



Greetings,

We are fortunate that our local community, and Virginia as a whole, has seen a continued decline in positive COVID-19 cases, leading the Governor to ease many restrictions that have been in place. Just as it has throughout the pandemic, the Virginia Conference continues to monitor the situation closely and to outline practical steps for local congregations to follow. Our shared goal remains to resume normal activities as soon as possible without doing anything that will put the health of our neighbors and fellow members at Mount Vernon at risk.

Similar to other United Methodist churches in Virginia, Mount Vernon has a Post-COVID Re-Entry Group (PRG) that will guide our next steps. The members of this group are the same individuals who served on our Healthy Church Team that has met throughout the pandemic: Beth Bauman, Steven Gould, Budge Kent, Gary Miller, David Parrish, John Ranson, Jan Sutherland, and myself.

A change that began with the May 30 worship service is that I can now give sermons without wearing a mask, which is in line with guidance from the Bishop. We are evaluating other guidance, particularly as it relates to the continued use of masks by children and adults, to ensure that we are appropriately careful and compassionate.

On the first Sunday of May, we were able to resume having communion (remaining seated in the pews and using individually wrapped elements). An acolyte and crucifer assisted.



The congregation is now allowed to sing (masked), and on May 30, the choir was back to lead the singing in person (masked).

Almost every week we get closer to “back to normal” in our worship services.

In the meantime, the PRG will share updates with the congregation through future newsletters and email communications, and we are grateful for your patience and understanding as we work through what remains a unique set of circumstances for our community.

In Christ,  
Jae W. Cho

### Vacation Bible School 2021 June 21–23

For rising K through rising 6th graders

Because of COVID, this year VBS will be different. Normally, we are very pleased to welcome visitors, and the more the merrier! However, for safety’s sake, this year VBS will be for Mount Vernon children only and held outdoors at Wildwood Lake and at the God’s Storehouse Urban Garden.

**Monday, June 21, and Tuesday, June 22:**  
6–8 p.m. At Wildwood Lake

Children will enjoy a Bible story, music, art projects, and recreation.

**Wednesday, June 23:**  
6–7:30 p.m. At God’s Storehouse Urban Garden

Children and parents will assist with work in the garden and learn how this garden is meeting the needs of local people.



### Easter Offering Update

We are thrilled to report that the 2021 Easter Offering reached the goal of \$4,000.00.

This offering from Mount Vernon will be sent to New Hope Hospital with the goal of improving the health of people in that area of Haiti. Thank you, Mount Vernon, for your financial contributions.



*New Hope Hospital in Plaine-du-Nord, Haiti*

## Mount Vernon Acquires New Audio-Visual Equipment for the Sanctuary

As we were preparing in April to resume in-person services in the sanctuary, we discovered that something – most likely a lightning strike – had damaged some of the audio equipment in the balcony, including the main mixer. Most of that equipment had probably been put in around 1998 or earlier and was beyond repair.

Fortunately we have volunteers such as Dan Waters who understood what was needed. Dan put together a list of what to replace and what to add, in order for Mount Vernon to produce good-quality livestreaming.

“We fell into this at a good time,” Dan said. “A lot of the equipment is now fairly inexpensive compared to just a few years ago.” The mixer and some other parts were replaced, and two high-definition cameras and a computer and software for controlling the equipment were purchased.

We grateful to Dan and to Sonny Morton, Lewis Williamson, Kathryn Waters, Gary Benefield, Tom Underwood,

and everyone who helped to make the necessary changes.

Most of all, we are thankful to all those who have made memorial gifts to the church, which enabled us to do this.

With these changes, the sound in the sanctuary will be enhanced. There are still some glitches to sort out, so please be understanding as our volunteers work through them.

In addition, Mount Vernon now has capabilities that can be used beyond Sunday worship services: any event in the sanctuary, such as a wedding, funeral, or concert, can be recorded or livestreamed in high-quality audio and video. Or, if attendance exceeds seating capacity, people could watch a livestream in the fellowship hall.



### Welcome, Terri!

*My name is Terri McKee and I am the new Mount Vernon Church secretary. I moved here with my husband, Doug, a little over five years ago from Oregon. We came to be of help to my mother-in-law, Rev. Helen McKee, who is now 85.*

*We are loving the “laid back” atmosphere here. Doug currently works at Goodyear and my other work is as a photographer. I have traveled to China and across the United States photographing fashion shows, videos and movies, grabbing behind-the-scenes footage. It has been a fabulous adventure. I also photograph parties, engagements, head shots, and more.*

*Everyone has been so welcoming and friendly. I look forward to meeting each one of you.*

**Note:** Terri is in the office Monday–Thursday, 9 a.m.–noon. Sandi Parker now serves as our Financial Secretary, and works on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday.

### When You Come to the Church on Weekdays ...

If you come to the church during office hours (Monday–Thursday, 9 a.m.–noon), please use the West Main Street door if you can. Ring the buzzer, identify yourself, and say why you are coming in. Our new secretary doesn’t know many Mount Vernon members yet, and she should not let anyone in that she can’t identify. Street parking is usually available near that door.

Even if you have a church key and use it to come in through the fellowship hall door, please buzz and let Terri know that you are coming in and who you are. It is alarming to encounter a “stranger” in the building.



### Flowers for the Sanctuary

Now that in-person worship has resumed, we are offering the opportunity to anyone who would like to sponsor fresh altar flowers for the Sunday service to honor or memorialize a loved one. The donor and honoree information is printed in the bulletin for the service. The flowers may be picked up after

the service, or instructions for their distribution can be given to the Altar Guild.

The flowers are ordered from Giles Flowerland and billed to the donor by Giles. The cost for the two urns is \$90 plus tax. Or if you prefer, you may choose to provide your own flowers.

If you are interested in sponsoring the flowers, please contact Margaret Scott at (434) 251-5310 or [mekscott@comcast.net](mailto:mekscott@comcast.net) for available dates.

# CONGRATULATIONS!

Claire Renee Holden,  
daughter of Dent and Rachel Holden,  
was born on May 3.

Nicholas Richard Rose,  
son of Lauren and David Rose,  
was born on June 1.  
(Grandson of Karen and Gary Miller)



## Godly Play:

Lessons will be posted on the Mount Vernon website ([mtvernumc.org](http://mtvernumc.org)) weekly throughout the summer.

## Excerpt from the Danville District June 3 newsletter:

... In these quickly changing days, I invite each and every one of us to open our spiritual eyes and our physical eyes to see the new thing God is doing in and among us. Don't rush and react, but take the time to discern and discuss, to listen and to learn.

We have learned that CHURCH isn't the building, but it is the people, you and me.

We have learned that keeping connected is important, for our emotional, spiritual, and physical health.

We have learned that we can use technology to reach our beloved ones who can't come to the building AND reach those who may never come into the building.

We have learned that some events and ministries we have always done, can be adapted to new ways and still be meaningful and fruitful – and maybe even more so.

Perhaps God will use all we have learned through COVID to bring new life into our churches and communities, and yes, even into us.

Keep your eyes and hearts and minds open – God will ALWAYS show you the way.

– District Superintendent Denise Bates

## Thank you, Mount Vernon

Members donated snacks and treats for teachers, which were delivered to Park Avenue Elementary on Friday, May 7, as part of Teacher Appreciation week.



Janice Abel, teacher at Park Avenue Elementary School, and Lewis Williamson, Mount Vernon Missions Committee, at the school



When the pandemic hit and everything shut down, for many of us one of the biggest differences in our lives was not going to church at least two or three times a week.

We appreciated everyone who worked to continue our services online, and the Boomers Sunday School Class went right into meeting on Zoom – which has been wonderful for that group! The class has even picked up some new members (everyone is welcome).

Now that COVID restrictions are loosening up at last and we're back in the sanctuary for worship, it means a lot! And even though the seating in the sanctuary is still divided for social distancing, there is room for lots more people. Come back – we'd love to see you, and you'll be glad you did!

– Beth Ranson



## Congratulations to Mount Vernon's Newest Eagle Scout

Brendan deAristizabal, son of Ashley and Beth deAristizabal and grandson of Richard and Betty Turner, has earned the rank of Eagle Scout. A member of Boy Scout Troop 300, which Mount Vernon sponsors, he is a rising senior at Galileo High School. Brendan was recognized on Sunday, June 6, at an Eagle Scout Court of Honor at Mount Vernon.

For his Eagle Scout project, in 2020 Brendan planned, organized, and executed the renovation of the multi-purpose room in the basement of the church. Many groups have the opportunity to use this updated area.

Brendan started on the path to Eagle when he joined Tiger Cubs in first grade as a member of Pack 353 at Sacred Heart School. He moved from Cubs to Webelos and then joined Boy Scout Troop 300.

Brendan has served in many leadership roles and most recently is serving his third term as Senior Patrol Leader. Brendan further earned 29 merit badges and became a member of the Order of the Arrow, which recognizes Scouts who best exemplify the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives. This recognition provides encouragement for others to live these ideals as well.



Brendan plans to continue in Troop 300 as Senior Patrol Leader until he is eighteen and then perhaps as a Youth Leader.



At left: Children's House kids in the renovated space.  
Above: Panorama, multi-purpose room



Mount Vernon's youth try some yoga on the dock at Wildwood Lake, with yogi Leslie Mantiply (one of our youth leaders)

### PASTOR AND STAFF

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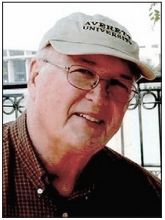
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**Philip Carter**, 74, of Myrtle Beach, S.C., died on May 31. He was born on April 27, 1947, in Danville and served in the Marine Corps from 1969 to 1971. He attended Averett College, Virginia Technical Institute, and Wake Forest University, where he earned an M.S. degree in Math. Phil spent his professional career as a systems developer and data base administrator, working with the Environmental Protection Agency. He married Jan Haley in 1988. They lived in the Raleigh area until retirement in Myrtle Beach in 2014. Phil was the brother of Elizabeth Pomeranz and Catharine Meador; uncle of Robin Woodson; and great uncle of many nieces and nephews.

A Celebration of Life was held on June 3 at Carolina Forest Community Church, Myrtle Beach. A recording is on the Facebook page of McMillan-Small Funeral Home.



**Joan Ripple Clark**, 79, died on June 1 at Duke Univ. Medical Center after a brief illness. She was born in Martinsville, graduated from Fieldale H.S., earned a B.S. degree from Hollins College., and later a B.S. in Medical Technology from Duke University. In 1959, she married

Edwin Clark, and they lived in numerous towns in the Southeast as Ed pursued a career in textiles. They settled in Danville in 1972. At Mount Vernon Church, she played a significant role in the creation of the needlepoint kneelers stitched by members of the congregation. She attended national needlework conferences and won awards for her work, and an ornament she stitched was hung on the White House Christmas tree in 1996. She is survived by her sons, John Clark (wife, Lisa) and Steven Clark (wife, Julie); grandchildren and great-grandchildren.



*Our deepest sympathy*

*To Lester Payne. His brother, Kenneth Payne, died on May 12.*

*To Marlyn Sigmon. Her sister, Garnet Cottrill, died on May 14.*

*To Catharine Meador and Elizabeth Pomeranz. Their brother, Philip Carter, died on May 31.*

*To the family of Joan (Joann) Clark, who died on June 1.*

*To Glenn Giles. His sister, Nancy Robinson, died on June 4.*



At home: **Dorothy Stephens, Bill Hardy, Joyce Johnson, and Berkeley & Van Keck**

At Roman Eagle:  
**Marian Adkins, Tom Darkis**

**June Birthdays**



- 1 Carol Majors  
Emily Whittle
- 4 Max Brande
- 5 Adam Lester
- 6 Jeanne Marie Belanger
- 8 Berkley Furgurson  
Max Glass, Sr.
- 9 Ellen Beville  
Newton Ray, III
- 10 Alan Adkins  
Catherine Bauman Bruggeman
- 11 Coraline Lutz
- 12 Rusty Moore  
Karen Blachura
- 13 Brook McFarland
- 14 Pattie Cairns
- 17 Cami Rudder

- 18 Richard Dunn  
Pat Giles
- 19 Andrew Fitch  
Emma Trent
- 21 Melissa Herke  
Rebecca Lutz
- 22 Donald Turner
- 24 Asher Bennett  
Sawyer Bennett
- 25 Cooper Charles  
Michelle Francis
- 27 Isaiah Woodson  
Noah Woodson
- 28 Robert Sule  
Miles Milligan
- 29 Ralph Kelley  
Hawkins
- 30 Alex Larking



**July Birthdays**

- 3 Marian Adkins  
Earle Garrett, III
- 4 John Ranson  
Edgar Love
- 5 Jenna Rudder
- 6 Tommie Blackmon  
Beth deAristizabal  
Dana Glass  
David Parrish
- 7 Tom Darkis  
Thomas Farley  
Nick Fowler
- 9 Jim Daniel
- 10 Amy Eller
- 11 Jerrye Mayhew  
Mary Wilkes
- 13 Libby Spainhour
- 14 Jae Cho  
Beth Daniels
- 16 Lisa Blackmon  
Christy Robertson  
Baxter Jennings  
Stephen Milam

*A gift in memory of **John Stoneburner** has been received from Donald Turner.*

*Gifts in memory of **Frances Stoneburner** have been received from Wright Garrett and Patricia Maurakis.*

*A gift in memory of **Ruth Waggoner** has been received from Mark & Becky Glass.*

*Gifts in memory of **Gayle Miller** have been received from Anne Geyer, Wright Garrett, Patricia Maurakis, and Budge & Carolyn Kent.*

*A gift in memory of **Beverly Turner** has been received from Patricia Maurakis*

*A gift in memory of **Dawn Smallwood** has been received from Patricia Maurakis.*