



Steering Committee to Present Vision for Mount Vernon Church

Jesus commissioned his followers to “make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you” (Matthew 28:19-20). These words of our Savior have guided the work of the church from its earliest days and provide the scriptural foundation for the mission of the worldwide United Methodist Church. The vision steering committee has felt the nudging of God’s Holy Spirit to move forward with renewed focus on this Great Commission of our Lord.

The final meeting of the steering committee is slated for the second full week in January. You thus should anticipate seeing the entire vision/plan and engaging in further discussion about its implementation over the next several months.

It has been my great privilege and blessing to get to know Mount Vernon better over this past year. I am heartened by your faithful dedication to God’s call on your lives, and I am convinced that God will bless your continued efforts to make disciples of Jesus and to reach out to the Danville community and beyond as the hands, feet, eyes, and ears of Christ into the future.

My prayers join with yours as we work to build God’s eternal kingdom in the days ahead.

Peace,
Paul Baker
Retired Pastor



The 2022 Advent Offering

will be used to show love and care for for neighbors here in Danville.

It will go to the House of Hope.

So far, we have raised \$3,535.00.

Our goal is \$4,000.00.

If you have not had a chance to contribute, it’s not too late!

Mount Vernon UMC Foundation 2023/2024 Scholarships and Grants

Mount Vernon United Methodist Church Foundation distributes all of its net income annually. A limited amount of scholarship funds for students in the Danville–Pittsylvania County–Caswell County area pursuing undergraduate degrees will be awarded. Awards will be made based on a combination of financial need, academic merit, and community involvement.

Other Foundation distributions are made to worthy causes, some as directed by our donors, while others are approved requests for various ministries.

The deadline for submitting completed scholarship applications is Tuesday, February 28.



Applications must be hand delivered or postmarked by the due date (no emailed applications). Download applications from the church website at mtvernonumc.org.

Requests for distributions for various ministries for grant funds are also due by February 28 in the Foundation mailbox (located outside the Hamlin-Buchanan Room).

See below (“Looking for Scholarships?”) for information about United Methodist Church scholarships offered by GBHEM (General Board of Higher Education and Ministry).

Stewardship Update

As of December 28, 2022:

Total commitments – 65

Total commitment amount – \$254,340.00

Last year, the pledged amount was \$251,316.00 and \$211,783.11 was actually given.

For the past several years our giving has not met our expenses. Our financial giving must increase if we are to continue to be the church we want to be and can be. Will you partner with God and prayerfully consider increasing your giving, and discover the joy of his partnership of love and service to the world?

Thank you for your continued support.

In Christ,
Jae Cho

Since 2020, Mount Vernon Church has been in a partnership with **Dr. Maklin Eugene**, who is the Medical Director of New Hope Hospital in Cap-Haitien, Haiti. Once again, our Easter offering in 2023 will benefit the hospital.

Lude Labieville, Wanda Musgrave, Maklin Eugene, Krystie Eugene, Samuel Eugene, and Bill Musgrave



On December 15, we were very pleased to welcome Dr. Eugene (father of Samuel and Krystie Eugene) and Bill and Wanda Musgrave of Charlotte to our worship service. Wanda is the Executive Director of **Partners 4 New Hope**, the nonprofit that benefits the hospital and other ministries.



Mount Vernon and community members gathered to hear Dr. Eugene tell about the hospital and other ministries he heads.



Happy New Year!

Reflecting on 2022, our church had many blessings ... our reconnection brunch, church picnic, Wednesday Dinners, and the beautiful and inspiring "Musical Celebration of Christmas" service on Dec. 11 and the Christmas Eve service. Thank you to each of you who prayed for, helped with, and were there with your church family. Looking into 2023, I look forward to new adventures.

On Saturday, January 21, we plan to take the church bus to DPAC (Durham Performing Arts Center) to see "**Come from Away**" at the 2 p.m. showing. If you would like to join us, please call me to reserve a spot on the bus and then purchase your tickets from Ticketmaster.

Plans are being discussed for resuming our **Wednesday Dinners**. At this time, no dinners are planned for January. The unpredictability of the weather and spread of germs are the factors that led me to make this decision. Look for more information about Wednesday Dinners after the Evangelism Committee meets on January 10.

**Save this date:
Sunday, February 12!**

We are planning a special treat: a **Valentine's Lunch** after the 10 a.m. service. The menu will be lasagna from La Nostra Cucina. And a Valentine surprise awaits after the meal.



We Love Because Christ First Loved Us!

Blessings,
Joyce Underwood, Evangelism Chair
uwood517@comcast.net

Boy Scout Troop 300 held their last Court of Honor at our church on December 20. As usual for this fine troop, a lot of Merit Badges and Advancements were given out. A total of 29 Merit Badges were awarded, and 6 Scouts advanced in rank. Their 63rd Eagle Scout was announced. Assistant Scoutmaster Charles Crumpler, Troop Committee Chairman Mark Mills, and Chartered Organization Representative Ashley DeAristizabal were also recognized.

Rev. Jae Cho and Jan Sutherland attended the Court of Honor, as well as Ty Lavalley, our new Dan River District Executive for the Blue Ridge Mountains Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

Jae, Jan, and Ty join me in awarding a plaque from our church to Scoutmaster Randy McDaniel for his 10 years of outstanding leadership of Troop 300.



This wonderful troop has been a part of our youth program for over 47 years. They participated in CROP Walks, marched in Veterans Day and Christmas parades, collected food for the needy, and helped place flags for Memorial Day on the approximately 2,300 graves of veterans in the Danville National Cemetery. As in past years, in December they set up a great display on Scouting at our Community Holiday Show.

One Scout, Brendan DeAristizabal, as his Eagle Project, raised funds and spent about 600 hours completely renovating Mount Vernon's downstairs Youth Room.

I can certainly say that in my 34 years in Scouting and the last 15 as a Commissioner, Troop 300 is one of the most respected, dedicated, and successful Boy Scout troops I have ever worked with. We wish for them Godspeed and much success as they move to their new Chartered Organization at West Main Baptist Church.

– Bill Smith, Assistant District Commissioner
Boy Scouts of America

My Musical Journey and Philosophy

By Juliet Cho

Hello, Mount Vernon family! I am Juliet Cho, the music director. Serving Mount Vernon for the last three years has been my joy and honor. I was excited to work with competent and well-trained choir members and ringers. May you and your family be filled with the grace and peace of God in the New Year. Beginning now, with the New Year, I would like to share my music stories. For three months, I will let you hear what I learned and experienced in music. I hope it will help enhance your understanding of music and enrich your life with music, God's wonderful gift.

My musical journey started with a piano lesson at age 6. My father was a minister, and my parents were not able to afford to provide private piano lessons for me. One day, I brought my piggy bank to my mom and asked her if I could get piano lessons only for a month. I began my piano lessons with the money in the piggy bank.

At age 10, I accompanied services at the church my father was ministering to, and my life as a church musician started then. I wanted to attend a music college to become a professional musician, but my father banned my plan because of financial issues. To enter music college, I needed to get more private lessons at a high cost.

In my childhood, I admired Albert Schweitzer and dreamed of being a doctor, a musician, and a missionary like him, after reading his autobiography. After considering between being a doctor and a musician, I eventually chose to be a musician.

I grew up being educated in classical music, and all the music I played was Western art music. For me, good music was a perfect artistic reproduction of this music without flaws. I threw the recordings of performances with out-of-pitch or irregular beats into the trash. My undergraduate school was the top-ranked university in South Korea, and only students in the top one percent of the nation could enter it. I met professors and students considered the best in the nation, but I started feeling skeptical about their elitism. They seemed to live in a bubble that thought only classical music was the best. My interests in music shifted to other nations and genres of music. I was interested in Ethnomusicology and learned jazz, Korean traditional music, and Indian music. Also, I traveled to some countries on mission trips, such as Chile, Kenya, Thailand, Israel, Palestine, Japan, and China. I wrote my graduation thesis about African music.

I studied music therapy in graduate school, and my music philosophy was entirely changed. I focused on the practical

and therapeutic use of music and the importance of the music-making process with amateurs ranging from ordinary people to people with disabilities or mental illnesses.

While studying music education for my second Master's degree here, I found that the paradigm shifts I experienced had also happened in American music education. In the 1970s, music education was focused on aesthetic philosophy, emphasizing music listening and limited to Western art music. The 1990s provided a new theory, called praxial music education, which called for enhancing musical enjoyment, self-growth, and self-esteem through various musical "doing" using diverse music. The need for multicultural perspectives had already emerged in the 1980s, as educators and ethnomusicologists worked together. Since then, praxial philosophy and multicultural perspectives have continued to affect music education curricula and pedagogies.

I have a vision of the Bible verse, "After this, I looked, and there was a great crowd that no one could number. They were from every nation, tribe, people, and language. They were standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They wore white robes and held palm branches in their hands. They cried out with a loud voice: Victory belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb" (Rev. 7: 9-10). Have you ever thought about what you would do in heaven? Revelation shows several worship scenes in heaven. Have you ever thought you would join the worship in heaven?

You would worship with people from every nation, tribe, and language – people with multicultural backgrounds.

I joined the local worship services when I traveled to the countries I mentioned above. Kenyans worshiped by singing and dancing for two or three hours. Palestinians praised the Lord with their Arabian sounds. In China's underground churches, people came by transportation for hours and worshiped with only their voices to avoid being caught by the Chinese police. Are you ready to respect that kind of service?

My call is to prepare people for heavenly worship, which comes on earth as it is in heaven. People need to respect others' cultures and be open-minded to others for it. That is why I pursue diversity in our worship service. We already live in a perfect place to practice it because the United States is multicultural, the so-called "melting pot."



Advent and Christmas at Mount Vernon



Children's House Christmas Pageant

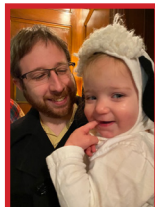


Members of our youth group enjoyed preparing dinner for the clients at the House of Hope ...

and caroling for some of our church friends we do not get to see regularly.



The knitting group contributed 40 crocheted and knitted items to the House of Hope. Our members made 15 scarves, 6 hats, and 19 lap robes.



"Musical Celebration of Christmas" – Dec. 11



*Christmas Eve
Candlelight
Communion Service*

*A gift in memory of **Fred & Shirley Duncan** has been received from Robin Hasty.*

*Gifts in memory of **Frances McMillan** have been received from Margaret Harden, Amy Munson, Jessie Mayhew, Pat Maurakis, Don & Linda Wintrode, Budge & Carolyn Kent, Darrell & Ann Williamson, Donald & Pattie Cairns, Jim & Susan Daniel, and Charles & Carol Majors*

*A gift in memory of **Eleanor Cuthrell** has been received from Frank Cuthrell.*

*A gift in memory of **Robert Wooding** has been received from Margaret Wooding.*



Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

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



January Birthdays

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 Bernard Thomas | 22 Sandra Keck |
| 2 Catherine Adkins | 24 Carolyn Kent |
| 4 Paige Johnson | Darrell Williamson |
| 5 Lee Searcey | 25 Jeff Ashby |
| 6 Kathryn Baer | Beth Bauman |
| Dent Holden | 26 Patrick Eller |
| Remmus Milligan | Bill Gammon |
| Cheryl Sule | 27 Marlyn Sigmon |
| Amy Echols | Carey Wilkes |
| 7 Bonnie Griffith | 28 Hugh Stoneburner |
| 8 Karen Miller | 29 Gordon Brooks Powell, IV |
| 10 Ann Hurt | 31 Martha Evans Ray |
| 11 Katherine Daniel | Peggy Wright |
| 13 Leah Cooter | |
| 14 Patsi Compton | |
| Joyce Fuquay | |
| John Hungarland | |
| Stephanie Keck | |
| 15 Terry Deane Harris | |
| 16 Anna Blackmon Baer | |
| Joanne Bucklew | |
| John Hiltzheimer | |
| Brady Woodson | |
| 17 Tom Grogan | |
| 20 Trae Meder | |
| 21 Robert McFarland, II | |

February

- | |
|--------------------|
| 3 Kaleigh Longbeam |
| 6 Courtney Bailey |
| 7 Jean Gauldin |
| Elizabeth Hylton |
| Pierce Turbiville |
| Susan Turner |
| 9 Cayla Barker |
| Jay Barker |
| Amanda Foster |
| Jane McMillan |
| Nik Tiver Belanger |
| Lewis Williamson |

Looking for Scholarships?

Are you aware that the UMC has scholarships to help UM students further their education? More than 70 scholarships that cover undergraduate and graduate level studies are currently available. Applications are open now through March 23.



GBHEM Scholarships awards an average of \$5.5 million each year to help students pursue their dreams through higher education. GBHEM (General Board of Higher Education and Ministry) scholarships open pathways for students of all backgrounds to serve as the next generation of leaders for the church and the world.

You can submit only one application per year. It will be screened for all possible eligible programs. Scholarship programs are divided into three categories:

General Scholarships Racial-Ethnic Scholarships
Ministry as a Career Scholarships

Funding for the scholarships is made possible through the generosity of our fellow United Methodists and through decades of sound financial stewardship by our agency.

For full information and application form, see <https://www.gbhem.org/scholarships>.



Frances Reese McMillan, the daughter of the late Arthur Jefferson Reese and Janie Bryan Reese, was born on May 6, 1932, in Portsmouth, Va., and grew up in Hamlet, N.C. She married Neill K. McMillan in 1955, and they moved to Danville in 1958. She worked for the Social Security

Administration and taught in the public schools. Frances was a graduate of Averett College. Upon her husband's death in 1978, she took over the management of his radio station, WILA, until her retirement in 1992.

Frances was a long-time member of Mount Vernon Church, serving on a variety of boards and committees in the church. She was also a member of the Wednesday Club and served on numerous boards of civic and charitable organizations. She was the recipient of the Jane Harris Memorial Award.

Frances loved her family, and she enjoyed traveling, reading, gardening, playing bridge, and spending time at her home in Holden Beach. She also had a great love of cats and was a collector of cat memorabilia.

She is survived by two sons, Neill Kirby McMillan Jr. and his wife, Adaire, of Camp Dennison, Ohio, and Arthur Reese McMillan and his wife, Jenny Morris, of Raleigh, N.C.; her daughter, Jane Holden McMillan of Danville, Va.; two grandsons; and a great-granddaughter.

A celebration of her life was held on December 23, 2022, at Mount Vernon Church.



The stew sale benefits our youth Appalachia Service Project (ASP) summer mission trip.

Cooking Mount Vernon's Brunswick stew starts before daylight



Many thanks...

To all who supported our Dec. 10 Brunswick Stew! We appreciate Dan Waters, Stewmaster; Tammy Waters, his capable assistant; and the adult and youth volunteers who made this project happen to benefit people who are living in substandard housing. And thank you to everyone who purchased stew – we sold out!

