



## Eagle Scout Project Underway at Mount Vernon

As part of his journey toward Eagle Scout rank, Brendan deAristizabal of Boy Scout Troop 300 is heading a project to repair the large multiuse room in the basement at Mount Vernon. Among his plans are repairing extensive damage to the sheetrock walls and installing wood panels to protect vulnerable areas against future damage, repairing damaged doors, and painting. Plans also include cleaning the floor, applying floor finish, and buffing.



*Close-up view of a damaged area*

This room is used on most weekdays by Children's House, weekly by AA, and (when the COVID-19 pandemic subsides) by Boy Scouts, Girls Scouts, Mount Vernon's youth, and other groups.



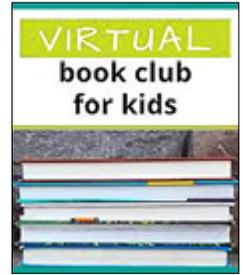
Brendan is a lifelong, active member of Mount Vernon Church, the son of Beth and Ashley deAristizabal and grandson of Betty and Richard Turner.

*At Appalachia Service Project 2019: Brendan sands sheetrock.*

## Children's Book Club

All elementary-school-age children are invited to join our new Zoom Book Club!

Beth Bauman leads our children each week in staying connected, sharing prayer concerns, and reading a book together.



## Book Study to Explore Racism Continues

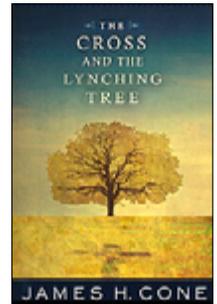
Each **Wednesday at 7 p.m.** (Zoom)

Leader: Megan Gould

Book:

***The Cross and the Lynching Tree***

By James H. Cone



Dr. James Cone (now deceased) was a professor at Union Theological Seminary. This book is his highly rated discussion of the symbolism of the cross and the lynching tree and their interconnectedness.

It's not too late to join the class, although the July 29 class will be the fourth of six sessions. For information on obtaining the book, contact Beth Bauman, [bbau-man@comcast.net](mailto:bbau-man@comcast.net). To receive emails with information about the next class and logging in the Zoom meeting, contact Megan Gould, [megould18@gmail.com](mailto:megould18@gmail.com).

## Children's House Reopens

In mid-March, Mount Vernon's Children's House closed because of coronavirus. As businesses began to reopen, we recently reopened our day care for the families who need child care at this time. We were able to call a limited number of our teachers back to work.

We are most appreciative of our Director, Lindsey Cohn, and our Board led by Lindsay Payne. Many hours have been spent studying the guidelines and recommendations, which are constantly evolving; polling parents and teachers; training staff in safety procedures; and much more.

Our ministry to families is intact during this very challenging time, and we appreciate your prayers.



## Aldersgate Choir to Sing Each Month

As our online worship services continue, the Aldersgate Choir plans to sing for one service each month. We will record “virtual choir” videos for the services.

If anyone is interested in joining us, please contact me. Anyone can participate. This could be a good chance for people who can't regularly participate in the choir because of their schedule. – *Juliet Cho, Music Director*

Thank you to those who took the time to complete and return the survey we sent in the July newsletters. We truly value the information you have provided. Your responses will contribute to our planning for reopening. If you haven't completed the survey yet, you still have time. If you need another copy, let us know. – *Jae Cho*

## “Well Done, Good and Faithful Servant”

When I heard that Karen Miller's mother, Lois Bolling, had died, the first thought that came to mind was, “Well done, good and faithful servant!” (Matthew 25:23).

Her health had been failing for some time and I can imagine that she was looking forward to joining her beloved husband, Richard, in heaven.

Richard and Lois Bolling were very dear to those of us who were part of our Appalachia Service Project teams starting in the early 2000s. If we were working within a couple of hours of his home in Pound, Virginia, Mr. Bolling would drive every day to join us on the worksite and drive home again that night. He and Frank Cuthrell became very close friends and we all loved him a lot.

ASP teams head home on Saturday morning, and for several years in a row, we would drive our caravan of cars, trucks, and church bus to Pound for a wonderful country breakfast. Sometimes the Bollings would host us in their home. They would get tables and chairs from their church and Mrs. Bolling and her church friends would serve a feast outside. Once we ate in the fellowship hall of their beautiful United Methodist Church. We looked forward to it all week!

Their generosity and gracious hospitality made us all feel that our efforts to serve in the Appalachian region were much appreciated. And it was a joy to know such wonderful people!

The Millers have indicated they would like memorial gifts to be made to Mount Vernon Church for the Youth Fund. Any contributions will go toward future mission trips and will continue Mr. and Mrs. Bolling's legacy of service. – *Beth Bauman*



On behalf of the Finance Committee, I am pleased to report that – despite the immense challenges presented by COVID-19 – the financial health of Mount Vernon remains strong, with giving slightly ahead of schedule and expenses slightly below expected through the first six months of the year.

In the coming weeks, our Committee will begin looking toward the Fall stewardship season, which may occur remotely as a result of the pandemic, along with the preparation of a budget for 2021. We will continue to recommend responsible budgeting that ensures that we invest in the programs and people that have allowed Mount Vernon to serve our community for so many years.

Your continued, faithful giving is a source of certainty in uncertain times. Our Committee thanks you for your generosity.

As always, if you have any questions regarding the finances of Mount Vernon, do not hesitate to reach out to any member of the Finance Committee or to our financial secretary, Evie Jackson ([ejackson.mtvernonumc@gmail.com](mailto:ejackson.mtvernonumc@gmail.com)). – *Steven Gould, Chair*

*Congratulations*

To  
*Sandra Morales*  
and  
*Sam Helton.*

*They were*  
*married on*  
*July 11, 2020.*



## Daily Scripture Readings

If you are following Bishop Sharma Lewis's 21-day scripture reading plan, you can access the lists online on the Virginia Conference UMC website. Lists are also attached when appropriate to the weekly emails about our online services. Or you can leave a message on the church office phone, and we will get a copy of the current list to you.

*Our deepest sympathy  
to Karen and Gary Miller and their family.  
Karen's mother, Lois Bolling,  
died on July 10.*

*Our deepest sympathy  
to Glenn and Pat Giles and their family.  
Their grandson, Patrick Thomas Martin,  
died on July 27.*

*Gifts in memory of David Edmond Miller  
(brother of Ken Miller) have been received  
from Sonny & Rosalind Morton and  
Donald & Beverly Turner.*

*A gift in memory of Jack Turner  
(brother-in-law of Robert Wooding) has been  
received from Sonny & Rosalind Morton.*

*A gift in memory of Lois Bolling  
(mother of Karen Miller) has been received  
from Beth & Briggs Bauman.*



*Recovering at home:*  
**Donald Turner**

*At Brookdale:* **Jean Beach**

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

*At Blue Ridge Rehab:* **Betty Jennings**

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

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

## August Birthdays



- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1 Casey Fowler<br>Rhonda Yates   | 23 Emaline Adkins<br>Christopher Bailey<br>Betty Eller<br>Carol Gibbs |
| 2 Neill McMillan, Jr.<br>Sonia Williamson  | 24 Andrew Farley<br>Adam Hawkins<br>Cutler Payne                      |
| 3 John Morris<br>Zoey Zickefoose   | 25 Jane O'Neill<br>Patrick Turbiville                                 |
| 4 Tobias Lutz  | 26 Elizabeth Furgurson<br>Sami Tiver Belanger                         |
| 5 Edward Long  | 28 Jane Anglea<br>Katie Fitch<br>Nell Jefferson                       |
| 6 Carter Bauman<br>Hudson Dunn<br>Sophie Parrish   | 30 Joe Garrett<br>Summer Milligan<br>Cathy Hawkins                    |
| 7 Catherine Bendall<br>Lindsey Cohn<br>Dick Patterson<br>Stephanie Spainhour<br>Zickefoose<br>Charles Lee Turbiville | 31 Stephen Fowler<br>Harry Milam                                      |

## September Birthdays

- |   |
|---|
| 1 Jesse Mayhew, III<br>Charles Sampson                  |
| 2 Phyllis Acker<br>Thomas Underwood, Jr.                |
| 3 Chris Griffith<br>DeDe Moyer                          |
| 4 Jeff Clifton  |
| 5 Cathy Grogan<br>Thomas O'Neill, III                   |
| 6 Lauren Slayton  |
| 8 Glen Milam<br>Matkins Milligan<br>Kelly Grogan Jordan |
| 9 Cathy Darkis<br>Joan Marley                           |
| 10 Saunders Milligan<br>Gene Saunders                   |

## Zoom Tutorials

**Learn the basics of Zoom  
with in person support!**

Practice joining a meeting,  
testing audio / video settings,  
sharing screen and other tips and tricks.

Bring any laptop or mobile device.  
We are unable to provide public computers.

### Maker Lab - Second Floor

Thursday, August 6  
6 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Tuesday, August 11  
11 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Thursday, August 20  
6 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Tuesday, August 25  
11 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Call 434.799.5195 or visit  
[readdanvilleva.org](http://readdanvilleva.org) to register.



On July 26, Rev. Jae Cho spoke in the sermon about the message for us in the parable of the mustard seed. In the Danville District newsletter, Rev. Denise Bates, our district superintendent, includes the message printed below.

Our leaders are finding special relevance for our time in these words from the Gospel of Mark. – Editor

*Jesus said, “How can I describe the Kingdom of God? What story should I use to illustrate it? It is like a mustard seed planted in the ground. It is the smallest of all seeds, but it becomes the largest of all garden plants; it grows long branches, and birds can make nests in its shade.” (Mark 4:30-32, NLT)*

Do you ever have days when whatever you are able to do, doesn't seem like enough? Or, that no matter what you try, it doesn't work out how you planned? Or, whatever you find yourself in the middle of, there is nothing you can do to fix it?

These questions hit the mark quite often right now with me. How about you? Ever experienced one—or two—or all at the same time? I think it is an aspect of the challenging days we have been living through these last 6 months, but I also think this feeling powerless, helpless, and maybe even hopeless has been in the air for a while. It seems like the problems are all big, complex, and perplexing. It seems like whatever little difference we are able to make could never really make a difference.

But I believe that is a trap that we too often fall into. Sometimes it is a trap that we pull over our heads, hearts, and lives like one of those weighted blankets, so we don't see, hear, or feel what is going on around us. We use our perceived “smallness” as a reason not to try or even engage in life as we are handed it.

The problems of this current time are HUGE, and surely are beyond any one person of us solving. There is an old saying, “no one can do everything, but everyone can do something.” Each and every one of us may be a “mustard seed,” but each and every one of us can grow long branches of grace, bearing the fruit of the gifts the Master has given to each of us. Each and every one of us has the potential to provide shade and shelter (of many types), where others can find rest and peace.

It is precisely because of the enormity of the challenges we are facing as human beings, as community and church family, that the gifts, which each and every

one of us have, are critical for not just surviving but thriving as well. We have all worked to find innovative ways to be the CHURCH over these past few months: Worship is happening in many different forms, and connection has found new legs during this time. As we continue to live in this new normal, I wonder what it would be like to now begin to also think about the future—even in the midst of this challenging present?

Here are some questions to ponder, individually and as a church family:

- What has been a blessing discovered during these COVID times?
- What have you learned about being CHURCH?
- What new gifts have you found? How are you using them?
- What might God be pulling you toward for ministry in the near future?
- What are the felt needs right now in your community? How can you use your gift to plant a seed of God's grace in the midst of that need?
- What are some conversations that need to happen in your church so we can be more grace-filled disciples? In your community?
- What gift do you have that just might be the mustard seed that God can use right now?

I invite you to join me in a time of prayer, over this next week (and longer, too, is fine). Pray on these questions when you rise and before you sleep, listening for God's voice to guide you. The following week, find a prayer partner (or a few) and covenant to pray together for your church. Pray on these questions for your church and God's calling upon its life.

We are strengthened, gifted, and empowered by the Lord our God, to make a difference in the world in which we live. A small pebble thrown into a lake casts ripples that reach far. What pebble may God be inviting you to cast, so that the ripples of His Grace may be known? For now, and ever after, we serve Christ together, with all that we are.

Blessings!

DS Denise