



FEBRUARY 2026 / VOLUME 297

# SALTSHAKER

Quote of  
the Month

A gentleman is  
someone who can  
play the accordion,  
but doesn't.  
- Tom Waits

## 2026 MISSIONS CONFERENCE

February 4 – 8

THE HARVEST AWAITS:  
PRAY SEND GO

Scan here to learn  
about our featured  
missionaries, see a full  
Conference schedule,  
and more!



# AVPC NEWS

## ***SAVE THE DATE!***



## **Camp Solid Rock**

June 8-11

Camp Solid Rock (AVPC's version of Vacation Bible School) is for kids going into 4K through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. We invite kids in our church family and community to learn timeless truths of the Bible through drama, songs, stories, games, and crafts. If you're interested in helping lead or plan Camp Solid Rock this year, contact Catie Lumpkin.

## **WACK**

July 6-9

Worship Arts Camp for Kids, or WACK, is for kids going into 2<sup>nd</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. WACK helps kids explore the various ways they can use their talents and passions to worship through fun classes on topics like Art, Dance, and Drama. If you're interested in helping lead or plan WACK this year, contact Heather Sommer.

**More information about both of these events, including registration and volunteer sign-ups, will be coming soon!**

# AVPC NEWS

## COVENANT FAMILY VERSE OF THE MONTH

*Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."*

**John 8:12**

## OUR SYMPATHY

**We want to express our deepest sympathies to:**

Young jin Jeon for the loss of her father.

Heather Tate for the recent loss of her father, Luther Waldrup.

Steve Driggers for the recent loss of his father, Bob Driggers.

Betty C. Carter and Kyle Carter for the loss of Betty's brother and Kyle's uncle, Larry Carter.

## February Birthdays

2/1 Scott Wilson

2/2 Matt Hall

2/2 Kevin Nelson

2/3 David Belcher

2/4 Linda Orteza

2/4 Ed Wofford

2/5 Catherine Bobo

2/5 Christian DeRieux

2/5 John Young

2/6 Everett Alley

2/8 Andy Coats

2/12 Vickie Bookout

2/12 Amy Savoie

2/13 Raegan Campbell

2/13 Tina Dorsey

2/14 Patty Thurston

2/17 Lucy Jones

2/18 Whitney Jones

2/18 Pat Beverly

2/20 Pierce Bobo

2/20 Aleta Sheetz

2/21 Ashley Putman

2/22 Jackson McGlothlin

2/22 Johnnie Paterson

2/23 Zach Bostrom

2/23 Cheryl Linder

2/24 Steve Barley

2/24 Shepherd Harris

2/25 Ben McGlothlin

2/26 Heather Sommer

2/27 Katie Lloyd-McGregor

2/28 John Boggs

2/28 Al Foster



# Pastor's Pen

This short note is admittedly belated, but its motive is lingering in my mind, so I trust it is the Holy Spirit urging me to share it with you. My MLK Day started by engaging in a practice I started after a casual chat with a fine minister of a Black church who challenged me to start MLK day like he does: by seasking the Lord to reveal any person or group I am fearful of, bitter against, frustrated by, or, worst of all, indifferent to.

I never said it was a fun activity and time of prayer! The last several years of following this practice have been both humiliating and provocatively encouraging – I discovered insignificant divides on things like truck brands, picayune irritants around preferences in how family members make decisions unlike myself, divisions on how politicians view water rights in the Rocky Mountains, and significant prejudice against the BYU Cougars. Yes, some are weird and some, like my BYU dislike, are likely to remain through every MLK day until glory.

I realized new depths in the reach, power, and grace of Jesus' work in me, and throughout his incredible world that he graciously allows me to interact with. That fine minister who challenged me four years ago did me a solid by sharing that the exercise allowed him to discover harmful divides based on politics, economics, race, appearance, personal preferences, and even hobbies and interests.

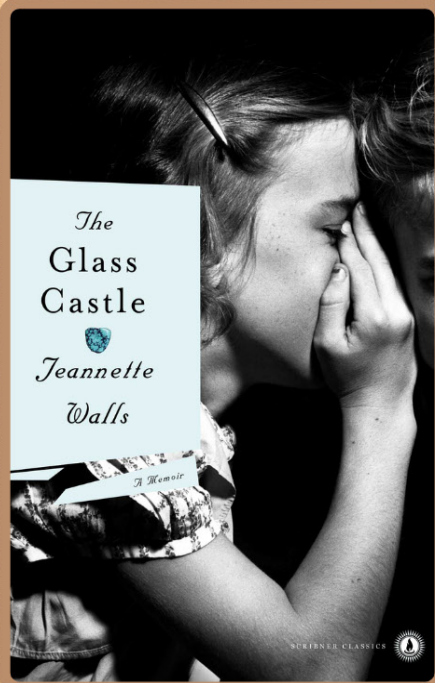
We are living in a time where social media algorithms, media, and tribalism align intimately to pit everyone against everyone else in a zero-sum game where only the algorithm and media win.

Enter Jesus, who is never surprised by our news, always prepared to offer truth, and ever powerful to meet our need. If I believe in him, then I have no cause to fear in submitting to his lead and getting on with walking in his steps in HIS world, discovering HIS word, and, with his powerful grace, engaging in HIS work.

I am now so glad that preacher decided to love me enough to risk challenging me.

Love to you all  
-Kyle Parker, Senior Pastor

# Women's Ministry



We will be reading *The Glass Castle* by Jeannette Walls and will meet to discuss the book on Thursday, February 19, at 6:30 in the Preteen Hangout (basement of GHK).

## Women's Retreat - March 6-8

Our retreat registration is fully underway! We will be at Springville Conference Center March 6-8 with Holly Mackle as our special speaker. Register with the QR code.



# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

As a student at Briarwood Christian School, Missions Emphasis Week was my favorite time of the year because it meant no homework, providing extra time for us to attend the various evening programs. Now at AVPC, I annually anticipate the month of February as we set it apart to focus on celebrating, honoring and encouraging our missionaries. In fact, a number of those people who sat in desks beside me during those Briarwood days are the same missionaries AVPC supports! God's surprises make me smile.

As Altadena's children's ministries director, I regularly pray that God roots a heart for missions deep within our children, and that our covenant children would grow to be the future missionaries and givers for God's glory. As we pray this, we can likewise intentionally build stepping stones into our rhythms so that missions is continually before our children. Here are five ways to do so:

1. Each week, AVPC identifies one missionary individual or family for whom we pray throughout the week. Take time to show your children their pictures on our Missions Wall. Reach out to the missionary and ask how you can specifically pray. Pray with your children for the missionary each day of the week.
2. Read missionary biographies with your children. Scan the QR below to see some of our favorites:
3. Pick up a Voice of the Martyrs prayer calendar at our AVPC Kids' Table. Pray daily for the people groups with your children.
4. Pick up a Missions Month Family Devotional at the AVPC Kids' Table. Set aside time to walk through the devotional prompts together.
5. Involve your children in Faith Promise! Help your child complete a Faith Promise Card for themselves. Work with them to find creative ways to earn money towards their commitment.

Let's join together as we raise the next generation of outposts of God's coming kingdom.

For Christ's Crown and Covenant,

Catie Lumpkin

AVPC Children's Ministries Director



# GOD'S HOUSE KINDERGARTEN



January has been a long and cold month, with much of our time spent indoors, but our preschoolers have stayed busy and engaged! We enjoyed book club, creative art projects, and hands-on fun in our science lab. We also continued our special chapel time with Mrs. Catie, which the children always look forward to. Even on chilly days, learning and joy have filled our classrooms!

# Youth Ministry News



This school year, we have been focusing on personal testimonies during our Sunday night worship time at Youth Group. Our students are blessed with great theological training within their biological families and here at church, among their spiritual family. However, they are at the age where many are starting the process of truly embracing their faith in Jesus and trying to make it their own. They have the knowledge but are left wondering what it looks like to apply that to a life that is messy, that is not unfolding in a controlled laboratory, but in a fallen world with brokenness and pain pressing in on them, as they realize that they are flawed. The testimonies of the saints, brothers and sisters, fathers and mothers in Jesus Christ, help answer that question. Peter calls us to grow in salvation "if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good." (1 Peter 2:3). We have tasted the bitterness and pain of this life... and we have tasted that the LORD is good. He is, indeed, very good.

A leader and teacher that I greatly respect reminded me recently that "at some point your life becomes the message." Friends, when is the last time you thought of your life in terms of a testimony? Have you looked back at your life recently and seen God's goodness to you? Have you thought about the times He has carried you through pain? Through doubt? Through triumph? Countless times in scripture, the people of God are called to remember, because when we do so, we remember His goodness to us. We remember that we have tasted the goodness of the Lord. We remember to be thankful, filled with the gratitude we are called to. We also remember that this life is hard, just about the hardest thing there is, and we remember that we are saved by the grace of God and we extend that grace to those around us, building the type of community we are called to, a community that is a picture of heaven on earth. As we enter the season of Lent, remember.

Peace,  
Clint

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

March 11 - Field Trip to the Legacy Museum

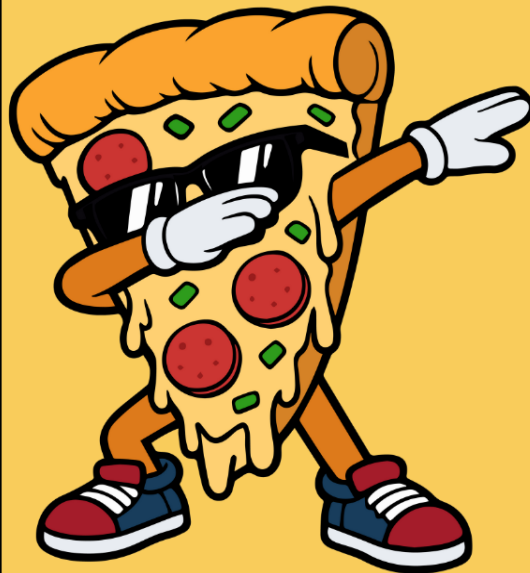
March 13 - Hockey Night

March 29 - Picnic / Hike at Oak Mountain  
State Park

# Young Adult Ministry

## SUNDAY LUNCH

February 15 / 12:30 PM



The Young Adults Community would like to invite the high school seniors to join us for lunch on Sunday, February 15, at 12:30 PM. Location TBD

# Meet Our New Missionary

Dylan Peters - Cross Cultural Connections

Dylan Peters serves at Birmingham Cross Cultural Connections as the Director of Restoration & Development. Cross Cultural Connection's mission is to see immigrant and refugee families thrive while finding and living out God's good design for their lives.



**CROSS CULTURAL  
CONNECTIONS**

Cross Cultural Connections' story begins in 2013 when The Church at Brook Hills started offering free English classes to international residents in Birmingham.

What started as a simple language program grew into something much more meaningful. Through these classes, they began building deep friendships with immigrant and refugee families. They discovered that language was just the beginning – these families needed comprehensive support to truly flourish in their new home. In December 2023, Birmingham Cross Cultural Connections officially launched as a collaborative effort by church leaders, expanding from ESL to comprehensive family support.

## LEARN MORE

Scan the QR Code below to read a full Q&A with Dylan and learn more about her, her family, and her ministry.



# **MEN'S MINISTRY**

## **Men's Prayer Breakfast**

**March 2**

**Fellowship Hall**

**6:30 - 7:30 AM**



Men of all ages, join us for a time of breakfast and prayer on Monday, March 2, from 6:30 to 7:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall. Enjoy good food and fellowship with brothers in Christ!



# SESSION/DIACONATE MINUTES

## SESSION MEETING • DECEMBER 9, 2025

- The Mercy Team requested approval to assist a communing member working in a support role for an international missions organization with an unforeseen monthly expense of \$1,100.00 per month for six months. The project was approved for up to three months at a cost of \$3,300.00 by a voice vote of the Diaconate and the Session.

## DIACONATE MEETING • JANUARY 13, 2026

- Approved a “Seasonally-Adjusted 5-Month Budget”. Approval of this budget pre-authorizes the transfers necessary to close out the short, five-month fiscal period of January 1, 2026, to May 31, 2026, which is expected to end in a seasonally-attributed shortfall. Funds of up to \$100,000 are to be taken first from 660.15-Capital Reserve Fund; any remaining shortfall is to be covered by 660.30-General Fund Cash Flow Reserve. The budget was sent to the Session for final approval.
- Approved a new furnace for the Kitchen/Kitchen Hall not to exceed \$10,500 from the Capital Reserve Fund.

**DUE TO UNFORSEEN CIRCUMSTANCES, THE FINANCIAL REPORT IS NOT AVAILABLE AT THIS TIME.**