

# THE SALTSHAKER

APRIL 2024 | VOLUME 278

## NEW HOSPITALITY MINISTRY COMING IN MAY 2024

You may have heard that there are upcoming changes in our Greeter Ministry and Usher Ministry. We hope the questions and answers below will help you better understand the changes that are coming.

### What changes will be made to the Greeters and Usher Ministries?

Our plan is to merge these two ministries into one Hospitality Ministry that will (a) greet and assist visitors before and after both services, (b) hand out bulletins, (c) take up the offering, (d) hand out gifts to first-time visitors, and (e) carry out other responsibilities currently assigned to the Greeters or Ushers.

### Why are these changes being made?

One of AVPC's core values is to be a welcoming community. Since both the Greeters and Ushers share many of the same responsibilities (e.g., welcoming and providing support for our visitors before Sunday morning worship), we believe combining these ministries will help us to be more effective in welcoming people into our worship services and church family.

### Who will be serving on the Hospitality Ministry?

Jim Baird and Marsha Wakefield have graciously agreed to lead this ministry for the upcoming year. The ministry will also include: (a) Adult men and women; (b) Youth ages 15 and older; (c) Children grade 3 - age 14 who will be invited to serve as "junior partners" with adult members; (d) Families who will be encouraged to serve together. We anticipate there will be 6 - 7 people per worship service.

### When will the Hospitality Ministry begin?

May 5 in both services. This is also Youth Sunday, so you can expect to see several teenagers helping.

### How can I find out more information and/or sign up to serve?

You can contact Jim Baird (bairdjames1954@gmail.com), Marsha Wakefield (cwdr1@bellsouth.net), or Heather Sommer (heather@avpc.org).

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It looks fairly certain now that the 2024 Presidential election will be a repeat of the 2020 election, with the current incumbent Joe Biden facing the previous incumbent Donald Trump. With the likelihood of this race bringing about even greater division in our nation, and possibly in the church as well, I think it's a good time to review what the Bible says about Christians and politics. Though much could be said about this, I want to come at this by noting two errors we are to avoid, the errors of withdrawal and entanglement.

It is sometimes tempting for Christians to think that they can withdraw from politics and focus exclusively on preaching the gospel and making disciples. But such an approach means that we simply accept the status quo within our communities and nation. The problem with that is that the status quo in our fallen world often includes injustices that the Bible requires us to address. If Christians in our nation had withdrawn from such injustices and focused exclusively on preaching the gospel, we would still have slavery and forced racial segregation. But Christians did get involved because the Bible commands us to do so. We are to seek the welfare of our communities (Jer. 29:7). We are to be the preserving and illuminating factors of salt and light (Matt. 5:13-16). We are to pray for peace and seek peace (1 Tim. 2:1-3), for it is in times of relative peace instead of times of chaos that the gospel tends to flourish.

The second error is that of entanglement, by which the church becomes identified with one political party. This has happened repeatedly throughout church history, and it has never ended well for the church. The damage that is done to the church arises from the fact that the church gets tainted with the shortcomings and injustices that always emerge when people get power. We are seeing that happen today with Christian nationalism, by which some Christians would have the church identified with the Republican party. While the church can and should take stands on moral issues like abortion, racism, transgenderism, and justice and mercy for the poor, we must be careful not to take positions on matters that are more issues of prudence and wisdom. For example, some believe that the best way to help the poor is to shrink government and let the private sector help, while others believe the best way is to increase the role of government in poverty alleviation. Though many have tried, it would be difficult to make a biblical case for either of these options over the other. That's not to say that there is no answer to this question about the best way to help the poor, only that it is a matter of prudence and wisdom and not something commanded in the Bible.

A general principle that I find helpful in protecting against both of these errors is that political engagement should be something done by individual Christians and not by the church. In any case, we can all agree that this is the time to be praying for peace in our sharply divided nation.

Brad Allison

# MEET OUR NEW MEMBERS

*Patty*

## HOW DID YOU FIRST FIND OUT ABOUT OUR CHURCH?

While walking in the park we noticed a very pretty church. Then a young lady spoke to us and told us about the church and the park. She was very friendly and made us feel welcome here.

**WHAT HAVE YOU ENJOYED ABOUT AVPC THE MOST?** The love expressed by everyone for our Lord Jesus Christ and the friendly people here. Also, we love the music.

**HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN A CHRISTIAN?** Since Jesus came into my heart as a young wife and mother at age 30.

**WHERE WERE YOU BORN AND RAISED AND WHAT DO YOU REMEMBER MOST ABOUT YOUR CHILDHOOD?** I was raised in Birmingham and had a very happy childhood here, but left after high school for college at Emory and on into life's adventures.

**I KNEW I WAS GROWN UP WHEN...** I learned how to manage a household and cook and look after my babies and enjoy life.

**I ALWAYS THOUGHT IT WOULD BE GREAT TO...** own horses and have a horse farm.

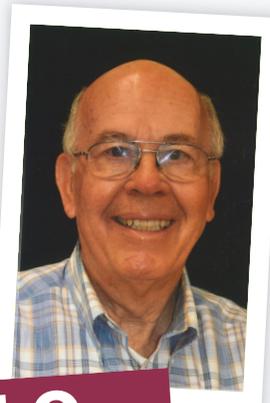
**WHEN I HAVE FREE TIME I ENJOY...** being outside and in the mountains or by the seashore.

**HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN MARRIED? WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TOGETHER THAT HAS MEANT THE MOST TO YOU OR BEEN THE MOST ENJOYABLE?** 26 years; Every day is a grand adventure. We really do feel blessed and enjoy our life together.

**PEOPLE WOULD BE SURPRISED IF THEY KNEW...** for a short while Marland and I owned a cheese grits business. It was a fun challenge and people did like our "Downtown Grits".

**MY FAVORITE RESTAURANT IS...** my husband's cooking. He is a wonderful chef.

**MY HOPE FOR AVPC IS THAT...** We would truly be a light for Christ and shine brighter and brighter as we share his love.



*Marland*

## WHAT HAVE YOU ENJOYED ABOUT AVPC THE MOST?

Everything. The warm greeting, the worship service focused on God and the leading of the Holy Spirit, Bible studies, small groups, and other activities.

**HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN A CHRISTIAN?** 48 years

**WHERE WERE YOU BORN AND RAISED AND WHAT DO YOU REMEMBER MOST ABOUT YOUR CHILDHOOD?** I was born in Liberal, KS, raised to the age of 17 in Kismet, KS, then moved to Hiwassee, AR to finish high school and college. What I remember most are the dust storms of western Kansas.

**AS A YOUNG MAN I THOUGHT I WOULD BE... Not a farmer. BUT ACTUALLY...** I was educated to be a chemist but actually became a Military Intelligence specialist and program manager.

**I KNEW I WAS GROWN UP WHEN...** I never thought I was grown up. I was driving at age 12 and working 3 jobs at age 14. In the West you can do that.

**HOW DID YOU MEET YOUR SPOUSE? WHAT WAS SPECIAL TO YOU ABOUT YOUR SPOUSE?** I met Patty at a church we both attended. Besides cute, intelligent, caring, loving, putting me first, being a great encourager, and much more? For better, for worse; in sickness and in health? The Christian lady God had for me? That's a small window into why she's so special.

**PEOPLE WOULD BE SURPRISED IF THEY KNEW...** my nickname was "Double Trouble"; and I've been pretty good about living up to it, or that I played bass clarinet or did visual art painting.

**WHEN I HAVE FREE TIME I ENJOY...** working with volunteer home repair groups that make repairs to homes of the less fortunate, as well as playing music and painting.

**MY FAVORITE RESTAURANT IS...** my home kitchen because the menu is varied and the chef is great.

**THE ULTIMATE VACATION FOR ME WOULD BE...** a month in Italy as part of a landscape painting group.

**HELLO**  
my name is

*The Hurstons*

# AVPC PEOPLE NEWS

## OUR CONDOLENCES

We extend our deepest sympathies to Tom and Bettie DeShazo following the death of their son, Tommy.

## MEMBERSHIP NIGHT - APRIL 19

Are you thinking about church membership at Altadena? Come to our next Membership Event on Friday, April 19. There, you will meet church staff members, hear about ministry opportunities, and get to know others who are new to the church. Attendance at this or another Membership Night offered throughout the year is required for church membership. You can sign up online, by using the QR code below, or by calling the church office to register and request childcare. The deadline to register is April 15.



## Congratulations



Annelise Mildred Cwynar was born on March 5, 2024. She weighed 7 lbs 13 oz and was 19.5 inches long. Parents are Jack and Caroline Cwynar.

The Boggs community group enjoy a great time in fellowship and studying God's word.



If you would like more information about community groups or learn how to join a community group, contact Jack Morris (crowndoc84@gmail.com).

# minutes

## SESSION MEETING • FEBRUARY 20, 2024

- Jamie Lumpkin reported for the Pulpit Committee expressing thanks to the Session for support of their work and reporting that the committee has had true unity so far.
- Following Jamie's presentation, Danny Wachs introduced the need to address duties usually undertaken by the Senior Pastor in the event there is time between the retirement of Brad and hiring of a new Senior Pastor.
- 2024 budget revision and 2023 budget surplus
- Steve Whitner presented a plan developed by the Worship Ministry team for organizing ushers, greeters, and weekly duty Deacons into one coordinated ministry that would involve a wide spectrum of the demographics of the church.
- The following applicants were approved for membership: Patrick, Laren, and Brendan Barker; Rod and Renee Chase; Gloria Hall; Brannan and Whitney Jones; Joan Smith; Marland and Patty Thurston; Michael and Wendy Weber.
- Benjamin Lumpkin has started serving as the Youth Worship Intern.

## DIACONATE MEETING • MARCH 12, 2024

- Motion made by the finance team to approve the written offers dated February 26, 2024, from Jefferson County to purchase the rights of way in Tracts 1 for building of new bridge on Caldwell Mill Rd. This motion was approved unanimously.

# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



## CAMP SOLID ROCK

**JUNE 10 - 13**

**9:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

Join us June 10-13, as we run the race with Joshua, pursuing wholehearted devotion to God. This crazy week will be packed with music, games, crafts, adventures and snacks – all against the backdrop of God's faithfulness.

Our deep desire is that, in tracing the footsteps of godly Joshua and the wandering Israelites, our Camp Solid Rock campers will encounter God as they see Him revealed in His Word and understand that He is entirely worthy of their whole-hearted love, trust, and obedience. Likewise, our prayer is that they will continue growing in the truth that Jesus is the author and perfecter of their faith.

### **WHO:**

- All children ages 4 through rising 6th graders (We welcome visitors, friends and neighbors!)
- Children in rising 5th and 6th grade can serve as junior helpers or campers. See Catie for more information.
- Children ages rising 7th grade and older can serve as counselors throughout the week.
- Adults of ALL AGES are invited to serve and join the fun.

### **WHEN:**

- June 10 – 13, from 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

### **HOW TO REGISTER:**

- Registration opens April 18! Locate and complete an Olympion brochure located in the Welcome Center or Parlor.

### **NEW THIS YEAR:**

- Mark your calendars for a community summer celebration on the evening of June 13! We will have music, dancing, food and fellowship. All are invited.

*"Hey Catie and Amanda, do you need help making this spectacular week happen?"*

*"YES!!!!!!!!!! We need help in all areas, beginning NOW through Thursday night clean up."*

*Please reach out to Catie (catie@avpc.org) if your heart is bursting to serve in any capacity!*

# YOUTH HAPPENINGS

What a beautiful spring this has been thus far! I have been enthralled watching the blooming of the daffodils, the budding of the cherry trees and pear trees, and excited as I watched the trees coming back to life from their annual winter death. I have been thankful for both the rain and the sunshine as examples of God's goodness to us. Why this overly-enthusiastic response to spring this year? Perhaps it is because this time last year I watched my mother on the brink of death, spending most of the spring myself in the intensive care unit watching her struggle to live. This time two years ago I went through an intense season of darkness, enduring betrayal on multiple levels. As we entered 2024, I found myself involuntarily feeling a sense of dread about what would be coming next.

By God's grace, He is showing me this spring that light, indeed, drives out darkness. He is showing me that "the little things," i.e. the everyday moments we take for granted are actually the "big things." He is showing me His faithfulness through faithful friends and brothers and sisters in Christ holding fast amid suffering of their own. God is using the glory of rebirth found in Creation every spring to highlight the rebirth Paul speaks of in Jesus. "For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ." (2 Corinthians 4:6) Just as Creation started with God calling light out of the dark void of nothingness, our lives began, truly began, when Jesus called light out of the dark void of our sinful hearts. As we bask in the warming sun and marvel at the explosion of life in the natural world around us this spring, may we even more so bask in the warmth of the Holy Spirit and marvel at the explosion of life within each one of us. May we continue to shine as lights into the dark places in this world.

Peace,

Clint Cvacho

## LOOKING AHEAD...

**APRIL 20** | Youth Talent Show

**MAY 5** | Youth Sunday

**MAY 5** | Senior Girl's Tea  
Senior Guy's Fellowship

**JUNE 17-21** | The Edge (Junior High)

**JULY 13-20** | White Swan, WA Mission Trip  
(Senior High)

# WOMEN'S MINISTRY

## WOMEN'S SMALL GROUP LUNCH - APRIL 21

I hope you will join us for our spring small group luncheon on Sunday, April 21, 2024. For our small group luncheons, we gather in groups of 6-8, with one person acting as hostess. The hostess chooses the details for the lunches. She will decide whether to host in her home, at a park, in a restaurant, or some other venue. She will decide the menu and whether it will be a potluck, brown bag, or if she would like to prepare the meal herself. She will also decide about the possibility of daughters joining a particular group. I hope you decide to join in to establish or renew some connections with your sisters in Christ at AVPC. Please RSVP to Heather at [heather@avpc.org](mailto:heather@avpc.org) by April 15 and please consider volunteering to be a hostess.

Thank you!

Heather Sommer

Women's Ministry Director



# MISSIONS NEWS

## FAITH PROMISE UPDATE:

The Missions Team and our missionaries share our thanksgiving to the Lord and His church for the \$339,944 pledged from 100 individuals and families (as of 3/20) towards our goal of \$335,000 for our annual Missions budget. We will use this amount as we finalize our budget for 2024. Contributions may be given to Faith Promise even if you did not make a pledge.

Please consider choosing a missionary to pray for from the wall in the Welcome Center where photos are posted of all the missionaries we support. When you choose one to pray for, you

can get their monthly newsletter and find out what is happening in that corner of the world. You will become excited to find out how God is working through them to spread the love of Jesus to the lost. The newsletter will have prayer requests that will guide you in your efforts to bring them and the area where they serve before God.

Don't forget to read missionary biographies. Consider reading a biography to your children one chapter a night. Everyone can benefit from these gripping and heartfelt stories of real heroes! The celebration for children and adults who have read biographies will be in August at the Summer Missions Report event on August 18.

God bless you for your love of missions,  
Your Missions Team

**WE ARE OVER 100% FUNDED**  
Praise the Lord! We are \$4,994 over our 2024 goal!

 **100 PROMISES**  
*totaling*  
**\$339,994**  
*towards a*  
**GOAL OF \$335,000**



## GOD'S HOUSE KINDERGARDEN

The second semester at GHK is flying by, and we are feeling bittersweet about it. We are doing our best to make the best of these last few months of the school year with these sweet kiddos! March was full of Dr. Suess, Silly sock day, preparation for Resurrection Sunday, and much more!



# APRIL BIRTHDAYS

4/3	Beth McCallum	4/13	Chalon Lunceford
4/3	Malcolm Prettyman	4/14	Thomas Prettyman
4/4	Adelaide Allday	4/20	Lynn Bratton
4/4	Catherine Boggs	4/20	Romina Foster
4/4	Susan Cummins	4/21	Wendi Drace
4/5	Rusty Campbell	4/23	Rob Wise
4/5	Jack Morris	4/25	Lauren Moore
4/6	Karl Poythress	4/27	Josh Moore
4/7	Dave Mayhew	4/29	Betty Blighton
4/8	Marsha Wakefield	4/30	Ryan Edwards
4/10	Betty Carter	4/30	Kathryn Jackson
4/11	Lori Frank	4/30	Ayla Lumpkin
4/12	Ryan Parker		

# MEN'S MINISTRY

## THE FELLOWSHIP - MAY 5



Men of all ages are invited to a gathering to honor and pray over the graduating high school senior guys. Join us on Sunday, May 5 at 12:30 PM at Altadena Park!

# YOUNG ADULTS

## SAVE THE DATE!

The Young Adults will have two opportunities for fellowship in the month of April. On April 7 there will be a Sunday lunch and on April 27 there will be an evening dinner. Stay tuned for more details, and invite a friend!



## CHURCH WIDE TALENT SHOW

**APRIL 20, 2024**

Do you have a talent that you would be willing to share with others, all while helping raise support for the youth mission trip to Washington state? Then make plans to join us in the Fellowship Hall on April 20 at 6:00 PM for an evening you will not soon forget! If you would like to participate in the talent show, you can contact Clint Cvacho ([clint@avpc.org](mailto:clint@avpc.org)) or sign up by using the QR Code below.



# FEBRUARY FINANCIAL REPORT

	BEGINNING BALANCE	INCOME	EXPENSES	TRANSFER	ENDING BALANCE
<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	\$41,240	\$107,112	\$109,291	(\$6,669)	\$32,392
<b>MISSIONS</b>	\$9,598	\$21,511	\$39,200	\$6,669	(\$1,422)
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$50,838	\$128,623	\$148,491	\$0	\$30,970