

Good News

Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church

471 Mt. Vernon Hwy, NE Atlanta, GA 30328, Tel 404-255-2211, www.mvpchurch.org

January 2012

In the fall of 2001, our teens started asking me what we could do to help the homeless in our city. They were seeing folks living on the streets, and they desperately wanted to help. We started talking about what we could do to help them. We decided that, with the help of our school's food services (to cut costs), giving them a hot biscuit with meat inside and hot drinks would be a great start. And so, in January of 2002, we did our first "Feed the Homeless" jaunt to downtown Atlanta.

I had asked them all to be there at 6 a.m. I awoke at 5:15 to a steady, hard rain. It was 35 degrees. I got dressed and brushed my teeth, all the while just praying that some kids, a few kids, *anyone* – would show up. I was so concerned that no one would want to brave the elements when they could stay in their warm beds. And then 60+ people showed up! We gave out sausage biscuits and coffee to tons of people who were so grateful to have warm food and good conversation with our teens and parents.

Since that first date, we have grown in our ability to produce the food and figure out where people are. We often see some of the same people, and a few of them now "know" us as the youth group from Mount Vernon that comes to feed them. We have learned what to do and what not to do, and we have gotten better at it every year. Our teens have continued to consider this "their" ministry, and they show up without fail, despite the early hour – often bringing school friends with them. I am always amazed to see them interacting with people from the streets. We do prep them for their encounters, but it's never a given that the teens will handle it well. But they do! Their warmth, their cheerfulness despite the weather, their willingness to pray with people, and their great hearts are evident to even the hardest of hearts. It makes my heart so full to see them give of themselves so freely to those people that many just pass by.

Continued on page 5

Staff Directory
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Beverly Mitchell
Financial Secretary
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Regular Sunday Schedule

9am	First Cup Communion Worship
9:45am	15 Minutes of Fellowship Hall
10am	Sunday School
11am	Worship in Sanctuary
5pm	Children's Fine Arts Program
5pm	Middle School Youth Group
6pm	Combined Youth Dinner
6:30pm	High School Youth Group

Adult Ministry News

Sunday School will not meet on December 25 or January 1. Sunday School for all ages will resume on January 8.

The Friday Koinonia Group will begin a study of Rob Bell's book *Love Wins: A Book About Heaven, Hell, and the Fate of Every Person Who Ever Lived* on January 6 at 12 noon in the Session Room. Newcomers are invited. If you'd like to participate in this study, just call Ron Gilreath for more information.

Good News

GN Deadline:	GN Publication:
January 18	January 25
February 15	February 22

Please plan accordingly.

Sermon Schedule

January 1

T'was the Week After Christmas

Luke 2:22-40

January 8

The Power of Baptism

Acts 19:1-7

January 15

A Prayer for the Church

Philippians 1:1-11

January 22

Sail Boat Christianity

Acts 2:1-4

January 29

Authority

Mark 1:21-28

Past sermons are available on our website - www.mvpchurch.org, our [Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church](#) Facebook page, and on iTunes. Also, Live Streaming video can be accessed at <http://www.ustream.tv/channel/service-at-11-am#events>



Happy birthday and anniversary to all who make January special!



Look on the back of the calendar for a full birthday list. If your birthday is not listed or is incorrect, contact the office today.

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,

December was very busy and eventful! We celebrated the Christmas season by roasting marshmallows and making snow globes. The children attending the MVPC Fine Arts Program worked hard to get ready for the Christmas program. The children's choir prepared music including both vocal and instrumental pieces. The liturgical dancers, the newest component of the Fine Arts Program, with the help of Jodi Martin, interpreted *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* with dance. They were joined by many others who took the parts of Mary, Joseph, magi, and sheep. Finally, on Christmas eve we invited live animals into the sanctuary to help us imagine the nativity story.

Of course, none of the events could have taken place without the help of adult volunteers. My S.O.S. emails were always met immediately with offers of help.

I am truly grateful for the opportunities I have to witness people who selflessly give of their time and talents. But what I enjoy most is seeing the outcome of their labors - smiling faces, eyes wide with wonder, and expressions of understanding.

I am looking forward to another exciting year!

Wendy



Youth News

Continued from cover



Recently our youth group realized that we would be celebrating TEN YEARS of this ministry as of January 2012. What a great accomplishment! We could never have done it without the help of the Sage (the school's food services), the many parent volunteers, the summer mission trips that have taught us how to improve our ministry, and of course, YOU – our congregation. Not a week goes by that someone doesn't put a couple of soap or shampoo bottles in my box that we can use for our hygiene kits. I have felt the prayers of many of you as we have gone downtown in all types of weather to all types of places. Never once have I been afraid for myself or the teens. Never once have I doubted that God wanted us to be in that place.

Mother Teresa once said, "Being unwanted, unloved, uncared for, forgotten by everybody - I think that is a much greater hunger, a much greater poverty than the person who has nothing to eat." I like to think that our teens are letting these folks know that they are NOT forgotten, and that they DO matter. I am so glad and grateful to be a part of a church that supports this kind of ministry, and a part of a group that doesn't just talk about being the church, but IS the church. Thank you. THANK YOU.

So – Happy 10th Anniversary, Feed the Homeless! Peace to you all

Peace, *Elizabeth*

Come and see our youth try and connect more with the homeless by spending the night outside Gailey Hall January 7! Please bring us any new or gently used (clean) blankets, hats, gloves, socks, scarves, or coats you want to donate, either that night or beforehand. We could also really use toothbrushes and toothpaste, as well as small deodorants and bottles of shaving cream. We will be making our trip downtown on January 8.

Outreach Alley

The Communion Offering on Sunday, January 1, will be items for the youth to distribute when they go downtown to serve breakfast to the homeless on January 8. Suggested donations include new or used (clean) blankets, gloves, scarves, socks, hats, sweaters, and coats (preferably in dark colors). Travel size shaving cream, toothpaste, and toothbrushes as also needed. Please place your donations in the baskets near the welcome table for First Cup or in the narthex for the 11 AM service.

The International Women's House is always in need of gently used children's clothing for infants through early teens - at the present time the biggest need is for children ages 4 through 10. Donations may be placed in the green bins in the hallway outside the church office throughout 2012.

Presbyterian Women



If you are a female, looking for a sense of community and belonging in an environment that includes, fun, fellowship and faith...or if one of your New Year's resolutions is to get more involved in the life of Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church...consider joining us at the NEXT "Nomad" Circle Meeting Thursday, January 26, 2012, from 6-8pm at Margaret Schafer's house 260 Danbury Lane, Sandy Springs. If you'd like more information, feel free to contact Becky Hague at becky.hague@gmail.com. We'd LOVE an RSVP from YOU so we can provide food for your body as well as your soul!

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.

If you are receiving the Good News in the mail and would like to receive it via **email only**, contact the office today. 404-255-2211, jill@mvpchurch.org or symone@mvpchurch.org

Within the Congregation



Home from Hospital

Betty Seiple, Frances Olson, Julie Swanson, Ray Gepp

Extended Care:

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

Rehabilitation:

Margaret Blackley, Cumming Nursing Center

Our Christian Sympathy is Extended to:

Don Russell and his family on the death of his wife, Marion, on December 3.

Our Christian sympathy is extended to Allison Eustis and her family on the death of her father, John Marvin Bills, on December 17 in Pensacola, Florida.

We Get Letters:

This is a belated but sincere thank you for proving once again that you are indeed a "caring church." The cards and other gestures of condolence and support on the occasion of Dorothy's death were both helpful and valued. Especially appreciated were all who helped make the memorial service for her so meaningful: Ron and Joe B, Jim Wingate and the Choir and the delicious lunch they provided that Sunday noon, the ladies who put together that nice reception, the office staff, the ushers -- all who helped make that an appropriately celebrative occasion. My family and I are grateful beyond expression. -Doyne Michie

I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving and are now preparing for an amazing Christmas. I would like to thank each and every person who donated books and change to Invisible Children. I greatly appreciate everyone's kind and generous hearts. Invisible Children could not be making the progress that it is in stopping Joseph Kony, an African terrorist and leader of LRA, without people like you. Thank you so much! -Olivia Paul

Hi Everyone,

I want to thank everyone who donated money for Dixie's treatment bill. I want to let you know that she is doing well & thriving. She can NOW do walk lessons. Many Thanks! -Anna Morine

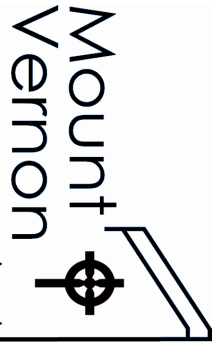


As I Reflect ...

Happy, somber, surprising, and disappointing thoughts and moments all come to mind. And with those thoughts one thought seems to resonate over all-- have I made a difference? Did I pause self long enough to make a difference to and/or for someone else? I sure hope so! Each day I pray for the opportunity to make a difference to or for someone else because I realize that it is not about me.

So as 2012 rings in, I hope and pray that my efforts in whatever I do will continue to make a difference in the lives of those that need it most, just as you, MVPC, have made a HUGE difference in mine.

Symone Evans



Presbyterian Church (USA)

471 Mt. Vernon Hwy, NE
Atlanta, GA 30328

Blessed to be a Blessing

Office Hours

Monday - Friday 8 am to 4 pm

Office Closed

Monday, January 2nd

Monday, January 17th

Sunday Schedule

9:00 First Cup Worship

10:00 Sunday School

11:00 Worship in Sanctuary

Deadline January 18

for January 25 issue.

Send submissions to

symone@mvpchurch.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED