

THE SALTSHAKER

SEPTEMBER 4, 2022 | VOLUME 263

BLUE FLOWER TOUR
FALL 2022

THE GRAY HAVENS
with special guest LOVKN

SEPT 25, 2022
BIRMINGHAM AL
7:30pm (Doors 7pm)

ALTADENA VALLEY
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
4660 Caldwell Mill Rd
Birmingham AL 35243

Sponsored by



IJM

Tickets for AVPC members
discounted until 9/18/22 for \$18.
At checkout, type in "AVP18" in the discount code
box for the reduced price of \$18 per ticket.

After 9/18 tickets will be \$20 online.

On event day tickets will be \$25 online.
Tickets will be \$35 at the door.
\$10 for kids ages 12 and under.



SCAN THE QR CODE
TO PURCHASE TICKET

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One piece of advice often given to the aged is to stay mentally active. "Use it or lose it" applies just as much mentally as it does physically. Is it also a principle that applies to our spiritual lives? Can we grow spiritually dull through laziness in using the means of grace God provides for us? Apparently so, which can be seen in the oft-repeated command of the Bible to "stay awake." This command is especially relevant as we emerge from the COVID pandemic and its effects upon the church. Church attendance is down significantly nationwide. It seems to be almost a daily occurrence that I hear of someone else who was formerly an active churchgoer but who has now dropped out to some degree. Many of these might still tune in to a livestreamed service on occasion, but others don't even do that anymore. Most in this group of the uninvolved still regard themselves as followers of Christ. At the very least, they have fallen asleep spiritually, and that is a dangerous place to be.

What would it look like for you to stay spiritually active? Clearly, it includes staying active in personal practices such as Bible reading and prayer. There is also a corporate side to it that requires church involvement. This would include regular attendance at the corporate worship services of a local church. It would also involve active service of the Lord there, and involvement with other Christians at a deeper level (such as happens in a small group).

One other aspect of staying awake is to continue as an active learner. Toward that end, may I commend to you one of our adult Sunday School classes? We have an excellent lineup this fall. Frank Thielman, with assistance from Luis Orteza, will be teaching a series on Acts 13-28. Wendy Allison, together with Nicholas Ireland and Andy Coats, will be teaching a class on gospel parenting. Michael MacCaughelty will be leading again the "Baby Steps in Evangelism" class. The Pilgrim's Community will be studying the "Doctrine of the Holy Spirit," featuring a short video by Sinclair Ferguson followed by a discussion led by Scott Wilson and James Walls. The Young Adult Community will focus on the video series by Fran Sciacca, "Knot or Noose."

Brad Allison

SESSION MEETING • JULY 19, 2022

- **DISCUSSION OF PLANNING FOR PASTORAL SUCCESSION:** The Session agreed that a Session committee will be formed to make suggestions for steps to be taken and their timing as the Session begins to plan for a smooth transition.
- **FELLOWSHIP HALL SOUND SYSTEM REPLACEMENT:** The Session agreed unanimously to take on the entire project during 2022.
- Brad Allison gave a short report on the recent General Assembly.
- Approval to end full-time support of Doni Mehmeti.

DIACONATE MEETING • AUGUST 9, 2022

- Diaconate lifted up a family in prayer of Nathan Gemeinhart from Red Mountain Church.
- Josh Moore reached out to the Diaconate at Red Mountain Presbyterian to see if AVPC Deacons could come alongside them in any way to help with their duties while they grieve this loss.
- Russell Lloyd reported that the giving at this point in the year is lower than expected compared to historical levels. Discretionary spending may need to be curtailed for each budget owner as we near the end of 2022.
- The IT Team was starting to work with the Children's Ministry team about having CCB application to work as a check-in security measure for the children Sunday school program.
- Josh Putman reported on security and emergency preparedness of the church.
- Bill Sommer reported that Dave Mayhew has started as the facilities manager.

MEET OUR NEW MEMBERS

Melissa

HOW DID YOU FIRST FIND OUT ABOUT OUR CHURCH? Through God's House Kindergarden

WHAT HAVE YOU ENJOYED ABOUT AVPC THE MOST? Getting to know the ladies in Wednesday morning Bible study

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN A CHRISTIAN? About 18 years.

WHERE WERE YOU BORN AND RAISED AND WHAT DO YOU REMEMBER MOST ABOUT YOUR CHILDHOOD? I was born in Nashville and grew up in Vestavia. What I remember most from childhood is special times with my grandmother.

AS A YOUNG WOMAN, I THOUGHT I WOULD BE... a teacher **BUT ACTUALLY...** as I got older it was the last thing I wanted to be...until I became one and loved it!

I KNEW I WAS GROWN UP WHEN....I had to find a job with health insurance.

I ALWAYS THOUGHT IT WOULD BE GREATto be able to do ballet.

HOW DID YOU MEET YOUR SPOUSE? WHAT WAS SPECIAL TO YOU ABOUT YOUR SPOUSE? We met at a small group "match up" at our church. He is very kind.

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN MARRIED? WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TOGETHER IN YOUR MARRIAGE THAT HAS MEANT THE MOST TO YOU OR BEEN THE MOST ENJOYABLE? 8 years. We spent our 1st Christmas together visiting a friend who was a missionary in China. It was no frills and was our best Christmas to-date.

MY ULTIMATE VACATION WOULD BE....Going to Italy with my husband.

PEOPLE WOULD BE SURPRISED IF THEY KNEW...I speak Spanish.

MY ALL-TIME FAVORITE MOVIE IS... National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation.

MY HOPE FOR AVPC IS THAT IT COULD...continue its faithfulness to the Word of God and continue its long-running support of missionaries.



HELLO
my name is

The Parkers

Ryan

WHAT HAVE YOU ENJOYED ABOUT AVPC THE MOST? The sense of community and how welcome our family always feels.

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN A CHRISTIAN? I became a Christian in middle school.

WHERE WERE YOU BORN AND RAISED AND WHAT DO YOU REMEMBER MOST ABOUT YOUR CHILDHOOD? I was born in Mississippi and grew up in Vestavia. The winter storm of 93 is something that I can still remember like it happened last week.

AS A YOUNG MAN, I THOUGHT I WOULD BE....playing in the NBA, **BUT ACTUALLY...** I struggle to win a game of backyard HORSE against our 7 year old.

MY FIRST JOB WAS... cutting the grass around my neighborhood. **MY WORST JOB WAS...**trying to answer technology questions at Staples. **MY FAVORITE JOB IS...**the one I have now at the United Way because I get to work with some incredible people.

HOW DID YOU MEET YOUR SPOUSE? WHAT WAS SPECIAL TO YOU ABOUT YOUR SPOUSE? We met through a small group event at church. She is the kindest person I know and is always willing to help and serve others.

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN MARRIED? WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TOGETHER IN YOUR MARRIAGE THAT HAS MEANT THE MOST TO YOU OR BEEN THE MOST ENJOYABLE? 8 years. We went to China around Christmas one year to a visit a friend. The history and the food were equally amazing.

WHEN I HAVE FREE TIME I ENJOY....Gardening, reading, and running.

MY FAVORITE RESTAURANT IS... is Rougaroux in Forest Park. It's a short walk from my office and tastes like you're in New Orleans.

MY HOPE FOR AVPC IS THAT... it would continue to be a place of hope and healing for people across our community.

PEOPLE NEWS

OUR SYMPATHY

We express our heartfelt condolences to the following people:

- Denise Davidson on the recent passing of her mother, Shirlee Fanning.
- Darren Popwell as he grieves the loss of his mother, Norma Popwell.
- Christina Thomas as she grieves the loss of her grandmother and uncle.
- Melinda and Mary Katherine Calderini as they grieve the loss of Melinda's stepmother, Barbara McDowell.

Lastly, the AVPC church family extends our greatest sympathy to our sister church families at Red Mountain and Urban Hope upon the untimely deaths of Nathan Gemeinhart and Cedric Mahaffey. Please remember these families in prayer.



NEW KITCHEN MINISTRIES COORDINATOR!

Praise God that we are finally able to hire a much anticipated kitchen ministries coordinator. Christin Murphy brings a wealth of catering knowledge and organizational skills, which will serve her well as she steps into this position. We are so excited to welcome Christin in this role, and we are looking forward to sharing a fellowship meal as a church soon. Christin and Brandon are regular attenders, along with their son, Zeke. Thank you for your faithful prayers over the past 2 years and praise the Lord for this provision.



During the July Sunday Fellowship Brunch, Nancy Klose showcased her knowledge of AVPC history, triumphed over all, and won her very own "CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT!"



Congratulations to

Joel & Abi Bostrom

on the birth of their daughter, Rosalie Kathryn Bostrom.

Congratulations to

Thomas & Heather Prettyman

on the birth of their daughter, Matilda Joy Prettyman.



Congratulations to **Drew and Marilyn Russell** on the birth of their first grandchild Bernadette Dianne Pitts

CHILDREN'S NEWS

AVPC Kids Construction Zone

Recently, I asked one of the preteen girls to tell me her earliest memory of church. To my surprise, she told me she remembers Pastor Brad on her back porch TV. She remembers Mrs. Betty's Sunday School on a computer. She remembers the funny signs on the pews and sitting so far apart. I was shocked. While we as adults talk of about returning normal or being "back," the children in our congregation have no context.

Consider your earliest Sunday school memories. . . Rather than having multiple people affirming and reminding them of God's love, for our children it was whittled down to few. Rather than hugs and smiles from a covenant body, they had to distance with masks during their most formative years. Rather than hearing layers of covenant members tell them of God's Truth and His design for them – they have heard it from one pastor, Mrs. Betty and myself, and hopefully parents on a repetitive basis.

I've spent the summer studying our children, the general culture of childhood, the impact of the Pandemic and how that has particularized in our covenant body here at AVPC. Throughout our church, the Pandemic forced us into a centralized model, mainly staff, as we navigated the unknown – and our infrastructure of the covenant model faded. The children of our church need their covenant family, and their covenant family needs them. The next three months will be ones of intentional steps to return to these roots. Join me in praying, and YOU, as a member of the covenant family, are invited into this adventure of growth.

-Catie Lumpkin

GOD'S HOUSE KINDERGARTEN

God's House is gearing up for a great fall! School started August 29, and we have several fabulous new faces on staff to start off the new year! This year we have almost 130 preschool and daycare students in our care each week. We would love for you to join us in prayer on Sunday September 11 at the 11 o'clock service for our annual teacher commissioning service. Please pray with us for a wonderful school year beginning and for the children to hear and know the love of Jesus as they come to God's House every day. Thank you!

Michelle Taylor, GHK Admin



YOUTH HAPPENINGS

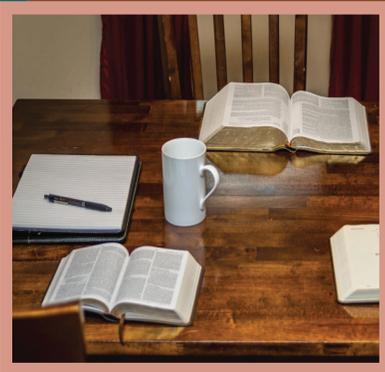
I have often observed that we tend to fear what we don't know and we tend to hate what we fear, which is why the word "new" often elicits a negative reaction. "New" leads us into uncharted waters. "New" can lead to awkwardness and discomfort as you face a learning curve. "New" often removes our illusion of control and stretches us. However, as followers of Jesus "new" should never scare us. In fact, "newness" is part of the great promise that we have been given. When we begin to follow Christ, we are promised that we will be a new creation. (2 Corinthians 5:17) At the end of days the Lord promises that He is making all things new. (Revelation 21:5) As we follow Jesus "new" leads us to growth. It leads us to see God do things that we never thought possible.

This fall there is newness in the air in the youth ministry of our church. Most of our Sunday nights will look different as we help serve in our children's ministry. My prayer is that this new endeavor would show the students (children and youth) the joy found in serving the bride of Christ and what a beautiful thing it truly is. Another "new" is that for the first time, students in the sixth grade will be part of the youth group. I am looking forward to welcoming these new students and I pray that they see the beauty in community among their peers as we share service on most Sunday evenings and fellowship on Wednesday nights in small groups. We are encouraging our students to invite friends to the evenings when we gather to have youth group and to youth events and I pray that these newcomers would find love in the family of God. We also welcome a "new" Girls' Discipleship Director, Callen Moyer, who has spent the past year loving our students as both an intern and a volunteer. Please join me in praying for all these new things and that we would see the Lord work in mighty ways among our students this school year!

Peace, Clint

UPCOMING EVENTS

Small Groups: Sep. 7



Youth Ministry Nights: Sep. 11



Hockey Night: Sep. 18



Save the Date! October 23: 5th Annual AVPC Hippie Games



WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Sunday, September 18

ALL LADIES
are invited to join us
in Fellowship Hall for some
food, fun, and fellowship
immediately following the
late service
No reservations needed.
Lunch provided by the church
No Childcare Provided



**BABY
SHOWER**
in honor of
HEATHER TATE

and **KATHY
WHITNER**

**TUESDAY,
SEPTEMBER 6
7:00-8:30 PM**

AT THE HOME OF

CATIE LUMPKIN

4012 CROSS GROVE CIRCLE
BIRMINGHAM, AL 35242

MEN'S MINISTRY

MEN'S BREAKFAST AND BIBLE STUDY

"PARABLES OF JESUS"

STARTS SEP. 12 - 6:30-7:30 AM - FELLOWSHIP HALL

Game Night - September 28

Men's Retreat: October 7-8

Registration Opens Sep. 6

Thursday Coffee: 9:00-10:00AM

Weekly Donuts and Devotionals



MEETING THE 1ST AND 3RD SUNDAY EVENINGS, 5 PM - 6:30 PM, . **SUNDAY STUDY**
AT THE HOME OF BARRY PARKER / EMAIL BLAKE@AVPC.ORG FOR DETAILS.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

9/1	Hunter Boggs	9/14	Lynn Beckett	9/23	Patti Waldrip
9/1	Alex Beverly	9/14	Nathan Richards	9/24	Roy Ennis
9/1	Elle Campbell	9/15	Howard English	9/25	John Franklin
9/3	Patrice Bonner	9/15	Shirley Wilson	9/26	Jan Morris
9/3	Megan Apol	9/15	Vicki Barber	9/26	Daniel Lumpkin
9/3	Christy Bingham	9/15	Irwin McCallister	9/27	Alex Foster
9/6	Jill Nelson	9/17	Matt Jackson	9/28	Greg Waldrip
9/7	Debbie Anderson	9/21	Dennis Self	9/29	Rise Marxer
9/9	John Lloyd	9/21	Brad Allison	9/29	Jim Deason
9/10	Rosemarie Putman	9/22	Bob Bratton	9/30	Lynn Carter
9/11	Nicole Collier	9/22	Nancy Klose	9/30	Heather Prettyman
9/12	Bob Muhlig	9/22	Lyn Brogan	9/30	Haley Roberts
9/12	Marjorie "Margie" McClenny	9/22	Zadyn Labreche		
9/13	Danny Wachs	9/23	Christine Rowlette		

MISSIONARY NEWS

Did you know that we have over 50 missionaries and ministry workers that we are partnering with around the world? These 50+ missionaries are laboring each and every day to bring the gospel of Jesus Christ to every tongue, nation, and tribe. We have the opportunity to partner with them and be part of this amazing endeavor to share the love of Christ with anyone and everyone. This is a vital and important partnership. Not only are we providing the financial funds that are necessary to see their ministries move forward but we are actively connecting and engaging as we pray with them and for them.

I recently had a video call with one of our partner missionaries to just listen, ask questions, and learn more about their ministry. It was an amazing conversation that allowed me to hear their passion for where God had called them and the impact the gospel is making in the lives of those around them. At the end of the call, we prayed for each other. I can tell you that I was truly blessed to have spent even this small amount of time of personal engagement. The missionary was thankful and excited for the time we had together, but I truly received a tremendous blessing. My heart was pulled out of its day-to-day routine, and it was connected to another heart on the other side of the world. My faith was refreshed and energized to see the amazing things Jesus is doing around the world.

We would like to invite you into this partnership. Would you like to connect with one of our missionary partners? It is really rather simple, but so crucial to the missionary on the field. The commitment is simply to read their newsletters and updates, pray for them regularly, and connect occasionally. The missionary you bless with these actions will be overjoyed and you will not only gain a new friend but your vision for seeing the gospel of Jesus going out into our community, our city, our state, our country, and our world will expand and grow. Join with us in this amazing ministry as we engage with our partner missionaries. Contact the missions office for more details.

Jeff Schofield

JULY FINANCIAL REPORT

	BEGINNING BALANCE	INCOME	EXPENSES	TRANSFER	ENDING BALANCE
GENERAL FUND	\$-90,887	\$93,113	\$112,180	\$-6,572	\$-116,526
MISSIONS	\$-10,914	\$33,356	\$35,898	\$6,572	\$-6,884
TOTAL	\$-101,801	\$126,469	\$148,078	\$0	\$-123,410