

THE SALTSHAKER

JULY 10, 2022 | VOLUME 261

SR. HIGH MISSION TRIP

Once again, the Sr High will travel west to serve with Sacred Road Ministries among the Yakama people. Our team has been working hard to raise the needed funds for this trip and we have also been preparing our hearts for whatever the Lord chooses to teach us.

We are so thankful to everyone who has supported us, both financially and with your prayers. Please continue to pray for our team, and for the Yakama people. On our last trip, in 2019, we were tasked with everything from chopping wood to playing games. This trip, among other things, we will be doing light construction on the reservation and helping with daily Bible Club at Totus Park Housing Project.

Thank you all for partnering with us in this opportunity to serve. -Clint

TEAM MEMBERS:

Youth: Jude Allday, Ellis Alley, Everett Alley, Elle Campbell, Raegan Campbell, Ty Campbell, Francie Cvacho, Colson Cwynar, Ava LaBreche, Joanna Linder, Benjamin Lumpkin, Caleb Lumpkin, Ethan MacCaughelty, Ruthie Kate Mackin, Ben McCallum, Elijah Putman, Luke Richards, Cade Rubin, Kirby Windsor

Adults: Jason Allday, Tucker Alley, Clint Cvacho, Silena Cvacho, Catie Lumpkin, Jamie Lumpkin, Tom McCallum, Callen Moyer, Nick Moyer, Melissa Rubin, Katey Windsor

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PICNIC at the PARK

4th Saturday in June, July, August & September

6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

Dinner, Dessert
and
Yard Games

Help us to welcome our park to the community.
Come enjoy food, new friends, and fun together.



Christians have been praying and working for fifty years for the reversal of the Supreme Court Roe v. Wade decision of 1973. Those prayers were answered on June 24 with the announcement of the Dobbs decision that did precisely that. From the very beginning of human government in Genesis 4, one of the central purposes of civil government is to pursue justice, particularly to protect innocent life. We rejoice that the injustice of Roe v. Wade has now been reversed, resulting in the laws that will protect our most vulnerable citizens, babies in the womb.

Though last week's Supreme Court decision is indeed cause for rejoicing, we need to remember that this is no time to rest in our pro-life efforts. As important as this decision was in supporting life in the womb, it will not end abortions in our nation. As I'm sure you're aware, this decision by itself does not make abortion illegal anywhere. It simply returns the matter to the States and allows them to legislate this issue as they see fit. Many states had already passed anti-abortion laws to take effect should Roe v. Wade be reversed. Many other states have moved in the other direction to make sure abortion access is preserved. It is important to note that there were more abortions per 100,000 women of child-bearing age in 1972 (pre-Roe v. Wade) than in 2019. Other factors contribute to abortions. Many in our church have given themselves greatly to efforts designed to alleviate the circumstances leading a woman to make the horrible choice to end her baby's life. Such efforts include providing support for women with unwanted pregnancies, adoption services, poverty alleviation and much more. Let us continue to pray and work in support of the precious life God has given to his image-bearers.

Brad Allison

minutes

SESSION MEETING • MAY 10, 2022

- The joint meeting was held to discuss church priorities for the next twelve months. The end result was a conclusion by the officers that during the next twelve months, church leaders should place an emphasis on relationships and community assimilation that leads to service and discipleship.
- Appointment of Commissioners for 2022 General Assembly: Graham Bobo, Nicholas Ireland, and Karl Poythress

DIACONATE MEETING • JUNE 14, 2022

- Hunter Boggs discussed the need for additional security measures in the church and revisiting resources and procedures to ensure staff and officers are appropriately trained to handle potential disasters and emergencies.
- Bill Sommer reported of the many projects that he has been managing during the facilities manager transition time.
- Darren Popwell reports the Mercy team updated and added additional policies for requested counseling payments through Mercy team.
- Hunter Boggs reported on behalf of Josh Moore and presented the creek bank remediation project update.

MEET OUR NEW MISSIONARIES

Stephen & Kellie Merwin / RUF INTERNATIONAL, UAB

1. How did you choose/ feel called to your ministry?

Both Kellie and I felt the call into missions as children. As a high school student, at the end of a missions conference, I committed to overseas missions if God ever gave me the opportunity. That door opened in college, and I taught English at a private boarding school in Asia for a year. That is also where Kellie and I met. After we were married, God confirmed through circumstances, the council of friends, and the desire of our hearts the call to labor long-term among the nations. And so we returned overseas. Then God used COVID-19 to bring us back to America where He has opened the door to continue to make disciples among the nations right here in Birmingham through RUF-International at UAB.

2. How did you meet your spouse? What was special to you about your spouse?

Kellie and I met as college students teaching English at a boarding school in Asia. Kellie's first impression of me was, "Oh, I didn't know this organization accepted high school students into its program." Gradually, through the course of many engaging conversations, we become good friends. I was and continue to be mesmerized by her thoughts. She is a well of mystery, wisdom, and strength.

3. When I have free time I enjoy...?

unhurried conversation with friends, meeting with God in nature, swinging a kettlebell, reading a good book, creating children's stories, and trying out new food.

4. My all-time favorite movie is...?

It's impossible to have just one, but the creation sequence in Tree of Life always gives me chill bumps, the end of the big race in Pixar's Cars always chokes me up, and King Julien in Madagascar always makes me laugh.

5. My favorite thing about the location of my ministry is...?

that UAB brings souls from over one hundred countries into the heart of Birmingham.

6. What is one way we can pray for your ministry this year?

Pray for the Spirit of Christ to shake the campus and send out gospel lights all over the globe.

7. One hope I have for my ministry is...?

that the cup of blessing of the RUF-I ministry will overflow into the lives of hundreds of volunteers from the church in Birmingham.



MISSIONS NEWS

Byron & Inez Ahina / YUCATAN, MEXICO

This past month, we were privileged to have Byron and Inez Ahina come and share about their ministry in Yucatan, Mexico. It was great time to enjoy some food and hear about the work that God is doing in the lives of the people in that region. Please pray for the Ahinas as they serve and engage with the people of the Yucatan region.



Bill & Cheryl Nikides / BILLINGS, MONTANA

On Sunday July 3rd, Bill and Cheryl Nikides visited our church and spoke at both services. It was a joy to hear how the Lord is using their ministry to come alongside many national church planters with encouragement, training, and accountability.

AVPC PEOPLE NEWS

OUR SYMPATHY

Our deepest sympathy to Deborah Halbrooks and her family after the passing of her step-mother, Patsy Martin. Patsy was also the grandmother to AVPC supported missionaries, Alan and Amanda Hallbrooks. We are praying for you all during this difficult time.

Congrats



Congratulations to AVPC members
Claire Russell & Paden Franklin
on their recent engagement.
A Spring 2023 wedding is planned.
Best wishes!

Congratulations to
Brad & Wendy Allison

on the birth of their grandson,
George Bradford Rector.
Parents are Meredith and Collin Rector.



Congratulations to AVPC members
Kathy & Michael Whitner
who are expecting a baby boy
in November

UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION

Just a reminder
if you have moved, gotten married, changed
your email or phone number or made any other
changes to your contact information,
please contact the church office to update.
We want the new directory as current as possible.

Thank You

To my church family,

A simple thank you seems so inadequate for what
my heart has felt over the past few weeks since
the death of my dad.

Altadena is truly a loving, giving group of
believers, who gather around their own – giving
much needed support and encouragement.

Your thoughtful expressions thru cards, texts,
phone calls, and emails were very touching and
the provision of meals for our family was so
helpful.

Since my dad lived with us, upon my return home
on Sundays, he always asked, “how was church?”
The conversation always ended up being over an
hour of ‘debriefing’.

He would ask what songs did we sing, who
preached, and what friends did I see there? When
I would list who I saw – he would ask about you.

I had hoped to get dad to AVPC for a worship
service so he could meet the church family I
described – but I know he is now worshipping in
the presence of his savior and will meet you in
person one day.

Thank you again for your love and support of my
family.

Christine

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

We are so grateful for God's faithfulness as 100 children gathered for this year's Camp Solid Rock! Together, we were reminded that God give us the FAITH to BELIEVE, the FAITH to OBEY, the FAITH to REPENT, and the FAITH to SHARE God's love. Thank you to the more than 40 volunteers who served in various ways to make the week a wonderful celebration of God's goodness!

Catie Lumpkin



GOD'S HOUSE KINDERGARTEN

God's House Kindergarten doesn't stop during the summer. Thank you, God, for summertime fun!



Water fun day!

The ice cream truck is always exciting.



Some of our former Kindergarten students returning to GHK for the summer.

Finding the "treasure" at Camp Solid Rock



Michelle Taylor, GHK Admin

YOUTH HAPPENINGS

This summer the youth are doing a study of the Psalms in Sunday school. The Psalms, through the medium of poetry, show us God's desire for relationship with us as the Psalmists express the full range of emotions and as they come to the Lord with their questions and their praises. God desires for us to have relationship with Him, which is only possible through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. More than that, He wants us to have genuine love for, and relationship with each other as well. (Which is also only possible through the shed blood of Jesus!) Psalm 65, one of the psalms of blessing, shows us what happens when the Lord draws us to Him, individually and corporately, "Blessed is the one you choose and bring near, to dwell in your courts! We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house, the holiness of your temple!" Blessing comes when we follow God's call to dwell with him as His people.

Also, this summer, AVPC has started something during the Sunday school hour of the last Sunday of each month that is designed to allow us to simply fellowship together. Do not discount the profundity of this endeavor. Fellowship is a huge part of youth ministry and it should be a huge part in all areas of church life. When we fellowship in the name of Jesus Christ, we are reminded that we belong. We are part of a covenant family under the headship of a loving Father. Fellowship is one of the many gifts of the Christian walk as we plug into the body of Christ! Let us enjoy this time and may it point us to our Lord and Savior Jesus who makes it all possible!

Peace, Clint



Images from \$100 Dollar Wednesday and Junior High F.A.T. Nite

LOOKING AHEAD

JULY

\$100 WEDNESDAYS

July 13

**July 31 - Special
SUNDAY Edition**

JULY

F.A.T. NIGHT

July 10

**July 27 - Special
Wednesday Edition**

*F.A.T. = Fellowship Around Town

SENIOR HIGH

MISSION TRIP TO

SACRED ROAD

JULY 16 - 23

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Save the Date: July 24 Women's Summer Small Group Luncheon

Our quarterly luncheons are a great way for the women of the church to spend time with one another over a meal, getting to know each other while experiencing thoughtful discussion and warm fellowship. Won't you consider joining in for our next date on July 24, 2022? Contact Heather@avpc.org

BABY SHOWER in honor of

ABI BOSTROM *and* HEATHER PRETTYMAN

MONDAY, JULY 18
7:00-8:30 PM

AT THE HOME OF
LYNN BRATTON

1108 GLEN MANOR DR. BIRMINGHAM, AL 35243

MEN'S MINISTRY

July 13 Event
Baron's Game



VOICES OF THE VALLEY

MONDAY MORNINGS
JULY 11, AND AUGUST 1

EAT A HEARTY BREAKFAST
THEN HEAR A
"FAITH AND WORK"-THEMED
TESTIMONY

August Event
Cornhole Tournament



MEETING THE 1ST AND 3RD SUNDAY EVENINGS, 5 PM - 6:30 PM, FROM JUNE-AUGUST.
EMAIL BLAKE@AVPC.ORG FOR DETAILS.

SUNDAY STUDY

JULY BIRTHDAYS

7/1	Melinda Calderini	7/11	Connie Macon	7/21	Isaac Savoie
7/1	Betty C. Carter	7/11	Kelley Lloyd	7/21	Brent Shepherd
7/2	Stephanie Whitner	7/12	Lisa Tyson	7/22	Silena Cvacho
7/4	Mark Wilson	7/13	Dylan Peters	7/22	Larry Dunlap
7/6	Michael Whitner	7/15	Laura Gray	7/24	Carol Lloyd
7/6	Paula Beeton	7/15	Jenna Rasmussen	7/26	Sarah McCallister
7/6	Diane Shepherd	7/15	Abby Thielman	7/27	Dee Mayhew
7/7	Matthew Steele	7/16	Charis Armstrong	7/27	Lee Ann Barley
7/8	Nicholas Ireland	7/19	Tim English	7/28	Dan Linder
7/8	Lee Davis	7/19	Laura DeShazo Oliver	7/30	John Peters
7/9	Missy Doles	7/19	David Mackle	7/31	Sue Mackle
7/10	Fran Sciacca	7/20	Melissa Osborne		

SERVICE/MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

ATTENTION HARD WORKERS

Over the next few weeks, we have a unique opportunity to serve our church body, as there are several projects that need to be tackled around the campus. The Facilities Team is calling for the aid of our church family to help beautify our campus. Each Saturday morning over the next few weeks, we will have several small maintenance projects around the church. The projects are able to be completed between 7-10 AM in order to finish the work in a timely manner without taking the bulk of anyone's Saturday. Contact Blake for details.

CRATES FOR UKRAINE

We are collecting basic wound care supplies to be flown into Krakow, Poland and then transported by Ukrainian Christians into Lviv and other parts of Ukraine. One of our supported missionaries, Bradley Cordell, is planning to travel there on August 3. For more details and the list of items, click [HERE](#). Your donations need to be brought to the church parlor by July 31. For those interested, there is also opportunity for personal travel and serving as a courier for more crates to Krakow. See www.cratesforukraine.com

GRACE HOUSE SCHOOL SUPPLIES

One of our supported missions, Grace House, in Fairfield, needs help to gather school supplies for the coming year. You can help gather supplies for the 40 girls who call Grace House home by shopping from their Amazon Wishlist (ships straight to their office). Check our ENews for the link

MAY FINANCIAL REPORT

	BEGINNING BALANCE	INCOME	EXPENSES	TRANSFER	ENDING BALANCE
GENERAL FUND	\$-29,427	\$113,268	\$141,188	\$-6,572	\$-63,919
MISSIONS	\$2,614	\$26,959	\$31,944	\$6,572	\$4,201
TOTAL	\$-26,813	\$140,227	\$173,132	\$0	\$-59,718