

THE SALTSHAKER

DECEMBER 4, 2022 | VOLUME 266

December Events AT ALTADENA VALLEY

O come, let us adore Him.

DEC 4 | Christmas at Altadena Park

Join us at 5:00 PM in Altadena Park, as we invite the neighborhood for a time of celebration, tree lighting, and refreshments. Be sure to bring your own seating.

DEC 4 & 18 | Congregational Meeting

Instead of one Congregational Meeting, the Session is calling for two. The first will be on December 4, at 10:15 AM in Fellowship Hall (immediately following the 9:45 AM Fellowship Brunch), for the purpose of changing the call of Blake Harris from Assistant Pastor to Associate Pastor and also to hear a report from the Session on the pastoral transition process. The second Congregational Meeting will be on December 18 at 9:45 AM in Fellowship Hall for the purpose of electing church officers.

DEC 11 | Lessons & Carols

Our annual Lessons & Carols event will be held on December 11 at 6 PM. We look forward to celebrating Christ's birth through story and song! A reception will follow in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring a homemade Christmas sweet to share (enough for 25 people) and drop it off in the kitchen. Please note that doors will open for seating in the Sanctuary at 5:15 PM. You will not be able to save seats before this time. (Note: we will provide seating for kitchen workers.) Childcare will be provided through age three during the service.

DEC 24 | Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

This year we will have two Candlelight Services in the Sanctuary. The first service will be at 4:30 PM and the second service will be at 6:00 PM.

Please note: the Church Office will be closed on
December 23, 26, 30 and January 2.

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Our Winter Sunday School term (January-March) will be slightly altered by having fewer options than normal. This is not due to a lack of teachers or of good alternatives, but rather to the importance of the topic that will be taught. That topic is "Christ and Culture: Living in God's Two Kingdoms." Much of the material for this class will come from a book by David VanDrunen with a similar title: Living in God's Two Kingdoms: A Biblical Vision for Christianity and Culture. VanDrunen is professor of systematic theology and ethics at Westminster Theological Seminary in California.

As indicated by these titles, God's people have citizenship in two kingdoms: the kingdom of this world and the kingdom of God. Navigating our dual citizenship is not always easy. As citizens of God's kingdom (the Church in our current time), we have different values than the kingdom of this world. To what degree should our Christian values be transferred to the kingdom of this world? What does it mean to be a patriotic citizen when our ultimate allegiance lies with the kingdom of God. To what degree does God promise to use his people to redeem the kingdom of this world? How can a Christian continue to seek the good of the kingdom of this world when the Bible tells us that God will one day bring judgment upon it?

These and other questions will take us on a journey that will require us to see the large story of the Bible. It will encompass such important topics as eschatology (the Bible's view of the future), ecclesiology (the doctrine of the Church), and civil government. The class will meet in Fellowship Hall during the Sunday School hour. The teaching will be divided among four teachers: Frank Thielman, Luis Orteza, Michael MacCaughelty, and Brad Allison.

Brad Allison

minutes

SESSION MEETING • OCTOBER 18, 2022

- Brad Allison reported for the Finance Committee on the initial compilation of the 2023 budget.
- Report from the Worship Ministry Team on their recommendations related to women in ministry at AVPC.
- Report of the Pastoral Transition Committee.
- End monthly support for Scott Morris, serving with RUF at University of Oklahoma.
- Approval for a young adult's mission trip to Seven Hills Presbyterian Church in Cambridge MA, July 17-21, 2023

DIACONATE MEETING • NOVEMBER 15, 2022

- Altadena Park Improvement Committee Report: Josh Moore announced that a fire pit was constructed in the park.
- Facility Team Report: Bill Sommer reported that Dave Mayhew has been doing a great job at his new position.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

WTW Bible Study beginning in 2023!

The Gospel of Mark

"The Gospel of Mark paints an important portrait of Jesus as Israel's promised Messiah. Mark's account also makes clear how Jesus' kingship confounds public expectations by emphasizing his humility, suffering and sacrifice." Please join your AVPC sisters this spring semester as we study through this powerful book together.

You can find more information on this study by clicking the link on the Women's Ministry tab of our web page.

Mondays

January 16 - April 24

3:00 - 4:30 PM

At the home of Wendy Allison:
4612 S. Lakeridge Dr.

Wednesdays

January 18 - April 26

9:00 - 11:00 AM

AVPC Church Parlor
childcare for all ages including homeschoolers

Wednesdays

January 18 - April 26

5:00 - 7:30 PM

At the home of Lea Anne Parker:
4725 Old Looney Mill Rd.

Fridays

January 20 - April 28

1:00 - 3:00 PM

At the home of Judy Bates:
5349 Meadow Garden Lane

Study guides available in the Church Parlor for a cost of \$9.00

*Questions? Contact Wendy Allison at 205-936-2000, Amy MacCaugherty at 205-706-6016,
or the AVPC Church Office at 205-967-0680*

LOOKING AHEAD:

Sunday, January 22

Women's Small Group Luncheon

Friday, March 3 - Saturday, March 4

Women's Retreat

PEOPLE NEWS

OUR SYMPATHY

We express our heartfelt condolences to Ashley Hood for the recent passing of her Uncle, Kenneth. Please pray for her family to be able to feel God's peace in this time of great sorrow.

Congratulations!

Russell and Diana Lloyd are enjoying another new grandbaby.

Selah Victoria Lloyd was born November 17. She weighed 7 lbs 10 oz and was 20.5 inches long.

Parents are Danae and Nathan Lloyd.

Congratulations to the entire Lloyd clan.

We're moving!

The Harris family has recently moved to a new home in the area. We are excited for them and this new step in their life.

New Address:

Blake and Danielle Harris

608 Forest Lakes Dr.

Sterrett, AL 35147

Friendship Partners

The world has come to the United States and to the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB). It is said that 70% of the international students who study in the U.S. never get invited to an American home. You can help lower that number by becoming a friendship partner. Being a friendship partner to an international student or scholar represents a unique opportunity to reach out to the world by inviting the world to your doorstep. International students are anxious to get to know Americans, and it is a great way for you and your family to learn about other countries, cultures and peoples. International students and scholars possess decent English skills, so communicating with them can be fun and easy.

If you have never been a friendship partner before, you must attend a Briarwood Friendship Partner orientation, since we are working with the International Outreach ministry of Briarwood Presbyterian Church. The orientation dates for the upcoming UAB Spring semester are December 14 on ZOOM and January 5 at Briarwood. You do not have to attend an orientation if you have previously attended one. Also, everyone must fill out a new application. Applications should be submitted no later than December 31.

If you have questions and/or want an application, please contact AVPC Outreach team member, Tom Hinke at tthinke@gmail.com.

ALTADENA PARK

Several volunteers this month helped add a fire pit to Altadena Park. Thank you to all who helped out in making Altadena Park more and more beautiful and inviting for our community.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

AVPC KIDS CORNER

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." ~ Isaiah 9:6

It's time for our annual AVPC Kids Christmas Nativity Pageant! If you have not had the chance to participate in an Altadena Valley Advent season, this event is possibly my favorite tradition. It is a time set apart for our children to lead us through the hope of Christ's first coming. However, I tend to think we approach it much like that first Christmas looked – raw and authentic. It is something you do not want to miss!

Pageant Practice: December 17, 9:30-11:30. We will end with a pizza celebration.

Pageant Day: December 18, during Sunday School hour in Fellowship Hall. Children should be in Conference Room by 9:30 in costume.

FAQ's:

- *Parents, if you have not informed Mrs. Catie of your child's desired role, please do so as soon as possible. Also, please let her know if he or she is interested in a solo.*
- *It is HIGHLY HELPFUL if you can attend the Pageant Practice on the 17th – particularly for major roles and solos. However, you can show up the morning of the Pageant and participate as well.*
- *If you have an available costume, that is helpful. However, we do have a stockpile. Costumes will be distributed at the Pageant practice.*
- *If you are willing to be a youth or adult helper, please reach out to Mrs. Catie.*

Come, thou long expected Jesus ~

Catie Lumpkin

AVPC Kids Ministry Director



YOUTH HAPPENINGS

As we enter the Advent season, it is appropriate to marvel at the miracle of the Incarnation and the love evident in the fact that Jesus willingly gave up his place at the Father's right hand for a time, to enter into the brokenness of this world and take on flesh. I don't know about you, but with each passing year, as I experience more of the consequences of the fall, I am increasingly grateful for this fact! As we picture Jesus, it is interesting that we only see him in two stages: as an infant and as a 30-33 year old engaged in a ministry that would literally change the world. (read: save the world) What about the in-between? What about his childhood and adolescent years? The period between infancy and tween years is summed up in Luke 2:40, "and the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him." The period between 12 years old and the baptism of Jesus, which began his public ministry is summed up in Luke 2:52, "and Jesus increased in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and man."

These verses are both unremarkable and profound. As we reflect on the Incarnation, I find great hope in these verses for our young people. (And for our parents. 2:52 comes after Joseph and Mary lost Jesus. Let that sink in...) What was the childhood and adolescence like for Jesus? It looked a lot like the other kids in his town. He grew up. He learned. He lived. All of this was done with the "favor of God." This same gift is available for our young people as they grow, learn, and feel the effects of living in a broken world. The Incarnation signaled that things were about to change. God arrived to dwell with His people, to dwell in His people. At the cross, the veil at the entrance to the Holy of Holies was torn. The Holy Spirit arrived after Christ returned to heaven and we became the temple, just as Jesus predicted! For our covenant children and for our young people who are following Jesus, they are increasing in wisdom and stature and in favor with God. We can look forward with hope because for those in Christ, they are facing a bright future. The light of the world is among us!

Light and Peace,

-Clint Cvacho, *Youth Director*

LOOKING AHEAD...

December 16: Junior High Christmas Party

December 17: Senior High Christmas Party

February 18-20: Senior High Winter Retreat

June 19-23: The Edge (Junior High)

July 15-22: Senior High Mission Trip

YOUNG ADULTS NEWS

YOUNG ADULTS' *Christmas Party*

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17 | 6:00 - 8:00 PM

Join us for our annual Young Adult's Christmas Party in the Youth House. Festivities will include a reading of the Christmas story and a rousing game of Green Sea Bunny (our version of White Elephant) Questions? Contact Blake (blake@avpc.org).



2023 MISSIONS CONFERENCE - SAVE THE DATE - FEBRUARY 8

We are excited to announce that the 2023 Missions Conference will be held Wednesday, February 8 through Sunday, February 12, 2023. Please plan for this event in your calendars. It is always a special and encouraging time to not only connect with our partner missionaries but to hear first-hand of the amazing work that God is doing as He brings the gospel of hope to a lost and broken world.

2023 MISSIONS CONFERENCE AGENDA

Wednesday February 8:

Supper with small groups (Community Groups, individual families, or groups of 2-3 families).

Thursday February 9:

Supper with small groups (Community Groups, individual families, or groups of 2-3 families).

Friday February 10:

Fellowship supper at AVPC followed by worship service.

Saturday February 11:

Prayer breakfast with missionaries; Fellowship supper at AVPC followed by panel discussion.

Sunday February 12:

Missionaries sharing in each service, missionary pastor preaching both services, missionaries sharing during Sunday School, Fellowship lunch following the late service.

MISSIONARIES ATTENDING

Keith and Lois Betsch (Wycliffe Bible Translators > Pacific Islands)

Chris and Mary Granberry (Sacred Road Ministries > Washington)

Justin and Alanna Huston (Serge > Ireland)

Gregg and Julie Nicholson (United World Mission > Thailand)

Pamela Phipps (Grace House > Birmingham)

Christina Thomas (Christian Medical Ministry of Alabama > Birmingham)

Doni Mehmeti (A Jesus Mission > Kosovo)

HOW TO PREPARE AND GET INVOLVED

There are 12 slots available to host a missionary for lunch on Thursday or Friday. Contact Dan Dougherty (doughfamily2@psmail.net) for more information and/or to sign up.

Pray for our missionaries that are attending the conference (travels, funding, engagement, energy).

Pray for the conference details and events to be effective, engaging, and filled with worship of Jesus.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

12/2 Ashley Hood	12/16 Libby Stephens	12/25 Kathy Whitner
12/2 Melanie Richards	12/17 Judy Bates	12/26 John Oliver
12/4 Jude Allday	12/17 Michael Bobo	12/27 Michael Bodkin
12/4 Lucy Cwynar	12/17 Caitlin Coats	12/27 Elizabeth Mather
12/9 Roy Ennis, Jr	12/18 Jim Anderson	12/28 Laura English
12/10 Becky Gray	12/18 Naomi Washington	12/28 Heather Tate
12/11 Tatum Popwell	12/18 Steve Whitner	12/30 Alexys Labreche
12/12 Abi Bostrom	12/18 Katey Windsor	12/30 Russell Lloyd
12/13 Beth Lloyd	12/19 Finneas Ireland	12/30 Jamie Lumpkin
12/14 Ethan MacCaughelty	12/19 Merrily McCary	12/30 Danny Price
12/14 Catherine Roddy	12/22 Brent McClenny	12/30 Claudia Stephens
12/14 Daniel Williams	12/23 Amanda Amerson	12/31 Kelly Driggers
12/15 Judy P. Steele	12/23 Chris Light	12/31 Tom McCallum
12/15 James Tate	12/25 Jason Allday	
12/16 Elijah Putman	12/25 Elizabeth Ward	

GOD'S HOUSE KINDERGARTEN

God's House has much to be thankful for this Thanksgiving! One of our favorite God's House traditions is our Thanksgiving feasts. Aside from singing songs and looking cute, the children enjoy a "feast" together. None of this could happen without our amazing music teacher, Mrs. Carlee, who also happens to be expecting her 3rd child next year. Because of that, we are looking for someone who is available Monday – Thursday from the hours of 8:30 – 12:30 to be our preschool music teacher from the end of January through May. It is the perfect part-time job for the right person! For more information, please contact Susan at 967-7611, or you may send your resume to susan@avpc.org

- Michelle Taylor, GHK Admin



The GHK kids enjoy dressing up for their annual Thanksgiving feast!

OCTOBER FINANCIAL REPORT

	BEGINNING BALANCE	INCOME	EXPENSES	TRANSFER	ENDING BALANCE
GENERAL FUND	\$-158,217	\$245,821	\$112,122	\$-6,572	\$-31,090
MISSIONS	\$-10,581	\$21,884	\$30,451	\$6,572	\$-12,576
TOTAL	\$-168,798	\$267,705	\$142,573	\$0	\$-43,666