

JULY 2025 / VOLUME 292

SALTSHAKER

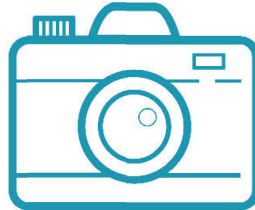
Quote of

the Month

Job's wife must have been a piece of work. The devil took everything from Job. Killed his kids, his servants, his livestock, and covered job in boils and sores. But his wife did not die. That's saying something right there, isn't it?

- Tim Hawkins

New Pictorial Directory



We're excited to announce that we are in the process of making a new pictorial directory! Here are several ways to submit your family photo for the directory:

July 20 or 27 Photo Booth: There will be a photo booth in the Welcome Center during the Sunday School hour on July 20 and 27(9:45 - 10:45 AM). Simply come and smile for the camera, and Emma Snow will submit your photo to the office!

Submit a Photo: If you already have a family photo you love, you can send it directly to annaevpc.org. You can also drop a hard copy by the office for us to scan.

Of course, if you are fine with your current photo in the directory, you don't have to make any changes. Thank you for helping us produce an excellent directory!

AVPC NEWS

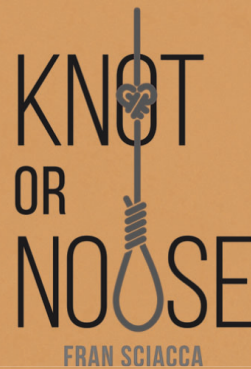
GENERAL ASSEMBLY SUMMARY

If you'd like to read a summary of the overtures and ministry reports discussed at this year's General Assembly, please follow the link below.



THE MARRIGE PROJECT

Mark your calendars! On August 22-23, we're Fran Sciacca will present his Knot or Noose Conference with a 10-week small group follow up. Look for more details in the coming weeks. Registration opens July 13.



URBAN HOPE DONATIONS

The Fellowship Hall Sunday School had a time of prayer and writing cards as they stuffed donation bags to take to Urban Hope Success Academy. Thank you to all who donated their time and who donated supplies. Please continue to keep Urban Hope in your prayers.



COVENANT FAMILY PRAYER JOURNEY

Come join your AVPC covenant family for a prayer walk through our church on August 3 from 5:00-6:30 PM. We will follow a map through various church locations. May the Holy Spirit give us new eyes to see the needs in the areas where we stop to pray along our route. Maps and prayer prompts will be available. Pray out loud or pray silently. Open to all ages and stages. We will end our prayer journey by celebrating with ice cream sandwiches! What a great way to enjoy sweet fellowship with the Lord and with one another.

AVPC NEWS



Join us Sunday, July 13,
in the Fellowship Hall
during the Sunday School
hour for a time of food and
fellowship.



On Friday, July 4, the church
offices will be closed to
observe the Fourth of July.

THANK YOU!

Thank you for all the
funeral help and service,
meals, cards, prayers,
texts, calls and all that
you did when my dear
stepdad, Jim Davis died.
We felt very loved and felt
the service and reception
were lovely. We are so
very thankful!

Love,
Cheryl Linder and Family

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

We have several job opportunities
available. We are looking for a part
time Kitchen Ministries Director, and
God's House is looking for an afternoon
daycare teacher. Scan the QR Code for
more information on these positions.



7/1	Melinda Calderini	7/15	Laura Gray
7/1	Betty C. Carter	7/15	Abby Thielman
7/2	Stephanie Whitner	7/16	Charis Armstrong
7/4	Mark Wilson	7/16	Andy Taylor
7/6	Paula Beeton	7/18	Emily Edmonds
7/6	Diane Shepherd	7/19	David Mackle
7/6	Michael Whitner	7/19	Tim English
7/6	Hudson Barley	7/19	Laura Oliver
7/7	Harris Jackson	7/21	Isaac Savoie
7/7	Issac Snow	7/21	Brent Shepherd
7/7	Matthew Steele	7/22	Silena Cvacho
7/8	Sarah Bishop	7/22	Larry Dunlap
7/8	Kyle Carter	7/23	Tyler McCrory
7/8	Lee Davis	7/24	Carol Lloyd
7/8	Nicholas Ireland	7/26	Sarah McCallister
7/9	Missy Doles	7/27	Lee Ann Barley
7/10	Fran Sciacca	7/27	Dee Mayhew
7/11	Kelley Lloyd	7/27	Micah Snow
7/12	Lisa Tyson	7/28	Dan Linder
7/13	Adelaide Gamble	7/30	Gloria Hall
7/13	Dylan Peters	7/30	John Peters
7/13	Lisa Taylor	7/31	Sue Mackle
7/14	Mary Kate McCrory		



Pastor's Pen

DISPATCHES FROM THE FRONT LINES OF THE PCA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Thursday, June 26, was a marathon day at the assembly, not the longest in our history but a rigorous day indeed. The heat outside the hall was a real feel of 104 degrees, and the heat inside at times seemed hotter during a few of the debates in a year with sharp divides amongst the delegates evidenced by razor-thin margins in voting. The assembly room was packed, offering uncomfortable evidence affirming the victorious overture to study future GA locations, recognizing that hosting a large and growing gathering in mid-size cities is simply not working any longer.

The Charles Dickens line, 'it was the best of times, and it was the worst of times,' aptly describes this year's assembly. There were clear high points in seeing friends you only see at GA walking down the hallways - human time machines who take you back to previous ministries, seminary years, or gatherings of friends. The frequency and ease of seeing them allow one to connect without the usual awkwardness of admitting you should have kept in touch, and the permission of all parties to ignore the pleasantries of 'I will stay in touch. The connections one makes within the General Assembly are pretty incredible. One couple, a delightful Ruling Elder and his wife from Valley PCA in Madison, Alabama, excitedly asked if I worked with Blake, recalling deep memories of college together with his parents. I saw missionaries, including Jeremy Larson and Dan Herron. The latter was prominently included in a prevailing minority report, which I enthusiastically voted to affirm.

It was the worst of times, clearly seeing the divided lines of factions within the PCA reflected in both the drama of votes and, sadly, at times, in the thinly masked maneuvering of speeches and preplanned machinations employed to get allies into key positions on committees - a friend of mine chuckled as he said, 'When two or more gather, there is always politics.' But in the midst of the worst times, Jesus kept popping up with the best of Himself. In one particularly heated debate, both men presenting opposing views expressed their love for the other, revealed their commitment to pray for each other during the debate, and appreciation for the integrity of the other while they sharply disagreed! It is an incredible witness to see people deeply opposed earlier in the day eating together and leaning forward in their various conversations, keen to hear the important stuff about one's family, ministry, and personal life.

As we wrapped up the assembly around 10:30 last night, I was reminded of a friend's sermon before the Assembly a couple of years ago entitled 'Heaven Soon,' a good reminder that today's sojourner life as one already saved but not yet in glory is at best a mix of the best and worst. The man at the microphone near the end reminded us that the annual family reunion of the PCA was coming to a close - what a great picture of it all: those family members you cannot wait to see alongside those you find amusing but a bit embarrassing and those you oppose but know in the end you love and, after a big helping of Jesus' grace, you will long to spend eternity with them all.

AVPC, your delegation served you well. We connected with friends new and old, hung in during lengthy and particular debates, and voted our prayer-soaked conscience. Thanks for loving our broader church and sending us here. It is an important thing to do. It is 4:45 on Friday, and I am off to a vacation where I hope a trout is willing to play a little tug of war. BYE!

-Kyle Parker, Senior Pastor

God's House Kindergarten



Summer Fun is in Full Swing at GHK!

Summer has officially begun, and the joy is overflowing at GHK! The children are loving our Water Play Days, cooling off with Popsicle Tuesdays, and celebrating the end of the week with Ice Cream Fridays. There's never a dull moment—summer at GHK is full of laughter, learning, and unforgettable fun!

- Lydia Moore, GHK Administrator



Women's Ministry



Join Us For
**WOMEN'S
BUNCO NIGHT**

JULY 17

6:30 PM - 8:30 PM
Fellowship Hall

No experience necessary! Please RSVP to heather@avpc.org by July 14 if you would like to attend. You can also RSVP with the QR code below.



AVPC women are invited to read *Gilead* by Marilynne Robinson and join a book discussion on August 28.

"*Gilead*" by Marilynne Robinson is a novel narrated through a series of letters written by an aging Congregationalist minister, John Ames, to his young son. Set in Gilead, Iowa, in 1956, the letters reflect on Ames's life, family history, and faith, particularly his relationships with his father and grandfather, both also ministers. The narrative explores themes of family, faith, forgiveness, and the passage of time, with Ames grappling with his impending death and legacy.



MEN'S MINISTRY

Man Moot - July 21

A Man Moot has been called for Monday, July 21, from 7:00 - 8:15 PM. The purpose of this moot is to encourage and pray for two expecting fathers, Connor Bingham and Jacob Folker. Men young and old are invited, and snacks will be plentiful!



CHILD MINI



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CHILDREN'S STORY

point

During the first week of June, we embarked on an amazing UPWARD BOUND journey. What a gift to have more than 170 children and volunteers gather and dive deep into the life of Jesus! We celebrated Philippians 2:9-10 together. "Therefore, God has highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." THANK YOU to everyone who helped make the week happen! We praise God for your partnership in the Gospel!

- Catie Lumpkin,

Children's Ministry Director

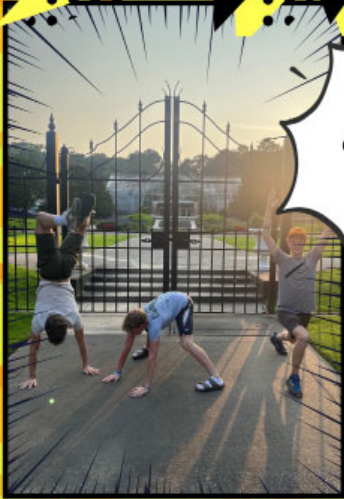


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YOUTH HAPPENINGS

IN YOUTH MINISTRY,
SUMMERS MEAN A TON OF
FUN. HERE'S WHAT WE'VE
BEEN UP TO SO FAR.
- CLINT CVACHO,
YOUTH DIRECTOR



YOGA POSES IN
FRONT OF THE
CONSERVATORY AT
THE BOTANICAL
GARDENS



SEEING MY ALMA MATER.
NO CELL PHONES, AND THE
LOOK OF BEING TOTALLY
OVER EVERYTHING. KIND OF
SUMS UP THE DECADE ..

THE AFTERMATH
OF THE COLOR
WARS AT THE EDGE



THE JUNIOR HIGH
HUNG OUT AT
THE MALL AND
THE ARCADE



SCAN THE QR CODE
TO SEE UPCOMING
YOUTH EVENTS



THE JUNIOR HIGH TOOK
IN AN ICONIC ALABAMA
SPOT: SPRING VALLEY
BEACH IN
BLOUNTSVILLE.



YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

NEW YOUNG ADULT GATHERINGS

JOIN US FOR A NEW GATHERING
EVERY OTHER WEEK STARTING
ON TUESDAY, JULY 15 AT
6:30PM AT THE HOME OF
RUSSELL AND KATEY WINDSOR.
WE'LL HAVE DINNER AND
FELLOWSHIP AND HEAR A
TESTIMONY FROM SOMEONE IN
THE CHURCH. INVITE A FRIEND
AND WE'LL SEE YOU THERE!
QUESTIONS? CONTACT BLAKE
HARRIS AT BLAKE@AVPC.ORG.



WINDSOR ADDRESS:

5560 DOUBLE OAK LANE
BIRMINGHAM, AL 35242



MISSIONS NEWS

AVPC Missionary Prayer Guides

Have you picked up an AVPC Missionary Prayer Guide? We still have some remaining! Just pick one up from the baskets at the entrances to the sanctuary. Dan Dougherty and his team performed this labor of love that involved extensive research and coordination with Anna to develop these mini bios, photos, and prayer requests. Your Faith Promise funded this most strategic opportunity to daily support our AVPC missionaries.

Dan, a former missionary himself, knew the value of the prayers from a body of believers. Years ago, he experienced a child, whom he had never met, coming to him at a missions conference and saying, "I know you because I have prayed for you every month." The value of an encounter like that is nearly impossible to state.

The final product is a handy flip calendar of the 50 AVPC missionaries and 10 mission agencies supported by your Faith Promise. That works out evenly to two per day for you to pray for every month. Place it where it serves as a memory jogger. Put one on your breakfast table and let everyone in your household pray with you! Teach your children to pray and see our missionaries as heroes! Put one on your desk at work or your quiet time place. As I pass by my calendar during the day, I can send up multiple prayers for our missionaries. I am confident you will enjoy the feeling of closeness you get from praying daily for these servants of God.

Plus, you will feel connected to all points on the globe!

Best of all, our missionaries will have the armor and weapons necessary to do the work God has called them to do. As Dan says: "Funding our missionaries without prayer support is like sending an army with weapons but without bullets!"

Again, pick one up from the baskets at the entrances to the sanctuary. Join in the spiritual battle alongside our missionaries and agencies to the glory of God!

- Mardi Penuel, for AVPC Missions Team

SESSION/ DIACONATE MINUTES

SESSION MEETING • MAY 20, 2025

- Approved spending not-to-exceed \$9,600 from capital reserves to install insulation on the underside of roof deck above parlor/office wing, replacing insulation that will be removed as part of Parlor refresh project.
- New Member Interviews: The Session received the recommendations of the interviewing elders and the following applicants were approved for membership by unanimous consent.
 - Karen Brennan
 - Cody Hopper
 - Cynthia Tully
- Graham Bobo presented the proposed budget for God's House for their fiscal year June 1, 2025, through May 31, 2026. The Session approved the budget by a voice vote.

DIACONATE MEETING • JUNE 10, 2025

- Finance Team motioned to approve spending an amount not to exceed \$1,750 for office equipment from \$660.15 Capital Reserve Fund for replacement of Sr. Pastor's laptop and a copy/fax/scanner machine for financial administrator. This was approved unanimously by voice vote.
- John Peters followed up with Church Mutual for insurance policy quote(s). The quote is lower than our current policy's premiums but the group is now reviewing coverage limits and differences with current coverage.

MAY FINANCIAL REPORT

	BEGINNING BALANCE	INCOME	EXPENSES	TRANSFER	ENDING BALANCE
GENERAL FUND	\$147,661	\$106,003	\$194,793	(\$6,669)	\$52,202
MISSIONS	\$185,882	\$16,069	\$57,093	\$6,669	\$15,527
TOTAL	\$333,543	\$122,072	\$251,886	\$0	\$203,729