



AUGUST 2025 / VOLUME 293

SALTSHAKER

Quote of
the Month

In real life, I
assure you, there
is no such thing
as algebra.

- Fran Lebowitz



You can't be at Altadena long without hearing someone refer to the church as a covenant family. What does that mean? It means that in Christ, we have been adopted into God's family. Because of that, we get to experience life in a spiritual family of believers. One of the best ways to lean into this family is through small groups, and September is a great time to jump into one!

What is a small group? It's what it sounds like – a small group of people (roughly 8-14) coming together weekly to apply God's word and pray for one another in the context of a small "family" of believers.

Who can join a small group? Any adult, member or nonmember, single or married is welcome to join a small group.

When do small groups meet? Most groups meet on Sunday (5:00 to 6:30 PM) or Wednesday (6:15-8:00 PM). However, some groups gather on other days or nights. So, there are many meeting opportunities.

Where do small groups meet? Groups meet in homes or on the church campus.

How can I join a small group? Scan or click the QR code below to let us know your interest and availability or contact the small group coordinator, Jack Morris, to learn more about available groups.



AVPC NEWS

CAHABA RIDGE SUNDAY MORNING MINISTRY



Cahaba Ridge is a senior independent living community which is located right next to AVPC. For about two years now we have provided these residents with a Sunday morning worship service with all of the elements we are able to bring to them with a few volunteers.

We give thanks to the Lord for Pastor's Michael's vision to step out in faith and ask a few folks to jump right in to provide these worship services when we had very little set up to take on this new ministry. The Lord immediately provided gifted men, mainly retired teaching elders, to lead the services and preach a Christ-centered message each Lord's day.

We also thank the Lord that AVPC is a church with a deep bench of talented singers and musicians who make this live, personal ministry so welcome in a community that prefers live worship to a TV or on-line format. We now have about twenty individuals who help us with our weekly worship services.

You are always welcome to drop in. We begin at 10:00 AM and are generally done in about 50-60 minutes. If you would like to know more about how you could be involved in this ministry, please contact Anna Waldrip (Anna@avpc.org) who can put you in touch with one of our weekly worship leaders.

Please pray for us as this ministry comes to mind.

AVPC NEWS



OFFICES CLOSED

AUGUST 7-8

Workers will be in the church Parlor and office on August 7-8 to install new insulation and replace the ceiling tiles. Due to the nature of the work, that section of the building will be closed for those two days. You can reach Anna or Connor via email if you need anything.



LOST AND FOUND

The church lost and found is overflowing with unclaimed items. If you've been missing anything, check the lost and found shelf, located at the bottom of the rolling kiosk in the Welcome Center. Any items unclaimed by Sunday, August 10, will be donated to charity.

OFFICER NOMINATIONS

AVPC members may submit names of men they believe meet the qualifications set forth in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1 for the offices of Elder and Deacon. Guidelines and nomination forms can be found in the Parlor, Welcome Center, or our weekly newsletter. Drop your nomination form in the offering plate or church office by Monday, August 11.



- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| 8/1 Joshua Putman | 8/17 Laren Barker |
| 8/2 Caroline Cwynar | 8/19 Hillary Gamble |
| 8/4 Colson Cwynar | 8/19 Asa Labreche |
| 8/4 Jeffery Jones | 8/19 Benjamin Lumpkin |
| 8/5 Luke Bishop | 8/19 Rachel Whitner |
| 8/5 Diana Lloyd | 8/19 Marianne Wofford |
| 8/6 Zeke Prettyman | 8/20 Melanie Rogers |
| 8/7 Kirby Windsor | 8/21 Anna Jackson |
| 8/8 Blake Harris | 8/22 Mary Jane Allen |
| 8/9 Dan Brogan | 8/22 Brendan Barker |
| 8/10 Marion Bryant | 8/22 Renee Chase |
| 8/10 Martha Darden | 8/23 Connor Bingham |
| 8/10 Janet Friday | 8/24 Oliver Holmes |
| 8/11 John Lewis Tate | 8/26 Caroline Poythress |
| 8/12 Brooke DeRieux | 8/27 Christina Thomas |
| 8/12 Marland Thurston | 8/29 Will Wimberly |
| 8/13 Joseph Savoie | 8/31 Brannan Jones |
| 8/13 Lynn Wheeler | 8/31 Sandra Martin |
| 8/14 Lyn Franklin | |
| 8/14 Ricky Klose | |



Pastor's Pen

LITURGY ELEMENT - CONFESSION OF SIN

A common statement heard at the back of the church and the beginning of coffee shop meetings is why do we focus so much on sin? 'Every week you people are confessing sin. What gives? The short answer is, this side of glory, we never run short on sins to confess, so why not get them out! Biblically, I encourage people to find any occurrences where people come into contact with God and it is casual – hard to find them. Why? Because God is righteous and his presence reveals our sin, but the beauty of Jesus' grace and gospel is we have relief from sin through repentance and rising confidence through assurance of pardon.

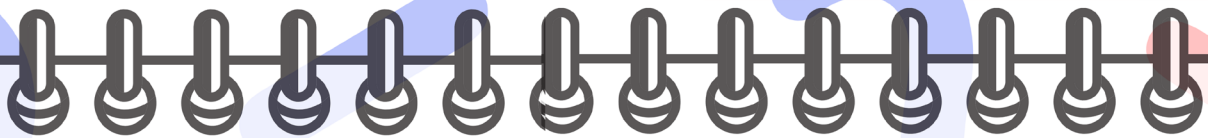
Structures tell stories and communicate something whether we intend them to or not. Many in protestant churches think that liturgies will only describe the service order of highly ceremonial churches. Even though some may not realize it, every church has a liturgy or an order to their service, though some are not as aware of the story that they are telling and communicating with their service structure. At AVPC, our service structure is modeled after many of the reformers in their desire to communicate the gospel story in every worship service.

Thinking specifically of Confession of Sin in our worship service, it is an element that is not included in many church services. It can feel somewhat jarring to confess sin corporately, especially near the beginning of our service. We follow many of the reformers like John Calvin in this because we see the narrative story the gospel communicates and we seek to emulate that in our worship. Putting the confession of sin early in the liturgy acknowledges our need of the grace of God in response to his Word and his calling us into worship. While the structure of our service leads us through the steps of our salvation and faith, our right apprehension of the gospel is not found in a specific routine of confession, but rather the engagement of our hearts and minds as we respond to the grace of Christ. The structure communicates the story of the gospel, but we still must seek to understand and live in light of this story.

So are we antiquated? Maybe, but the practice seems to align pretty smoothly with the Bible's telling of man's relationship to God.

-Kyle Parker, Senior Pastor

God's House Kindergarten



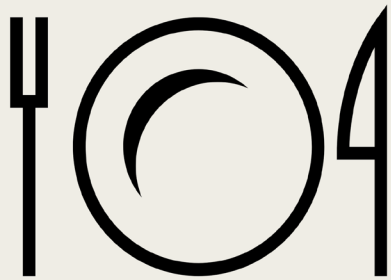
Wow—what a fun-filled summer it has been! The days have flown by with splashes of joy from water days, sweet smiles during popsicle treats, and unforgettable moments like pony rides and outdoor adventures. We've made so many great memories together!

As we say goodbye to our students heading off to big school, know that you'll always have a special place in our hearts. We are so proud of you! And to our new daycare friends—welcome! We're excited to greet you with open arms and can't wait for the fun, laughter, and learning ahead. Here's to new beginnings and more beautiful memories at God's House!

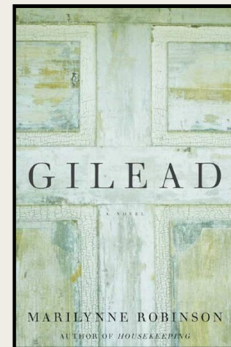
Women's Ministry



WOMEN'S LUNCHEON SEPTEMBER 28



On Sunday, September 28, immediately following the late service, all ladies are invited and encouraged to attend the Women's Fall Luncheon in the Fellowship Hall. No cost and no reservations are necessary. Come enjoy a delicious lunch and fellowship. Childcare is not provided.



AVPC women are invited to read *Gilead* by Marilynne Robinson and join a book discussion on August 28.

Gilead by Marilynne Robinson is a novel narrated through a series of letters written by an aging Congregationalist minister, John Ames, to his young son. Set in Gilead, Iowa, in 1956, the letters reflect on Ames's life, family history, and faith, particularly his relationships with his father and grandfather, both also ministers. The narrative explores themes of family, faith, forgiveness, and the passage of time, with Ames grappling with his impending death and legacy.



Men's Ministry


AUG
DATE TBD



Men's Game Night

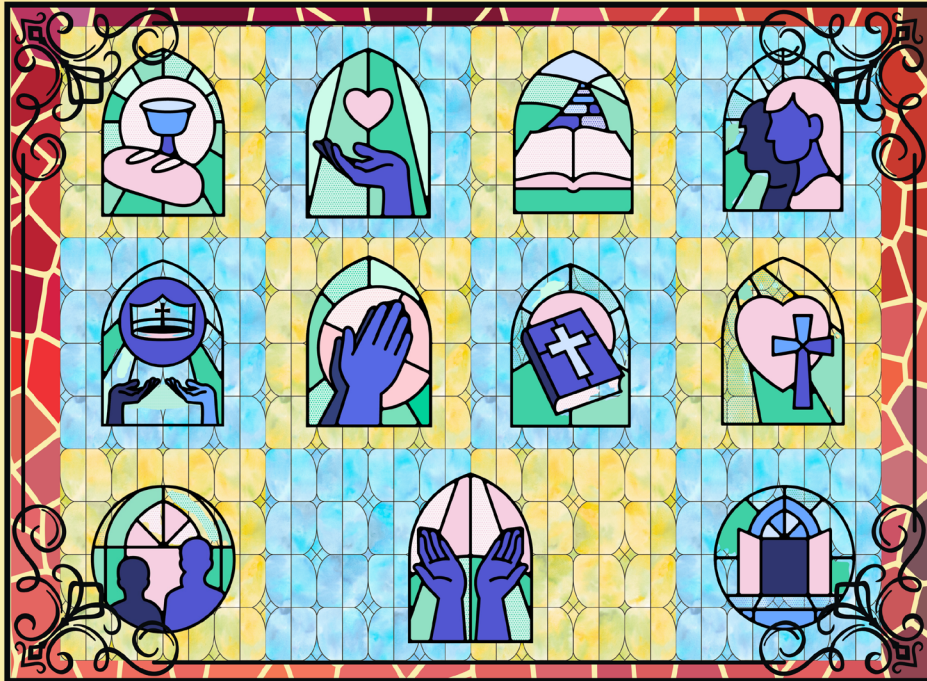


Hosted by:
**HOLT
GRAY**

More Info:
CONTACT BLAKE HARRIS
BLAKE@AVPC.ORG

1416 Buckhead Road,
Vestavia Hills, AL 35216 

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



It's challenging to grasp how quickly the summer has flown by. The AVPC KIDS ministry has been full of worship and adventures in God's word, while also giving our staff a slower pace to evaluate and reflect on our various ministry initiatives, one being our preschool Worship Center. As you know, Worship Center has only been held during the early service sermon portion this summer. On August 10, we will return to our normal schedule of Worship Center being held during both services, but there are a few important changes. We will be transitioning to a new curriculum called "Teach Us to Worship". I am SO excited about this. Our prayerful aim in Worship Center has always been to root our youngest covenant members in the foundations of corporate worship. Our intention has never been to pull them out of "big church", but instead, prepare them to launch well into covenantal corporate worship. The mission of "Teach Us to Worship" is to "foster intergenerational worship and nurture children as lifelong worshippers." This mission echoes the heart of our Children's Ministry Team. Each month our Worship Center children will progress through a new element of worship to understand its history, purpose, and their role of participation. Over the 12 months, we will travel through the: Gathering of God's People to Worship, Call to Worship, Prayer, Praise, Reading the Word, Walking in the Word, Confession of Sin, Assurance of Pardon, Sacraments, Tithes and Offerings, Confession of Faith, and Benediction. These are things I am still learning! On the months with five Sundays, the fifth Sunday will be a corporate family service with no Worship Center, so that our children can practice the elements they have been learning in a family environment. This typically occurs once a quarter.

Join me in praying for this new endeavor.

"The covenant community's very identity is wrapped up with worshiping its covenant keeping God. And this community consists of believing adults and their children. Therefore, the church lives out its theology when it encourages and even expects its children to participate in worship." - Jason Helopoulos, *Let Them Worship*

"Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker! For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand." Psalm 95:6-7

For Christ's Crown and Covenant,
Catie Lumpkin, Director of Children's Ministries

YOUTH MINISTRY



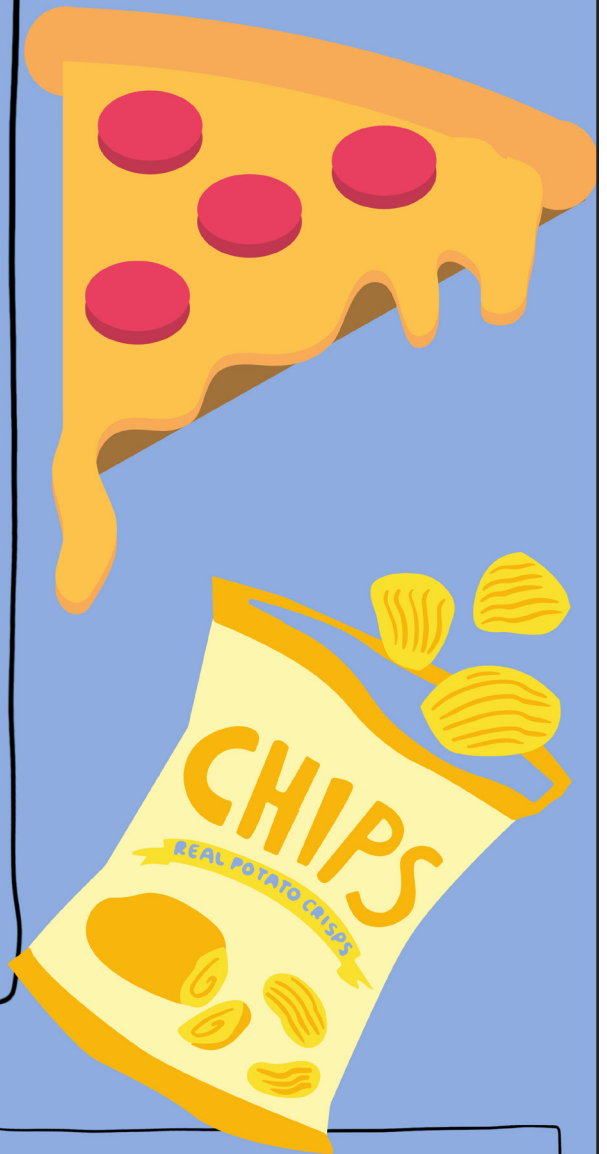
Thank you to everyone who prayed for our mission trip to White Swan, Washington to serve Sacred Road Ministries and the Yakama people. It was a difficult and beautiful week, but our team embodied our theme verse we use for all of our mission trips, "For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them." (1 Corinthians 9:19)

Peace,
Clint

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

NEW YOUNG ADULT GATHERINGS

JOIN US ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 12 AND AUGUST 26 AT 6:30PM AT THE HOME OF RUSSELL AND KATEY WINDSOR. WE'LL HAVE DINNER AND FELLOWSHIP AND HEAR A TESTIMONY FROM SOMEONE IN THE CHURCH. INVITE A FRIEND AND WE'LL SEE YOU THERE! QUESTIONS? CONTACT BLAKE HARRIS AT BLAKE@AVPC.ORG.



WINDSOR ADDRESS:

5560 DOUBLE OAK LANE
BIRMINGHAM, AL 35242



MISSIONS NEWS

Jesus said: "...“The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore, pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest” (Luke 10:2).

Praying, sending, and going is the thrust of our calling as believers.

Praying: If you haven't picked up a Missionary Prayer Guide yet, let me encourage you to do so. Sitting at my breakfast table, it reminds me to lift our Saints up in prayer. Our heroes are serving across the globe. As Dan Dougherty says, “Sending our missionaries into the field without prayer is like sending our military into a warzone without bullets”. Please join us in the spiritual battle and encourage your family and friends to do the same!

Sending/Going: Our youth recently returned from their Yakama mission trip in Washington state. What a glowing example of service as they responded to the Lord of the Harvest at Sacred Road Ministries in White Swan! We are so proud of them and the team leaders for investing part of their summer to do the hard work, make sacrifices, and meet the needs of needy people. God is being glorified!

Also, great news on the AVPC short-term missions front! AVPC is sending a vision team (Michael MacCaughelty, Jeff Schofield, Abbie Bostrom, and Sarah Bishop) to Albania and Kosovo from October 8-13. Besides ministering to and encouraging our supported missionaries, they will determine the logistics for a potential AVPC short-term mission trip to those countries projected for March 2026. Our hope is that the logistics will mesh, and the AVPC congregation will follow the example of our Youth to labor in the harvest fields of Albania and Kosovo. More to come!

- Mardi Penuel, for AVPC Missions Team

SESSION/ DIACONATE MINUTES

SESSION MEETING • JUNE 17, 2025

- The Missions Team requested approval for a one-time gift of \$2,000 to Christian Medical Ministries of Alabama. The request was approved.
- The Deacons requested to spend \$1,750.00 from Capital Reserves for office equipment, specifically a laptop computer for the Senior Pastor's use and a printer/scanner for the financial administrator's use. Both items were approved.

DIACONATE MEETING • JULY 8, 2025

- GHK Update: The GHK board met on June 16, 2025. The next meeting is scheduled for July 21. Matt Jackson joined this meeting on behalf of the AVPC Mercy Team. Matt expressed a desire for the Mercy Team to be available to help GHK families and staff, as needed. Additionally, Sky's transition to her position as director has been smooth to-date.
- Protection Leadership Team Report: June and July – 10 of 14 Responder Slots filled. Reduced to 1 early and 1 late shift with anticipation of having police officer in place on Sundays. Still need more volunteers. Emergency Response plan was drafted and approved with unanimous consent.
- The facility Team is using an insulation company to do the parlor insulation work as a part of the parlor refresh rather than a DIY effort to reduce complications with hazardous materials exposure and PPE needed.

JUNE FINANCIAL REPORT

	BEGINNING BALANCE	INCOME	EXPENSES	TRANSFER	ENDING BALANCE
GENERAL FUND	(\$52,422)	\$154,469	\$136,887	(\$7,537)	(\$42,377)
MISSIONS	\$151,527	\$27,449	\$33,261	\$7,537	\$153,252
TOTAL	\$99,105	\$181,918	\$170,148	\$0	\$110,875