



SEPTEMBER 2025 / VOLUME 294

SALTSHAKER

Quote of
the Month

If it weren't for Philo
T. Farnsworth, inventor
of television, we'd still be
eating frozen radio dinners.

- Johnny Carson

PRAYER POWER FOR MINISTRY

AVPC has a long tradition of prayer. The vision of the Prayer Ministry Team is to see our church become a House of Prayer, believing God's will for our church will be accomplished as we pray. It is a vision for prayer as a way of life throughout the church. One of the ways we as a congregation step out in faith to accomplish this goal of being a House of Prayer is through the Boiler Room Ministry. The Boiler Room Ministry prompts members of all ages and stages to pray for the church and its ministries during each of the worship services.

The inspiration for the name "Boiler Room" comes from the following story: Charles Hadden Spurgeon, the 19th-century English preacher, was known as the "Prince of Preachers." It is not an exaggeration to say that thousands came to Christ through His preaching. A group of young ministers came one day to visit his church. After showing them the massive sanctuary, Spurgeon offered to show them his "boiler room." In Spurgeon's time, steam was the power source of the day; boiler rooms were the powerhouses, the driving forces of everything. Spurgeon led the young ministers down to the basement where they found about one hundred people in prayer. "This," Spurgeon said with a smile, "is my boiler room." Whenever Spurgeon was asked the secret of his ministry he always replied, "My people pray for me."

Each week a few members gather to pray for our church, its ministries, and all aspects of the worship service. There are people praying during each service. Like Aaron and Hur held up Moses' hands when he grew weary (see Exodus 17:10-13), the prayers of the boiler room are to hold up the "arms" of our pastors, staff, leaders, and teachers as well as those of the congregation. Consider joining in this important task to fuel the ministries of our church. Over the next few months, we will be sharing more information and details about how you can be involved in this "behind the scenes" but important work for the Lord and for our church.

Stay tuned for next month's explanation of how, when, and where the Boiler Room meets at AVPC. If you are interested in knowing more about this vital, life-giving prayer ministry, please reach out to Marsha Wakefield or Michael MacCaughelty.

AVPC NEWS

HARVEST ARTS HYMN TOUR - SEPTEMBER 18

**FREE
CONCERT!**

FLUTE

VIOLIN

VIOLA

CELLO

HARP

HARVEST ARTS HYMN TOUR

The Passion

- Harvest Arts is a flute, harp, and string quintet led by Birmingham native Madeline Cawley.
- Original arrangements of hymns fused with Celtic folk and classical music.
- Selected leaders and performers at the September 1, 2025 Getty Music Sing! Conference in Nashville, TN.
- A concert not to miss!

The concert is free, but a love offering will be collected.

Thursday, September 18 | 6:30 PM

Altadena Valley Presbyterian Church

Birmingham, AL

Scan here to hear some
of Harvest Arts' music →



Learn more at www.harvestarts.org

AVPC NEWS

PARENTS MEETING

Sunday, Sep. 7

The annual AVPC Parents Meeting will be on Sunday, September 7, from 6-6:45 PM in the Fellowship Hall. This will be for parents of children ages birth through 5th grade, but anyone is welcome to attend. Children's activities will last through 6:45 to accommodate the meeting. If you have any questions, please contact Catie Lumpkin at catie@avpc.org.



CHANCEL CHOIR INVITATIONAL

We encourage you to attend our Chancel Choir Invitational on Sunday, September 7, from 5:00 – 6:30 PM. Childcare is available and no audition is necessary. Contact Heather Sommer (heather@avpc.org) for more information.



OUR SYMPATHY

We want to express our deepest sympathies to Paden Franklin after the loss of his mother, and to Aretha Jackson after the loss of her uncle and mother.

September Birthdays

9/1	Stephanie Cannada	9/15	Vicki Barber	9/23	Patti Waldrip
9/1	Alex Beverly	9/15	Howard English	9/25	John Franklin
9/1	Hunter Boggs	9/15	Irwin McCallister	9/25	Griffin Klose
9/1	Elle Campbell	9/15	Shirley Wilson	9/26	Daniel Lumpkin
9/3	Christy Bingham	9/16	Lauren Hall	9/26	Jan Morris
9/3	Patrice Bonner	9/17	Matt Jackson	9/27	Alex Foster
9/4	Judah Tate	9/19	Molly Kate Tate	9/28	Greg Waldrip
9/6	Jill Nelson	9/21	Emily Boggs	9/28	Lisa Williams
9/7	Debbie Anderson	9/21	Dennis Self	9/29	Jim Deason
9/10	Rosemarie Putman	9/22	Bob Bratton	9/29	Rise Marxer
9/10	Joshua Snow	9/22	Lyn Brogan	9/30	Lynn Carter
9/11	Nicole Collier	9/22	Nancy Klose	9/30	Heather Prettyman
9/12	Marjorie McClenny	9/22	Zadyn Labreche		
9/13	Danny Wachs	9/22	Zachary Snow		
9/14	Lynn Beckett	9/22	Jennifer Weldon		



Pastor's Pen

Gretchen and I are looking forward to our first full fall amidst you all. I find myself pondering hospitality often in the last 3-5 weeks as we settle back into a home without kids, as Molly returned to Tuscaloosa (Roll Tide), and Jack enters his final year of college. How do we connect, who do we connect with, how do we get over the 'You're the preacher', 'Am I being called to the principal's office?' thoughts of some. How do we just get started again? This little article by Jeff White is something I found in my file and have shared in years past – I hope it encourages you like it is doing for me this week.

PUBLIC FAITH AND THE PRACTICE OF HOSPITALITY BY JEFF WHITE

The word “hospitality” brings to mind party planning, or at the very least, cooking and cleaning in order to get ready for guests. The Bible’s understanding of hospitality among Christians is best understood as a way of life. In fact, it provides a remarkable window for understanding the beauty of the gospel and a profound way of communicating and embodying the gospel to friends who do not share our worldviews or beliefs.

Beginning in the Old Testament, God called his people to show kindness to strangers in their midst: “He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the foreigner residing among you, giving them food and clothing. And you are to love those who are foreigners, for you yourselves were foreigners in Egypt.” (Deuteronomy 10:18-19). The writer to the Hebrews implores, “Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it” (13:2). God uses the metaphors of hospitality to communicate what it means to know him. To experience his love is to have our souls satisfied with the richest of fare (Psalm 63) and he invites those of us who are thirsty to come to water and those without money to come and eat (Isaiah 55).

The glorious truth of the Gospel is through Jesus’ costly death and resurrection, we have been welcomed back into the Father’s presence. This is the heroic news that we are to announce to the world – by demonstrating intentional hospitality to non-Christians. “Welcome, embrace and accept one another, just as God in Christ has welcomed, embraced and accepted you” (Romans 15:7).

Essentially, hospitality is opening ourselves to others, welcoming, loving, caring, and valuing them. Hospitality is part of gospel living in which we can verbally proclaim the good news even as we embody it.

Important things to keep in mind in practicing hospitality:

1. Embrace of others is more important than the place where hospitality occurs.
2. Your space need not be perfect to invite others over. Beauty is found more in the welcome itself than in the space.
3. Lines between guest and host are frequently wonderfully blurred as we invite others to participate in life with us. If we are to truly honor others, we have to give to others and also let them give to us.
4. It is essential that we bring our authentic and flawed selves into our hospitable relationships. Pretending to be something we are not does not give life to others.
5. Engaging in meaningful conversation and cultivating active listening skills in which we take a genuine interest in others are essential.
6. Gathering people who are sometimes very different from one another into meaningful connection with one another is a great gift we can offer.
7. Hospitality is often best practiced as a community. We ought to enlist others to help us rather than trying to do it all on our own.

-Kyle Parker, Senior Pastor

God's House Kindergarten



We are off to a wonderful start in our preschool program! The year began with lots of smiles and only a few tears, and we are so thankful for the support of our church family. A special thank you to the Outreach Team for providing dinner for our staff on Open House night and for keeping our Keurig stocked—caffeinated teachers help keep the school running! We are also grateful to Catie Lumpkin, Susan Baird, Martha Darden, and Amanda Amerson for their help in making carpool smooth and safe.

We are so blessed by your prayers and support—thank you for walking alongside us in this ministry.



Women's Ministry

WOMEN TO WOMEN FALL BIBLE STUDY

1-2 PETER: LIVING HOPE IN A HARD WORLD
by Lydia Brownback

MONDAYS

2:00 – 3:30 PM

AVPC Conference Room
Childcare not provided

WEDNESDAYS

9:00 – 11:00 AM

AVPC Church Parlor
Childcare provided

WEDNESDAYS

6:00 – 7:30 PM

At the home of Lea Anne Parker
4725 Old Looney Mill Road
Childcare not provided

FRIDAYS

1:00 – 2:30 PM

At the home of Judy Bates
5349 Meadow Garden Lane
Childcare not provided

Monday studies begin August 25, Wednesday studies begin September 3 (morning and evening), and Friday studies begin September 5. Studies will not meet on, Labor Day, September 1.

Questions? Contact Heather Sommer at heather@avpc.org or the AVPC Church Office at 205-967-0680

Study guides are available in the Church Parlor for a cost of \$12.00. You can also pay for the books by scanning the QR code below.



Women's Ministry

SAVE THE DATE

Women's Luncheon September 28

On Sunday, September 28, immediately following the late service, all ladies are invited and encouraged to attend the Women's Fall Luncheon in the Fellowship Hall. No cost and no reservations are necessary. Come enjoy a delicious lunch and fellowship. Childcare is not provided.

Women's Retreat March 6-8, 2026

Please join your AVPC sisters at our 2026 Women's Retreat from March 6 – 8, as we connect in meaningful ways with one another through fellowship, prayer, sharing of the word, and worship. Come strengthen old relationships and build new ones as we seek unity as a body of sisters in Christ.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

It doesn't take a scholar to recognize there is a battle for Biblical literacy all around us. This war is particularly prevalent in the lives of families. When Caleb (22) was young, our sports schedules consisted of maybe one practice and game per week, so our evenings naturally gave way to dinners around the table followed by family devotions and scripture. With four still under our roof, every night we are pulled in numerous directions, often passing one another in the movement. This year, our desire as a Children's Ministry team is to equip you with simple ways to build discipleship into your family life. One of those ways is through a monthly covenant family scripture to memorize or meditate on. Our prayer is that this will be not only a focal point for families, but also intergenerationally throughout our covenant family. These scriptures reflect our sermon themes and focus for the month. Our September memory verse is John 1:14, "And the word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the father full of grace and truth." However, I would challenge you to expand your focus to the entirety of John 1:1-14 as we dive into this Gospel as a church family. We count it a rich gift to partner with you in the discipleship of our AVPC children.

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

AVPC Kids Bridge Night September Volunteer Schedule:

September 7: Children's Ministry Team
September 14: AVPC Elders
September 21: AVPC Deacons
September 28: Boggs Small Group



HYMN SING

Starting Sunday, Sep. 7

From 9:45-10:00 AM each Sunday, starting September 8, children ages toddler through 5th grade are invited to worship as we hear the stories behind our great hymns of faith and anchor their words in our hearts. Children ages toddler through 5K meet in room E-15 of the God's House building. Those in first through fifth grade will meet in the Adult Choir Room.



Youth Ministry News



For the adults reading this, if you strain really hard you might be able to remember (I mean really remember, and feel) the feeling of a new school year. It was a chance for you to come back different than what you were just two months (three months back in our day) prior. It was a time that was ripe with promise, but laden with the fear of the unknown at the same time. Of course, our students and our teachers in the congregation are well acquainted with this reality as they just lived it again. This is one of my favorite times in student ministry as we welcome new sixth graders into our group, which highlights how much everyone else has grown and matured before our eyes. It is a time of newness and refreshment as the seasons start changing and we look forward with anticipation to a fall of fun and fellowship together. As we work with people who are learning so many new things at once and developing rapidly, it is a great reminder of the sanctification taking place in the lives of everyone who follows Jesus as Lord. We have the privilege of having front row seats to the road of sanctification that our students are on as they, in turn, watch us on that same road. Our group is very much like a family, an extension of the wonderful families that we serve, a family that is united through the blood of Jesus Christ.

As we begin a new ministry year, please pray that all of us would grow in looking and living like Jesus this school year. Paul reminds us in Romans 8 that we are predestined to be conformed to the image of Christ, so that He would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. (Romans 8:29) I am thankful for the brothers and sisters we get to minister to and minister with. I am thankful for a church family at AVPC that seeks to serve and love one another well and is open to the Spirit working in and through them to be conformed to the image of Christ. I pray that this fall is a season of beauty and flourishing for each of us individually, and for our church collectively.

Peace,
Clint

Upcoming Events:

September 3 - Small Groups Resume

September 7 - Youth Group Resumes

October 17 - Hockey Night

October 25 - Pumpkin Patch (Junior High)

November 8-9 - Fall Retreat (Senior High)

MEN'S MINISTRY

Men's Prayer Breakfast

September 8
Fellowship Hall
6:30 - 7:30 AM



Men of all ages, join us for a time of breakfast and prayer on Monday, September 8, from 6:30 to 7:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall. Enjoy good food and fellowship with brothers in Christ!

MISSIONS NEWS



2026 MISSIONS CONFERENCE

Be sure to SAVE THE DATE for the 2026 Missions Conference! It will be February 4-8. This conference is for everyone of all ages in our covenant family. The conference theme is "The Harvest Awaits: Pray. Send. Go." and is based on Luke 10: 2-3: **"The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore, pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."** Once again, we will have our Faith Promise supported ambassadors attending from across the globe!

Like the past few years, there will be the opportunity for Small Group dinners on Wednesday and Thursday, the 4th and 5th. It's a time of sweet fellowship and a source of great encouragement to our visiting missionaries! Each year, they share how the Small Group's interactions are a highlight of their time with us.

Friday night is a catered buffet for the AVPC Family followed by a worship service where 3 missionaries share their stories. And don't miss the Children's Flag Parade! Saturday morning is a prayer breakfast where missionaries can go in depth with the great joys and struggles in the field. And we PRAY! It was amazing to see our youth engaged and praying in this format at the last conference. Our missionaries absolutely loved it! Saturday evening is another catered family meal and is followed by a wide ranging Q&A time from our missionary panel (an AVPC favorite!).

On Sunday morning, missionaries will speak and participate throughout the liturgy of both services. Next comes Sunday School classes, from young children to adults, where our missionaries will share more about their ministries in depth. Don't miss out on participating! Every part of the conference is designed so that you can meet, fellowship with, and pray for these faithful servants of Christ! You will be glad you did.

For extra fun and blessings, you can check out a missionary biography from our library. You will be encouraged and challenged by the amazing lives of those who follow God's command to "GO".

SESSION/DIACONATE MINUTES

SESSION MEETING • JULY 15, 2025

- The Missions Team requested approval for four one-time gifts. The requested gifts listed below were approved by with unanimous consent.
 - A one-time gift of \$1,500 to Agron & Elona Sopaj serving with CRU in Albania.
 - A one-time gift of \$1,500 to Hysen Kanani serving with CRU in Albania.
 - A one-time gift of \$1,500 to Keith & Lois Betsch serving with Wycliffe Bible Translators in Southeast Asia.
 - A one-time gift of \$3,500 to Unbound Grace to cover the cost of printing materials.

DIACONATE MEETING • AUGUST 12, 2025

- Facilities Team requested that the Diaconate address the need for an "Emergency Repair Policy" to fund emergency repairs or replacements not to exceed \$20,000 per occurrence for plumbing, water leaks, electrical, and AC items that require immediate attention. This was approved unanimously
- Facilities Team requested an amount not to exceed \$2,400 to purchase and install a water fountain with bottle filler in the Welcome Center Wing to replace the existing unit. Committee recommends that the project be funded out of Capital Reserve Equipment Replacement. This was approved unanimously.

JUNE FINANCIAL REPORT

	BEGINNING BALANCE	INCOME	EXPENSES	TRANSFER	ENDING BALANCE
GENERAL FUND	(\$42,141)	\$157,266	\$128,679	(\$7,537)	(\$21,091)
MISSIONS	\$153,251	\$59,858	\$43,915	\$7,537	\$176,731
TOTAL	\$111,110	\$217,124	\$172,594	\$0	\$155,640