

Mount Vernon First
United Methodist Church

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The Methodist Greeter

AUGUST 2016



"Our mission as a congregation is to strengthen
our personal and group relationship with Christ
and to reach out to all people through faith in action."

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Pastor's Corner

Pastor Terry Hall

BIBLE READ- INGS FOR THE

August 7

Isaiah 1:1, 10-20
Psalm 50: 1-8, 22-23
Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16
Luke 12:32-40

August 14

Isaiah 5:1-7
Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19
Hebrews 11:29-12:2
Luke 12:49-56

August 21

Jeremiah 1:4-10
Psalm 71:1-6
Hebrews 12:18-29
Luke 13:10-17

August 28

Jeremiah 2:4-13
Psalm 81:1, 10-16
Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16
Luke 14:1, 7-14

I remember the first time I took a look at Facebook, knowing a few people in my children's generation who were using it. When I found the first person I knew, a college student at that time, I laughed aloud and probably even a bit derisively when I saw his page claimed he had several hundred 'friends.' It was immediately clear that the very word was being redefined and, to my mid-20th century aesthetic, even degraded. I'm pretty sure poor Dennie was subjected to a bit of a rant on the topic, as I repeatedly laid out my sense that it is not humanly possible to have even 100 friends, let alone several hundred. Sure, we can be *friendly* with such large numbers of people, as that requires no more than a casual acquaintance in which we share at least one area of interest or point of connection. In fact, it is probably easier to be friendly with several hundred people when we are careful to **not** actually become friends.

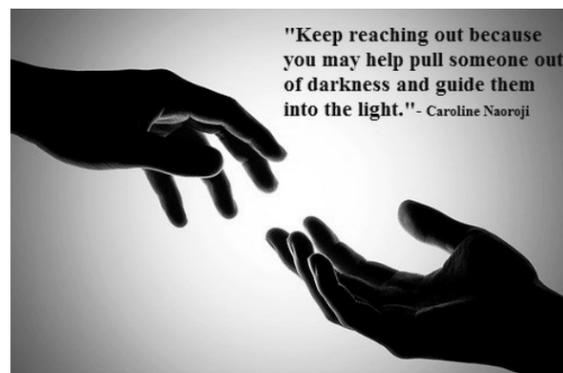
Truly getting to know one another takes time and intentionality, and it takes months ... years even ... to develop the sort of depth of trust and interest to share our deepest stories, the ones that break our hearts open with joy or sorrow, hope or despair. I'm going to just go ahead and share that both Dennie and I are always on the lookout for folks who have the desire and ability to go deep, to take the risk of being both fully present and authentic even before it is clearly safe to do so. So I suppose there is a sort of warning embedded in this sharing: when we ask people how they are, or who they are, we are actually interested in their answers. Sometimes that means we have to arrange different circumstances that will allow for more time and smaller audiences, perhaps sitting down in my office or visiting together in your homes or elsewhere. I also believe reading about someone and having a conversation are very different ways to learn about one another. As someone who loves both being alone and spending time with people, I find that often the hardest part of a conversation, especially a personal one, is the launching. I understand plans are being made for some small group gatherings to break any 'ice' there might be between us, and I very much look forward to them. For now, I thought I'd just offer a few bullet-points regarding Dennie and myself in the hopes they will open the door to conversation and at least the first steps into relationship.

Me

- Raised in a small town (Chenango Bridge) in NY, the youngest of 4 sons
- Drafted in 1970, just missing Viet Nam in favor of Germany
- Enjoy photography, especially of birds and other wildlife
- Love to read, mostly on Kindle of late
- Have parachuted several times, climbed both Mt. Rainier and Adams, and completed the Seattle-to Portland bike ride

Dennie

- Middle of 5 children; father was a career Air Force pilot for 30 years so she lived many places, including in Washington, DC during the late 1960's – early 1970's
- Deeply intuitive and thoroughly honest
- Flew a glider plane and has been up in a couple hot-air balloons
- Loves the Olympics and always beats me at bowling



You can find this edition of our newsletter on-line at www.mvfumc.org

FINANCIAL REPORT

June, 2016

	Income	Expense
Regular Account	\$18,076.67	\$22,329.81
Special Account	\$ 693.00	\$17,833.33
Memorial Account	\$ 40.00	-0-

As you can see, we spent more than we took into our Regular Account in June, but we were able to pay all of our bills and our Conference Apportionments. We will soon be sending out Giving Statements for the first 6 months of the year. Please look over your statement to make sure that your figures agree with ours. As we are out enjoying the summer sun, remember that we continue to have bills to pay at the church. Thank you for your continued financial support of our church's ministries.

Surf Shack THANK YOU!

A HUGE "Thank You" to all who helped out at Vacation Bible School this year. We had an amazing time at the "Surf Shack" where we learned about all that God does for us each and every day! We worked with our friends from the MV Presbyterian church to sponsor this week of faith-filled learning for the children of our community.

Thank you to:

Group Leaders: Barbara del Bosque, Winnie Bradford, Jaimie Nunez & Alice Hansen
Station Leaders & Helpers: Sharon Minor & Mary Downing in Art, Chris Flores in

Snacks

Youth Helpers: Emily Eastman, Megan & Hannah Perez, and Shauna Flores

Opening/Closing Prayer and fill-in Group Leader: Pastor Terry

Master Nametag & Sign Maker: Sue Erickson

A special "Thank you" to all who provided snacks as well!

You all are SO appreciated! ~Lori



Sleeping Mat Team

The Sleeping Mat team will meet for cutting bags and crocheting sleeping mats on Wednesday, August 10, 2016 and August 24, 2016 at 1pm. If you have any questions or would like to learn how to make a mat, please contact Mary Downing at 360-428-8942 or mt.downing@comcast.net.

AED Training

Our church has purchased an AED (Automated External Defibrillator) and it is currently installed in the Narthex. This defibrillator is a top of the line piece of equipment, designed to assist in saving the life of a person suffering from Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA), whether they require a shock or not. A training session is planned for August 14th at 11:30 AM (after church) in one of our classrooms. Skagit County EMS will conduct the training session. If you would like to attend please let the church secretary Sue Erickson or Bob Hallberg (425-308-1955) know.

Two services will begin September 11th

We will go back to holding an 8:30 a.m. service with Communion and a 10:30 a.m. service with Communion on the first Sunday of the month on September 11th.



Music Scholarships Available!

The Music Scholarship Committee is pleased to offer music scholarships to those in our congregation who are taking private instrumental, vocal and dance lessons. These scholarships may be used for music instruction and music camps. There are three levels of scholarships, with the music instructor determining the skill level. They are: beginning student, up to \$250/year; intermediate student, up to \$500/year; advanced student, up to \$750/year. The criteria for applicants are as follows:

Regular attendance at worship services is expected.

Periodic sharing of your musical talent in our worship services is encouraged but not mandatory.

Communication between you, the music scholarship coordinator, and your music teacher to monitor your progress.

Please note that those who received a music scholarship last year are encouraged to apply again. This is an ongoing project of the Music Scholarship Committee, and donations to the Music Scholarship Fund/Memorials would be most welcome at any time. Scholarship applications are available in the church office. For more information, please contact Diane Figaro, Music Scholarship Coordinator, at dfigaro@mvfumc.org or 206-271-5117 cell/text.

CONGRATULATIONS To Owen Smith—Our Newest Music Scholarship Awardee!

The Music Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce that a \$500 music scholarship has been awarded to Owen Smith, son of Miriam Smith and grandson of Floyd and Carolyn Gregg. Owen is continuing his percussion studies this summer, and he has accompanied the Chancel Choir on numerous occasions. Memorials to the Music Scholarship Fund are encouraged to help those in our congregation who want to continue their music education. For more information, see the article about our music scholarships. Congratulations, Owen!

Project Rebuild Garage Sale, August 6, 2016 9 am– 3 pm

Clean out those attics, garages and spare rooms and bring all those unwanted treasures to our Garage Sale! We are currently accepting donations at the church! All proceeds will benefit "Project Rebuild" that is building houses in the Okanagan area. Look for more information regarding this project in upcoming newsletters. We could also use helpers to sort and place items on tables on Friday, Aug. 5th and folks to help at the sale on Saturday, the 6th. Please see Lori if you can help out! Thank you!

Senior Ministries Fall Kickoff Meeting

After our summer break, we will resume our gatherings with a meeting Sunday, September 18th. We meet the 3rd Sunday of the following months: September, November, January, March and May. While our meetings are geared especially for seniors, everyone is welcome! We meet from about 12 noon to 1:00 p.m. Future tentative topics are "Nutrition for Seniors" with a focus on shopping and cooking for just one or two people, and "Checking Your Prescriptions", where someone with special training will help you review your medications. See you on Sunday, September 18th, after the second worship service!

Barbara del Bosque 424-6494

Church Council News

The Church Council will have met on Saturday, July 23rd. We have been very busy with the pastoral transition: painting the pastor's office (thanks to Blair Hoey); making a scrapbook to present to the Breznau family (thanks, Sue Erickson), presenting a handmade stole with Skagit Valley symbols to new pastor Terry Hall (thanks Carolyn Gregg, Kathy Lawliss, and Lynnette Gerhard), assisting the Breznau family with moving out and cleaning their home (too many wonderful folks to list), and planning the welcoming barbecue for Pastor Terry and Dennie Sherman (again many folks). Thanks to so many of you for your generosity with the money tree for the Breznau family and for sharing your memories of their ministry to and with us!

As we go through this transition (plus the wonderful addition of a new Director of Music Ministry and new organist), your Church Council would encourage all of us to remain open to new ideas and new ways! Just because we have "always done it" a certain way, does not necessarily mean it's the way God would have us do things at this point in time with this particular group of people!

Other items your Church Council is currently working on are a media blitz to introduce the greater Skagit community to our many changes; having another workshop on the single board governance; looking ahead to fall, and the use of our endowment funds. Please feel free to share with any of the Council members any of your ideas or concerns.

Barbara del Bosque 424-6494

Endowment Update

First of all... a big "Thank You" to Manny Saenz who has done such a wonderful job of managing our Endowment Fund and is so good about making sure that the Finance committee knows how our funds are doing. Since our principal balance in our Endowment fund has grown, we have funds available to us from the interest for special projects. Here are a couple of things that we have recently used funds for...

Paving and Seal-coating of the Parking Lot

Isn't the parking lot beautiful now? This paving and seal-coating should be good for the next 7-9 years.

Kitchen upgrade to meet Mount Vernon Fire Department code

At the last fire inspection, we were told the hood over the stove was too small and did not have the proper fire-suppression equipment and we could not use the stove until the hood was replaced. The size of the stove requires custom fabrication of a hood. This project has been started and should be finished by the time you read this newsletter!

Skagit Valley UMYouth "Staycation" Mission Trip August 17-19, all around Skagit County!

We are once again doing a "stay at home" mission trip where we will be serving all over the Skagit Valley. This "trip" is open to all youth from 6th grade up through High School. The other nice thing is that if you have band camp or football practice during that time, you can join us for whatever part of the day that you have available. We plan on serving in some food banks, for Habitat for Humanity (store or Habitat Helper projects), doing some blackberry work at the Bayview UMC, along with other projects. Of course there will be some fun events as well as an overnight at one of our local UMC Churches! If you have a youth in this age group, please contact Lori in the church office so that they can be a part of this meaningful experience. (PS: If you need volunteer hours for school.... Lori will sign off on any hours that you serve!) Hope that you can join us!

Singing and S'mores

Our first two gatherings at Bayview State Park were lots of fun! Be sure to join us for our last two gatherings of the summer for "Singing and S'mores" on **Wednesday, August 10th and 24th**. The Bayview UMC coordinates these events for us each year so all we need to do is show up for some singing and then of course... S'mores! One thing to remember is that you need a Discover Pass to park at Bayview Park or you can park at the Bayview church and walk down to the beach.

Family Promise

"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me," Matthew 25:35

For the sixth time, our church will shelter homeless families August 28-September 4. If you could prepare a dinner or a breakfast, socialize with guests from 7 to 9 PM, sleep overnight on comfortable inflatable beds in the pre-school classroom or wash a basket of laundry, please contact Carolyn Gregg at 424 7453, 391 0288 or cgregg@valleyint.com. Donations to cover food costs can be designated "Family Promise" and placed in the offering any Sunday. Please pray for our guests and all who care for them.

Family Promise of Skagit Valley, which began serving families with children in May of 2015, has placed 12 families in stable housing. It also provides follow up counseling and training so that they can maintain their independent status.

September 17-18 will be the 3rd "Homeless for a Night" fundraiser for Family Promise. Could you sleep in your car in the parking lot of "His Place" in Burlington? Could you pledge to sponsor someone willing to try it?

Back to School Blessings

We hope that all young people and teachers that will be heading back to school this fall will join us on August 28th for the 10:00 a.m. worship service. We will have a blessing for you that day (as well as a small gift) Hope that you can join us!

Fort Worden Weekend

Looking ahead to Fort Worden Weekend. Mark your calendars for a fun time - **November 10-13**. Regardless of the weather, we have a great time! We get the two large houses this year so there is space for everyone. It is over a holiday weekend so we will be able to stay 3 nights. Enjoy a ferry ride and spending time with your church family. Any questions - call Sharon Minor at 766-5202.

Volunteer Companions Needed for Hospice Patients

The greatest gift you can give is the gift of yourself. Do you have a few extra hours you would like to spend helping someone in your neighborhood? Hospice of the Northwest seeks compassionate, community-minded individuals to provide support and companionship to the dying and those who love them. Volunteers bring in the outside world to patients who are homebound or live in local facilities. They serve as friendly visitors and provide respite for families and caregivers. All that is required is a caring heart, an accepting attitude and a willingness to make a difference in others' lives.

Hospice volunteers and patients are matched by location, interests and skills. Most volunteers serve just 1-2 hours a week. Placements are available throughout Skagit, Island, San Juan and Snohomish counties. New volunteers complete an 18-hour training program, to be held September 23, 30 and October 7 from 9am – 4pm at the Hospice Office, 227 Freeway Drive in Mount Vernon. Interested individuals should contact Julie Pryor Barr, Volunteer Supervisor at 360.814.5588 or jbarr@hospicenw.org for an application NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 10.

AUGUST

BIRTHDAYS

- 8/2 Bonnie Spitler
- 8/4 Jon Turnbull
Sue Erickson
- 8/6 Dale Rutan
- 8/8 Phil Smoots
- 8/11 Faye Martin
Tyler Berg
- 8/12 Chris Neblett
- 8/13 Roger Mandery
Cindy Matson
Andrew Latulippe
- 8/14 Hershel Dickinson
Susan Edwards
- 8/16 Elinor Curry
- 8/17 Alex Perez
- 8/18 Gracie Ermi
- 8/20 Janice Lisherness
Myron Ayers
- 8/21 Amanda Grant
Dolores Tawes
- 8/23 Donna Thompson
- 8/24 Jim Collins
- 8/25 Max Barber
- 8/26 Roger Martin
- 8/27 Becky Stout
- 8/31 Jess del Bosque
Annaleigh Newall
Erica Turnbull

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 1:30 pm Bell Trio Rehearsal	3 2:30 pm Staff Meeting	4 8:30 Men's Morning Ministry	5 Garage Sale set-up in Sprague Hall	6 9am—3 pm Garage Sale for Project Rebuild
7 9 am Children's Choir 10 am Worship 11 am Coffee Hour	8 2 pm Hugo's Accordion Band Rehearsal	9 1:30 pm Bell Trio Rehearsal 6:30 pm NAMI	10 1 pm Sleeping Mat Team 2:30 pm Staff Meeting 7 pm Singing & S'mores at Bayview State Park	11 8:30 Men's Morning Ministry	12	13
14 Holy Communion 9 am Children's Choir 10 am Worship 11 am Coffee Hour	15 10 am UMW Executive Board Meeting	16 1:30 pm Bell Trio Rehearsal	17 Youth Staycation Mission Trip 2:30 pm Staff Meeting	18 Youth Staycation Mission Trip 8:30 Men's Morning Ministry	19 Youth Staycation Mission Trip	20
21 10 am Worship 11 am Coffee Hour	22 2 pm Hugo's Accordion Band Rehearsal 3 pm Open Door Community Kitchen @ Central UMC	23 10 am Worship Meeting 1:30 pm Bell Trio Rehearsal	24 10 am Outreach Meeting 1 pm Sleeping Mat Team 2:30 pm Staff Meeting 7 pm Singing & S'mores at Bayview State Park	25 8:30 Men's Morning Ministry	26	27
28 Back to School Blessing Family Promise Week! 10 am Worship 11 am Coffee Hour	29 Family Promise 9 am Newsletter Mailing	30 Family Promise 1:30 pm Bell Trio Rehearsal	31 Family Promise 2:30 pm Staff Meeting	Sept 1 Family Promise	Sept 2 Family Promise	Sept 3 Family Promise

ANNIVERSARIES

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

- 8/4 Brandon & Donna Thompson
- 8/5 Harlan & Shirley Mayer
- 8/10 Bruce & Janielle Coghill
Blair & Karen Hoey
- 8/11 Donald & Margaret Semrau
Terry Hall & Dennie Sherman
- 8/19 Ted & Aretta Jonkheer
- 8/20 Dan & Denise Breznau
- 8/21 Craig & Debbie Bloodgood
- 8/23 Bob & Bettyjean Seabury
- 8/26 Brent & Betsey Thompson
- 8/28 Bob & Eula Olsen
Ron & Sue Erickson
- 8/29 David & Cindy Matson

