

THE SALTSHAKER

NOVEMBER 2023 | VOLUME 273

From your Pastoral Search Committee

On behalf of the Pastoral Search Committee (PSC), we are honored and believe it is a privilege to serve our church on this committee. It is a great comfort knowing that you, our church family, are praying for and with us.

The PSC has met several times since we began in August. First, we received some excellent training from Chuck Frost (our PSC “coach”), and we organized the committee by electing officers.

- Chair – Jamie Lumpkin
- Clerk – Lauren Moore
- Prayer Coordinator – Marsha Wakefield
- Communication – Austin Amerson
- Communication – Heather Sommer

We prepared ourselves by structuring how and when we will conduct our meetings, how we will align ourselves in prayer, and how we will communicate with the congregation in consistent, helpful ways. Next, we began working on our church profile.

The church profile is a brief overview of our church and will give a prospective pastor a glimpse into who we are as Altadena Valley Presbyterian Church. This profile will help a candidate determine whether he might be a good fit to be a part of our church family as our senior pastor.

Coming up, we will compile the pastor profile. The pastor profile is a short document listing the qualities and characteristics we desire in our next senior pastor.

Finally, we ask for your prayers. Going about finding our next pastor can seem like a daunting task. But God is with us, and He is for us. Here are some things you can be praying for:

- Stamina, perseverance, wisdom and unity for the committee
- For God to prepare our new pastor and his family for this upcoming transition – and for our congregation to be prepared to welcome them into our family.

Thank you for your prayers and support!

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. Ephesian 4:1-3

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Pastor's Pen

Brad Allison, Senior Pastor

It seems that 2023 has been a year of changes so far at AVPC. Two of our primary changes have been the loss of our Church Administrator due to her health challenges and the hiring of Anna Waldrip to fill this position. We are so thankful for God's provision of Anna, and I am happy to report that she is making rapid progress in learning the ins and outs of this important job.

We've also experienced a major change in the area of financial accounting due to our bookkeeper of 29 years announcing her retirement earlier this spring. We elected to outsource our accounting work to a group that specializes in this service for churches, and we are still in the process of getting this up to speed. Heather Sommer has graciously agreed to take on the additional role of Financial Administrator, and she is the one who will be our interface with our outsourced accounting firm.

These first two changes are somewhat behind the scenes and may not be evident to everyone in the church. Two other changes are very evident. First, God keeps bringing more children to our church. If you were here on Children's Sunday on October 1, you got to experience the joy and challenge of the more than 100 little ones God has brought to us. The joy of this is not without its challenges, in the form of increased demands on both staff and space.

And then there's the change that is evident in the election of a Pulpit Committee, made necessary by my upcoming retirement after June 30, 2024. God has blessed us with a committee marked by humility, dependence on God, discernment, and prayerfulness. I am so thankful for this provision.

Change is never easy, but as people of faith we don't live in fear of the inevitable changes life brings. I was struck by a line we sang at the Men's Retreat this past weekend. "From life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny." Indeed, He does!

minutes

SESSION MEETING • SEPTEMBER 19, 2023

- Discussion about the final report from the Committee on Women in Ministry
- Discussion of Discovery Weekend report from McGowan Global
- Approval of ADMT proposal to move back to community group-based Sunday School classes
- Missions Team action items:
 - Approval of a one time gift of \$2,500 to the CMMA equipment fund
 - Approval of Ed Thompson as Sunday preacher for the 2024 Missions Conference
- Approval of an additional \$1,500 for graphic design assistance for church publications
- Approval of an additional \$500 to cover Pastoral Search Committee expense for the remainder of 2023

DIACONATE MEETING • OCTOBER 10, 2023

- Discussed the continuation of Deacon Responder responsibilities
- Approval of a request for additional funds to maintain and replace security team equipment
- Approval of a request to maintain the Mercy Ministry fund at a minimum of \$15,000 annually and a request that 5% of yearly budget surplus be added to the Diaconate Designated Fund

MEET OUR NEW MISSIONARY

LESLIE ANDERSON | CMMSA



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

I had the privilege of being a part of CMMSA when I was in occupational therapy school at the University of South Alabama. My husband and I stayed connected with the ministry and helped lead a mission trip to Costa Rica as practitioners and also lead small group Bible studies for OT/PT students. As I looked to transition out of my full time OT position in anticipation of our first child, I was offered the position as women's director for CMMSA. It felt like an easy "yes" as I already had the privilege of seeing the positive impact this ministry had on my life and the lives of the students. I also am passionate about helping students marry their faith with the vocation!

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

Moseying around a thrift store, going on a walk, and getting coffee/a meal with friends!

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

Pearl Harbor

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

We have grown to love Mobile! We enjoy being close to the water and being able to pack up and go to the beach for the day! We also really love the beautiful oak trees that line our streets!

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

That the Lord would bring women willing to enter into leadership roles for our small group Bible studies. Especially women who are in the students' future professions.

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

That the Lord would use us to further His kingdom in the student's lives and to ultimately transform their practice in healthcare to be for His glory.

MISSIONS TEAM UPDATES

Please continue to be in prayer for our Faith Promise giving through the remainder of this year. Your giving to Faith Promise has been so encouraging and we are excited to see how the Lord will continue to provide through the faithfulness of our congregation. Please pray that our giving this year will meet and even exceed the budgeted goal and that our partner missionaries will be strengthened in their faith as they take the Gospel of Jesus to the hurting and the lost.

Save the Date! Our 2024 Missions Conference will take place February 7th-11th. This will be an exciting time of hearing stories from the field and having personal interactions with our partner missionaries. Please be in prayer for the planning and coordination of the various necessary administrative tasks involved, as well as the planning and travel of each missionary that is attending. It will be an amazing time of encouragement and challenge as we hear about the wonderful things Jesus is doing around the world.

AVPC NEWS

OUR CONDOLENCES

We want to express our deepest sympathies to the following:

- Martha Darden for the recent death of her husband, Jim Darden.
- Jeannette Bennett for the recent death of her husband, George Bennett.
- Dan Whitaker for the recent death of his wife, Lory Whitaker.
- Beth McCallum for the recent death of her mother, Jean Kizer.

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

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to parents Ricky and Angie Klose and grandparents Steve and Nancy Klose on the birth of Griffin on September 25!



Save These Dates

NOVEMBER 12
Worship in the Park @ 11 AM

NOVEMBER 18
Park Work Day @ 8 AM

DECEMBER 10
Lessons & Carols @ 6 PM

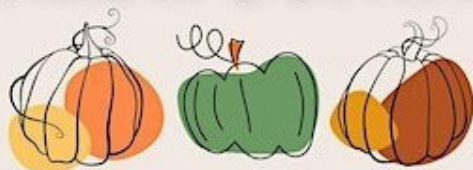
DECEMBER 24
Christmas Eve Candlelight
Service @ 4:30 PM and 6 PM

Hanging of the Green

If you are available on November 21 and 22, please consider helping out with the Hanging of the Green. Contact Natalie Short with questions.

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

FRIENDSGIVING



11.18.2023

Are you a young adult? Do you have a friend? Do you enjoy a good pumpkin pie with a friend? If you answered yes to one or more of these questions, please join us on November 18 at 5:30 PM for a time of feasting with friends at the home of Marsha Wakefield. Bring a side dish to share!

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

On behalf of the women of AVPC, I want to thank the men who volunteered to serve by cleaning up after the annual Women's Fall Luncheon. It was a tremendous blessing to us!! I was especially blessed witnessing the fellowship and discipleship that is depicted in this photo. Thank you, men, of AVPC!!



Mark your calendars, ladies! Our annual Women's Retreat will take place on March 1-2, 2024. More details to come.

GOD'S HOUSE KINDERGARTEN



The children have been enjoying community helper visits as well as Field Trips to Old Baker's Farm and The Kinnebrew Farm. We are very grateful for these men and women who serve our community so well and take their time to visit the children!

-Lydia Moore,
GHK Administrative Assistant



YOUTH HAPPENINGS

We are called repeatedly in scripture as God's people to be characterized by a thankful heart. I have often heard Fran Sciacca teach that a thankful heart begins with a thankful mouth. As we restart the Salt Shaker in November, what a perfect time to exercise a thankful mouth (or typing fingers)! I am so thankful for what I am seeing happening in our youth ministry here at AVPC. My prayer for our students has long been that our time together at church would be a time of rest as they come together with brothers and sisters in Christ who love them, with no obligation to perform or put on airs. Our hope is not found in our vain efforts, but in the grace and work of Jesus Christ for us and in us, as He is knitting us together into one body. We are seeing this come to fruition as there have been students who joined our group over the summer because of the welcome they received from our students, not just from Callen and me. Our students are loving one another well.

A burden that the Lord placed on my heart as I entered church ministry was to foster a love for the Church in our students. In a world that is increasingly antagonistic to authority and the idea of institutions, as followers of Christ we must remember that we are called to be a part of the body and to love His bride, the Church. To imagine that we can make it outside of the body is to fall into the trap of our enemy, the one who seeks to steal, kill, and destroy, as we isolate ourselves. I am seeing our students serving the church here at AVPC with glad hearts. Once a month we are leading the kids' Bridge Night during our normal youth group time on Sundays. Our high school students served on a very difficult mission trip over the summer with great joy and literally no complaining! Our students are serving on both the youth praise team and the Sunday morning praise team. We have students serving on the usher team and those that have helped with fellowship dinners on Sunday nights. Where is this coming from? It is coming from being at a church that loves Christ above all and this is evident to the degree that we love one another. It is coming from a church that sees our students, really sees them, and values them. All of you are helping our youth ministry here by the example of your love and faithfulness. I will close with the words of Paul to the church at Thessalonica, "We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers and sisters, because your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing." (2 Thessalonians 1:3) May it continue to be so!

Peace,

Clint



LOOKING AHEAD...

NOVEMBER 3-5 | Senior High Fall Retreat

JULY 13-20, 2024 | Mission Trip with Sacred Road

The Paradox of Boundaries

On Sunday evenings, we've been walking through God's grand story. We've looked at the ways God provides good and wise boundaries for His people, hemming us in, in order to save us from ourselves. We've explored how every time we step outside the lines of God's design and plan, we've traded His goodness and mercy for a dead end.

There's a scene in the original Kung Fu Panda where the worrisome Shifu rushes upon Grand Master Oogway (the massive turtle). He's frantically bringing unexpected news and searching for a way to circumvent the seeming path ahead. In true Taoism form, Master Oogway states there is no good or bad news – only news.... *"My friend, the Panda will never fulfill his destiny, nor will you yours, until you let go of the illusion of control."*

I found myself teary watching the scene recently. (No, I'm not embarking on a journey of enlightenment). However, a parent's existence can quickly become a daily chess game of strategy, like Shifu was facing – an endless cycle of seeking to do one right thing after another in order to produce the ultimate result: "good" children who are able to contribute to a community and "God's kingdom."

Then, God surprises you. He gifts you with a child who has little – or no - control of his or her cooperation with boundaries, a child unable to contribute *recognizably* to society, or perhaps one who will never enter a productive future (in the eyes of culture). And you realize, God's richest, most merciful gift to you demands the cost of any illusion of control you might have or imagine. In fact, *His new lanes for you are not even on the road map.*

Perhaps this surprise comes as a child who has "physical limitations," perhaps it surfaces as a child with limited mental and educational capacity, maybe one with social challenges, or one with the inability to control actions or words – or, perhaps, a child or youth trapped in the struggle of mental illness.

In Kung Fu Panda, Shifu would call this list very bad news. Master Turtle Oogway would say it's neither good nor bad. ***God says this "list" is one of His most tender mercies, to show Altadena Valley Presbyterian Church His face in way we would have never encountered. In fact, this list is a vehicle of His glory.*** He would tell us not to resist this road with parents; instead, He invites us to embrace it and enter into the Valley of Vision:

Let us learn by paradox
that the way down is the way up,
that to be low is to be high,
that the broken heart is the healed heart,
that the contrite spirit is rejoicing spirit,
that the repenting soul is the rejoicing soul,
that to have nothing is to possess all,
that to bear the cross is to wear the crown
that to give is to receive,
that the valley is the place of vision.



Join us November 5th at 4 PM as we kick off our buddy ministry initiative. Contact Catie at catie@avpc.org for more information.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

11/1	Woody Armstrong	11/12	Merrie Loper	11/21	Rachael Gray
11/1	Dan Dougherty	11/12	Joseph P. Putman	11/21	Thomas Jackson
11/1	James McCallister	11/13	Mike Oaks	11/21	Charlie Stephens
11/4	JC Foster	11/13	Carl Jacks	11/21	Mark Weldon
11/4	Debbie Pennington	11/13	Jeff Schofield	11/24	James Bobbitt
11/4	Ezekiel Putman	11/14	Rebekah Gray	11/25	Juan Dunlap
11/4	Molly Shepherd	11/14	Amy Grace Shepherd	11/26	Shahn Washington
11/5	Shepherd Edmonds	11/15	Ginger Jackson	11/28	Pierce Gamble
11/6	David Coley	11/16	Layne Savoie	11/29	Luke Richards
11/10	Melissa Parker	11/16	Shawn Schofield	11/29	Graham Jackson
11/10	Welden Gamble	11/18	Frank Thielman	11/29	Benji Parker
11/11	Art Marxer	11/18	Karl Zier	11/29	Scott Pennington
11/11	Knox McCallum	11/19	Bethany Washington	11/30	Justin Armstrong
11/11	John Ward	11/20	Frances Joy Holmes		
11/12	Brandon English	11/21	Carol Collins		

MEN'S MINISTRY



Only one word describes the Men's Retreat last month: EPIC! God gave us a rich time of growing in brotherhood and prayer, all while having no serious injuries which is always a plus for a Men's Retreat.

SEPTEMBER FINANCIAL REPORT

	BEGINNING BALANCE	INCOME	EXPENSES	TRANSFER	ENDING BALANCE
GENERAL FUND	\$13,946	\$122,807	\$118,695	\$-7,406	\$10,652
MISSIONS	\$9,361	\$29,271	\$37,634	\$7,406	\$8,404
TOTAL	\$23,307	\$152,078	\$156,329	\$0	\$19,056