

# THE SALTSHAKER

DECEMBER 2024 | VOLUME 285

## December Events AT ALTADENA VALLEY

O come, let us adore Him!

### **DEC 7 | Children's Christmas Pageant Rehearsal**

Saturday, December 7, there will be a rehearsal for all children who will be participating in the Children's Christmas pageant. This rehearsal will be in the Fellowship Hall from 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM. Following this rehearsal there will be a pizza party. See you there!

### **DEC 8 | Children's Christmas Pageant**

On Sunday, December 8, children ages 4 - 6th grade will perform the Christmas story for the congregation during the Sunday School hour (9:45 AM) in the Fellowship Hall.

### **DEC 8 | Christmas at Altadena Park**

Join us on Sunday, December 8, at 5:00 PM for our 6th Annual Christmas Tree Lighting in Altadena Park. There will be cookies and hot chocolate, a craft for the kids, and a gospel presentation. Invite your friends!

### **DEC 15 | Congregational Meeting**

The Session has called a congregational meeting on December 15, 2024, in the Fellowship Hall during the Sunday School hour (9:45-10:45). We will elect officers at this meeting and consider proposed changes to the AVPC bylaws. A list of the officer nominees and a description of the proposed bylaws changes are available in the Parlor and Welcome Center, or can be found on our website.

*More events continued on page 2*

## INSIDE

- 2 December Events Continued  
Missions News
- 3 Trunk or Treat
- 4 AVPC News Session/Diaconate Minutes
- 5 Women's Ministry GHK Update
- 6 Youth Happenings
- 7 Children's Ministry
- 8 December Birthdays  
Young Adult Ministry  
Men's Ministry  
Financial Report



# DECEMBER EVENTS CONTINUED

## DEC 15 | Lessons & Carols

Our annual Lessons & Carols event will be held on Sunday, December 15, at 6:00 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 24, 25, 31 and January 1.

# MISSIONS NEWS

## FAITH PROMISE

It's December already and this may be a good time to pray about our Faith Promise for 2024. Often our giving is a little behind, and December is a great month to "catch up." You, our congregation, are so faithful and diligent to remember our missionaries and to provide for them. We now have 60 missionaries that we support! Your Missions Team is abundantly thankful for the gift of partnering with so many missionaries as they serve locally, nationally, and internationally. Please pray for the Missions Team as we seek to be good stewards of the gifts God gives. Your promises enable AVPC to support our current missionaries without interruption. Additionally, consider support for additional missionaries to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ in a world full of need.

## 2025 MISSIONS CONFERENCE FEBRUARY 5-9

It's getting close to 2025, and we all know that, we will have our Missions Conference in February. This year, the theme is based on Psalm 67:1-2: "Behold our God: Saving the Nations." We have several international missionaries coming: Scott and Dana Jennings from Birmingham, England; the Kanani family from Albania; Jeremy Martin from London, England; John and Lynn Lehn from Dubrovnik, Croatia; Dan Herron from Arizona, and one undisclosed missionary couple. This will be a wonderful conference!

- Mardi Penuel for the Missions Team





# TRUNK OR TREAT

Thank you to everyone who served and helped make this year's Trunk or Treat a wonderful event. It was a sweet time of fellowship and community.



# AVPC NEWS

## OUR SYMPATHY

We express our heartfelt condolences to Danielle Harris' sister, Sharon, and her brother in law, Tinny, for the recent passing of their son, Sparrow. Please pray for their family to be able to feel God's peace in this time of great sorrow.

## Congratulations Molly MacCaughelty!

Congratulations to Molly MacCaughelty for graduating from Auburn in December of this year. Please be in prayer for her as she moves to the next steps the Lord has for her.



## Prayer Ministry Team

We are so thankful for a praying church. And as we grow our muscles of dependence upon the Lord through prayer, we want to encourage requests through our church-wide prayer chain. If you would like to request something to be added to the prayer chain, please contact the church office or any one of the pastors or ministry staff. (We ask that any requests for biological family members be limited to immediate family.)

## Children's Advent Devotions

**"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given"**

Join your AVPC family as we read through "Fear Not, For Behold" this Advent season. Pick up your Advent family devotionals in the Welcome Center, Parlor, or the AVPC Kids table. You can also find an electronic copy by scanning the QR below.



# minutes

## SESSION MEETING • OCTOBER 15, 2024

- After discussion, the Session agreed by a voice vote to hire a consultant, Scott M. Hamner, CPA to perform an initial study of our needs as a church in the financial area for a fee of \$1,000. There was then a voice vote approving to the 2025 budget a "placeholder" salary of \$74,000 until the final decisions are made.
- Grahame Bobo was appointed to join the God's House Board.
- The Session agreed by unanimous consent to call a congregational meeting for December 15, 2024, to vote on officer candidates and revised church Bylaws.

## DIACONATE MEETING • NOVEMBER 12, 2024

- Giving is ahead of budget and expenditures are below budget with a net positive variance of \$267,000. Faith promise is below forecast currently.
- Bill Sommer states that the new fire alarm system is installed and functional.



# WOMEN'S MINISTRY

## Women's Bible Study

"The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to be silent."

Exodus 14:14

Be on the lookout for more information about the women's bible study starting in January. Contact Heather Sommer (heather@avpc.org) with any questions.



## SAVE THE DATE

### WOMEN'S RETREAT 2025

Friday, Feb. 28 - Saturday, March 1

More details coming soon!

# GOD'S HOUSE KINDERGARTEN



*The GHK kids enjoy carving pumpkin, dressing up in their costumes, and fellowship with friends.*

## GHK CHRISTMAS PROGRAM DECEMBER 18

Mark your calendars!  
God's House Kindergarten's annual Children's Christmas Program will be on Wednesday, December 18. Join us as the kids of GHK lead us in worship and celebration of the birth of Christ.

# YOUTH HAPPENINGS

**“And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth.  
And she gave birth to her firstborn son...” - Luke 2:6, 7**

After centuries of prophecies regarding the coming of the Messiah who would set God's people free and the miracles recorded in the first chapter of Luke leading up to the birth of Jesus, when the time came most people missed it. Read the above description again. It sounds a lot like a baby being born, doesn't it? Of course there were miracles that accompanied the birth of Jesus that got the attention of the lowest of the low (shepherds) and that reached out across great distances to get the attention of the high class (Magi), but the birth itself was only miraculous in the same way that any birth is. The one who created everything and holds it all together by the power of His word entered into the mess that we have created the same way we all do, as a baby. Let that sink in for a moment. Jesus is Lord and for the normal duration for a normal human He was a baby.

One of the hardest things for our students is often one of the hardest things for those of us who are more seasoned as well, and that is waiting for the next phase. Life is full of stretches where it feels like nothing is happening and you are stuck waiting. If you could just hurry up and turn 16 and get your license, then everything would be right. If you could just graduate from high school, from college, then everything would be right. If you could just get hired by that company and move up the ladder to your dream position, then everything would be right. If you could get married and start a family, then everything would be right. If you could just retire from the rat race and maybe have a couple of grandkids (and live on a sailboat in the Florida Keys), then everything would be right. For those who had been waiting for the Messiah, they thought if He could just burst on the scene and start kicking in the teeth of His enemies, then everything would be right. Instead, what we got was a baby.

During this advent season, may we embrace the waiting. May we trust that all the little details matter and that God is both sovereign and good. May we live in the truth of Ecclesiastes 3: “He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, he has put eternity into man's heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end...I perceived that whatever God does endures forever; nothing can be added to it, nor anything taken from it.” (Ecclesiastes 3:11, 14) Jesus was born when “the fullness of time had come.” He began His ministry when “the fullness of time had come.” He gave His life when “the fullness of time had come.” He will return “when the fullness of time has come.” Until then, may the baby born in a stable remind us that God has, and will continue to, make everything beautiful in its time.

Peace,

Clint Cvacho, Youth Director

## LOOKING AHEAD...

**December 4: Junior High Christmas Party**

**January 8: Small Groups Resume**

**December 6: Senior High Christmas Party**

**January 12: Youth Group Resumes**



# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

As 2024 comes to a close, I am humbled that God has allowed me to be part of His work as children's ministries director for three full years. There have been some days I could not imagine making it through the week, let alone another year! From the earliest days, I have prayed that God would create something that would flourish and continue well past my presence. I prayed that the ministry would be a vehicle for our body of believers to taste and experience the rich joy of embracing a covenantal way within our church family, and that from this, God would raise up an army of His people, standing in the gap for the next generation. It took God taking me out, to step back and fully see what He has done.

Throughout the summer, I would notice at times I was not feeling well, and although I went to the doctor several times, I was repeatedly told nothing was wrong. On the night of October 1, I found myself in excruciating pain and drove myself to the emergency room. I received a range of diagnoses, finally to learn I had developed a rare condition which required an immediate hysterectomy due to infection. I was at the church preparing for Children's ministry Sunday when I received the call, and I immediately thought, "We're gonna have to cancel Trunk or Treat and Kids' Bridge nights." Within 24 hours, God had set the boundaries lines for me as it says in Psalm 16, but I wasn't sure they were in "pleasant places."

When I returned for my first "full" Sunday on November 3, God gave me the opportunity to simply sit back and witness His faithfulness through our church family. From Worship Center to Sunday School Discipleship Hour, Hymn Sing and Bridge Night, I had the gift of simply being present to love on our AVPC children, while He provided through so many of you. A former version of myself might have experienced that and responded in striving to do something so I would feel needed or to ensure some of you would notice my dedication. Instead, God allowed me simply to receive the beautiful, merciful answer to so many of my prayers – He has raised a covenant family army through each of you. Thank you for being a portion of His faithfulness to me, my family, and the children's ministry. You have shown me the goodness of our Heavenly Father.

For Christ's Crown and Covenant,

Catie Lumpkin

Director of Children's Ministries



# DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

|       |                    |       |                  |       |                  |
|-------|--------------------|-------|------------------|-------|------------------|
| 12/2  | Ashley Hood        | 12/17 | Judy Bates       | 12/26 | John Oliver      |
| 12/2  | Melanie Richards   | 12/17 | Michael Bobo     | 12/27 | Elizabeth Mather |
| 12/4  | Jude Allday        | 12/17 | Zephaniah Putman | 12/27 | Ellie Joy Peters |
| 12/7  | Forrest Price      | 12/18 | Jim Anderson     | 12/28 | Laura English    |
| 12/10 | Becky Gray         | 12/18 | Steve Whitner    | 12/28 | Heather Tate     |
| 12/11 | Ella Moore         | 12/18 | Katey Windsor    | 12/29 | Leo McGlothlin   |
| 12/11 | Tatum Popwell      | 12/19 | Becky Cambron    | 12/30 | Alexys Labreche  |
| 12/12 | Abi Bostrom        | 12/19 | Finneas Ireland  | 12/30 | Russell Lloyd    |
| 12/13 | Beth Lloyd         | 12/19 | Merrily McCary   | 12/30 | Jamie Lumpkin    |
| 12/14 | Ethan MacCaughelty | 12/22 | Brent McClenny   | 12/30 | Danny Price      |
| 12/14 | Daniel Williams    | 12/23 | Amanda Amerson   | 12/31 | Kelly Driggers   |
| 12/15 | Ruthie Armstrong   | 12/23 | Chris Light      | 12/31 | Tom McCallum     |
| 12/15 | Judy Steele        | 12/25 | Jason Allday     | 12/31 | Marie Jubinville |
| 12/15 | James Tate         | 12/25 | Elizabeth Ward   |       |                  |
| 12/16 | Elijah Putman      | 12/25 | Kathy Whitner    |       |                  |

## YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

### YOUNG ADULTS'

### *Christmas Party*

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19 | 6:30 - 8:30 PM



Join us Thursday, December 19, 6:30 - 8:30 PM, for a night of Christmas cheer, dinner, dessert, and an unforgettable game of Grey Sea Wolf! Location TBA.

## MEN'S MINISTRY

### AVPC MAN MOOT

### JANUARY 2025



Calling all men, young and old, to the first ever AVPC MAN MOOT. Join us around a bonfire to welcome Kyle Parker into our brotherhood in January 2025. Look out for more details.

## OCTOBER FINANCIAL REPORT

|                     | BEGINNING BALANCE | INCOME    | EXPENSES  | TRANSFER  | ENDING BALANCE |
|---------------------|-------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------------|
| <b>GENERAL FUND</b> | \$91,392          | \$122,524 | \$157,728 | (\$6,669) | \$49,519       |
| <b>MISSIONS</b>     | (\$14,066)        | \$26,784  | \$33,931  | \$6,669   | (\$14,544)     |
| <b>TOTAL</b>        | \$77,326          | \$149,308 | 191,659   | \$0       | \$34,975       |