



## A MUSICAL CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11  
10:00 A.M.

A service of scripture readings, carols, and a nativity presented by our Children, Youth Choir, Aldersgate Ringers, Aldersgate Choir, and instrumentalists Skylar Payne, Braelynn Adams, and Caden Payne, and guest instrumentalists Abby Chism, Heather Taylor, and Robert Sutter.



## CHRISTMAS EVE COMMUNION • CAROLS CANDLELIGHT

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24  
5:30 P.M.

*Nursery provided.*

## VA Conference Welcomes a New Bishop



Our current bishop, Sharma Lewis, has been assigned to the Mississippi Conference and Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson has been assigned to the Virginia Conference, beginning January 1, 2023.

She was elected bishop in 2016 and since then has headed the North Georgia Conference. Her hometown is Lake Wales, Florida. She and her husband, Rev. Allen Johnson, have a daughter who is in college in Florida.

The bishop holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from the University of Florida, a J.D. from the University of Florida College of Law, and a Master of Divinity from Candler School of Theology at Emory University.

Bishop Hauptert-Johnson was a federal law clerk and a litigator with the Tampa law firm of Carlton, Fields before she answered her call to ministry.

She has since served as associate pastor, pastor, and lead pastor at Florida United Methodist churches in Lakeland, Tampa, Cape Coral, and Ocala, and as district superintendent of the North Central District in Florida.



## Stewardship Update

As of November 21:

**Total commitments – 54**

**Total commitment amount – \$215,940.00**

If you haven't already made your pledge but wish to do so, please place your pledge commitment card in the offering plate, mail it, or bring it to the church office so that we can finalize our ministry plans in a spirit of abundance for next year.



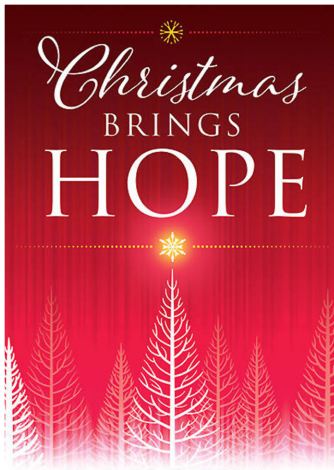
**Saturday, December 10**

\$8.00 per quart

Call the church office (434.793.6824)  
to reserve stew.

Pick up at 11:00 a.m. in the church parking lot.

*Proceeds to support our summer  
mission project*



December 2022

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As a celebration of the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ, our Christmas Offering, which shows love and care for our neighbors in Danville, will go to House of Hope. This organization provides shelter, a bed, and three meals a day to people who for one reason or another don't have a home or a place to go. Reasons are varied: some live with income and expenses that are just about equal. If anything happens such as a job loss, medical expenses, or a car crash and they don't have a support network, they are out on the streets.

Other reasons may be personal problems or addictions. Regardless of the reason, House of Hope provides a place to stay and help to overcome the problems that led to homelessness in the first place.

House of Hope is expanding from 16 beds to roughly three times that many. This expansion will provide women, who are especially vulnerable when homeless, with a completely separate and secure area for them and their children.

#### Testimonials

*Flora Thomas*

I have been a guest at the House of Hope. The shelter has been a safe haven for me. The good people here have provided me with a safe environment where I am able to clean myself and my clothes. They provide good meals and also help with transportation for jobs. The staff here at the shelter treats you like a person, with kindness and respect. I am very thankful to have been able to stay here and I am extremely thankful that I am able to stay here to get my life back on track.

*Larry Fitzgerald*

I became homeless in July 2019, not knowing where I would lay my head or get my next meal. However, someone referred me to the House of Hope at which time they helped me get my life back on track. Now I'm in the process of getting my own place and steady employment. I would like to thank the staff of David Hudson, Garry Underwood, Steve Schilbe, and Dean Gusler for their valuable time and services to this community.

This year, as a church, we have an opportunity to make a huge difference in people's lives with our Christmas offering. Some we will help with shelter, meals, and recovery out of homelessness. For others it will be only shelter and meals. Regardless of outcome, these people need help and we will provide it with our Christmas offering. Our goal is \$4,000. Please bring your donation to church and place it in the offering plate, or mail it to Mount Vernon Church, 107 W. Main Street, Danville VA 24541. In the memo line of the check, put "Christmas Offering" or "House of Hope."

May peace and grace be with you all this Christmas,

Chuck Sampson, Missions Chair

*This is the testimony: God has given us eternal life.  
And this life is in his Son. 1 John 5:11 (NIV)*

## Three Members Received into Our Church Family

Mount Vernon received three members on November 20, and Ellie Gould was baptized. (See last page for baptism photo.)

All three have been attending Mount Vernon for some time, but be sure to welcome them to the “official” church family.



Above: Jim and Shelly Barber (Megan Gould's parents, who moved here from the Atlanta area)



At left: Jae Cho with Gayle Plott (mother of Laura Daniel)

## Re-Imagining Mount Vernon's Future

A good bit of progress has been made on developing a new vision for the ministries of Mount Vernon United Methodist Church. The Steering Committee appreciates all those who took time to respond to the membership questionnaire. The results of that survey have guided the thinking of the committee as we prayerfully seek the guidance of God's Holy Spirit in discerning how to be the church of the 21st century.

A draft document entitled “Making Disciples, Being Disciples: A New Season of Hope” is in its second iteration. This calls for Mount Vernon to renew its dedication to the core mission of the church. To do so, it proposes a new streamlined structure designed to keep ministry at the fore in all that Mount Vernon does.

In the days and weeks ahead, you will be hearing more about this vision from members of the Steering Committee. In the meantime, we invite you to pray for the continued guidance of God's Holy Spirit.

I hope that you and yours will have a truly blessed Christmas season!

Peace,  
Paul Baker, Retired Pastor



We continue to love and work to reach out to all of our church family and visitors.

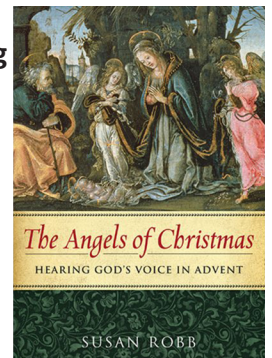
Welcome to Gayle Plott and to Jim and Shelly Barber, who recently joined our church. We invite them and anyone who is interested to join the Boomers Sunday school class, a discussion class that studies books dealing with our Christian journey. The class meets by Zoom on Sundays at 1 p.m. and will soon start a new book, so it's a great time to join in.

Thank you to Beth Payne, who planned a lovely reception for our new members.

## Wednesday Dinners and Bible Study

### December 7:

**Covered Dish (Bring a dish to share. No charge.)** Reverend Cho will continue leading the Advent Bible Study, based on *The Angels of Christmas*.



### December 14:

**Our church Christmas Dinner!** Followed by the last segment of the Advent Bible Study and some Christmas carol singing.

Cost – \$8 adults; \$5 children  
\$24 max per family

Call the church office, 434.793.6824, by Tuesday, Dec. 12, to reserve.

*If you are able to help with table setting or serving, prepare a dessert, or help with cleaning up, please contact Joyce Underwood, 434.548.1444.*

Please continue to join me in prayer for our church and our Wednesday dinners during the coming months.

– Joyce Underwood, Evangelism Chair





**49th Holiday Tour to Include  
Mount Vernon Church in  
"A New Look at the Old West End"  
Danville Historial Society  
Saturday, December 10 • 11 a.m.– 5 p.m.**

Go inside eleven fascinating historic properties in the Old West End, starting the walking tour from the Danville Museum of Fine Arts and History or the Langhorne House. It includes a Main Street mansion, two historic houses, two cottages, two churches, and more.

Tickets on the day of the event are \$25 and must be purchased at the Museum. Purchase tickets in advance (\$20) at Karen's Hallmark, Ginger Bread House, Rippe's, or Vintages by the Dan.

**December Birthdays**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 Emma Tatum Rich   | 22 Christian Clifton   |
| 2 Betty Ann Berry<br>Bill Fuller  | 23 Howard Lester   |
| 3 Brad Hodges   | 24 Ashley Marley<br>Ann Williamson                             |
| 4 Caroline Hylton   | 25 Catharine Meador<br>Whit Williamson                         |
| 5 Kate Newell   | 27 John Cornett  |
| 6 June Thomas   | 28 Fran Ashby  |
| 8 Suzanne Fisher<br>Sam Swanson, Jr.  | 29 Thomas Booker<br>Mark Milam<br>Ann Stuart Ray               |
| 9 Stephen Daniel  | 31 Emily Bennett   |
| 13 Robin Crews<br>Kathy Fowler<br>Jim Moyer   |  |
| 14 Eric Bucklew<br>Christine Ethington<br>Clinton Wickers<br>Joe Cornett<br>Robin Woodson | <b>January</b>   |
| 16 Jan Sutherland   | 2 Catherine Adkins   |
| 17 Michael Chandler<br>Emily Hylton   | 4 Paige Johnson  |
| 20 Margaret Scott   | 6 Kathryn Baer<br>Dent Holden<br>Remmus Milligan<br>Amy Echols |
| 21 Lois MacFadden   | 7 Bonnie Griffith  |
|   | 8 Karen Miller   |
|   | 10 Ann Hurt  |

I am feeling a little better and want to thank you for continuing to attend and supporting our Church during these very difficult times. I regret I have been unable to attend and miss you all very much.

I have been a member and supporter of Mount Vernon for over 60 years. My children grew up in that Church and my husband was buried from there. I enjoyed serving on committees, working Wednesday night dinners, and a host of other activities. The Church has been a great joy for me and my family.

I have been able to keep somewhat in touch through on-line services and Lin's wonderful newsletter. Thank you for all the prayers and support I have received! Please do not give up your hopes and efforts. Mount Vernon is worth saving.

*Frances McMillan and family*



*Our thoughts and prayers are with you.*

Philip Blackmon, Bill Hardy, Betty Yates  
Dorothy Stephens, Peggy Handy, Pat Giles,  
The Rev. Joyce Johnson, Mary Ellen Dean



*November, 2022: The monthly Communion service at Stratford House, provided by Jae Cho, assisted by Ann Williamson, Suzanne Fisher, and Jan Sutherland*



We await once more the coming of the Christ child.

A symbol of the season is the Advent wreath, a symbol of life without end. The lighting of a candle on the wreath each week during Advent marks our

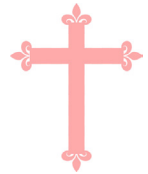
journey through the four weeks. Hope! Joy! Peace! We look with hope for the second coming of Christ. We pray for the light of Christ to fill us with joy and peace in believing.

*Thank you to Peggy Wright, who makes the beautiful boxwood Advent wreath for the sanctuary each year.*



### Mount Vernon Sends Cleaning Kits to Charge Conference

Bishop Sharma Lewis issued a call for every Virginia United Methodist Church to assemble UMCOR cleaning kits to assist survivors of recent natural disasters that have impacted millions of people. Cost of each kit was approximately \$75. Our pastor and church leaders took our five kits to the Charge Conference meeting in Lynchburg to put with the thousands prepared by other churches in Virginia. Thanks to all who participated in this project.



November 20, 2022:  
Baptism of Elizabeth Carter Gould, daughter of Megan and Steven Gould

### Youth and Children's Ministry

Our youth meet on Sunday nights and our children on Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights – to build Christian community, learn the stories of our faith, have fun with games and art projects, share joys and concerns, and pray for one another. On Sunday nights, John Ranson, Leslie

Mantipty, and Dent Holden provide valuable leadership with our youth. On Wednesday nights, I appreciate the assistance of Skylar Payne, Caden Payne, and Krystie Eugene with the children, as their schedules permit.

– Beth Bauman

