

# 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)

June 2011

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Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Last month, I posed the question at a meeting of the full church staff, “What can we do to help members of this church remain engaged with their faith this summer?” The reason for the question was the anticipated annual decrease in worship attendance that we experience as soon as school lets out. With all of the young families we have in our congregation, this is expected as folks take advantage of vacation time. Therefore, I was not looking for an answer to the question: “How do we increase worship attendance this summer?” I would, however, not mind that!

The staff filled two flip chart pages with good ideas and we settled on two for this summer. One is on campus. One is online.

The on campus opportunity is a **Sunday Night at the Movies** series. Each week at 6:00pm from June 5 through August 14 (but skipping July 3) we will be showing a movie in the comfortable environs of our refurbished Gailey Hall and following it with a faith-related discussion led by a member of the church staff. See inside this edition for a schedule and find a link to or copy of a brochure with more info on each film. Actually, the first night is live theater! Some of these films will be intended for older audiences, some for younger, and some for multiple generations. Recommendations about that are in the brochure, too. I hope that your schedule will allow you to find one or two Sundays that you can join us. We certainly recognize that few of these movies are for everyone.

Even if your summer plans keep you from being here in person as often as you are the rest of the year, you can stay in touch with your faith and your church through our **Facebook page** (*[Mt Vernon Presbyterian Church](#)*). Among the things you will be able to find there are daily devotions and scripture readings, links to live streaming of the entire worship service and recorded portions, and suggestions for family activities. We also hope that you will add to the page by posting words or photos of your summer trips and sharing “Where you have seen God at work.” I’d love to see pictures of the churches where members worship while on vacation, too.

For those who are online but not on Facebook, a simple tutorial is inside this edition and Symone Evans will be happy to walk anyone through it in person if you want to make an appointment with her to stop by the church office.

Whether you can be here at MVPC or not this summer, stay in touch with your church and your faith.

Shalom,

*Joe B.*

## Staff Directory 404-255-2211

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Rev. Ron Gilreath

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Elizabeth Small

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ext 217

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Jim Wingate

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Kathy Clark

*Handbell Dir./Assoc. Organist*

Don Paul

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Beverly Mitchell

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ext 216

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

## Summer Sunday Schedule

9 am First Cup Communion Worship  
10 am Summer Sunday School  
11 am Worship in Sanctuary  
6 pm Movie Night

## Intergenerational



Church Picnic! Free to all who pass the fire drill on **June 12th** (that will be Joe B's call). We will be grilling burger, dogs and chicken and providing drinks. Please bring a picnic blanket and sunscreen. Also, as I tell my boys, act like a doctor and have "patience" (they think its funny, I think) as the courtyard will be torn up. We will either eat in the parking lot or the courtyard between FH and LS; if rain, in FH. Please bring a side dish if your last name is A-M, please bring a dessert if last name is N-Z. Grillmaster John K told me he will be "bringing it" this year on the grill so I wouldn't miss it!



## Sermon Schedule

**June 5**  
Mission  
James 1:19-27

**June 12**  
Acting Out  
Acts 2:1-13

**June 19**  
The Decaffeinated Church  
Matthew 3:1-12

**June 26**  
Los Niños Celebration  
I Timothy 4:6-16

Sermons are available  
on our website - [www.mvpchurch.org](http://www.mvpchurch.org), on  
iTunes

## Senior Ministry News

The Intergenerational and Senior Ministries are sponsoring a music comedy performance, *With a Rose between Our Teeth*, and a dinner on Sunday **June 5** at 6:00 in the Fellowship Hall. Both are FREE. Our own Barbara Bruce is a member of the cast. Invite your friends. Please notify Bert Hels if you will attend.

**Summer Office Hours**  
— **June 1 - August 19** —  
**Monday - Thursday**  
**8am to 4pm**  
**Friday**  
**8am to 2pm**

## 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



Sunday School would not be possible without the hard work and love shown by our volunteer teachers. Meg Christian, Carrie Southard, Dale Morine, Jodi Martin, Wynn Sims, Lisa Cumming, and, Pearl Attaway.

(see more pictures on pg. 6 )

**Thanks for a wonderful year!**



Don't forget to sign-up for

**Shake it Up Café VBS**

July 11-15, 9am-12pm

4 years – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade.

Go to <http://>

[www.cokesburyvbs.com/shake-it-up-cafe/MVPCVBS](http://www.cokesburyvbs.com/shake-it-up-cafe/MVPCVBS) to register online and get more information.

**Invite Your Friends!!**

*Wendy*

## Youth News



I am so proud of our graduates! They have accomplished a lot, and I know you will want to add your congratulations to mine:

Addison Baitcher, son of Allan and Martha Baitcher, graduates from Holy Innocents' Episcopal School. He will attend Auburn University.

Taylor Doyle, son of Susan and Terry Doyle, graduates from Mount Vernon Presbyterian School. He will attend the University of Alabama.

Ellen Lesser, daughter of Nancy and Craig Lesser, graduates from Blessed Trinity. She will attend the University of North Carolina.

Ginger McCoy, daughter of Dave and Laura McCoy, graduates from Dunwoody High School. She will attend Florida State University.

Joanna Mielke, daughter of Ross and Jeanne Mielke, graduates from Chamblee Charter High School. She will attend Indiana University of Pennsylvania in the Honors Program.

Giancarlo Rodriguez, son of Janice and Jose Rodriguez, graduates from Mount Vernon Presbyterian School. He will attend Kennesaw State University.

Many congratulations to all of our special graduates, and may they always know that they have a home here at Mount Vernon with our church family!

Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Elizabeth'.

*They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season... Psalm 1:3*  
Thanks Sunday school teachers!



**GN Deadline:**

June 15

July 20

**GN Publication:**

June 22

July 27



Please plan accordingly.

# Focus on Kids

## *CAC's Summer Campaign for Kids*



### **Summer Camp Scholarships**

CAC makes the dream of attending summer camp come true for many children. Our camp placement program matches the interests of youngsters to day or overnight camps for a life-enriching summer experience.

### **Summer Lunch Box**

The Summer Lunch Box food drive will help needy families offset summer grocery costs by providing children with lunches for a week.

### **School Supply Drive**

This annual event helps local children be prepared for the start of school with a backpack full of required school supplies.

### *How You Can Help*

<p><b>Send a Kid to Camp!</b> <b>April 1 – July 1</b></p> <p>\$250 sends a kid to 1 week of overnight camp</p> <p>\$50 sends a kid to 1 week of day camp</p>	<p><b>Summer Lunch Box</b> <b>May 1 – July 1</b></p> <p>Fill bags to provide a child with lunches for a week.</p> <p><b>Great food drive project for groups!</b></p>	<p><b>School Supply Drive</b> <b>July 1 – Sept 1</b></p> <p>Organize a drive at work or with a civic group!</p>
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Visit [www.ourcac.org](http://www.ourcac.org) for the summer lunch food list, the school supply list or to donate online.



## Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

It has been such a blessing to witness the elders of this church live into their role as the spiritual leaders of the church this year. This was more evident than ever at our Session meeting this past Sunday. It was opened with a beautiful prayer by Donna Martin and a song arranged for the guitar by Ross Mielke. This was followed by our Listening Time, in which session members and staff patiently listened to my explanation of how changes are made to our PC(USA) Constitution. How a bill becomes a law, so to speak. That information was in preparation for a discussion on the recent amendment to the PC(USA) Book of Order related to Ordination Standards in our denomination.

In short, this amendment states that it is the responsibility of sessions to determine who is fit to be ordained as elders in a particular congregation and the responsibility of presbyteries to determine who is fit to be ordained as ministers of Word and Sacrament in a particular presbytery. This allows the governing bodies that always have done the actual ordaining to make the decisions on people that they know face to face rather than having a denominational standard. Two exceptions are standard educational criteria and that both women and men must be eligible for ordination.

The reason this decision has caused something of a stir in our denomination is that the new amendment replaces language added in 1997 that then set a denomination-wide standard for ordination with these words: *“Among these standards is the requirement to live either in fidelity within the covenant of marriage between a man and a woman, or chastity in singleness.”* With the replacement of those words and the paragraph around them, the new amendment makes it possible for gay and lesbian Presbyterians to be ordained as elders or ministers at the discretion of local sessions and presbyteries, respectively.

I wish that every member of our church could have been present for the thoughtful and very theological discussion in which your elders engaged as they considered the language in our constitution and what we are called to do and to be as the Church of Jesus Christ. Our discussion led them to ask me to communicate several points to you.

While recognizing that this amendment is an imperfect human endeavor, Ron Gilreath and I have no real problems with this “local option” amendment.

Elders on the session are happy to talk with any church member on the issue, but may refer questions to a pastor. Come straight to a pastor, if you wish.

No one on session has voiced concerns that would lead us to dissent or to seek separation from the PC(USA). Speaking for myself, I am committed to serving Jesus Christ in the PC(USA). (And I love getting to do that at Mount Vernon!)

When this motion first came to our PC(USA) General Assembly, I thought it sounded like a fair way for faithful and intelligent Presbyterians to proceed on a matter that has been cause for division among us. However, while working well at the session level, I recognized that the amendment does not achieve a fair local option for congregations that find themselves in the minority position in their presbytery, no matter the side of the issue on which they fall. A number of congregations (and some of them in our presbytery) are presently in the midst of discussing some new possibilities to address this. One possibility is that they will seek to form a “non-geographic” presbytery. In so doing, they will be able to be a part of like-minded congregations regarding Ordination Standards while remaining in the PC(USA). Should other congregations on either side of the issue seek this solution, they are likely to have my support. I do not feel, however, that this is a direction MVPC needs to head.

This is a lot of information and there could be much more! I would be happy to listen to you and to talk with you on the matter if you care to do so. Just give me a call at church.

Shalom,

*Joe B.*



## 'Whole Films'



### Summer Sunday Nights at the Movies

June 5 - August 14 (except July 3)  
6:00pm in Gailey Hall (unless otherwise noted)

Dinner served on June 5 requires a reservation.\*

See linked or enclosed brochure for more detailed weekly information about the films and recommended audiences.

June 5\* (two simultaneous options)

***ACT II: With a Rose Between Our Teeth*** (live theater in Fellowship Hall)

\*Call the church office (404.255.2211) or email Jill Thompson at [jill@mvpchurch.org](mailto:jill@mvpchurch.org) for reservations.

***Despicable Me*** (Gailey Hall)

June 12

***Luther***

June 19

***The King's Speech***

June 26

***Shrek Forever After***

July 10

***The Princess Bride***

July 17

***Beyond the Blackboard***

July 24 (two movies simultaneously on separate screens)

***Street Fight*** (Gailey Hall)

***Rango*** (Fellowship Hall)

July 31

***Racing Dreams***

August 7

***How to Train Your Dragon***

August 14

***Remember Me***



## 'Parts of Films'

### SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS JUNE 5

(10:00 – 10:45 every Sunday morning this summer)

We're anticipating a great start to Summer Sunday School on June 5 at 10:00. In June adults will choose from the two options listed below: ***Reel Faith*** or ***Islam 101 for Christians***. Please note that the ***Reel Faith*** opportunity is designed for both middle/high school youth and adults.

### ***Reel Faith***

(a movie discussion group for youth and adults in Gailey Hall)

Movies have sometimes been called “visual parables” because of their capacity to teach us about faith and life. Reel Faith is an opportunity to view clips from contemporary movies and to discuss how these movies speak to our lives as Christians. Here is the movie list for June, along with the discussion leaders.

June 5	<b><i>The King's Speech</i></b>	John Hibbard
June 12	<b><i>Julia &amp; Julie</i></b>	The Earhart Family
June 19	<b><i>Soul Surfer</i></b>	Steve & Shelly Ray
June 26	<b><i>Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs</i></b>	Debbie Anderson

### ***Islam 101 for Christians***

What does it mean to be a Muslim? What are the basic beliefs to which Muslims adhere and what are the practices they follow? This course is intended to be a primer on the religion of Islam for Christians who don't know very much about the beliefs and practices of their Muslim neighbors. Our teachers will come from the Islamic Speakers Bureau of Atlanta. We'll meet in Fellowship Hall.



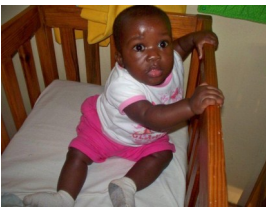
# Outreach Alley

**The Communion Offering** on Sunday, June 5, will be donations for the mission trip to Zambia in June. Most needed items include children's clothing and socks for infants through age 15, cloth diapers and plastic pants, diaper pins, receiving blankets, teething gel, and school supplies (pencils, erasers, pencil sharpeners, and crayons). A more detailed list of suggested donations can also be found on the next page of this newsletter. Please place your donations in the basket near the welcome table for First Cup or in the narthex for the 11 AM service. Thank you for your generosity.

**Donations** to the *One Great Hour of Sharing Offering* received on Easter Sunday totaled \$3141.94. Most of these funds will go to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance in this country and around the world. Current areas of assistance include Japan and tornado-damaged areas of the southeastern United States

**The Pentecost Offering** will be received on Sunday, June 12. This special offering is one of four annual offerings designated by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA). 40% of the donation will be kept at Mt. Vernon to support our Los Niños Primero program, and the remaining 60% will go to the General Assembly to support national programs for children-at-risk and youth.

## Zambia



This baby girl was born on 15th of September, 2010. Her mother died of anemia and the baby was admitted to House of Moses on the 23rd of February, 2011. The mother's family had serious problems and was unwilling to care for this five month old baby. The resulting actions caught the attention of the Victim Support Unit of the local

Police who referred the matter to the District Social Welfare Offices. The Social Welfare Officers removed the baby from this unsuitable environment and brought her to House of Moses, where she is loved and receives wonderful care. Her weight on admission was a little over 9 lbs.

*2011 ZAMBIAN MISSION TEAM NEEDS FOR THE CHILDREN FOR TEAM PROJECTS: Crochet Hooks #4-6, Knitting Needles, Jump Ropes, all types of Craft Items, games.*

# Outreach Alley con't

## FOR THE THREE HOMES (CHILDREN AGES 0–15)

Disposable diapers (used for sick babies), Plastic pants of all sizes, Gloves (Non-sterile Examination), Baby wipes (Wet), Antibiotic Equate Antibacterial (Clear liquid soap), Receiving blankets, Feeding bottles, Clothes –Various (Small, medium & large), Socks (Small, medium & large), Vests (Small, medium & large), Baby Rompers (Small, medium & large), Crib sheets, Bed sheets (single), Reading glasses for our older workers and teachers

FOR THE SCHOOLS - ALL TYPES OF SUPPLIES: pencils, pens, crayons, chalk, rulers, Bibles (NIV or more recent translations preferred).

*PLEASE PUT DONATIONS IN THE BASKET MARKED "ZAMBIA"  
OUTSIDE THE CHURCH OFFICE.*

*AGAIN, THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!*

## Presbyterian Women



### Book Circle Leader Clarice Elder

Our Book Circle will meet on Friday, June 3rd. @ 10:00 in the Session Room. [note change of date.] Reading material for next year will be discussed. All members are encouraged to attend!

### Day Circle Leader Pat Davis

Our June Salad Supper is probably everyone's favorite gathering! It is scheduled for Tuesday evening June 14th @ 6:30. All circles most welcome! Reservations are not necessary. Just bring your favorite salad to share. Beverage & dessert provided. Next years slate of officers will be announced, followed by the Installation Ceremony. Also, next years Day Circle study book, Confessing the Beatitudes, will be available to purchase. [cost \$10.00 see Darlene Jones]

This is always a lovely evening, filled with fun & fellowship - and a chance to mingle with members of other circles.

# Within the Congregation

## Home From Hospital/Rehab:

Dave Lunceford

Mary Beth Combes



## Extended Care:

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

## Our Christian Sympathy is extended to:

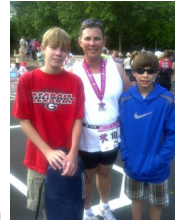
**Dave Lunceford** on the death of his wife, Virginia Lunceford, May 24. They were married of 60 years.

**Ken Mead** on the death of his mother, Diane Mead, on April 29, and to Allen O'Brien on the death of his brother, Mark O'Brien, on March 28.

## Congratulations to:

**Kevin Chalpan**, son of Sarah and Kirk Chalpan, graduated from the University of Georgia on May 14. He received a B.B.A. in Risk Management/Insurance.

**Lisa Hughes**, for completing her first Iron Girl Triathlon. She swam 1/3 mile in open water, biked 18 miles, and ran 3 miles and finished with 30 minutes to spare.



**Rachel Milner** and Davis Mellick who were married on April 30 at Primrose Cottage in Roswell.

**Anna Morine**, daughter of Dale and Bruce Morine, for being the grand prize winner of the Ride-A-Thon and a Chastain Horse Park "Super Star".



**Got News?** We'd like to hear from you. Send us your news, so we too can celebrate, laugh, and/or cry with you. After all... We are FAMILY.

## Within the Congregation con't

Pace sophomore Ryan Christianson and freshman **Jeremy Paul**, son of Don Paul and Rixey Jones, took their second National Championship in the Bughouse competition at the National High School Chess Championships in Nashville recently. The championship, held at the Gaylord Opryland Resort included 1,134 students from about 400 schools across the country. The pair have been playing together since they met at Pace, when Jeremy was in 3rd grade and Ryan was in 4th grade.



**Andrew Whaley**, for graduating from Columbia Seminary. And congratulations to First Presbyterian Church of Jefferson City, TN for calling Andrew as their new pastor.



### The following church members were recognized at MVPS awards ceremonies this spring.

**Taylor Doyle**, Senior  
Varsity Soccer Most Valuable Player, National Honor Society, and Academic Honors

**Giancarlo Rodriguez**, Senior  
National Honor Society and Academic Honors

**Robert Barclift**, Junior  
11<sup>th</sup> Grade Math Award, The Presbyterian College Fellowship, The Furman University Scholar Award, and Varsity Wrestling Mustang Award for Spirit, Commitment, and Leadership

**Joseph Martin**, Freshman  
9<sup>th</sup> Grade Science Award and Upper School Drama Award

**Eli Maulding**, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Middle School Golf Most Valuable Player

**Hunter Whitney**, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade  
8<sup>th</sup> Grade Band Award and  
8<sup>th</sup> Grade Social Studies Award

**A.J. Whitney**, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade  
6<sup>th</sup> Grade Art Award

**James McGuire**, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Jr. Varsity Swimming (that's High School!) Most Valuable Player and  
6<sup>th</sup> Grade Computer Award



Happy birthday  
and  
anniversary to  
all who make  
June  
special!



# Mount Vernon



Presbyterian Church (USA)

471 Mt. Vernon Hwy, NE  
Atlanta, GA 30328

***Blessed to be a Blessing***

### **Summer Office Hours**

Monday - Thursday 8 am to 4 pm  
Friday 8am to 2pm

### **Sunday Schedule**

9:00 First Cup Informal Worship  
10:00 Summer Sunday School  
11:00 Traditional Worship

**Deadline June 15**  
for June 22 issue.

Send submissions to  
[symone@mvpchurch.org](mailto:symone@mvpchurch.org)  
or leave in **Good News**  
mail slot in church office.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED