

THE SALTSHAKER

FEBRUARY 2023 | VOLUME 268

MISSIONS CONFERENCE

FEBRUARY 8-12

A Vision for Missions. A Heart for Prayer.

It's the most wonderful time of the year! It's the time of year when our missionary partners come to visit and engage with us face-to-face. It's a time for hearing about all the amazing stories that God is working in and through our missionary partners around the world. And guess what? We have the opportunity to not only be encouraged by their stories, but to be part of The Story by encouraging these laborers and entering into fellowship with them. We would encourage you to not only take advantage of the many opportunities to hear these stories (schedule listed below), but to connect with our missionary partners on a personal level. Did you know you can host a meal with a missionary? This is a great way to get some personal face-to-face time. This will not only be a great encouragement to you, but the missionary will be excited and encouraged by the opportunity to come share a meal and conversation. Contact Heather, heather@avpc.org, for more information and to sign up.

MISSIONS CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

- Wednesday & Thursday (Feb. 8 & 9)
community groups hosting missionaries
- Friday night (Feb. 10) supper & meeting (5:30 PM)
- Saturday morning (Feb. 11) prayer breakfast (8:30 AM)
- Saturday night (Feb. 11) supper & missionary panel (5:30 PM)
- Sunday morning (Feb. 12) services (8:30 & 11:00 AM)
Church-wide lunch in Fellowship Hall (12:15 PM)

And he said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the Gospel to the whole creation." (Mark 16:15 esv)

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Pastor's Pen

Brad Allison, Senior Pastor

Pastors have favorite words of advice they tend to repeat, and I am no exception. Just yesterday I found myself repeating this advice to a good friend as I said to him, "Mature people deal with the reality that is instead of the reality they want." Mature and wise parents, for example, parent their kids not according to the personalities and gifts they might wish their kids had, but according to the actual features of their kids. In doing so, they parent real children instead of fictional ones. Wise financial stewards don't spend excess amounts of time dreaming about the money they would like to have but focus on being wise with the money they do have.

One more relevant example of this principle comes to mind. Wise Christian citizens don't spend all their time dreaming about the level of morality they wish were present in their nation (or griping about the lack thereof), but focus themselves on how God might want to use them to make a positive difference in the world they do find themselves in. How might we be used to make a positive difference? We have a Missions Conference coming on the weekend of February 10-12. The mission God has given to the Church is to make disciples and to seek the expansion of God's kingdom through the advancement of the gospel locally and throughout the world. Our annual conference gives us the opportunity to be encouraged in this mission and to take some steps in participating in it. The step might be simply getting to know one missionary a little better and committing to pray for that missionary throughout the year. Or it might be a renewed emphasis on stewarding your finances toward this end through making a faith promise. It might possibly be transitioning toward a more full-time calling to missions yourself.

I hope you'll plan on attending the conference this year with an expectation of God meeting you there and helping you see how you can participate in God's big mission of making all things new through our Lord Jesus.

-Brad Allison

minutes

SESSION MEETING • DECEMBER 13, 2022

- **2023 Budget:** the Session voted unanimously to approve the budget by a voice vote.
- **Danny Wachs reported the next issues the committee planned to address would be how we can best prepare the church for the transition and the reassignment of leadership roles that will be vacated when Brad leaves.**
- **Voted to form a judicial commission to investigate a church discipline issue.**
- **The following applicants were approved for membership: Fletcher "Tre" Smith & Clifford "Kip" and Betty Blighton.**
- **The Prayer Ministry Team had submitted the "Pulpit Search Prayer Proposal". The proposal was approved by unanimous consent.**

DIACONATE MEETING • JANUARY 10, 2023

- **Decision to reappoint Karl Poythress and appoint Scott McCrory to the finance team as non-deacon members.**
- **Make two temporary limited mobility signs to place in the upper parking lot on Sundays.**
- **Michael to write a letter to Vestavia asking if they would consider changing the name of their park to something other than "Altadena Valley Park" to avoid confusion with Altadena Park.**
- **Approval to adopt recommendations for retained earnings distributions into capital improvement accounts.**

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY

HANDYMAN SERVICE TEAM



The Diaconate of AVPC has created a new mercy ministry opportunity called the Handyman Service Team. This team is comprised of volunteers from within our church body who are willing and able to use their spiritual gifts, talents, skills, and time, to assist members who are physically unable to complete small tasks around their homes. We invite both men and women, youth and adults to volunteer for this Team and to serve as you feel called. See the Enews for the link to sign up. Questions? Contact Matt Jackson at mtjlegal@aol.com.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY



Women's Retreat

MARCH 3-4, 2023

**REGISTER NOW TO
RESERVE YOUR SPOT**

COST: \$30

**REGISTER BY FORM OR ONLINE AT
[HTTPS://AVPC.ORG/NEWS-EVENTS/EVENT-REGISTRATIONS](https://avpc.org/news-events/event-registrations)**



WOMEN'S RETREAT MARCH 3-4, 2023

Please join your Altadena Valley sisters at our 2023 retreat, as we connect in meaningful ways with one another through fellowship, prayer, sharing of the word, and worship.

Registration forms are located in the Parlor and Welcome Center. You can also register on our webpage, (www.avpc.org/events/event-registration) or by using the QR code below. The cost is \$30.



PEOPLE NEWS

OUR SYMPATHY

We extend our sincere condolences to the following:

- Merrily McCary upon the recent death of her mother, Abbie Chapman Henderson Taylor
- Jamie Lumpkin for the recent death of his father, Eddie Lumpkin
- Deborah Halbrooks for the recent death of her father, Noel Martin.

You are in our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

CCB TRAINING SESSION

The church office is trying to determine the interest level, if we were to provide a CCB Basic Training Seminar. Please indicate your interest by completing the form that was sent out in the Enews.

NEW DIRECTORY AVAILABLE

A new directory is available in the Parlor and Welcome Center. This is not a pictorial directory, however, family contact information is listed.

GET CONNECTED

A new information booklet is out in the Parlor and Welcome Center that highlights the main areas of ministry in which you can participate. Be sure to pick up a copy of the "Get Connected" guide and see where you can get involved.

Thank You

Dear AVPC Family,

I want to thank you for the privilege you entrusted to me – coordinating the nursery since 2011. This position brought me great joy. Watching your delightful children and serving with AVPC's loving nursery workers was a true blessing for me. I know God will continue to bless and care for our precious ones in the nursery and I look forward to helping out when possible.

You are dearly loved,

- Diana Lloyd

Dear AVPC Family,

Martha and I would like to thank our AVPC family for your cards, phone calls, meals, and prayers over the past four months as we have been battling my lymphoma. Please continue to pray for us, there will be other challenges ahead, but hopefully we are past the worst!

- Jim and Martha Darden

Dear AVPC Family,

Thank you for the many ways you loved our family as Jamie's father entered the presence of Jesus. The meals, reception, encouragement and extra hands throughout Children's Ministry events allowed us to serve and love his mother well. We are so grateful we are called to walk this life in community.

- Jamie and Catie Lumpkin

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



On January 7th, my father in law, "Papa E" Eddie Lumpkin (73) entered the presence of Jesus. After a slow decline these past 10 years, he is whole and healed. At the service, two of his closest friends, men I've known all my life, reflected on Papa E's character, life and purpose. As I listened to their stories of doing life together through joy and suffering in the context of covenant community, the personhood of Papa E before this past long decade clarified. Jamie's father was a man who embodied so many of the things we now see unraveling in our culture and world. Mr. Lumpkin was a man of faith, and though his relationship with Jesus was utmost, he additionally counted the cost of his calling to tell the next generation of God's faithfulness in his life. I am not sure I ever had a conversation with him where he did not somehow work in the idea of legacy and instructions for the next generation of Lumpkins. He was a Full Bird Army Colonel, Deputy Surgeon to the United States Army. In life, this translated to discernment, loyalty, faithfulness and sacrifice. There were times he and I drove each

other nuts in the ways we approached situations and decisions so differently, but his intentionality and purposeful execution of all things was something I had never really encountered. He was also abundantly generous – in both his time and resources. Since his leaving this earth, we've heard of so many who benefitted from his sacrifices – stories we never knew.

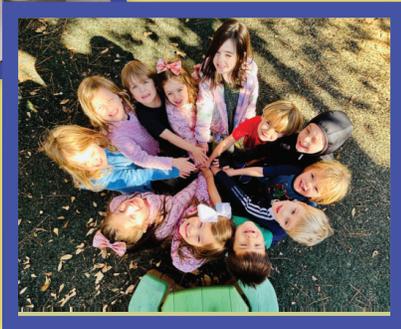
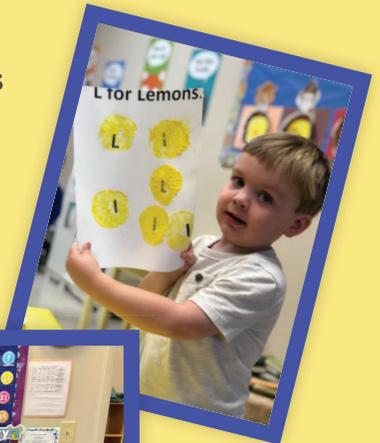
These reflections have reminded me of our covenant calling and legacy as believers. We are planting seeds, and we may never partake of the fruit in this life. However, our efforts, intentions, and ministries will, Lord willing, benefit the future Bride of Christ – both here at AVPC and universally. As we enter Missions Month and count the cost of our financial and personal resources, remember as Papa E knew, the seeds we are planting are part of an "eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison" (2 Corinthians 4:17).

- Catie Lumpkin, *Children's Ministry Director*

GOD'S HOUSE KINDERGARTEN



The new year at God's House Kindergarten has started off well. The kids are enjoying fun and fellowship with friends while learning about God and his love for them.



YOUTH HAPPENINGS

In youth group recently we took a fresh look at one of the better known stories in the Bible, Jesus calling out Zacchaeus and dining at his house with him. This is such a popular story for children's ministry because, as we all know, Zacchaeus "was a wee little man, and a wee little man was he." While this makes for a cute children's song, the reality is that this man's short stature was the least important thing about him. We are told first and foremost that he was a chief tax collector and that he was rich. This shows that not only would he have been a traitor to his people, he was also good at defrauding them as this is what he would have done in order to amass wealth. Zacchaeus was the ultimate outsider.

When he is called by name by Jesus, this outsider becomes the only one in the story with joy. How do I know this? After just spending time with Jesus at a meal his heart is changed and he vows to give away half of his wealth and to restore what he has fraudulently taken four fold. What he formerly held so dear now pales in comparison to the beauty of relationship with Jesus. In contrast to this display of utter joy, the religious leaders sat on the outside grumbling. What a beautiful picture of God's kingdom. The outcasts and broken are brought on the inside and restored. In the light of God's love, as expressed through the gift of His son, the only logical response is utter joy. In this month that boasts a holiday built around the celebration of romantic love, which frankly makes many feel like "outsiders," let us celebrate the love of Jesus for the lost. (Don't be afraid to celebrate romantic love though. I am a big fan because of Silena.)

It was for love that Jesus came to live for us and to die for us. It was for love that "the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost." Praise God for His unending, unfailing, and perfect love.

Peace,
Clint

UPCOMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY 18-20

**Senior High
Winter Retreat**

JUNE 19-23

**The Edge
(Junior High)**

JULY 15-22

**Yakama Mission Trip
(Sr High)**

YOUTH MINISTRY TEAM



The Youth Ministry Team is looking for one male and one female summer intern. Qualified candidates need to love God, to love students, and be available ten weeks out of the summer. If you know of a college student or recent graduate (AVPC member or not) who would be a good youth intern or if you are interested in this position, you can find the job description and job application on AVPC's church website.

Meet Our Missions Conference Missionaries!

GREGG AND JULIE NICHOLSON
UNITED WORLD MISSIONS
BANGKOK, THAILAND



JUSTIN AND ALANNA HUSTON
SERGE
IRELAND



KEITH AND LOIS BETSCH
WYCLIFFE BIBLE TRANSLATORS
NORTH CAROLINA, U.S.A.



FEATURED SPEAKER



CHRIS AND MARY GRANBERRY
SACRED ROAD MINISTRIES
YAKIMA, WASHINGTON

PAMELA REED PHIPPS
GRACE HOUSE
BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA



CHRISTINA THOMAS
CHRISTIAN MEDICAL MINISTRY OF ALABAMA
BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA



DONI AND ALBINA MEHMETI
A JESUS MISSION
KOSOVO



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

2/1	Jane Whitaker	2/6	Everett Alley	2/23	Cheryl Linder
2/1	Scott Wilson	2/8	Andy Coats	2/24	Steve Barley
2/2	Kevin Nelson	2/12	Amy Savoie	2/26	Heather Sommer
2/4	Linda Orteza	2/12	Vickie Bookout	2/28	Al Foster
2/4	Ed Wofford	2/13	Raegan Campbell		
2/5	Catherine Bobo	2/18	Pat Beverly		
2/5	Christian DeRieux	2/20	Aleta Sheetz		
2/5	John Young	2/21	Ashley Putman		



MEN'S MINISTRY



MEN'S GAME NIGHT - FEBRUARY 16

Men of all ages, join us for a night of pizza and games of varying skill levels at the home of Holt and Laura Gray (1416 Buckhead Road) from 6:00-8:30pm on February 16.

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

ST. PRESENTINES - FEBRUARY 18

Ever wanted to celebrate multiple holidays at once? Now you can! Join us as we mash up President's Day, Valentines, and St. Patrick's Day on Saturday, 2/18 at 6:00pm, the home of Marsha Wakefield.



DECEMBER FINANCIAL REPORT

	BEGINNING BALANCE	INCOME	EXPENSES	TRANSFER	ENDING BALANCE
GENERAL FUND	\$-39,511	\$229,980	\$132,833	\$-6,572	\$51,064
MISSIONS	\$-13,586	\$79,972	\$37,531	\$6,527	\$35,427
TOTAL	\$-53,097	\$309,952	\$170,364	\$ 0	\$86,491