

THE SALTSHAKER

OCTOBER 2024 | VOLUME 283

Trunk or Treat October 27 | 4:30 – 6:30 PM

It's Time for AVPC's Annual Community Trunk or Treat! As the calendar turns to October, the children begin excitedly to whisper and dream of Trunk or Treat. Although this yearly event has taken various forms since the pandemic, it originated from a purposeful initiative and partnership between Altadena's Children and Outreach Ministry Teams, then steered by associate mercy pastor, Corb Heimburger, and the amazing Betty Carter. Why continue this tradition?

In former director Betty Carter's words, "Corb loved people well and related to them from the depths of his heart, no matter where they came from. He inspired us all to look for ways to show God's lavish love for our neighbors. Trunk-or-Treat is exactly that: a lavish, no-strings-attached, 100% free gift to children and parents in our community. Many come to Trunk-or-Treat just because it's free and safe—people who probably wouldn't visit a Sunday church service or even open a Bible. However, when they share hot dogs, music, and fun with us, they're also sharing in God's rich grace toward His family. This is a unique chance for us to reach out and invite our community to taste more of that grace." With this in mind, we are in full preparation mode for the much anticipated gathering on October 27, 4:30-6:30.

An event this size requires a covenant family response. How can you help? Our goal is to have 30 trunks this year, many of which are interactive, as we have eliminated the smaller games. Amanda Amerson and I have created a list of options, and we also have resources for a few. Please reach out to me if you are interested. We will be collecting candy and prizes in the Parlor and Welcome Center through October 23. Additionally, an event such as this requires many hands for set up, clean up and kitchen duties. We welcome and encourage everyone to participate in one small way. If you need ideas, reach out to me.

So plan your costume, decorate your trunk, and put on your dancing shoes, and let's love our community and neighbors lavishly.

For Christ's Crown and Covenant,

Catie Lumpkin
Director of Children's Ministries

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MEET OUR NEW MISSIONARIES

PETE & RUTH MITCHELL | MISSION TO THE WORLD



How did you choose/ feel called to your ministry?

Ruth: As a young girl, I have always felt called to tell people about Jesus, especially children. The Lord confirmed this call during my university studies, especially as I attended Urbana Mission conference. I would not have chosen France left to my own devices, but as Pete was truly called to France, I naturally followed his call. Curiously, my grandfather urged me as a young girl to study French which I did till our family move to Texas and I switched to Spanish!

Pete: Both of us felt called to missions early on. Our parents modeled it for us, leaving their home country to take the Gospel cross-culturally. InterVarsity held a missions' conference in Urbana during our college years (1983). We went together and felt God calling us into mission. The choice of going to France came later as we sought more specific guidance.

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

Ruth: Pete was and is an amazing listener. He has a gentle spirit and turned my often-anxious thoughts to the Lord.

Pete: We met at King College. I was attracted to Ruth's effervescence and love for God.

When I have free time I enjoy...

Ruth: Reading and cooking.

Pete: I enjoy hiking in the woods and other natural areas, tennis, and listening to music using a retro vinyl turntable.

My all time favorite movie is...

Ruth: *Twister!* And my kids laugh because I watch *The Lord of the Rings* and *The Hobbit* every year.

Pete: French comic movie comparing life in the warm south and freezing north: *Bienvenu chez les Ch'tis*.

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

Ruth: Buying fresh bread daily, long slow meals with friends.

Pete: This is the duck region of France. I really enjoy "confit de canard" slow roasted duck.

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

Ruth: We really need a pianist. Also having just moved into a new house in another part of our target area, that the Lord would help us meet people in this area.

Pete: Please pray that God will send us Christian musicians to improve our worship, to please the Lord first of all, and also to help us to attract seekers.

Our one hope I have for my ministry is...

Ruth: That the Lord would bring to salvation many people who come periodically to our church. Also that the Lord would bring some families who are already strong believers to our church body.

Pete: That the Gospel of grace of Jesus Christ, his life, death and resurrection would be central to all we do.

MISSIONS NEWS CONTINUED



MISSIONS SPOTLIGHT: JEPH GUINAN (ACPN)

This month we are spotlighting Jeph Guinan who is the director of the Alabama Church Planting Network (ACPN). He and his wife Heidi have just celebrated their 20th anniversary. Their son Grant works in plumbing, while their daughter Olivia is a Senior and plans to study nursing in college. They have other children at home, too. Thankfully, all their children are walking with the Lord!

Jeph actually has two vocations. Besides directing ACPN, he is a full-time sales rep for AT&T. Currently, he says the ACPN is working with 7 growing PCA church plants. There is one each in Oneonta, W. Madison,

S. Madison, Scottsboro, W. Huntsville, S. Huntsville, and Albertville. The Albertville church is a Hispanic church led by Mark Berry, a former missionary to Peru. Amos Williams leads the South Madison Church, which is a predominately African American congregation.

Another church plant is in Montevallo. Jeph states he works with Christ Community Church of Helena to plant the Montevallo church, and since AVPC had a large part in the planting of Christ Community, it makes the new church a “grand daughter” of AVPC! That’s really exciting!

His prayer requests include news that recently the whole family had Covid for two weeks. Also, he has been diagnosed with degenerative disk disease in his neck. This causes intense nerve pain, which has practically immobilized him for weeks. The pain is manageable while sitting, but it’s difficult for him to walk or stand. Please pray for his healing. Lastly, he mentions that Shelby County is the least churching county in Alabama and has among the highest percentage of those who claim no religious affiliation at all. This is in our own backyard! Let’s join together to pray for these concerns.

Jeph and Heidi will be coming to our 2025 Missions Conference on February 5-9, 2025. Mark your calendars!

- Mardi Penuel for the Missions Team

WOMEN’S MINISTRY



If you have never been to an Altadena baby shower, you are missing out on a special time. At the recent shower for Nina Ogden, we had wonderful fellowship and a time of prayer and encouragement for Nina. We like to give a monetary gift to each Mama (equal in value) which are funded through our donations each time we have a shower. So won’t you come next time we host a shower to meet new sisters you might not know and offer a blessing to a new covenant family member?

AVPC NEWS

OUR CONDOLENCES

We express our deepest sympathies to Lynn Bratton for the recent death of her brother, Tom Monroe. You and your family are in our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

SMALL GROUPS AT AVPC

You can't be at Altadena long without hearing someone refer to the church as a covenant family. What does that mean? It means that in Christ, we have been adopted into God's family.

Because of that, we get to experience life in a spiritual family of believers. One of the best ways to lean into this family is through small groups, and September is a great time to jump into one! Scan the QR Code below to let us know your interest and availability or contact the small group coordinator, Jack Morris, to

learn more about available groups. Small groups have just kicked off for the fall, so now is the perfect time to join!



ATLADENA PARK MURAL CONTEST

The Altadena Park Improvements Committee is asking for submissions to a contest for a mural to be painted on the round concrete structure near the Old Looney Mill entrance to Altadena Park. We are seeking a mural that amplifies the natural beauty in the park. Prep and paint costs will be covered. Please email submission ideas to Tom McCallum (tomccall@southernco.com) by November 1. Contact the office for information, including the dimensions of the structure.



FELLOWSHIP DINNER MENUS:

OCTOBER 6 • Chili Biscuit Bowls, Slaw, Tater Tots, & Churro Cheesecake Bites

OCTOBER 13 • Chicken Casserole, Green Bean Bundles, Twice Baked Potatoes, Salad, & Bread

minutes

SESSION MEETING • AUGUST 20, 2024

- Reviewed those who had been nominated for elder or deacon and approved various elders teaching the Officer Training Class.
- Approved plans from the Pastor Search Committee detailing next steps for welcoming Rev. Kyle Parker and his wife Gretchen.
- Approved two 'care teams' to assist with the transition for Rev. and Mrs. Parker as they move to Birmingham and settle in to church life.

DIACONATE MEETING • SEPTEMBER 10, 2024

- Approved funds to be released for purchase and installation of new fire/smoke alarm system, for purchase and installation of a handicapped door opener for the double doors outside the Fellowship Hall to the parking area, and for replacement of a 2004 water heater in the education building.
- Approved the Finance Team's recommendation to proceed with a full-time position proposal for a Financial Administrator.
- A new security camera for the park and wireless relay have been installed.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

"We will tell the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord and His might, and the wonders that He has done. He established a testimony in Jacob and a law in Israel, which He commanded our fathers to teach their children, that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn, and arise and tell them to their children, so that they should set their hope in God and not forget the works of God but keep His commandments." – Psalm 78:4-7

When my heart becomes overwhelmed in ministry, in parenting, in this calling – I often find myself whispering, Catie, is God's word in Psalm 78 still true? This simple question reorients my soul from giving way to anxiety, panic, fear, doubt – and to, instead, recount what is true about God's covenant-keeping faithfulness. When I return to this reality, all the lists and distractions fade, because my purpose (and yours) as a member of Altadena Valley's covenant family is to tell the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord and the wonders He has done. We often speak to the beauty of AVPC being a healing community. In order to heal, we are a place where we tell the truth about ourselves. When I tell the truth about my brokenness, doubts, anger and fears, God's glorious deeds of rescuing, redeeming and claiming me as His own are so much more amplified. When our covenant children witness and hear from us our stories of God's amazing grace despite ourselves, their roots of faith sink deeper, so that one day they will flourish and "be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of His splendor." – Isaiah 61:3

For Christ's Crown and Covenant,
Catie Lumpkin
Director of Children's Ministries



YOUTH HAPPENINGS

A friend of mine just yesterday said that once kids start school in August, you blink and it is Christmas. Indeed, the fall is such a busy time, but a time of great fun and newness. The weather is getting cooler, sports are going, there are multiple holidays, and it is a time of enjoying community and relationships. For our church, we are looking forward with anticipation to the arrival of our new pastor. In youth ministry, specifically, October is a fun month as we have gotten into full swing with small groups on Wednesdays and Youth Group on Sundays. We will serve our Children's Ministry by hosting a Bridge Night, and we will celebrate the gift of community with the 6th Annual AVPC Hippie Games. What a gift it is to be united by the Holy Spirit in Jesus Christ, regardless of where we are from, where we go to school, how much our parents earn, what teams we root for, or which side of the political aisle we sit on. All of those things that could divide us are "a wisdom of this age...of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away." (1 Corinthians 2:6). The flow of the ministry calendar in the fall provides us with ample time to enjoy this amazing gift that we share together, the unity that comes from the wisdom of the Holy Spirit working in our hearts, binding us together and blowing our minds with the goodness of God towards us. "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him." (1 Corinthians 2:9). We celebrate things that are eternal, things that will never pass away. This fall, we get a taste of what God has prepared for us as we experience a glimpse of heaven together.

Peace,

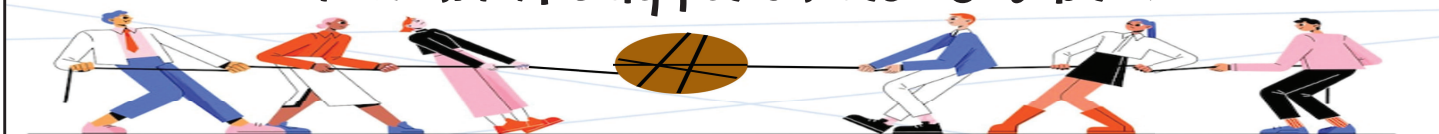
Clint Cvacho
Youth Director

OCTOBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	Small Groups 2	3	4	5
6	7	8	Small Groups 9	10	11	12
Youth Service Night 13	14	15	Small Groups 16	17	18	19
Hippie Games 20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Trunk or Treat 27	28	29	30	31		

SAVE THE DATE:
November 15 - 17
Senior High Fall Retreat
at Shocco Springs

6th Annual AVPC Hippie Games October 20



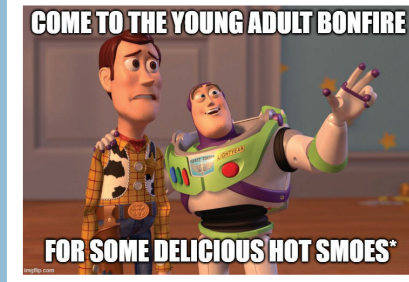
YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

YOUNG ADULT LUNCH

Do you eat lunch after church? Why not eat together! Sunday, October 6, 12:45-2:00 PM.
Location TBD.



YOUNG ADULT BONFIRE



S'mores anyone? Join us on Tuesday, October 29 from 6:00 - 8:00 PM at Blake and Danielle's for dinner, dessert, and prizes for the best costume!

**Smoes is Buzz Lightyear nomenclature for s'mores. Buzz is a child's play thing and therefore does not know the difference. Rest assured, there will be s'mores.*

MEN'S MINISTRY

2024 MEN'S RETREAT

OCTOBER 11-12

AT SHOCCO SPRINGS



**Enjoy a renewing time with
your brothers in Christ.**



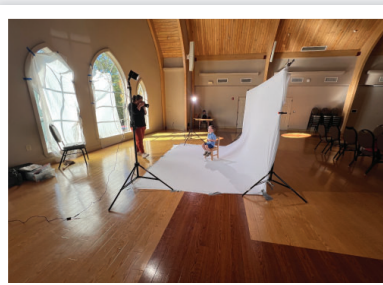
Register by using the QR Code. Cost is \$85.
Scholarships are available, and high school upper
classmen can go for free!



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

10/3	Steve Klose	10/12	Jennifer Rush	10/23	Marilyn Russell
10/4	Genie Deason	10/13	Joy Black	10/24	Tyler Belcher
10/4	Tre Smith	10/13	Russell Windsor	10/24	Jim Bonner
10/4	Jacob Short	10/14	Carly Price	10/24	Carter Edmonds
10/6	Jon Carter	10/14	Ella Shepherd	10/24	Asher Labreche
10/6	Natalie Short	10/15	Jeanett Bennett	10/24	Barry Parker
10/7	Mary Katherine Calderini	10/16	Scott McCrory	10/25	Davis Windsor
10/7	John McCary	10/17	Francie Cvacho	10/26	Micah Whitner
10/7	Lea Anne Parker	10/18	Nick Moyer	10/28	Everly Klose
10/7	John Sorge	10/20	Tara Howard	10/28	Jayla Smith
10/9	Ava Barley	10/20	Jill Sciacca	10/30	Joshua Mather
10/9	Ray Collins	10/20	Tracy Whitner	10/30	Peter Short
10/9	Tom De Shazo	10/20	Marian Wilson	10/31	Jake Tate
10/9	Darren Popwell	10/21	Bentley Lumpkin		

GOD'S HOUSE KINDERGARDEN



The children at GHK had a great time taking school pictures and participating in Clifford and Cookie Monster day.

AUGUST FINANCIAL REPORT

	BEGINNING BALANCE	INCOME	EXPENSES	TRANSFER	ENDING BALANCE
GENERAL FUND	\$77,565	\$93,559	\$111,468	(\$6,669)	\$52,987
MISSIONS	(\$3,469)	\$15,390	\$33,212	\$6,669	(\$14,622)
TOTAL	\$74,096	\$108,949	144,680	\$0	\$38,365