

THE SALTSHAKER

JANUARY 2024 | VOLUME 275

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

2024 MISSIONS CONFERENCE

The annual AVPC Missions Conference is scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 7 through Sunday, February 11, 2024! This year's theme is "Every Tribe, Every Nation" based on Revelation 5:9 - *"And they sang a new song, saying, 'Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation.'"* Our conference will highlight our Covenant Youth and Children, including a Youth-led Friday Night Service. Our 2024 Faith Promise Goal is \$335,000. What an amazing heart for missions you have displayed through the years! We support over 60 missionaries and organizations!

MISSIONARIES ATTENDING

- Matt and Rachel Allison (Serge)
- Betty Carter (Daymark)
- Bradley and Sara Cordell (Ukraine MTW)
- James Dougherty (OMF Director-Denver)
- Jack Hausen (Shepherds Fold)
- Stephen Merwin (RUF-UAB International Ministry)
- Ed Thompson (LOGOI-Miami)

See page 3 for a complete schedule of events, and check out our conference brochure for more information.



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**Missions
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It is beyond doubt that the evangelical church in our nation is encountering some trouble at present. We see the influence of the church waning, and this decline is supported by the numbers. In 2007, 78 percent of Americans identified as Christians. Just fourteen years later, in 2021, that number had declined to just 63 percent. It is generally accepted that sometime in the middle of the next decade that number will be below 50 percent, and Christianity will be a minority religion. Though we would all like to see these trends reversed, and we pray that they will, I'm more concerned with how we respond to them. Will we respond in a way that makes things worse, or will we respond as God's faithful people who trust him in both the good times and the bad?

What would be a wrong response to this decline? In a word, it would be fear. Fear leads us to do the wrong things. It might lead some to trust in the politicians to reverse this decline. Fear might lead others just to give up, retreat to our foxholes and wait for the end. I read a verse from John's gospel lately that caught my attention. In John 12:43, Jesus said, "for they loved the glory that comes from man more than the glory that comes from God." Who was he talking about? The previous verse answers that question. "Nevertheless, many even of the authorities believed in him, but for fear of the Pharisees they did not confess it, so that they would not be put out of the synagogue."

Jesus here cuts to the heart of our fears. We love the glory of man more than the glory God gives. Notice that Jesus here is not talking about the glory God receives, which is his due. He is talking about the glory God gives. What a sharp contrast between the glory man gives and the glory God gives! It may be that the church in America is receiving less glory from man. Many have gone from indifference to hostility to us and our beliefs. As a result, the church may lose some money and some influence. But what are we really losing if we still have the glorious gifts of God? As we enter a new year, may God help us do so with no fear but with confidence in our God. Jesus has been raised from the dead and is seated on his heavenly throne. We are death and resurrection people. Let us not forget that.

minutes

SESSION MEETING • NOVEMBER 14, 2023

- The Finance Team presented the proposed budget for 2024.
- Approval of recommended changes to the Church Bylaws and the AVPC Employee Handbook

DIACONATE MEETING • DECEMBER 12, 2023

- The following deacons were nominated and approved for leadership positions: Vice Chair, Trey Holmes; Clerk and Duty Manager, Hunter Boggs; Facilities Chair, Bill Sommer; Protection Leadership Team Chair, Joshua Putman; Finance Team Rep, John Peters; Tech Team Chair, Russell Lloyd, APIC Chair, Tom McCallum; GHK Rep, Trey Holmes; Mercy Team Rep, Matt Jackson; Worship Ministry Rep, David Coley;
- A motion was unanimously approved from the Facilities Team to request funds to install handicap door actuators and controls on the double doors at the Fellowship Hall entrance.

MISSIONS CONFERENCE 2024

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Wednesday, February 7

Small Group Evening Meal Part 1 – Community groups, a group of families, or an individual family can be the first to welcome and spend time with our missionaries over an evening meal.

Thursday, February 8

Lunch, Coffee and Small Group Meetings Part 2 – Church members & regular attendees can sign up for lunch or coffee with a missionary for sharing, encouragement, & catching a vision for missions. Community groups/small groups can meet with missionaries in the afternoon or evening.

Friday, February 9

Fellowship Supper at AVPC (5:30-6:15 PM, Fellowship Hall) – This is the first large group event for you & our missionaries.

Worship Service (6:30-7:45 PM) – Back by popular demand, the youth will lead our worship service, and 3 missionaries will share for 10 minutes each (no sermon). Our children will perform a “Flag of Nations” Parade & provide special music!

Saturday, February 10

Morning Prayer Breakfast at AVPC (8:30 – 10:00 Fellowship Hall) - Eat breakfast with our missionaries and encourage them with group prayer.

Evening Fellowship Dinner and Panel Discussion: Share an evening meal and listen to our missionaries respond to questions about their life & ministry.

Sunday, February 11

Worship Service (8:30 and 11:00 AM) – 2 Missionaries share and Ed Thompson (LOGOI) delivers the sermon.

Sunday School (9-45-10:45 AM) – Missionaries share in our Sunday School Classes, including Youth and Children classes.

AVPC NEWS

OUR SYMPATHY

We extend our deepest sympathies to Denise Davidson and her family following the death of her brother, Jamie Fanning.

UPCOMING EVENTS - SPRING 2024

January 14	Fellowship Dinner
January 19	Membership Night
January 21	Fellowship Dinner
February 4	Fellowship Dinner
February 7-11	Missions Conference <i>see page 3 for details</i>
February 25	Fellowship Dinner
March 1-2	Women's Retreat
March 31	Easter Sunday
April 7	Fellowship Dinner
April 19	Membership Night
April 21	Fellowship Dinner
May 5	Youth Sunday Senior Girl's Tea Senior Guy's Free Flight
May 19	Fellowship Dinner

Christmas Pageant 2023!



Our annual Christmas Pageant was a big success! Thanks to all the volunteers who helped make it possible and to all the children who worked together to tell the story of Jesus' birth.

Membership Night - January 19



Are you thinking about church membership at Altadena? Come to our next Membership Event on Friday, January 19. Dinner is served at 6:00 PM, followed by an informational meeting. You will meet church staff and hear about ministry opportunities. You can sign up on the AVPC website under the Events - Event Registrations tab. Attendance at this or another weekend offered is required for church membership. The deadline to register is January 14.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

At AVPC, we are continually praying for God to root our covenant children for future flourishing. Our teachers, volunteers, staff, and Session view this space of children's ministry as a sacred one. In January 2022, I entered the role of AVPC's children's director, stumbling and scattered from a pandemic that stripped our congregation in numerous ways. With Mrs. Betty called in a new direction and Mrs. Diana needing to step away, I was lonely and lost – and if I am completely honest...ready to jump ship. God brought me to my knees, and He began to show Himself as my sole provider, revealing His goodness above all else. He provided mentors and supervisors who took me to Jesus. He appointed prayer warriors – people to stand in the gap when I didn't know what to pray. He gave me a steadfast husband, gracious children, and understanding friends – who were patient as I learned. He brought in ROCK STAR lay leaders and teachers. Then, at the exact right time, he provided a renewed ministry team and essential support staff members.

Now, He has led our Session to see and address the need for adjustments within this ministry. As an AVPC member of 22 years, I praise God for our leaders' willingness to listen, study, and seek understanding. Beginning this month, Amanda Amerson will begin as the "official" Children's Ministry Assistant. Although she has been in this role for some time, it has been a season of trial and error. We have increased her hours and are articulating her role in ways that reflect and echo her gifts. Mary Frances Snyder will continue serving as an administrative assistant (we all know that is not my gift). Our Nursery Director position is expanding as the numbers and needs of our nursery are quickly growing, and I thank God Alli Campbell is willing to continue in this endeavor. Finally, the children's director position is now a full-time role. I am grateful for our leadership recognizing the resources this area has been requiring for some time, acknowledging the needs of our families and culture, and responding in faith and grace. As we enter a year that will present new chapters for Altadena Valley, let's give thanks that He alone is our provider, and He will show Himself in ways that will be for our good and His glory.

For Christ's Crown and Covenant
Catie Lumpkin
Children's Director



*Our Preteen
Christmas Party was
loads of fun!*

YOUTH HAPPENINGS

Little children, yet a little while I am with you. You will seek me, and just as I said to the Jews, so now I also say to you, 'Where I am going you cannot come.'

John 13:33

As we enter 2024, we do so with two promises from Jesus. First, He promises that we will experience tribulation. (John 13:33) Whatever you think about this new year, the reality surely promises to be something different. It will likely not be the amazing experience that you hope it will be because we still live in a fallen world. However, we do not need to live in fear either. Jesus knows all about the pain of this world, He experienced it firsthand. He knows the specific tribulation that is coming. However, instead of hand-wringing, He made a second promise, a beautiful promise that He has not abandoned us, that we are not left as orphans to fend for ourselves. In John 14:27, our Lord promises, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you... Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid." The peace promised here is shalom, the peace of God. The peace of everything being as it should be. We are given this peace to take into the world as agents of light. We stand together, as brothers and sisters in Christ, as sons and daughters of the King of Kings beating back the forces of darkness with the light of God's love. May we do so with courage. May we do so with boldness. May we do so with compassion. May we do so with hope.

Peace,
Clint Cvacho
Youth Director

LOOKING AHEAD...

JANUARY 7 | Youth Group Resumes!

JANUARY 10 | Small Group Resumes!

JANUARY 26-28 | Senior Guys Florida Trail Trip

MEN'S MINISTRY

Men's Cookout

Men from 2 to 102, join us on Sunday, February 25 from 12:30-2:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall for a men's cookout. Enjoy a hearty grilled lunch and hear the new vision for the Men's Ministry!



WTW Bible Study beginning in 2024!

Galatians - The Gospel of Free Grace

We're all tempted to think there must be something we can do to make ourselves good enough for God -- or at least to put ourselves more in his favor. But Paul wrote his letter to the Galatians to liberate us from any form of performance-based religion, no matter how alluring. Come join your sisters as we study this epistle of grace!

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

Mondays

January 8
3:00 - 4:00 PM
At the home of Nancy Klose:
775 Highland Manor Court
Childcare not provided

Wednesdays

January 17
9:00 - 11:00 AM
AVPC Church Parlor
Childcare provided

Wednesdays

January 17
6:00 - 7:30 PM
At the home of Lea Anne Parker:
4725 Old Looney Mill Road
Childcare not provided

Fridays

January 19
1:00 - 2:30 PM
At the home of Judy Bates:
5349 Meadow Garden Lane
Childcare not provided

Study guides available in the Church Parlor for a cost of \$10.00

*Questions? Contact Amy MacCaugherty at 205-706-6016
or the AVPC Church Office at 205-967-0680*

LOOKING AHEAD:

Sunday, January 21

Women's Small Group Luncheon

Friday, March 1 - Saturday, March 2

Women's Retreat

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1/1 Walker Bobo	1/13 Cooper Campbell	1/24 Ava Chick
1/2 Roderick Jackson	1/13 Angie Klose	1/26 Lauralyn Bobo
1/3 Laura Edwards	1/13 Jim Sheetz	1/28 Paul Barber
1/4 Steve Driggers	1/14 Anna Waldrip	1/28 Gary Gray
1/6 Ric Lewallen	1/15 John Wimberly	1/29 Ben Black
1/7 Peter Gamble	1/16 Will Cvacho	1/29 Lisa Campbell
1/7 Brice Jackson	1/16 Michael MacCaughelty	1/31 Jim Bryant
1/8 William Boggs	1/19 Kevin Drace	1/31 Denise Davidson
1/9 Nikki Armstrong	1/19 Danny Richards	
1/9 Melissa Ireland	1/20 Nancy Jackson	
1/10 Randy Friday	1/20 Emily Shepherd	
1/10 Amy MacCaughelty	1/21 Brenda Church	
1/11 Susan Baird	1/22 David Sheetz	
1/12 James Walls	1/23 Joanna Linder	

GOD'S HOUSE KINDERGARTEN



SAVE THE DATE:
Registration for God's House Kindergarten begins Monday January 8. Questions? Please email susan@avpc.org for more information.



OCTOBER FINANCIAL REPORT

	BEGINNING BALANCE	INCOME	EXPENSES	TRANSFER	ENDING BALANCE
GENERAL FUND	(\$11,155)	\$112,273	\$126,135	(\$7,406)	(\$32,423)
MISSIONS	(\$2,492)	\$24,609	\$32,534	\$7,406	(\$3,011)
TOTAL	(\$13,647)	\$136,882	\$158,669	\$0	(\$35,434)