Birthdays

Steve Whisenant	11/1
Barbara Brooks	11/1
Donna Martin	11/2
Anne Baynham	11/5
Kyle Cumming	11/5
Ken Mead	11/6
Jeanne Mielke	11/12
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

PRAYER VINE

Christian sympathy to the friends and family of George Hammett who died on September 26.
Christian sympathy to the friends and family of Helen Johnson who died on September 18.
Christian sympathy to the friends and family of Linda Young who died on August 17.

Rick Davis - friend of Charlie Gray, continues to heal and being monitored after eye surgery

Mark & JoAnn Fifield - Mark is recovering from a bacterial infection on his spine and JoAnn is recovering from shoulder surgery. Both of them need our prayers for healing.

Dick Freeman - prayers for full recovery from hernia surgery

Gerald Fudge - prayers that he recovers from blood clots in both lungs - currently in ICU

Sherri Galloway - sister of Debbie Galloway, will be evaluated for a lung transplant at Vanderbilt University Medical Center later this month

Mary Lynch - will conclude her radiation treatments for breast cancer this month

Kathryn Mackie - prayers as she deals with dementia and Alzheimer's. Moira Spiers is thankful to be able to spend time with her in Scotland

Karen Roberts - good friend of Anna Morine fell and broke her leg and is in a lot of pain

Kathy Whitacre-Stewart - (daughter of Dave & Nan Whitacre, cousin to Debbie Galloway) is suffering from COPD, emphysema and fibromyalgia. Prayers for the surgeons to determine the best path of treatment and for the treatment to be successful

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 submission 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. Kate Colussy-Estes	Interim Senior Pastor	kate@mvpchurch.org
Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt	Associate Pastor	isaac@mvpchurch.org
Rev. Shari Freeman	Associate Pastor	shari@mvpchurch.org
Steve Ray	Church Finance & Operations	steve@mvpchurch.org
Debbie Nysewander	Administrative Assistant	debbie@mvpchurch.org
Yvonne White	Financial Assistant	yvonne@mvpchurch.org
Jill Hudson	Music Director	jill@mvpchurch.org

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