



**“Teach me your way, O Lord,  
that I may walk in your truth.” (Psalm 86: 11)**

The image of walking with God is found throughout the Bible as a metaphor for the life of faith.

The Christian spiritual life is a life of walking with Christ in our everyday life. By walking with God we will keep spiritual health, avoid temptation, resist evil, witness the fruit of the Spirit, trust God more, and serve God’s kingdom.

During 2020 we will study essential spiritual practices in worship, teaching, and other settings.

Our goal:

**TO GROW TOGETHER IN THE CHURCH  
THROUGH SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINE**

**The 2020 Bible Challenge  
from Bishop Sharma Lewis**

This year Bishop Lewis is challenging the entire conference to read the Bible with a thematic reading plan. The plan is broken into 18 parts, each 21 days long. You can find all the parts at:

[www.intentionbygrace.com](http://www.intentionbygrace.com)

Bishop Lewis has selected the themes for 2020. We are beginning with:

Jan. 22 - Feb. 11: **Knowing God**

Feb. 12 - Mar. 3: **Intentional Living**

On the Sunday before each 21-day part begins, an insert in the worship bulletin will list the readings for each day.

**Tips on reading the Bible daily:**

- Set aside a specific time and place each day, and stick to it.
- Get a good study Bible to help illuminate the meaning of the original text.
- Pray before you begin, asking the Holy Spirit to give you wisdom and understanding.
- Enjoy the richness of God’s Word and apply it to your life!

**Sunday, February 9**

**Food packaging event at Mount Vernon**

2 p.m.: The GWHS football team will unload the truck and set up the fellowship hall. Others are welcome to come to assist.

3–5 p.m.: **Volunteers (elementary age and up) package food.**

*Nursery provided for young children.*

**Rise**  
**AGAINST HUNGER**  
food community sustainability



## Children's Sabbath

**Sunday, March 15**

Our children will lead the worship service and our speaker will be Dr. Macklin Eugene of Cap Haitien, Haiti. He is the father of Samuel and Krystie Eugene. He will tell us about the hospital he founded where he is currently the medical director. Our children will sing several songs and lead us in worship.

## Children's Spring Musical: "By the Sea"

**Sunday, April 5**

**Kaleidoscope Camp** (for rising 5th – 9th graders)

**June 4–7**

## Appalachia Service Project

(youth & adult mission trip)



**July 19–25**



On behalf of the Finance Committee, I am pleased to report that last month we recommended, and Church Council unanimously approved, a balanced operating budget for the 2020 calendar year. A copy of the budget is available in the church office

during normal operating hours.

Our 2020 budget reflects an increase of approximately \$20,000 in pledged giving over 2019. While a portion of this increase represents a conversion of non-pledged giving to pledged giving, the data available to us suggest that we can still conservatively rely on a healthy amount of non-pledged giving to support the day-to-day operational efforts of Mount Vernon in the coming year. In addition, we are pleased to report that our 2020 budget is balanced without the use of any cash from the Dot Rich Fund.

The increase in giving that I have described, although encouraging, does not mean that we are out of the woods. Even with this increased pledging compared to 2019, balancing the budget still required us to rely on funding sources that, ideally, we would not need to tap. Both Children's House and the Memorials Committee will continue to help Mount Vernon meet its full array of expenses, albeit with lower contributions than we were forced to seek last year. It is crucial that our community remain faithful in sharing its gifts during the current year and beyond.

The Finance Committee will shift to a quarterly meeting schedule in 2020, and we welcome any questions or ideas that you may have. Please do not hesitate to call me (792.2424) or our financial secretary, Evie Jackson (via the church office), to discuss the finances of Mount Vernon.

In closing, thank you for your continued financial support for our operating budget, without which the many good works of our church would not be possible.

– Steven Gould, Chair

## Your Annual Giving Statement

By now everyone should have received an annual giving statement for 2019. If you have any questions or concerns, call Evie Jackson at 434.793.6824.

## Thank you to the Rays

Recently Raywood Garden Center's landscape workers replaced pine straw around the church, gave all the aged shrubbery a deep pruning, and hauled away truckloads of debris. Newton and Martha Ray donated the \$1,700+ cost of the labor and pine straw to the church.

## ASP Fundraiser

**Wednesday, February 26, at 6 p.m.**

**Barbecue dinner  
prepared by Eddie Blachura**

*To support our youth and adult  
summer mission trip*

*You can enjoy barbecue at Mount Vernon  
and then attend the Community Ash Wednesday Service  
(location to be announced).*

## In Our Nursery

After many years of loving care of our nursery children, Belinda Baker has decided it is time to retire. She will be deeply missed.

We are happy to welcome Mil'yada Chaney, who joins Ateaka Harris in our nursery. Mil'yada comes with training and experience in early childhood education.



She is the mother of two young sons, and she teaches with Ateaka in our Children's House toddler class. They make a great team!

Please stop in to tell them "hello" and "welcome."

# wednesday suppers and programs

	MEAL	PROGRAM
Feb. 5	Covered-dish supper	Valentines fun
Feb. 12	Baked spaghetti/veggie lasagna, garlic bread, salad, dessert	Speaker: Rev. Jae Cho
Feb. 29	Rosemary chicken, rice, green beans, bread, dessert	Speaker: Rev. Jae Cho
Feb. 26	<i>Barbecue dinner: Fundraiser for the APPALACHIA SERVICE PROJECT summer mission trip</i>	<i>ASH WEDNESDAY: After dinner, attend the Community Ash Wednesday service (location to be announced).</i>

At the January 22 **Wednesday supper program**, Jim Mullins from the Danville Life Saving Crew demonstrated a simple-to-use and relatively inexpensive (just over \$1,000) defibrillator. By popular demand, Mount Vernon is now in the process of purchasing a defibrillator for the church.

At the January 29 **program**, local author/farmer Bill Guerrant told some fascinating area history as he talked about writing his novel, *Jim Wrenn*. Set in Danville and in the county in the early 1900s through the 1940s, the novel is filled with carefully researched details of life in the textile mills and on tobacco farms, woven into a compelling story. For those who left the program wanting to read the book, it's sold at Karen's Hallmark Shop, the Danville Museum, Main Street Art Collective, and, of course, Amazon.



Serving begins at 6 p.m.

Cost: \$7. Children under 12, no charge.

For covered-dish suppers, there is no charge and no reservation is necessary. Bring something to share.

For all other meals, reserve your dinner at church on the preceding Sunday or by calling the church office (793.6824) by 4 p.m. on Monday.

Programs: 6:30–7:15 p.m.



Several members of our Younger Youth group enjoyed eating out together.

*January 5, 2020:  
Mount Vernon's Aldersgate Choir at "Caroling for a Cause," a benefit concert for Danville Speech and Hearing Center.  
The concert raised \$2,224 for this non-profit outpatient clinic that serves Danville and five surrounding counties. Vocal and handbell choirs from five Methodist and Baptist churches participated.*



## February Birthdays



- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 2 Gayle Miller   | 20 Pat Maurakis<br>Louis Dibrell, III  |
| 3 Matt Charles<br>Kaleigh Longerbeam   | 23 Mary Lou Dunn   |
| 6 Courtney Bailey  | 25 Gary Benefield<br>Sally Fuller<br>Sonny Morton<br>Mac Newell<br>Jordan Sater<br>Elizabeth Scott<br>Turner |
| 7 Jean Gauldin<br>Elizabeth Hylton<br>Pierce Turbiville<br>Susan Turner  | 26 Chris Colbert<br>Steve Jones  |
| 8 Barbara Brande   | 27 Lynn Eller<br>Budge Kent, Jr.<br>Kirk Milam   |
| 9 Cayla Barker<br>Jay Barker<br>Amanda Foster<br>Steve Huff<br>Jane McMillan<br>Nik Tiver Belanger<br>Lewis Williamson | 28 Phil Blackmon<br>Suzanne Harris   |
| 11 Beth Eller  |  |
| 12 Wright Garrett  |  |
| 14 Anna Cho<br>Martha Sule   |  |
| 15 Nancy Rudder<br>Frank Sule  |  |
| 17 Will Anglea<br>Bob Sutter   |  |
| 18 Chris Eller<br>Jenny Sessoms  |  |
| 19 Barbara Caldwell<br>Glenn Giles   |  |

## March Birthdays

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 Parson Jacob Lutz   | 13 Lin Benefield<br>Lauren Foster James<br>Bill Hickson |
| 2 Anne Hatton Mitchell<br>Sam Newell<br>Lauren Tatum<br>Neighbors | 14 Rosalind Morton<br>Zara Zickefoose                   |
| 3 B. G. Lewis, III<br>Judith Terry                                | 15 Susan Swicegood                                      |
| 4 Fran Darkis   | 16 Bill Hood<br>Berkley Keck, Jr.<br>Angela Longerbeam  |
| 5 Caroline Brande<br>Frankie Jean<br>Thomas                       | 17 Henry Thomson  |
|   | 18 James Feldmann<br>Linda Saunders                     |
|   | 19 Don Cairns   |



### FEBRUARY:

Lindsay Payne, Alana Mitchell, Laura Daniel

### MARCH:

Joyce Underwood, Leah Cooter, Ellen Dey

*Gifts in memory of  
Al Hill, Jr.  
have been received from  
Harry & Margaret Milam  
and Pat Maurakis.*



At Blue Ridge Rehab:  
**Betty Jennings**

At Brookdale: **Jean Beach**

At Roman Eagle:

**Betty Adkins, Tom Darkis**

At Commonwealth/Stratford House:  
**Ruth Waggoner**

At home: **Frances Stoneburner,  
Mary Ellen Dean, Bill Hardy,  
Dorothy Stephens, Berkeley & Van  
Keck, Rev. Joyce Johnson**

## Attendance

	8:30	11:00	Total
JAN. 5	33	87	120
JAN. 12	28	79	107
JAN. 19	29	73	102
JAN. 26	23	85	108

## Update on Sale of the Parsonage

The Mount Vernon parsonage, on Stratford Place, is up for sale, and although there has been some interest, to date no acceptable offer has been made. The 90-day contract with Ramsey Yeatts and Associates to sell the parsonage for \$199,000 will lapse on February 5. Therefore, the trustees are extending the contract for another 90 days and reducing the asking price to \$179,000. — *Budge Kent, Chair, Trustees*

## February 27: Deadline for MVC Foundation Scholarship Applications; Also for Requests for Distributions for Ministries



Scholarship applications for the 2020–21 school year are in the church office for students in the Danville–Pittsylvania County–Caswell County area who are pursuing undergraduate degrees. **The deadline for completed applications is Thursday, February 27.** Applications must be hand delivered or postmarked by the due date (no emailed applications).

Requests for distributions for various ministries for grant funds are also **due by February 27** in the Foundation mailbox (located outside of the Hamlin-Buchanan Room).

For further information contact Margaret Scott, 791.4561 or mekscott@comcast.net.



## United Methodist Church Offers Loans and Scholarships

The General Board of Higher Education & Ministry provides millions of dollars in scholarships to students every year.

For detailed information, go to the GBHEM website at: <https://www.gbhem.org/loans-scholarships/scholarships>

To be eligible, a student must be an active, full member of the United Methodist Church for at least one year, be pursuing a degree at an accredited institution within the U.S., have a minimum GPA of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale, and be a full-time student.

The deadline for applications for fall 2020 is **March 3, 2020.**

# MOUNT VERNON UMC LEADERSHIP 2020

## CHURCH COUNCIL

Jan Sutherland, Chair  
John Ranson, Lay Leader  
Budge Kent, Trustees Chair  
Budge Kent, Treasurer  
Steven Gould, Finance Chair  
David Parrish, Staff-Parish Relations Chair  
Margaret Scott, Worship Chair  
Tom Underwood, Gary Benefield, Property Co-Chairs  
Beth Ranson, Evangelism Chair  
Robert Wooding, Missions Chair  
Butch Dalton, Safety  
Melissa Herke, Young Adults Coordinator  
Lindsay Payne, Children's House Board Chair  
Fran Ashby, Memorials Chair  
*To be named*, Children's Council Chair  
Sonny Morton, At-large  
Bill Smith, At-large  
Lin Benefield, At-large  
Rosalind Morton, Acting UMWomen President  
Juliet Cho, Music Director  
Beth Bauman, Children & Youth Director  
Jae Cho, Minister

## TRUSTEES

Budge Kent, Chair  
Terms ending 2020: Jason Payne, John Ranson, Richard Turner  
Terms ending 2021: Ellen Beville, Tommy Hodges, Gary Miller  
Terms ending 2022: Budge Kent, Libby Spainhour, *To be named*

## NOMINATIONS & LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Jae Cho, Chair  
Terms ending 2020: Beth Ranson, Frances McMillan  
Terms ending 2021: Briggs Bauman, *To be named*  
Terms ending 2022: \_\_\_\_\_

## FINANCE

Steven Gould, Chair  
Budge Kent, *Treasurer*; Fran Ashby, *Memorials*; Jim Daniel,  
Frank Davis, Melissa Herke, Ellen Joyce, Ken Larking,  
Charles Majors, Derek Mitchell, Joyce Obstler

## STAFF-PARISH RELATIONS

David Parrish, Chair  
John Ranson, *Lay Leader*  
Ann Hurt, Sonny Morton, Dan Newell, David Parrish,  
Frank Wickers, *To be named*

## PROPERTY

Tom Underwood, Gary Benefield, Co-Chairs  
Butch Dalton, Frank Davis, Howard Lester, John Ranson,  
Chuck Sampson, Darrell Williamson, Peggy Wright (*Parsonage*)

## WORSHIP

Margaret Scott, Chair  
John Ranson, *Lay Leader*; Sam Newell, *Usher Coordinator*;  
Tammy Waters, *Acolyte/Crucifer Coordinator*; Margaret Scott,  
*Flowers Coordinator*; Jan Sutherland, *Altar Guild Coordinator*;  
Terry Deane Harris, Libby Spainhour, Lewis Williamson

## MISSIONS

Robert Wooding, Chair  
Beth Bauman, *Staff*  
Frank Davis, Frances McMillan, Margaret Milam, John Ranson,  
Chuck Sampson, Betty Ann Smith, Jan Sutherland,  
Carol Williamson, Lewis Williamson

## EVANGELISM

Beth Ranson, Chair  
Briggs Bauman, Mary Lou Dunn, Suzanne Fisher, Rosalind Morton,  
Lindsay Payne, Lois McFadden, Linda Sampson, Linda Saunders,  
Gene Saunders, Betty Ann Smith, Tammy Waters, Ann Williamson

## CARING MINISTRY

Catherine Bendall, Chair  
Suzanne Fisher, Frances McMillan, Margaret Milam,  
Rosalind Morton, Vera Stephens, Joyce Underwood,  
Ruth Waggoner, Ann Williamson

## SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT COMMITTEES

### CHILDREN'S COUNCIL

*To be named*, Chair  
Beth Bennett, Laura Daniel, Beth deAristizabal, Elizabeth Hylton,  
Alana Mitchell, Sandra Morales, Beth Bauman, *ex-officio*

### MEMORIALS

Fran Ashby, Chair  
Mary Franks, Joyce Fuquay, Betty Turner

### CHILDREN'S HOUSE BOARD

Lindsay Payne, Chair  
Matthew Switick, Tafton Trent, Elizabeth Ware;  
Lindsey Fehl, *Director*; Beth Bauman, *ex-officio*

## MOUNT VERNON FOUNDATION BOARD

2020: Mary Franks, Margaret Scott, Steven Gould, Karen Miller  
2021: Fran Ashby, Bonnie Griffith, Martha Jo Hodges,  
Ken Larking, Jane O'Neill, Libby Spainhour  
2022: Ken Miller

***Please review this list and let Jae Cho or Lin Benefield know if any corrections should be made. Thank you!***