

# Weekly Messenger 02-21-2025



## Rick Strasser, Sports Ministry Pastor, MVPC

One of God's finest servants and gentlemen received a hero's welcome at the gates of heaven on Wednesday, February 19, 2025 at 3:40 pm (Pacific).

Surrounded by the people he loved the most and who in turn loved him the most, Rick heard God's knock on the door of his heart on Wednesday afternoon with the invitation of, "It's time to come home Rick."

Rick's heart and soul shouted with glee through his weakened body, "I'm ready! Let's go!"

And so he went, soaring through the spiritual realm to land safely at home in the loving, tender, strong arms of Jesus.

Our hearts rejoice at the thought of Rick's body being restored to perfection, in fact receiving a new body altogether.

We rejoice over Rick being reunited with his dad who passed away just a few short months ago. We rejoice in the great promise of our Lord, "though we die, yet shall we live again."

And so, Rick does!

He lives like he's never lived before!

He lives and worships and runs and laughs in ways that await each of us when God calls us home.

Of course, as Rick lives, Rick also leaves...

He leaves behind Kelly – his beautiful, loving, supportive, and amazing wife after only 16 months of marital bliss.

He leaves behind his relentless praying and loving Mom, Ruth. Let's face it, Moms are not supposed to bury their children. And yet, that is what faces Ruth. This goes against all the "rules" of life for a child to predecease the parents.

He leaves behind seven daughters, all of whose hearts are full of life, love and potential as it seems their lives are only beginning.

He leaves behind the hope and dream of walking those girls down the aisle on their wedding day!

He leaves behind a legacy unmatched of leading young people to dedicate their lives to the saving grace of Jesus Christ!!

In the days, weeks and months ahead Rick Strasser, child of the covenant and son of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords will have the complete joy of welcoming those he introduced to Jesus!

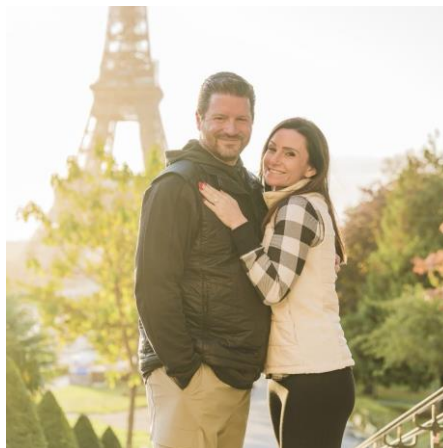
Praise God for Rick Strasser! We love you Rick!

We miss you already, Rick.

See you soon...

Laugh often and Fear not!

David!



Sunday Worship Services  
8:30 am – Traditional  
10:30 am- Contemporary

Email: [mvpc@mviewpc.org](mailto:mvpc@mviewpc.org)  
Website: [mviewpc.org](http://mviewpc.org)

Office Hours  
8a-5p M-Th  
Phone: 702-341-7800

Pastor  
Rev. David W. Dendy

Men's/Mission Director  
Dr. Gary Wall

Director of Family Ministries  
Chris Kirschman

Director of Music  
Dr. Mark Wherry

Redeemed Worship Leader  
Bridgette Foster

Administrative Assistant  
Shane Jensen

Tech Assistant  
Tracy Vanderwerf

Church Accountant  
Mitra McNally

Ministry Coordinator  
Tami Samek

Facilities Manager  
Mark Washburn

Women's Ministry Director  
Allison Gray

Organist  
Richard Wilson

Sports Ministry Pastor  
Rick Strasser

Bell Choir Director  
Gail Berg

Elder Mailbox  
[Session@mviewpc.org](mailto:Session@mviewpc.org)

# Family Ministry News

## Youth Group –

Youth Group this week 4:30 p.m.

## Children -

Sunday school this Sunday during 2<sup>nd</sup> service. Child-care provided during services.

## U50s/adults.

Next meeting is Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup> at 1:00 p.m.

Here we come March!

CJK



Join the MVPC family this Sunday at 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.  
for Virtual Church!

Go to the MVPC webpage @ [www.mviewpc.org](http://www.mviewpc.org) and select  
Facebook or YouTube

## **CLOSED CAPTION AVAILABLE**

Are you missing out on Pastor David's wonderful virtual sermons because you can't hear what is said?  
We now know closed caption is available on the Youtube broadcast. Follow the directions below:

On Youtube under the video, where you can start, pause, etc. is a "cc". Click on that to start closed caption.



## **MVPC Concert Series**

Featuring the Music of Redeemed Worship

Date: Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup>

Time: 3:00 p.m.

A portion of the free will offering will be used to benefit the  
wild fire recovery efforts in California.

# MVPC Book Club

Our group meets the last Friday of each month, at the Church, in the Chapel, at 10:00 a.m. We enjoy gathering as friends who share the love of reading books. Each month we discuss a book that we've selected together. It's always a fun and interesting time of sharing differing ideas and perspectives. We welcome anyone who's interested to join us! Here are the meeting dates and the books we've selected for the next few months.

- February 28      ***Imagine Heaven*** by John Burke  
March 28        ***God of the Woods*** by Liz Moore  
April 25        ***The Love Elixir of Augusta Stern*** by Lynda Cohen Loigman  
May 30         ***The Briar Club*** by Kate Quinn

*"Maybe this is why we read, and why in moments of darkness we return to books: to find words for what we already know."* Alberto Manguel

Happy Reading!



## Hockey Sunday

### Feb. 23, 2025

**Wear your favorite NHL, College  
or High School Hockey Team!**



**GriefShare** is a friendly, caring group of people who will walk alongside you through one of life's most difficult experiences.

When someone you love dies, it's common to feel isolated. In **GriefShare**, you'll find that you are not alone, that there are others who understand what you are going through. You don't have to go through the grieving process alone.

**GriefShare** meets on Tuesday's at 1:00 p.m. The group meets in the Chapel. The 13 weeks provide help and healing for the hurt of losing a family member or friend.

Registration available online at [www.mviewpc.org](http://www.mviewpc.org) or call the Church Office at 702-341-7800.

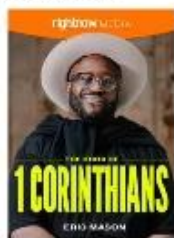


RightNow Media is a free service offered to MVPC/Guests/Friends. You will have exclusive access to hundreds of Bible studies and topical videos led by world-class teachers along with a multitude of Christian-based videos for your family to enjoy.

It's easy to sign up, email Tami Samek, Ministry Coordinator at [Tami@mviewpc.org](mailto:Tami@mviewpc.org) and she will set you up and you can start accessing great Bible-based studies/videos today! *Happy Valentine's Day!*

### The Book of 1 Corinthians

In the letter of 1 Corinthians, the apostle Paul wrote to a church divided, worldly, and immature in the faith. Immersed in an indulgent, immoral culture, they struggled to separate themselves from the world around them. Paul urged them to remember the gospel and start acting like disciples of Jesus, and his rebukes and encouragement remain relevant for the church today. Join author and pastor Dr. Eric Mason as he leads us through this significant book in a ten-session series. Discover the power of the gospel that brings order, heals wounds, unifies the faithful, and demonstrates how to love well.

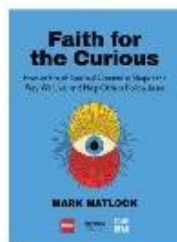


### This Is Love

Six Scripture songs all about the incredible love God has for us! Perfect for family worship, kids choirs, or children's worship! Album includes "All the Earth," based on Psalm 100, "Strong and Courageous," based on Joshua 1:7-9, "This Is Love," based on 1 John 4:7-11, "Wonderful," based on Psalm 139:7-16 ("I am fearfully and wonderfully made,") and more!



### Faith for the Curious



In a world where spiritual curiosity is on the rise, many people are searching for meaningful answers and authentic conversations. Faith for the Curious, hosted by Mark Matlock (Barna senior fellow, author,

speaker), is a dynamic course designed to equip you with the tools needed to engage spiritually open individuals well. This course provides insights into how you can meet people wherever they are in their spiritual journeys, exploring faith in a way that is authentic, empathetic, and thought-provoking.

Through four engaging sessions, you will dive deep into Barna's latest research on spiritual curiosity and learn practical ways to engage in open-ended spiritual conversations. You'll discover how to cultivate a culture of curiosity and connect with those who are exploring their spiritual beliefs, offering them a safe space to ask questions, wrestle with doubts, and grow in their journey of faith.

If you're passionate about sharing your faith in honest and thoughtful ways, this course will challenge and encourage you to approach evangelism with empathy and openness.

### Truth and Love

Have you ever had to choose between truth and love? Sometimes, the truth can feel harsh and unloving, but can we really love someone without telling them the truth? It isn't unusual to wrestle with balancing what is right with what we feel, but what if we didn't have to choose between truth and love?



Join pastor Marquise Cox in this four-session series as he shows us how to speak the truth in love, wrestle with doubts, talk about Jesus with people who disagree with us, and share our faith. You don't have to choose between being loving or truthful—in Christ, we can do both.

# Black History Month – Vera and Darius Swann

Vera Swann was a Presbyterian mission worker and educator. She was born Vera Pearl Poe, April 11, 1931 in Cheraw, South Carolina, one of three sisters, and grew up in the African Methodist Episcopal Zion church. Vera was educated at the Presbyterian Coulter Academy and at Johnson C. Smith University, where she met Darius Leander Swann. The couple were married in 1952 and began work as the first African American missionaries to India, Vera taught Bible, organized Jamna Christian Basic School, and started a shelter for homeless children.

In 1964 Vera and Darius returned to the United States to Johnson C. Smith University - Darius in the seminary, and Vera as a secretary in the religious education department.

In May of 1966 Vera led the Charlotte-area Church Women United, alongside other community organizations, to mobilize Black domestic workers. Their cause was close to Vera's heart; her mother Marian was a domestic worker. At the time domestic laborers were exempt from federal minimum wage guarantees; Black domestic workers in Charlotte made less than 75 cents an hour, half the federal minimum. After a couple of initial meetings the new group, Domestics United, was 200 women strong. Successor groups would ultimately bring domestic workers under the Fair Labor Standards Act.

Vera would later teach public school in Kaneohe, Hawaii, and teach in the Black Studies program at Northern Virginia Community College. In semi-retirement the Swanns organized the Maria Fearing Fund, supporting spiritual growth and cultural exchange between Africa and the United States. Vera and Darius were founding members of Burke Presbyterian Church (Burke, Va.) in 1980. Their congregation celebrated them in 2012, as people who “touch hearts, tender justice, and right wrong.” Darius died in April 2020 at the age of 95. Vera died in November 2022 at the age of 91.



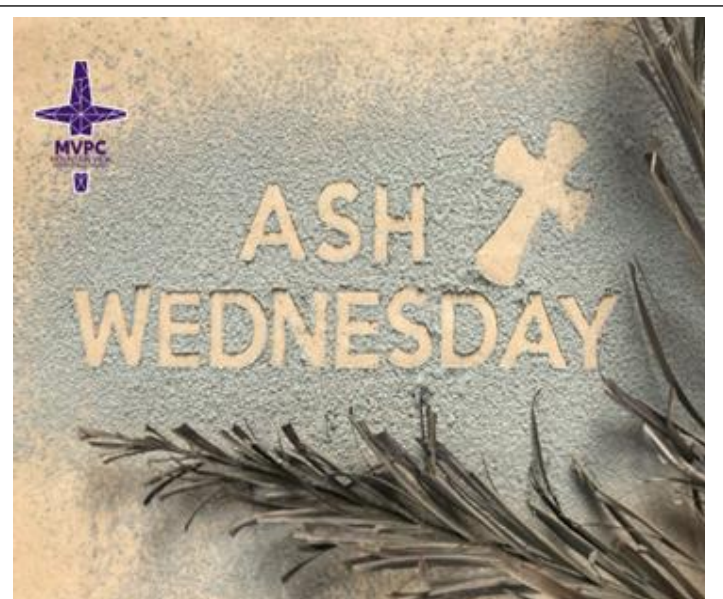
## Just Us Ministry

(Ministry supporting Widows)

**Feb. 24, 2025 @ 2 pm - Chapel**

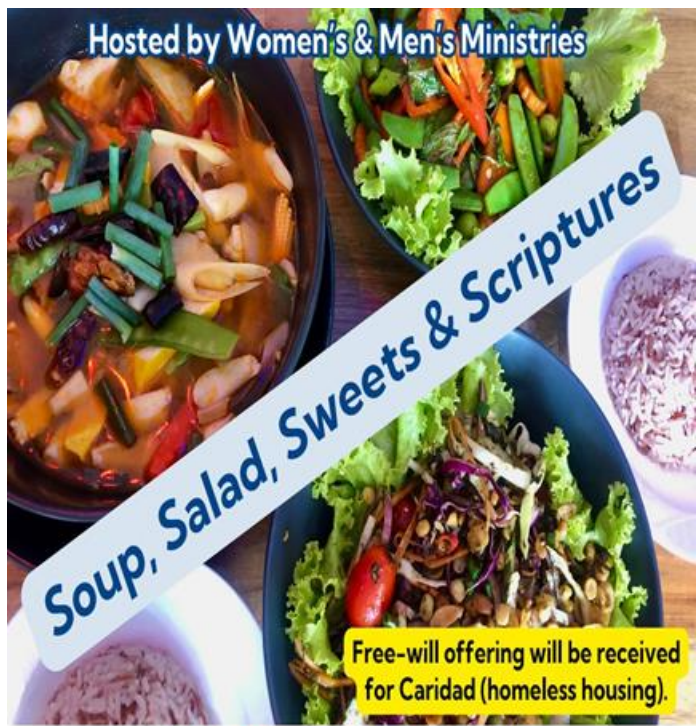
**Presentation by  
Pastor David Dendy**

**“Out of Brokenness – Greatness  
The Story of Ruth”**



**Wed., March 5, 2025**

**Join us for worship at  
Noon or 7:00pm**



Hosted by Women's & Men's Ministries

**Soup, Salad, Sweets & Scriptures**

Free-will offering will be received for Caridad (homeless housing).

**All Church Potluck!**  
**Friday, Feb. 28, 2025**  
**6:00-8:00pm**  
**Sign up in the Narthex**



**\*New\* Women's Bible Study**  
**"He Chose the Nails" by Max Lucado.**  
 Starting March 11th, this is a 5-week Lenten study. Study guide is available for \$5.00. Sign up in the Narthex.

Tuesday Groups at 10:00am and 7:00pm



Contact [Allison@mviewpc.org](mailto:Allison@mviewpc.org) for questions or more information.



**Church Annual Meeting will be**

**March 2nd following 2nd Service.**

**Our Vision**

<b>God</b>	<b>People</b>

**It's What We Do!!**

**Laugh Often and Fear Not!**



Richard Becker – Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup>  
 Sally Blackburn – Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup>  
 Kathy Brannen – Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup>  
 Robert Eaton – Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup>  
 Elena Wherry – Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup>  
 Barbara Andersen – Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup>  
 Paula Anderson – Feb. 24<sup>th</sup>  
 Bill Lietzke – Feb. 25<sup>th</sup>  
 Christy Bernal – Feb. 27<sup>th</sup>  
 David Reitz – Feb. 27<sup>th</sup>

*We are here to help!*

**DIVORCE Care**  
 for those going through separation or divorce

**MVPC Group Now Meeting  
 Monday @ 6:00pm  
 Esther Room  
 (2nd fl - Fellowship Hall)**



# This Week's Events

## Sun., Feb. 23

8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship, SC  
 10:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship, SC  
 1:00 p.m. USO's, Mark  
 1:00 p.m. Reformed Church Meeting, FH  
 3:00 p.m. Concert Series, SC  
 4:30 p.m. Youth Group, FH

## Mon., Feb. 24

9:00 a.m. Quilters, FH  
 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting, CH  
 3:00 p.m. Out of Brokenness, SC  
 6:00 p.m. Divorce Care, Esther  
 7:00 p.m. Gamblers Anon., CH

## Tues., Feb. 25

10:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study, FH  
 11:30 a.m. Divine Dealing, FH  
 1:00 p.m. Griefshare, CH  
 5:30 p.m. Narcotics Anon., CH  
 7:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study, FH  
 7:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study, CH

## Wed., Feb. 26

10:00 a.m. Pastor's Bible Study, FH  
 5:00 p.m. Bell Choir, CH  
 7:00 p.m. AA Meeting, FH  
 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal, SC  
 7:00 p.m. Session, Esther

## Thurs., Feb. 27

4:30 p.m. Stephen Ministry, Mark  
 5:00 p.m. Redeemed Worship Rehearsal, SC  
 7:00 p.m. AI Anon Meeting, FH

## Fri., Feb. 28

10:00 a.m. MVPC Book Club, CH  
 2:00 p.m. Knitting, FH  
 6:00 p.m. All Church Potluck, FH

## Sat., Mar. 1

9:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast, Summit  
 5:00 p.m. AA Meeting, FH

Men's Breakfast will meet on Sat, March 1<sup>st</sup> at 9:00 a.m.  
 We will meet at the Summit, 2215 Thomas W. Ryan Blvd.



Messenger articles and Sunday announcement requests are due in the Church office by **Wednesday at noon** each week! Thank you for your cooperation!

# LET THE PEOPLE PRAY

Pray without Ceasing. (1 Thessalonians 5:17)

## Our Members

- The Arthurs Family
- Goldie Asmo
- The Athens Family
- Susan Bear
- The Becker Family
- The Bell Family
- The Bernal Family
- The Berry Family

## Our World

- People of Brazil
- Hamas Hostages
- Ukraine Peace talks

## Our Nation

- Winter Weather
- School Campus Safety
- New York Prison strike

## Our City

- Business robberies
- Human Trafficking
- Affordable Housing

## Our Congregation

Jerry and Del Heiss,  
Sara Pierson

- Elders: Connie Petersen
- Deacons: Nancy Amato,  
Goldie Asmo

## Our Churches

1. Community Church at Anthem
2. Elevate Faith Church
3. Chinese Baptist Church

## Other Prayer Concerns...

Sympathy to the family of Rick Strasser

