

# Good News

Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church

471 Mt. Vernon Hwy, NE Atlanta, GA 30328, Tel 404-255-2211, [www.mvpchurch.org](http://www.mvpchurch.org)

February 2011

---

Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Including my pre-seminary time as a youth director, I have had the good fortune to work at four churches with seven different women who were responsible for the weekly publishing of a Sunday worship bulletin. I learned a great deal from these remarkable and capable women about people and about how churches work. Another thing that stood out in particular was learning how difficult it is to print a bulletin (complete with an order of worship, announcements, and other ever-changing information) without letting a significant number of typos and other errors slip through. There is just too much information to receive from too many different people and to format variously in **bold**, in *italics*, and underlined while also variously employing both left and right margin justification with things centered in between. Throw in the need for numerous tabs, spelling biblical names correctly, and getting everyone to stand at the right time and the task becomes nearly impossible. To make matters worse, ministers invariably provide far too many words to fit in the allotted space. Most of the time, substituting the Nicene Creed for the Apostles' Creed cannot be executed nearly as quickly as a pastor makes that decision (yes, usually late in the week).

But Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church and her pastors have been blessed over the past 16 years with the incomparable skills of Pat Yost, who recently announced her retirement effective February 1. Pat has been more to this congregation, however, than just the one I have known to be the best proof-reader. Pat has been a friend, a confidant, and a guide. As part of the staff team, she has provided a calm "can do" demeanor in the midst of unexpected crises and been our corporate memory. As a part of our community of faith, Pat has been the primary connection between many members and this church. Many other members are more connected to MVPC without even ever having met Pat, for she has been the steward of our membership rolls and contact information, as well as producing the directories that enable us to find each other.

As Pat moves on to enjoy this next life-stage of retirement and the freedoms inherent in it, MVPC will have a big gap to fill. So much of who we are has been because of who Pat Yost is. **THANK YOU PAT!**

Shalom,

*Joe B.*

## Staff Directory 404-255-2211

### Rev. Joe B. Martin IV

*Pastor*  
joeb@mvpchurch.org  
ext 214

### Rev. Ron Gilreath

*Associate Pastor*  
ron@mvpchurch.org  
ext 225

### Elizabeth Small

*Director of Youth Ministry*  
elizabeth@mvpchurch.org  
ext 217

### Wendy Evans

*Interim Director of  
Children's Ministry*  
wendy@mvpchurch.org  
ext. 212

### Jim Wingate

*Minister of Music*  
jwingate@lovett.org

### Kathy Clark

*Handbell Dir./Assoc. Organist*

### Don Paul

*Business Administrator*  
don@mvpchurch.org  
ext 210

### Pat Yost

*Administrative Assistant*  
pat@mvpchurch.org  
ext 224

### Symone Evans

*Administrative Assistant*  
symone@mvpchurch.org  
ext 213

### Beverly Mitchell

*Financial Secretary*  
beverly@mvpchurch.org  
ext 216

**Presbyterians Today  
magazines are now  
available for pick-  
up in the church  
office, Narthex, or  
reading table. Pick  
one up TODAY!**

## Regular Sunday Schedule

9 am First Cup Communion Worship  
9:45 am 15 Minutes of Fellowship  
10 am Sunday School  
11 am Worship in Sanctuary  
5 pm Middle School Youth Group  
6 pm Dinner for All Youth  
6:30 pm Senior High Youth Group

### Attention all parents!

Don't you wish you had a manual of some sort with all of the things you are supposed to know how to do? Well, cross one of those things off of your list.



On Sunday, January 30, the Youth Ministry Team will be sponsoring a seminar on Teaching Your Teens to Drive, led by our own John Hibbard, from 5:00-6:30 in the Fellowship Hall. John has experience and know-how in this area, and will be sharing his wisdom free of charge. Make plans now to join us while your child is in youth group.

Happy birthday  
and  
anniversary to  
all who make  
February  
special!



## Sermon Schedule

**February 6**  
Youth Sunday

**February 13**  
Moses and the Promise  
Deuteronomy 34:1-12

**February 20**  
Elijah and the Widow of Zarephath  
I Kings 17:8-16

**February 27**  
Elijah and the Prophets of Baal  
I Kings 18:20-39

## Good News Deadline

The Good News is published **monthly**. Please keep that in mind when submitting your information for publication. Upcoming Good News Schedule is as follows:

**GN Deadline:**  
February 16  
March 16



**GN Publication:**  
February 23  
March 23

Please plan accordingly.

**Moved lately?** Have a new phone number or email address? New job? If you haven't done so already, please update your contact information in the church office.

## Session Ministry Teams

### Adult

Lou Baine  
Patricia Hibbard

### Children

Carrie Southard  
Pearl Attaway

### Congregational Care

Malinda Holmes  
Roula Elias

### Finance/Administration

Jim Snave  
Charlie Gray

### Intergenerational

John Kapsaroff  
Steve Ray

### Outreach

Ross Browne  
Kirk Pumphrey

### Seniors

Bert Hels  
Donna Martin

### Stewardship

Dan Schafer  
Bob Addison

### Strategic Planning

Kathryn Wade  
Bethany Anderson

### Witness

Jeanne Gilliland  
Becky Hague

### Worship

Ross Mielke  
Lisa Hughes

### Youth

Martha Baitcher  
Elizabeth Earhart

### Clerk of Session

John Hibbard

## Children and Family News

Dear MVPC Families,



Beginning this past September, MVPC kids have been looking under couch cushions, searching the bottom of their mother's purses, and raiding their own piggy banks in order to donate loose change to the Change 4 Children program. The program, created by the Alliance for Children Everywhere, sponsors several children's help projects in Zambia, Africa. Change 4 Children is set up to encourage even the youngest children to donate to an important cause and know they are making a difference.

From now until May, MVPC kids will continue contributing to and learning about the special needs that exist in Zambia. The second Discover Zambia Day will take place this month. This is a special Sunday devoted specifically to learning about Zambia and discovering the importance of giving.

I encourage parents to talk with their children about Change 4 Children and remind them to fill up their katumba bags throughout the week. Please go to <http://www.childreverywhere.org> and click on Change 4 Children to read stories about the children helped by this important cause.

*Wendy*

### Coming up this month ...



**Valentine's Day Family Fun Night**, Sun. Feb. 13

This will be a great opportunity for families to get to know each other while sharing fun and food.

**Discover Zambia Day**, Sun. Feb. 20 at 9:45 am. We will spend the morning learning new things about Zambia and how we can reach out to the people of that country.

**Look for new worship bags available this month!**

**MVPC wants to make every child's worship experience great one!**

# Youth News



Our Bring a Blanket overnight took place 1/8-1/9. The great Atlanta snow and ice festivities began the evening of the 9th - talk about timing! Believe me, it was really cold outside even without the snow. Thanks to the generosity of our church family, we had a ton of blankets, hats, scarves, and gloves to give away downtown on the 9th. People were so grateful to have them! Many, many thanks to all of you who made donations. I can tell you they were truly appreciated, and came at a perfect time.

I was so proud of our fabulous youth group, who turned out in a big way for this event. A total of 36 folks were involved! Gill Hutt and I stayed outside by the fire the longest (the others were in Gailey Hall). We were determined to make it all night, but I finally caved when the temperature got down to 17 degrees. we still got some insight into what the folks we meet face every night, which is invaluable. Being able to get even the tiniest glimpse of what that must be like gave all of us an extra measure of compassion as we met people the next day. Plus our youth group always has such fun together, and that night was no exception!

I didn't take as many pictures as I should have, but hope you will enjoy seeing the ones on page 6 to get a small glimpse into the overnight. And give Neill Ferrill a special pat on the back next time you see him, as he stayed up all night with us. Not many folks would do the same!

Thanks again for all of your donations. Know that God definitely used your generosity!

Peace,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Elizabeth'.

# Youth Pictures



**Foundation Grant Deadline** The Mount Vernon Presbyterian Foundation is now accepting applications for 2011 grants. Did you know that grants in previous years have assisted our youth with mission trips, purchased Bibles for students at MVPS, purchased toilets for the Garden Hills Presbyterian School in Lusaka and provided additional support to ministries supported by the church such as Los Niños Primero, Stirred Up Ministries, Clifton Shelter and CAC? The deadline to submit the application is March 1 with decisions expected by May 1. Applications may be downloaded from the church website or submitted on line. Hard copies of the applications may be obtained from the church office. If you have any questions, please contact Tim Southard or Wendy Hagenau.

**SAVE THE DATE:** March 26th 2011 Time: 6:30-10:30

**Where:** The Dorothy Benson Center

If you enjoy great food, music, and wonderful auction items, come to the Circle of Friends Dinner and Silent Auction. We will be raising money for Los Niños Primero. Contact: Margaret Schafer if you have auction items or Martha Barrios Mead. Your presence will help us make a difference!

### **Prayer Shawls Provide Comfort and Love**

I wish you could have seen the reaction of one of our homebound members when we recently presented her with a Mount Vernon Prayer Shawl! She snuggled it around her shoulders and just beamed. A group of our members and several very kind friends are lovingly knitting these shawls with the prayer that God's love will bring comfort to the recipient at a difficult time in their lives. Since 2008, 24 hand-knitted shawls have been given to our members. Would you like to help us continue this ministry? All you need to know is how to knit and pearl – it is as easy as that! Let Malinda know if you are interested.

# Outreach Alley

**The Communion Offering** on February 6 will be for the Clifton Night Shelter. Needed items include men's grooming supplies (razors, deodorant, toothbrushes, toothpaste, etc.), bath towels and washcloths, paper towels, and paper napkins. Items for sack lunches are also needed: paper lunch bags, Ziploc sandwich bags, snacks, cookies, and juice boxes. Please place your donations in the baskets near the welcome table for First Cup or in the baskets in the narthex for the 11 AM service. Donations may also be left in the green bins in the hallway near the church office at any time. For more information about Clifton, go online to [www.cliftonsanctuary.com](http://www.cliftonsanctuary.com) or call Carol Beckman.

## 2011 ZamJam AFRICAN MISSION TEAM

This year's team members are in the process of purchasing air tickets to fly to Lusaka, Zambia on June 21 and return on July 9. If you are interested in being on the team this year, please contact Barbara Hughes.



## Senior Adult Ministry

We are going to have a Potluck Lunch on February 12 at 12:00 Noon in the Kirk Center. Please let Bert Hels know if you will attend and what food item you will bring.



**Mark your calendars!** We have rescheduled the visit to see Carol Strickland in Abbeville, SC to April 2, 3. Details will follow. Please notify Bert Hels if you will join us.

# Adult Ministry News

## Monday Bible Study Begins New Study

You are invited to join the Monday Bible Study as it begins a new study, *From Genesis to Revelation: A Comprehensive Overview of the Bible*, on January 24. This study will give special attention both to biblical content and to the different types of literature that comprise our Bible: Histories, Prophets, Wisdom literature, Apocalyptic literature, New Testament Letters, and Gospels.

The study will commence on January 24, 10:00 – 11:30 am, and will meet most Mondays until the end of May. Those who cannot begin on January 24 are welcome to jump into the study on January 31 or February 7. For more information, contact Rev. Ron Gilreath, 404-255-2211, ext 225.

## Dinners For Eight

Want to relax and have dinner with friends from church? Want to meet some new ones? Then Dinners-For-Eight (D-4-8) is for you! This purely social event is designed to help participants meet a variety of people: newcomers/long-time members, single/married, different ages and interests. The yearly series consists of four potluck dinner parties, with everyone co-hosting one of the meals. The hosts are responsible for setting the date, providing the place, the main dish and beverages. If you are in a 2010 group that has not finished yet-, go ahead and sign up for a new group. For questions or to sign up, please contact Patricia Hibbard.



# Presbyterian Women



Our major ice storm caused the cancellation of all of our circle meetings in January, but we are all looking forward to gathering together in February.

## **Book Circle** Leader Clarice Elder.

The group will meet in the Session Room on Feb. 11th at 10am. Cutting for Stone by Abraham Verghese, will be reviewed by Gail Williams. This book has received very fine reviews. Drop-ins welcome!

## **Night Circle** Leader Melisha Gilreath.

Members of Night Circle will gather together on Feb. 8th at 7:30pm in the Session Room. Melisha will lead the study of Revelation Chapter 6.

## **Circle of Grace** Leader Joy Carden

New meeting day. Instead of second Wednesday, the group will meet on the third Thursday at 6:30pm.

## **Day Circle** Leader Pat Davis

The Day Circle will meet in the Kirk Center on Feb. 11th at 10:30am. A Box Lunch will be served. Marguerite Nelson, in charge of World Mission, will introduce our guest speaker, Alice Jenkins, representing Clifton Night Shelter.

Get well wishes to Alma Dowdakin after her recent surgery, and to Betty Seiple who is at Manor Care, in Marietta.



# Within the Congregation



## Our Christian Sympathy is Extended to:

the family of Frances Widmer who died on Dec 11;  
Susan Hasell on the death of her father, Phillip Gadsden  
Hasell, on Dec 15; Lorry Clark on the death of her husband, Jim  
Clark, on Dec 27; Keith Milner and family on the death of  
Keith's mother, Vendetta Warren Milner, on Jan 16.

## Home From the Hospital:

Eloise Burns, Alma Dowdakin, Ray Gepp

## Rehab:

Betty Seiple, Manor Care

## Extended Care:

Betty Head, Mary Hoyt, Dave Lunceford, Marty Michel, Lorraine  
Moore, Judy Ruppe, Marion Russell, Betty Tiller

## Congratulations to:

**Jeremy Paul** competed for the first time in the High School section of the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual MLK Chess tournament and captured 1<sup>st</sup> Place out of 23 competitors. Jeremy also helped the Pace team to a 2nd place finish.

**Olivia Paul** competing with her new 17 Black club volleyball team, helped her team to a 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish out of 12 teams in the Myrtle Beach Volleyball Classic over the MLK weekend.

**Scott & Virginia Warren** on the birth of a daughter, Caroline Elizabeth, on Dec 29. Proud grandfather is Kent Gildersleeve.

**Palmer "Mort" Northrop** on his 80th birthday.

# *"I miss Rick."--*

**Steve Ray when asked by Joe B. for a quote about MVPC.**



471 Mt. Vernon Hwy, NE  
Atlanta, GA 30328

***Blessed to be a Blessing***

**Office Hours**

Monday - Friday 8 am to 4 pm

**Sunday Schedule**

9:00 First Cup Informal Worship

10:00 Sunday School

11:00 Traditional Worship

**Deadline February 16**

for February 23 issue.

Send submissions to

[symone@mvpcchurch.org](mailto:symone@mvpcchurch.org)

or leave in **Good News**

mail slot in church office.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED