



New Members Class Forming Soon

Becoming a member of a church can be a life-changing decision. The preaching, teaching, fellowship, opportunities to use our gifts, and mutual accountability that we experience in a church can dramatically change our relationship with the Lord and with the people in our life.

We are forming a new adult members class that will be held in March. We believe it's important and helpful for new members to have a common understanding of our beliefs, history, culture, practices, and expectations. For this reason, we would like to invite those who are interested in learning or reviewing the



foundations of our faith. You can also refer anyone who might be interested.

Here are the steps you can take to become a member of Mount Vernon:

- Complete a New Member Registration Form
- Complete an online Spiritual Gifts Tool before you attend a New Members Class
- Attend a virtual New Members Class
- Be baptized and make a profession of faith (if you have not already done this at some point in your lifetime)
- Take the vows of membership during a weekend worship service.

Please take time to pray before making your decision. We are here to help you if you have any questions. Please contact me or one of our staff to move forward in becoming a member of Mount Vernon.

PASTOR AND STAFF CONTACTS

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Confirmation Class

Last year, we started a Confirmation class in March. After only one class, the church had to close the public worship services and all meetings due to the pandemic.

By the grace of God, we were able to resume the class in January. This time we are meeting virtually. I must say that this has been an amazing journey for the students and myself. It feels like God has opened my eyes to see that he is still actively working in our lives.

Maybe I am a bit biased, but our students are so precious. Currently, six students are attending the class. They are diligent and faithful and don't miss a class unless they have a family trip. They are thoughtful, polite, and smart. It is amazing to see how teenagers can be deep thinkers. They surely are the future of Mount Vernon. I am really excited to see how they will become the best they can be.

Confirmation is a time of owning for one's self the responsibility of surrendering one's life to God. I am grateful to be a part of this amazing journey and thankful to witness our students making a

commitment to be a faithful steward of Christ. The reward of leading this class is so great. It makes me happy and gives me a feeling of worth as a pastor.

On Easter Sunday, April 4, we will celebrate their Rite of Confirmation. We ask for your prayer and support. I look forward to Easter Sunday.

Jae W. Cho



Children's Easter Workshop

Sunday, March 28: 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Bauman's house at Wildwood

We'll have art projects, story time,
games, and an Easter Egg Hunt!

For children in kindergarten through 5th grade.

Our children continue to meet on Sunday
mornings for Godly Play on Zoom.

The Confirmation Class is meeting online on
Sunday nights with Jae.

Our older youth continue with Zoom meetings on
Sunday nights and are looking forward to some
outside activities when the weather is better.



Are you missing the Wednesday fellowship
time?

There's been talk of doing something on
Wednesday nights. We could play games
or have a devotional or maybe both. This
would be online (Zoom). If you're interested or have
suggestions, please get in touch with Beth Ranson,
770-7331 or 797-2345!

Thank You, Mount Vernon

Dear Members:

Thank you doesn't seem like enough to show our
appreciation to Mount Vernon UMC for your continued
support of our mission. The time, talents, and gifts that
your church members have
given to DPC Habitat for
Humanity are very much appreciated! We couldn't
have done our work without your dedicated help! The
Deshazor family thanks you, too.

Kim Baldrige, Executive Director
Danville-Pittsylvania County Habitat for Humanity



Thank you for your contribution
to help God's work at the Henry
Fork Service Center. The hats,
gloves, and mittens from the
Knitting Group were beautiful. The paper towels, toilet
paper, and cleaning supplies were much needed. May
you be blessed by God's love!



*Mount Vernon Church rejoices
with Steven and Megan Gould, whose son,
Julian Palmer Gould,
was baptized on February 25.
Julian was born on October 4, 2020.*

Help with COVID Vaccine Sign-Up Available

If you are in group 1b (anyone 65+ years old), you are
eligible to get the vaccine, and you may pre-register
online. Vaccine supplies are extremely limited at this
time, but as the vaccine supply improves, you will be
contacted to schedule an appointment to get the shots.

Call Lin Benefield (797-1966) if you need help with
this online pre-registration. She will get some basic
information from you (birth date, Medicare number,
and your phone number) and do the online pre-
registration for you.

This Virginia Department of Health central registration
site now handles *all* vaccine appointments except
those at pharmacies such as CVS.

General Conference Postponed until 2022

General Conference organizers announced that our
denomination's top lawmaking assembly — long
postponed by the pandemic — must wait another year
to meet.

The global gathering is now scheduled for August 29
through September 6, 2022, in Minneapolis.



February 25, 2021

*To our brothers and sisters in Christ at Mount Vernon UMC
From the Missions Committee*

During this Lenten season it is important we take time to consider what we are doing to serve Christ, not only in our own lives but through the work of others who have dedicated themselves to serving God's children throughout the world. This year's Easter offering will go to the New Hope Hospital located in Plaine-du-Nord, Haiti, serving a population of 250,000 people. Dr. Maklin Eugene is the executive director of the New Hope Hospital, completed in October, 2016.

Today, New Hope serves over 200 patients per day. It is located in the central area of Plaine-du-Nord, easily accessible to the surrounding communities. Doctors from local clinics regularly thank Dr. Eugene, telling him that they are now less overwhelmed with patients and can provide better care since the hospital opened. What truly makes this hospital different is that, thanks to supporters like you, New Hope is able to serve the low-income population (earning less than \$1.25 per day) regardless of their ability to pay.

The New Hope Hospital serves people in several ways. First, people who can afford care can get it without traveling three hours on bad roads. Previously to get to the closest hospital, the 250,000 people of Plaine-du-Nord had to pay for expensive taxis or take a painfully slow motorbike. Even if they could make the journey, many were turned away if they could not afford care. Second, many low-income people, who cannot afford the travel or care, can get it thanks to donations like ours. Third, the hospital will contribute to the overall good of the community. People with good medical care are healthy and able to work and contribute, thus raising the living standard of the area.



Dr. Eugene is the father of Samuel and Krystie Eugene, who are living with Lude Labieville, their aunt, and her family. We are so blessed to have them living among us, as their father and mother serve the poor in a challenging setting. When the pandemic is over, it is our hope to send a medical team to New Hope Hospital to assist with the ministry. In normal times, teams from Charlotte, Charlottesville, and other cities travel regularly to New Hope, and many United Methodist churches are partners with this ministry.

It is our goal during this Lenten season to raise \$4,000 for New Hope Hospital. We ask that you prayerfully consider your offering for this season and respond by Easter Sunday, April 4. Please indicate "Easter Offering" on the memo line of your check.



PHOTO BY CARMENSHEK



Meet Xaver Wilhelmy:

- Inventor, designer, and certified pipe organ builder
- The first in the world to create organ pipes from glass
- The man who takes care of Mount Vernon's historic pipe organ

Xaver created the glass pipe organ shown at left after the September 11 attacks. His original concept was an organ with one glass pipe to represent each of the voices permanently silenced in that tragedy. The version shown is a series of 14 glass flue organ pipes that he made using kiln-working, precision stained-glass techniques, and delicate pipe organ engineering.

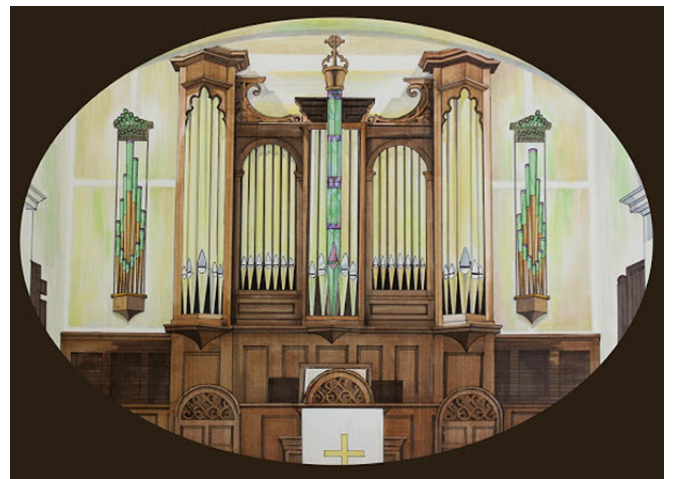
But at Mount Vernon, we know Xaver as the person who spends hours—sometimes days—keeping our 169-year-old pipe organ tuned and working. That seems like no small feat considering that the organ has 1,724 pipes (up to 16 feet long) in 34 ranks, and 34 speaking stops, along with strange-sounding parts such as windchests and bellows.

Xaver, who is from Austria, trained there as a pipe organ builder and continued his education in Germany and South Africa. He immigrated to the United States in 1994 and currently is the pipe organ builder at Geshenke aus Glas, in Staunton, Va., and the founder of the Wilhelmy School, which is “dedicated to passing on the fundamentals of pipe organ building and innovation in order to preserve, conserve, and improve upon the most remarkable instrument ever created.”

Mount Vernon's pipe organ was originally built around 1862 for the First Congregational Church in Cambridge, Mass., said to be the oldest Congregational congregation in America. The builder was William Benjamin Dearborn Simmons, who was the most fashionable Boston builder of the day. Sadly for his legacy, most of his organs went to wealthy churches who tended to buy new organs as the fashions changed, with the result that only a few of his organs survive. Mount Vernon is fortunate to have one.

It was carefully restored and was enlarged with new stops patterned after Simmons' style. I had the pleasure of working on this organ, but a special privilege for me was the forming of lasting, highly enjoyable friendships with members of Mount Vernon.

— George Bozeman



Mount Vernon's pipe organ,

shown here with added stained-glass pipes, is included on the website of Geshenke aus Glas, as an example of how glass could be brought into pipe organ design, uniting stained glass elsewhere in the sanctuary with the instrument visually. “The exceptionally beautiful chestnut casework of this instrument is at home in a church where there are glorious stained-glass windows along the other three walls of the sanctuary and in the ceiling.”



Our deepest sympathy

*To Ron Allen and family,
in the death of Neil Allen, on January 26.*

*To Laura Daniel and her family, in the death of
her stepfather, Frank Plott, on January 31.*

*To Laura Beasley and family,
in the death of Michael Beasley,
on February 3.*

*To Brian and Robin Woodson and family,
in the death of Brian's stepfather,
Stephen Taylor, on February 15.*

*To Mary Ellen Dean and her family,
in the death of her granddaughter,
Dawn Smallwood, on February 24.*

*A gift in memory of **Frank Plott**
(stepfather of Laura Daniel) has been received
from Derek & Alana Mitchell.*

*Gifts in memory of **William B. Stephens Jr**
have been received from
American National Bank & Trust Company
and John & Gayle Morris.*

*Gifts in memory of **Betty Jennings**
have been received from Ross & Linda Gale,
Anne Shelton Lee, M.A. & Carol Caplan,
John & Gayle Morris, Catherine Bendall,
Patricia Maurakis, Donald & Beverly Turner,
Beth & Dick Lunney, J.G. & Ann Hurt,
Richard & Betty Turner, Sharon Bohannon,
Andrea Coleman, David & Dorothy Lewis, and
Darrell and Ann Williamson.*

*A gift in honor of **Lin Benefield**
has been received from William "Lyn" Eller.*



March Birthdays

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 Parson Jacob Lutz | 20 Valerie Booker |
| 2 Anne Hatton Mitchell
Sam Newell
Lauren Harless | Patti Clifton
Tafton Trent |
| 3 B. G. Lewis, III
Judith Terry | 21 Guy Cooter
Bill Cornett
"T" Leggett
Ashley Strader |
| 4 Fran Darkis | 20 James L. Thompson |
| 5 Caroline Brande
Frankie Jean Thomas
Anne Wayne Patterson | 22 Ella Weber |
| 6 Sandy Burch
Shirley Duncan
Margaret Harden | 23 Phillip Kirkland |
| 7 Lauren Miller
Robert Wooding | 24 Christopher Waters
Patrick Adkins |
| 8 Jan Lester | 26 Jean Wilt |
| 10 Louise Anderson
Michael Compton
Todd Fowler
Elizabeth Payne | 27 Harriett Cook
Sara Garrett |
| 11 Ashley Acker
Weber Harris
Matt Parrish | 28 Faith Newell |
| 13 Lin Benefield
Lauren Foster James
Bill Hickson | 29 Allison Miller |
| 14 Rosalind Morton
Zara Zickefoose | 31 Vera Stephens |
| 15 Susan Swicegood | |
| 16 Bill Hood
Angela Longerbeam
Berkley Keck, Jr. | |
| 17 Henry Thomson | |
| 18 James Feldmann
Linda Saunders | |
| 19 Don Cairns
James Gauldin
Curt Harden
Gary Miller | |



April Birthdays

- | |
|---|
| 2 Von Cannon
John Gibbs, III |
| 3 Kathryn Blachura
Sarah Hawkins
Harry Lea |
| 5 Ken Larking |
| 6 Lee Shreve
Jack Spainhour
Morgan Wall |
| 7 Rebecca Daniel
Beth Payne |
| 9 Mary Ellen Dean |
| 11 Stuart Bray |
| 12 Tom Underwood |
| 15 Ellen Joyce
Suzanne Miller
Anne Powell
Judie Turbiville |



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

At Roman Eagle:
Marian Adkins, Tom Darkis

At Commonwealth/Stratford House:
Ruth Waggoner



Neil Allen, of Danville, Va., died unexpectedly on January 26, 2021, at Sovah Health. He was born on December 29, 1980, son of Ronald M. Allen and the late Cheryl Morgan Allen. He graduated from George Washington High School (1999), where he was a four-year member of the GW Symphony

Orchestra, and from Queens University in Charlotte, N.C., receiving a B.S. degree in Corporate Communications. He worked in IT management for Queens University, Chapel Hill Public School System, and Elon College.

Neil's greatest passion was art and music. He was a self-taught multi-instrumentalist, able to play guitar, piano, drums, and harmonica, and a singer and an accomplished songwriter. Neil wanted to be remembered as a musician, songwriter, singer, and friend.

In addition to his father, of Danville, Neil is survived by his sister, Jennifer Allen, of Danville; a niece, Jenna Thurman and fiancé, Charlie Haige, of Roanoke; and nephews Stone Thurman, of Los Angeles, Calif., and Noah Thurman, of Danville.

Frank Lauder Plott died on January 31, 2021, at Runk and Pratt Alzheimer's facility in Lynchburg. He was born in Danville on March 28, 1943, the son of the late George Willard Plott Sr. and Helen Guerrant Plott.



Frank graduated from George Washington High School and the former VPI with an Accounting degree. He worked for the Leggett Corporation for 10 years and then the U.S. Postal Service, from which he retired in 2003. From 1965 until 1969 he was an Air Force Officer, serving during the Vietnam War.

On February 29, 2004, he married Gayle Layne Wyatt Plott, who survives. Gayle's daughter Laura Wyatt Daniel and Laura's husband Stephen W. Daniel also survive Frank. Their three young daughters, Katherine, Audrey, and Rebecca, were so very devoted to Frank. He loved them dearly and enjoyed every moment spent with them.

Stephen D. Taylor of Dry Fork, Va., died on February 15, 2021, at the age of 63. He was the step-grandfather of Brady, Noah, Isaiah, and Elias Woodson. He was born on July 16, 1957, to the late Mary Brackson Stephens Taylor and the late Burnley R. Taylor, Sr. He is survived by his wife Cynthia Dixon Taylor.



In addition, Stephen is survived by a son, Stephen Andrew Taylor, who is stationed in Japan; stepson Brian Woodson and wife, Robin, of Danville; stepdaughter Jamie Burke, of Dry Fork; and five step-grandchildren.

Michael Albert Beasley, age 75, passed away peacefully at his home on February 3, 2021, after a battle with cancer.



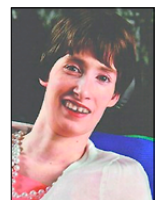
He was born in Toccoa, Ga., and graduated from Stephens County High School in 1964. At the Georgia Institute of Technology he earned a bachelor's degree in Textile Chemistry in 1969, and he remained an impassioned fan of the Ramblin Wreck for the rest of his life.

Michael began a career in textile manufacturing with Chicopee Mills. In 1974, he married Laura Evans, of Thomson, Ga. Over the years he was employed at West Point Pepperell in Opelika, Ala., and Dan River Mills in Danville. In 2004, Michael and Laura moved to Statesboro, where he led King America as President until his retirement in 2014. He enjoyed golf, traveling with Laura, completing crossword puzzles, and being a great grandfather as "Papa Bear."

He was a member of Statesboro First United Methodist Church, where he served as an usher, and a member of Forest Heights Country Club.

Michael is survived by his wife, Laura Evans Beasley; his son and daughter-in-law, Bryan and Erin Beasley, of Denver, N.C.; his daughter and son-in-law, Katie and George Brooks, of Danville; his son and daughter-in-law, Bob and Jessica Beasley, of Short Hills, N.J.; his sister, Cheryl Nolen, of Austin, Tex.; and his grandchildren, Jack Beasley, Alex Beasley, Evan Brooks, Davis Beasley, Landon Brooks, Warren Beasley, and Sadie Badgett.

Dawn Pauletta Smallwood, granddaughter of Mary Ellen Dean, passed away on February 24, 2021, after a brief illness. She was born in Danville on September 20, 1973, to Susan Dean Elzey and Dennis Smallwood, who predeceased her. Her stepfather is David Bryan Elzey.



Dawn suffered from cerebral palsy since birth and had lived the last 22 years at The Virginia Home in Richmond where her ready smile made everyone love her. Dawn loved Sesame Street, especially Cookie Monster; Mister Rogers; music by Elvis and Kenny Rogers; coloring pictures for whomever needed one; The Price is Right; and marshmallow Peeps and blue M&Ms.

Her favorite spots at The Virginia Home were in the occupational therapy department and at music programs where she vigorously waved her arms to the beat and rocked her wheelchair. Dawn's favorite person was her maternal grandfather, Del Dean, whom she called "Dul." At his passing in 1996, her grandmother, Mary Ellen Dean, became her favorite person. Her "Mom" visited her almost every week of the past 22 years.