

THE SALTSHAKER

MARCH 2025 | VOLUME 288

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Camp Solid Rock June 2-5

This year's Camp Solid Rock will take place from June 2 – 5 ending with a cookout on Thursday night. If you'd like to be on the Camp Solid Rock leadership team, please contact Catie Lumpkin (catie@avpc.org). We invite kids in our church family to learn timeless truths of the Bible through drama, songs, stories, games, and crafts.

W.A.C.K. Week July 7-10

This year's W.A.C.K. (Worship Arts Camp for Kids) will take place July 7 – 10 ending with a performance on Thursday night. Worship Arts Camp for Kids is an opportunity for your children to see worship as more than just a Sunday morning activity, but as a way of living that honors God above all else. We believe God has created us in his image. Therefore, all of us have the creative gift within us. This camp is an opportunity to show your children how using our creativity in a way that honors God is itself an act of worship.

Be on the lookout for details concerning registration, volunteer needs, and schedules for Camp Solid Rock and W.A.C.K. over the next few months.

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Pastor's Pen

"I have discovered that most people have no one to talk to, no one, that is, who really wants to listen. When it does at last dawn on a man that you really want to hear about his business, the look that comes over his face is something to see."

— Walker Percy

Thanks Mr. Percy, I appreciate the prod of your quote to poke me into this little published prod for us all in the heralded AVPC Saltshaker! Ministry life is unfortunately and unnecessarily a lonely endeavor for most ministers. Now this might be my faulty perspective because I have a particular knack for saddling up the peculiar ministers at a gathering — more on that as we get to know each other!

But for this task, I am holding tight to my observation that some of the most profoundly insecure groupings of men ever observed were in the hallways during General Assembly and Presbytery meetings. Why? No great mystery the world is filled with people with stories to tell and a scant few who practice the art of listening.

I am grateful for the gathering of listening artists at our February Man Moot at Woody Armstrong's home! A gaggle of men intent to put Google aside and lean into the greatest news of the day through the life of the guy next to them. I heard with anticipation to hunting stories, with sorrow to stories of loss, I overheard competing stories about the reception of the Costco appetizers, a new story being written by Elijah Putman's band, and more stories than I can recount of those with healed up scars holding up those with fresh wounds! Again all I can say is thanks — to Nicki who invited our invasion.

Most people have no one to talk to... do you believe that? Have you felt that way? I mentioned it is unfortunate and unnecessary because the Kingdom of God empowers us to move beyond platitudes and slogans into the good work of holding up others and knowing them intimately. It is dawning on me that we worship in a place far from perfect but certainly interested in both getting to know you and repenting when we come up short listening as well as we should. If your quiet and reserved reach to Jesus for boldness to initiate, if your naturally bold and kinetic reach to Jesus to learn the boldness of being present with people.

Happy Trails

Kyle Parker, *Senior Pastor*

PRAYER MINISTRY

MARCH PRAYER PROMPTS

The monthly prayer prompts from the Prayer Ministry Team are now available for use. They are a monthly guide with a specific theme and Scripture verses for you to use in praying. You can find a copy of the Prayer Bookmarks in the parlor, welcome center, or by scanning the QR code below.

PRAY THE WEEK OF MARCH 2 – MARCH 8:

“But if any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, Who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.”

James 1:5

PRAY THE WEEK OF MARCH 9 – MARCH 15:

“Delight yourself in the Lord, and He will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord; trust in Him; and He will act.”

Psalms 37:4-5

PRAY THE WEEK OF MARCH 16 – MARCH 22:

“For the Lord gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding; He stores up sound wisdom for the upright; He is a shield to those who walk in integrity, guarding the paths of justice and watching over the ways of His people.”

Proverbs 2:4-8

PRAY THE WEEK OF MARCH 23 – MARCH 31:

“And this is the confidence that we have toward Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And, if we know He hears us in whatever we ask, we know we have the requests that we have asked of Him.”

1 John 5:14-15



SAVE THE DATE – MAY 18 – PRAYER SERVICE

On Sunday, May 18, 5:00 PM – 6:30 PM, the Prayer Ministry Team will be hosting a corporate time of prayer for any of our faith family. Prayer prompts will be available with an emphasis on outreach.

AVPC NEWS

OUR SYMPATHY

We want to express our deepest sympathies to the following:

- Joel Bostrom for the recent loss of his uncle, Joel Bostrom.
- Zach Snow for the recent loss of his grandfather, Billy Garner.
- Matt Hall for the recent loss of his grandmother.

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

FELLOWSHIP BRUNCH - MARCH 16

Join us Sunday, March 16, during the Sunday School hour for a fellowship brunch. All are welcome!

PARK WORK DAY - MARCH 15

You're invited to come help with another park work day, scheduled for Saturday, March 15 from 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM. More information to come. Pizza will be provided for lunch.

ENFOLD DISABILITY SUPPORT GROUP

AVPC would like to invite you to a support group for those who have an individual with a disability in their family or sphere of influence. We meet on the first Tuesday evening of each month in the Children's Building, room L-3. This is a safe space to process your concerns. We want to provide support and, if possible, resources to help you in your journey. If you would like to be added to the email list reminding you about the meeting, please contact Nicole Collier at nicolec@bellsouth.net or 205-572-6726.



The Fellowship Hall Community had a great time celebrating Valentine's Day together. Thank you to all who came.

minutes

SESSION MEETING • JANUARY 21, 2025

- Following the discussion of the budget, Steve Whitner pointed out the critical need to replace 20 year-old sound equipment in the sanctuary. He explained the repeated problems with the sound board as well as indications that it might be near the end of its life. The Session then voted by a voice vote to allow the staff to place an order for the needed replacements at a cost of up to \$50,000.00, to be funded from Capital Reserves.
- The Outreach Team and Altadena Park Committee requested approval for the content of permanent "story board" signs presenting gospel messages to be placed in Altadena Park. After discussion, the proposed signs were approved by a voice vote with some minor suggestions for changes.

DIACONATE MEETING • FEBRUARY 11, 2025

- Committee approved motion to replace main building roof by White Roofing with feedback on NTE on \$98,000 from finance committee. Finance team recommends to use \$70k currently in Capital Reserve – Roofing + \$25k from donation coming to Capital Reserve- Roofing with remaining \$3k from Capital Reserve.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

With 90 others from our Altadena family, we recently joined AVPC Youth for an epic Birmingham Bulls hockey game. At one of the breaks, Nicholas Ireland, Jackie Boggs and myself had the chance to embark on the ice as Diet Coke (Nicholas), Coke Zero (myself) and Coca-Cola (Jackie) cans. Our task was to run the relay on the ice dressed fully as drink cans; the only rule was there were no rules. As we took off, Mrs. Boggs in her snow boots, Mr. Ireland in his sneakers and me in my high heel boots, it only took seconds for Nicholas to make his move and trip me as I rolled on the ice. Even though he could have kept going for the win, he knelt and extended his hand to me, helping me up – setting Jackie up for the win. As soon as I was back on my feet, I lurched to push Jackie down on the ice. For a moment it looked like she would topple, but she steadied herself and finished in first place, crossing the line, with us following, only to laugh and hug one another. In his classic work *Life Together*, Dietrich Bonhoeffer writes, "Christian community is like the Christian's sanctification. It is a gift from God which we cannot claim." I'm reminded of this reality almost daily. Our Altadena Valley family is a gift from God, one that He has chosen to move us forward as we daily grow to reflect Jesus with ever increasing glory. Some days it demands lifting one another up, others it might require repentance and forgiveness, and always it displays our celebration of God's faithfulness. As a covenant family, let's press into this gift of community to which God has called us.

For Christ's Crown and Covenant,
Catie Lumpkin

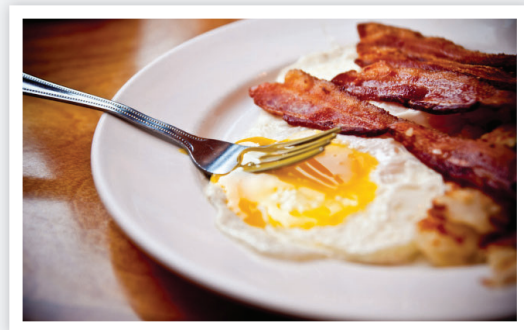
Children's Ministries Director



MEN'S MINISTRY

MEN'S GAME NIGHT- MARCH 13

Men of all ages, join us on Thursday, March 13, from 6:00 - 8:30 PM at the home of Holt Gray for pizza and board games of varying levels!



MEN'S PRAYER AND BREAKFAST - APRIL 7

Men of all ages, join us Monday, April 7 for breakfast and prayer from 6:30 – 7:30 AM in Fellowship Hall. Our prayer this month will focus on the marriages in the church.

YOUTH HAPPENINGS

This winter, our students continue to look at the reality of changing seasons in our lives during our group time on Sunday nights. While we look forward to spring, we have found beauty in the winter and have used it well. In Acts 2 we are told that the early church “devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.” (Acts 2:42) We have certainly done this as we have gathered with our families on Sunday mornings to worship, and as we have worshiped through the Word, song, food, and fun on Sunday nights. We have gathered for fellowship at a hockey game and a Super Bowl party. We have had prayer time on a Sunday evening as we began this year in supplication before the Lord and through the sharing of highs and lows on Wednesday night small groups. We have eaten food, lots of food, that might not be good for your body, but it is wonderful for your soul. In other words, we have done our part to be the Church, continuing in the tradition that was laid out before us in scripture, but in our unique way. As we move toward the spring, our upperclassmen will have a chance to head out on a backpacking trip with some of the college guys from AVPC. We will have special guests in youth group on Sunday night sharing their stories, and we will celebrate the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross and His resurrection. Please pray that this spring would be as fruitful as this winter has been.

Peace,

Clint Cvacho

LOOKING AHEAD...

MARCH 1-2 | Upperclassmen/College Adventure Trip

MARCH 23 | No youth group (Spring Break)

APRIL 13 | Youth Serves (Leading Bridge Night for Children’s Ministry)

JUNE 16-20 | The Edge (Junior High)

JULY 12-19 | Mission Trip (Senior High)

GOD’S HOUSE KINDERGARTEN

As we welcome the arrival of spring, we wanted to take a moment to reflect on the fun and meaningful activities we enjoyed throughout February at our preschool! Here’s a quick recap of the wonderful events: Valentine’s day parties, Pajama Day, Great Books with Mrs. Millie, and outdoor fun! As we move into March, we look forward to more exciting adventures and opportunities for growth!



MISSIONS NEWS

CELEBRATE MISSIONS WEEKEND

Wasn't our February Missions Conference wonderful?! Our "Missionary Family" members from around the world came to share about their work for the kingdom. Those attending included John and Lynn Lehn from Croatia, Hysen Kanani from Albania, Agron and Elona Sopaj with their 3 children from Kosovo, and Scott & Dana Jennings and Jeremy Martin from England. Dan Herron, with Serge, has been supported by our church for 42 years. Peter and Janet H, also with Serge, were able to attend with their 3 children. They were so encouraged by you! Our speaker on Sunday, Jeph Guinan, is a resident of Birmingham, and directs the Alabama Church Planting Network. Missionaries participated in several parts of the worship services with Scripture readings in the Croatian and Albanian languages. It was beautiful. I hope you came to the conference for many of the activities that were planned.

Important Reminder: Please take time to prayerfully fill out the Faith Promise Pledge card and put it into either the offering plate or one of the clay jars by the end of March. This is our way to support our missionaries and help them to follow Christ's Great Commission. By faith they go...by faith we give...over and above the tithe. Your support is vital!

Thank you!

Mardi Penuel for AVPC Missions Team



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

3/1	David Allen	3/10	Tricia Foster	3/25	Silas Allday
3/2	Larry Church	3/12	Nancy Chambers	3/26	Jack Cwynar
3/3	Clint Cvacho	3/12	Jessica Snow	3/27	Ava Labreche
3/4	Jackson Hall	3/13	Addy Kate Armstrong	3/27	Faye Walls
3/4	Catie Lumpkin	3/17	Joel Bostrom	3/27	Gayle Young
3/4	Carol Popwell	3/17	Jay Lloyd	3/28	Nancy Becker
3/5	Kip Blighton	3/17	Sue Ann Oaks	3/28	Sherrill Coley
3/5	Jim Davis	3/20	Carol Apol	3/28	Barrett Hall
3/5	Mark McCallum	3/20	Tim Cambron	3/28	Kyle Parker
3/6	Sarah Jane DeRieux	3/20	Michael Chick	3/29	Kathy Light
3/6	Tom Hinke	3/20	Shari Wimberly	3/30	Paden Franklin
3/6	Tara McCallister	3/21	Jim Baird	3/31	Rosemary Bobbitt
3/6	Daniel Sommer	3/21	Suzanne Brown	3/31	Zoe Labreche
3/9	Isaac Lumpkin	3/22	Ansley Cohen	3/31	Allen Short
3/9	Courtney McCrory	3/23	Austin Kate Harris		

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

At AVPC, when a child is baptized, we, the congregation are asked if we will promise to support the nurture and admonition of this child. It is a holy calling to dwell together in community and our great privilege to participate through prayer and service in nurturing the children of our congregation. It is a calling for each one of us at AVPC, a calling not limited to stage of life or relationships. At our showers, we gather for fellowship and a time of blessing. We will have someone speak words of encouragement to each momma, then we, as a body, have a time of prayer over her and her family. It is a time that binds us together as sisters in Christ.

Heather Sommer

Worship and Missions Assistant



JANUARY FINANCIAL REPORT

	BEGINNING BALANCE	INCOME	EXPENSES	TRANSFER	ENDING BALANCE
GENERAL FUND	\$0	\$141,016	\$134,880	(\$7,537)	(\$1,400)
MISSIONS	\$0	\$26,753	\$32,015	\$7,537	\$2,275
TOTAL	\$0	\$167,769	\$166,895	\$0	\$875