

THE SALTSHAKER

MAY 2023 | VOLUME 271

CELEBRATING OUR GRADUATES

Alex Foster
Vestavia Hills High School



Elijah Putman
Vestavia Hills High School



Ellis Alley
Evangel Christian School

NOT PICTURED:

Reese Rasmussen
Briarwood Christian School

Emily Mackin
Oak Mountain High School

COLLEGE GRADUATES

Gracie Lloyd
Auburn University

Rebekah Schofield
Edge Hill University

Zach Windsor
Auburn University

Davis Windsor
Auburn University

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Budget Report



In my column last month, I wrote and asked you to be in prayer about some of the staffing needs of our church. I'm writing now to give you an update on these matters and to ask you to continue to pray for us. Our bookkeeper, Jimmie Campbell, will be leaving us at the end of May. She delayed her departure for a month to help us with this transition. (Thank you, Jimmie!). The Session has decided, after a recommendation from our Finance Team, to outsource our bookkeeping and accounting needs, with the result that we will not need to replace Jimmie with a full-time bookkeeper. Heather Sommer will be filling a much smaller role in this area we are calling a "Financial Secretary." With her additional hours, Heather is now classified as a full-time employee, and she will continue with her previous roles too. There is a great deal of work being done to accomplish this transition of our bookkeeping and accounting needs, and Steve Klose is doing much of the heavy lifting on this. So please keep this in prayer as well.

There are still other more personal needs for which I would appreciate your prayers. Christine, our Church Administrator, had to be readmitted to the hospital again. It seems that every time she starts to improve, she experiences another setback. She needs your prayers. Clint is still helping his mother as she continues her rehabilitation after nearly passing away. Clint is an only child, and his mother depends on him to a significant degree. Steve Whitner's dad has just tested positive for COVID, and as of the time of writing this article, he is not doing well. This could very well be the end for him. Blake has a new baby, and though that is a glorious and joyful experience, all parents know how challenging it is as well.

On top of these staff challenges, ministry is burgeoning. Our children's ministry continues to grow rapidly. We are seeing new visitors at our worship services just about every week. What is God doing in the timing of critical staff needs concurrent with increased ministry demands? I can't say for sure, but one thing I think he is doing is to raise up more lay leadership in the church. I see that happening and want to thank the many who have stepped up to help us. Please don't stop, and please keep praying.

-Brad Allison

minutes

SESSION MEETING • MARCH 21, 2023

- Report from the staff retreat:
 - Strengthening the church's assimilation process.
 - Strengthening the church's ministry teams.
 - Mobilizing the church's family to love, encourage, and support our children and youth.
- Report from the Committee on Women in Ministry:
 - The session voted unanimously to approve proposed changes and minor corrections to Church's position paper on "The Role of women in the Church".
- Missions Team Action Items:
 - Approve: Mason MacCaughelty, serving with Campus Outreach - Serve, for full time monthly support.
 - Approve: Brad Owens, serving with Reformed University Fellowship at UAB, for full time monthly support.

DIACONATE MEETING • APRIL 11, 2023

- The painting and dry wall repair will be done in the sanctuary at the end of April.
- The Diaconate reviewed the decision made by the Session, based upon the recommendation by the Diaconate finance committee, to outsource Bookkeeping to a third party company that works with non-profits.
- Decision to form a "Tech Team" which enfoldes current IT Team, Worship Tech Team, and any new members for the staff requested "Video Team". This team will be under the Diaconate.

MISSIONS NEWS

MEET OUR NEW MISSIONARY

MASON MACCAUGHELTY | CAMPUS OUTREACH

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

I was discipled by a CRU staff member while I was in college and that experience changed my life. After graduation, I felt the Lord calling me to work for a ministry dedicated to providing that same discipleship experience to lost college students.

2. When I have free time I enjoy...

Playing music, listening to music, hiking, reading, watching good movies.

3. My all-time favorite movie is...

The Lord of the Rings

4. My favorite thing about the location of my ministry is...

The benefit of being able to see the broad scope of how God is working through our missionaries all over the world.

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

Pray that God would bring more students to Himself and that our missionaries would persevere in faith to the work God has called them to.

6. One hope I have for my ministry is...

To see Campus Outreach grow in strength and size and spread to more campuses - including my alma mater Auburn University!



CMMA MISSION TRIP TO DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Christian Medical Ministry of Alabama traveled to the Dominican Republic (March 12-19, 2023) with 23 dental students, 2 optometry students, 6 dentists, and 3 CMMA staff members. AVPC participants included Christina Thomas, Jennifer Proctor (2nd year dental student), and Brent McClenny. Local mission organization "Score International" provided lodging, meals, transportation, and translators. Each day, the team traveled to a different local church located in communities where black magic and voodoo were actively practiced.

The teams averaged 55 dental patients and 53 eye exams/glasses dispensed each day. Additionally, two evangelism teams addressed "spiritual health". Twenty students were trained in evangelism, and they helped lead 7 Dominicans to Christ! Overall, 20-30 patients heard the gospel daily, with many reporting a renewed interest in returning to church. Dozens of Spanish Bibles were given out to interested locals. The students' compassion, fruit of the spirit, and spiritual growth were evident throughout the trip. Thank you for your prayers and partnership!



Jennifer Proctor and a translator sharing her testimony and praying for an older Dominican lady while dental care is going on in the background.

AVPC PEOPLE NEWS

JIMMIE CAMPBELL – WHO IS SHE?



Jimmie Campbell is a silent servant. She is a woman of great integrity. She is a woman who displays a hard work ethic. She is a woman with a tender heart and compassionate spirit. She is a woman willing to share your sorrows with you. She is a woman who rejoices in your joys. She is a woman who displays the love of Christ to all. She is a woman who will be missed.

Michael MacCaughelty says:

"I remember Jimmie most for her kindness and patience with church members and staff in all things financial, and for her diligence, consistency, faithfulness, humility, and giftedness in her work."

Anyone who has had dealings with Jimmie knows she loves talking about her 'pet raccoons'; how she loves to feed them and take care of them when they come to greet her on her porch. That's Jimmie. Always looking for ways to take care of

someone – helping them in their time of need.

Catie Lumpkin remembers Jimmie this way:

"When I first served on staff early on, Jimmie and I would spend our Friday lunches together while we wrangled my three small boys. Jimmie, you have been part of the Lumpkins' life and extended family for more than 20 years. We treasure and love you. Thank you for showing us the patience and kindness of Jesus."

Brad Allison says:

"Jimmie started work at Altadena one year after my arrival. In the early days, she served as our primary church administrative assistant as well as our bookkeeper. She has the heart of a servant, working hard behind the scenes to serve us all. Though her bookkeeping work is quite demanding, she still manages to take time to attend to many of the live plants around the church, to straighten the sanctuary, and to pitch in wherever needed. We will miss you, Jimmie, and pray for God's blessings upon you in the next stage of your life."

As Brad said, Jimmie was hired many moons ago to serve as secretary and bookkeeper. She generated the church bulletin and literally cut and pasted the old saltshaker together. After a while, she dropped to just part-time bookkeeper. Jimmie and Nancy Klose were the only two in the office for 5 years. Then more office staff was added – with Connor being the latest addition.

In one of her many unofficial roles, Jimmie always watered the plants, and straightened the sanctuary so it was ready for Sunday services. Jimmie always greets and helps anybody that walks in the church. She always assists in the background of the details for special events – Presbytery, funerals, luncheons, etc, she always helps where she felt there was a need. Since serving as bookkeeper Jimmie has never missed a payroll. Wow!

And so, it is with mixed emotions that we acknowledge the retirement of Jimmie Campbell, our church bookkeeper. Jimmie has provided us with 28 years of faithful, devoted service in a variety of positions. Jimmie's attention to detail, while also keeping the broader picture in mind, has been invaluable. Her willingness to put in extra time and effort to help this entire church family and staff has demonstrated a commitment to excellence that we have come to depend upon.

I personally owe her a debt of gratitude for all the times she has helped me since my starting employment at AVPC. She has been by my side, providing support, wisdom and encouragement. I am gratefully indebted to her and will miss her presence at AVPC. She has kept all of us on track, teaching us, but never making us feel like failures. In addition to her incredible competence and skill, she has been a friend to all with her thoughtfulness and quiet encouragement. I don't know how we will get along without her! The plants will suffer! (Plants and I do not play well together.)

I encourage you to remember Jimmie in your prayers as she retires and we all wish her our best as she starts a new chapter in her life. A bittersweet thank you, for 28 years of faithful service to you, Jimmie. May God bless you as richly as you have blessed us.

– *Christine Rowlette*

AVPC PEOPLE NEWS (CONT)

OUR SYMPATHY

We extend our sincere condolences to the following:

- Ann Wilson for the recent death of her husband, Billy Wilson.
- George Bennett upon the recent death of his brother, Bob Bennett.
- Steve Whitner for the recent death of his father, John Whitner.

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

THANK YOU CONNOR BINGHAM

I would like to express my sincere thanks to Connor Bingham, our church administrative assistant, who, in the past 2 months, has been called upon to go above and beyond the scope of his job responsibilities, and tackle assignments for which he had little to no training. Connor has really stepped up to the plate and put forth a stellar effort in holding down these extra tasks in my absence. I appreciate his cooperative attitude and sense of humor. Thanks for continuing to hang in there, Connor! You are doing great!

- Christine Rowlette



Sanctuary Renovations

We would like to extend our thanks to B&T Contractors for their tireless work in renovating our sanctuary. We would also like to thank the facilities team and praise team for helping with the various tasks and adjustments brought on by these renovations. We appreciate you and thank you for serving the church.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



CAMP SOLID ROCK 2023

Camp Solid Rock camper registration is open! Join us for our seafaring summer adventure as we embark on a quest to discover God's mercy and faithfulness. Children 4K through 5th are invited to join us June 5-8. Preteens may serve as junior counselors. Younger children may register if the parent is a volunteer. Grab a pamphlet from the Welcome Center or Parlor or you can register using the QR code on the left. Reach out to AVPC Kids Ministry Director, Catie Lumpkin (catie@avpc.org), or Camp Solid Rock Director, Amanda Amerson, if you have questions or would like to volunteer.

YOUTH HAPPENINGS

As we wind down the school year, this is what students and teachers would call “the most wonderful time of year.” (Except for the exhaustion.) However, this spring it seems everywhere I look people I know are going through deeply difficult things. It seems like the wheels are coming off. The natural response, whether you are young or less young, is fear. However, the natural response is not the correct response. When we respond in fear we are assuming that “Jesus has left the building,” that God has abandoned us and, possibly, that He is angry with us. If you are struggling with this type of thinking, be encouraged from one of my favorite passages of scripture: “By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. We love because he first loved us.” (1 John 4:13-19) Do not fear, instead know God’s love, believe, God’s love, receive God’s love, as evidenced by the person of Jesus Christ. He abides with us and in us, regardless of our circumstances.

Peace,

Clint

100 ENVELOPES BEGINNING MAY 7



Starting Youth Sunday, May 7 come check out the 100 Envelopes board in the Welcome Center. The youth group is raising support toward their mission trip to Sacred Road Ministries and they are asking church members for donations. Choose an envelope with the amount you’d like to give. Scan the QR code and give online, or drop a check in the display box or offering plate. Be sure to write “Youth Mission Trip” in the Memo line.

LOOKING AHEAD...

MAY 7: Youth Sunday

MAY 7: Senior Girls Tea

MAY 7: Senior Guys Cookout

MAY 30: Summer Kick-off at Blue Water Park

JUNE 4: FAT Nites Kick Off (Jr. High)

JUNE 7: \$100 Wednesdays Kick Off (Sr. High)

JUNE 19-23: The Edge (Jr. High)

JULY 15-22: Yakama Mission Trip (Sr. High)

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

WTW SUMMER BIBLE STUDY

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT | BEGINS MAY 29

The life of faith bears fruit. The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Jesus displayed these qualities throughout his life on earth because they are part of the character of God. From the moment that Jesus becomes our savior, that "fruit" gradually and increasingly begins to appear in our lives as a work of the Holy Spirit. Please join us for this study where we will look at each element of the fruit of the spirit in the order that Paul presents them.

TIMES & LOCATIONS:

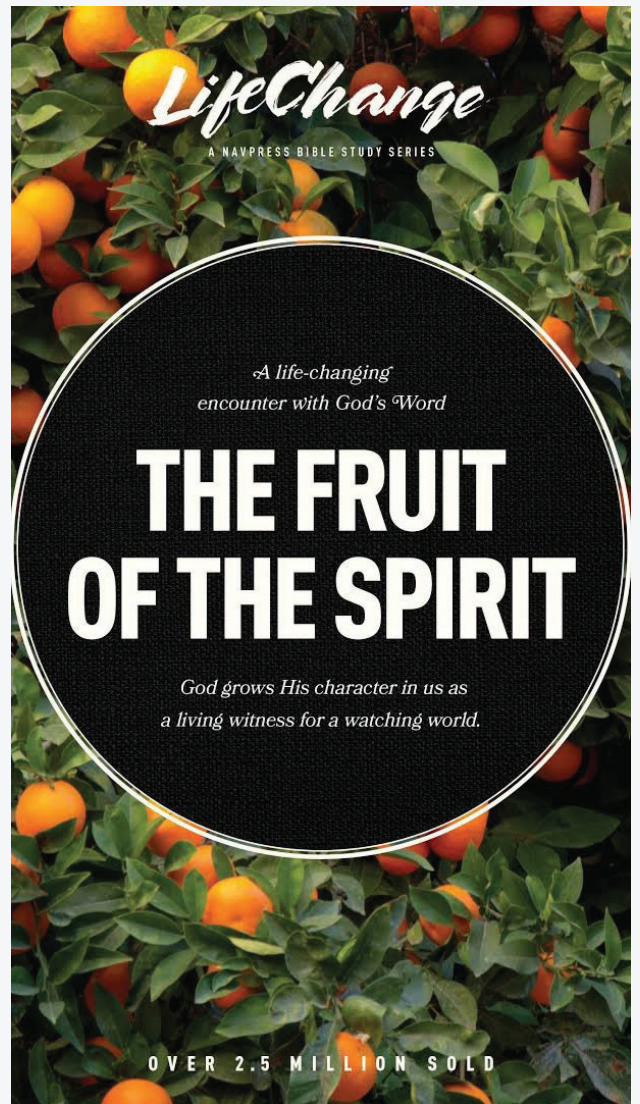
Mondays | 3:00-4:30 PM | at the home of Nancy Klose (775 Highland Manor Ct. 35226) Beginning June 5

Wednesdays | 9:00-11:00 AM | meeting in the church parlor. Beginning May 31. There is childcare for all ages.

Wednesdays | 6:00-7:30 PM | at the home of Lea Anne Parker (4725 Old Loony Mill Rd. 35243) Beginning May 31. (This group will continue the study of Mark).

Fridays | 1:00-2:30 PM | at the home of Judy Bates (5349 Meadow Garden Lane 35242). Beginning June 2.

Questions? Contact Amy MacCaughelty at 205-706-6016 or amycmac6@gmail.com.



YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY



Summer College Nights:

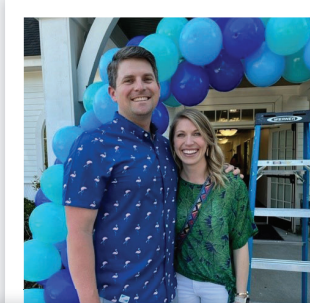
Mark your calendars! The summer college Bible study begins on June 1 and will be from 6-8 PM in Altadena Park. This is for anyone ages 18-22. Dinner will be provided. Come enjoy a great time of food, Bible study, and fellowship! Questions? Contact Blake Harris at Blake@avpc.org.

MAY BIRTHDAYS

1	George Bennett	10	Thomas Peters	24	Owen Ireland
2	Rick Halbrooks	10	Penny Prettyman	24	Luis Orteza
2	Jeff Lunceford	11	Grahame Bobo	26	Laura Allday
2	Mardi Penuel	11	Sam Parker	26	Will Ward
2	Deb Warnat	13	Ty Campbell	27	Noah Allday
3	Jamie Holmes	14	Tricia Dougherty	27	Sue Dalton
3	Ben McCallum	15	Anna Katherine Cohen	29	Mike Becker
5	Bob Hess	16	Kerith-Brook Helms	29	Tracy M Labreche
5	Cal Martin	17	Beth Mullins	30	Alli Campbell
6	Drew Russell	18	Kelly Jackson	30	Lucas Ireland
7	Alice Short	18	Benji Snyder	31	Christy Alley
10	Austin Amerson	19	Vandiver Phillips	31	Jacqueline Boggs
10	Mason MacCaughelty	22	Bettie De Shazo		

GOD'S HOUSE KINDERGARTEN

God's House had their annual Spring Art Show & Fundraiser Thursday April 20. We had over 350 people in attendance! Our teachers and parents worked so hard to make this a wonderful evening for our families and to raise money for our wonderful school. We are so blessed by everyone's support! Thank you to all the volunteers who helped with the church the Art show.



MARCH FINANCIAL REPORT

	BEGINNING BALANCE	INCOME	EXPENSES	TRANSFER	ENDING BALANCE
GENERAL FUND	\$17,932	\$93,261	\$113,079	\$-7,406	\$-9,292
MISSIONS	\$-6,474	\$31,272	\$32,949	\$7,406	\$-745
TOTAL	\$11,458	\$124,533	\$146,028	\$0	\$-10,037