

Mount Vernon First  
United Methodist Church

1607 East Division Street  
Mount Vernon, WA 98274  
Phone: 360-424-3628  
Fax: 360-424-1057

office@mvfumc.org

Website:

http://www.mvfumc.org



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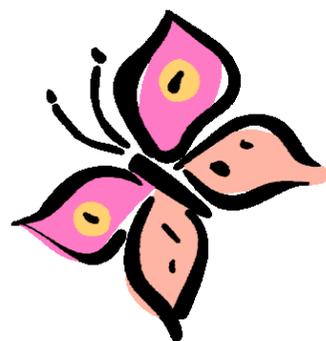
# The Methodist Greeter

## AUGUST 2015



“Our mission as a congregation is to strengthen our personal and group relationship with Christ and to reach out to other people.”

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



There shall be eternal summer in  
the grateful heart.  
-Celia Thaxter

You can find this edition of our newsletter on-line at [www.mvfumc.org](http://www.mvfumc.org)

### Pastor's Corner

Pastor Dan Breznau

#### BIBLE READINGS FOR THE MONTH

##### August 2

2 Samuel 11:26-12:13  
Psalm 51:1-12  
Ephesians 4:1-16  
John 6:24-35

##### August 9

2 Samuel 18:5-9, 31-33  
Psalm 130  
Ephesians 4:25-5:2  
John 6:35, 41-51

##### August 16

Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14  
Psalm 111  
Ephesians 5:15-20  
John 6:51-58

##### August 23

1 Kings 8:1,6,10-11,  
22-30, 41-43  
Psalm 84  
Ephesians 6:10-20  
John 6:56-69

##### August 30

Song of Solomon 2:8-13  
Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9  
James 1:17-27  
Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Greetings:

Years ago, I spent time studying the sacrificial system depicted in the Old Testament. Admittedly, it involves a lot of bloodletting - rather macabre - as well as grain offerings that would seemingly go to better use if given to the poor. The configuration of the temple was also curious, consisting of a courtyard (for the regular Joe), Holy place (only for priests) and Holy of Holies (visited once a year by the High Priest). A curtain divided each section. Although the design has some intriguing aspects and possible clues to our life together as a community of faith, I would like to allude to more general characteristics of the sacrificial system at this time.

The Temple's overall purpose was to bring the people into God's presence and reconnect them with Him and each other. The process involved regular killing of animals and offering of various grain sacrifices. Looking retrospectively from the vantage point of Jesus coming, what would the purpose of such a design be? My sense is that the system was a visceral display for the people regularly showing them that their sinful actions sucked the life out of the world. The very life blood being taken from the animals was a metaphor for the presence of God being withdrawn from creation because of humanity's constant broken choices. Hence, the void between their lives and the desire on God's part for healing in the world was modeled through the sacrificial system.

Later in the history of the Hebrew people we are told through a prophet: "to obey is better than sacrifice." Why would that be the case? Again, if we understood God's longing to bring healing to the world, and people truly lived as God intended them to be - the void between God and humanity would not exist. This would render the sacrificial system obsolete. Hence, true obedience makes the sacrificial system unnecessary.

As the story continues with Jesus' coming and eventual crucifixion, we are told that the dividing curtain in the Temple is torn in half - miraculously at the time of His death. This curtain was only breached once a year by the priest who entered into the fullness of God's presence and called upon Him in the Holy of Holies. It was sort of like leaving the front door open on your house with a sign saying "welcome" to anyone coming in. I believe this rending of the curtain represents the type of access we have been given to God through Jesus' coming.

Let me return to my original statement, that the temple's overall purpose was to bring the people into God's presence and reconnect them with each other. God's intention has not changed, but it is up to humanity to choose to call that reality into our world. Jesus has given us access in incomparable ways. This is why I focus on prayer and actions that invoke this healing. May your life be a doorway of God's Kingdom.

Blessings, Pastor Dan

## FINANCIAL REPORT June, 2015

	Income	Expense
<b>Regular Account</b>	\$20,508.39	\$21,767.02
<b>Special Account</b>	\$ 1,551.55	\$ 7,063.03
<b>Memorial Account</b>	\$ 120.00	\$ 0

As you can see, we spent more than we took in during the month of June. I would encourage everyone to remember to continue to support our church financially during these summer months which typically are lower giving months. Thanks to you, we are current on all of our bills and our conference apportionments. If you ever have any questions regarding finances of the church please feel free to contact Lori Flores, Wylie Keeler, Barbara del Bosque, Doreen Nystrom or Pastor Dan. Thank you!

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### “Thank You” to our Vacation Bible School Volunteers

A HUGE “Thank You” to all of the wonderful volunteers that helped put on our annual Vacation Bible School. We worked together with our friends from the Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church again and it was a wonderful week! The folks from our church that took part this year were:

**Group Leaders:** Marlene Lang, Jaimie Nunez, Carolyn Gregg, Winnie Bradford, Chuck Jerman, Barbara del Bosque, Alice Hanson, Emily Eastman, & Lori Flores

**Center Leaders:** Sharon Minor, Judy Jerman, Megan Perez, Hannah Perez, Nate Minor, Shauna Flores, Chris Flores

**Opening Prayer/Gathering:** Pastor Dan

**Special Helpers,** that helped either one day during the week or with some of the many tasks that needed to be done prior to VBS: Lester Bradford, Irene Williams, Denise Breznau, Maria Breznau, Sue Erickson, Kay Martin and all the folks that donated food for our snack time. Thanks again for all of your time, effort, and support!

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### Administrative Board Meeting

Our next Administrative Board meeting will be on Tuesday, August 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm in the Rees Room. We will be putting forth the names of the members that have agreed to be a part of our new Board under our Single Board Governance structure. All are welcome to attend.

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### Endowment and Memorial Fund Reminder

When you make out checks for the Endowment Fund or Memorial fund, please be sure to write on the “Memo” line where you would like your gift to go. All you need to do is write “Endowment” or whatever special Memorial fund you want your money to go to on that line. Thank you!

## Endowment Update

First of all... a big “Thank You” to Manny Saenz who does 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 is something that we have recently used funds for...

### Hearing Loop Installation is complete.

A hearing loop is a wire that circles a room and is connected to the sound system. The loop transmits the sound electromagnetically. The electromagnetic signal is then picked up by the telecoil in the hearing aid or cochlear implant.

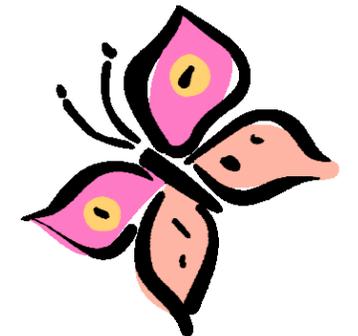
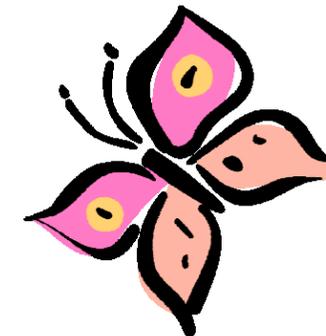
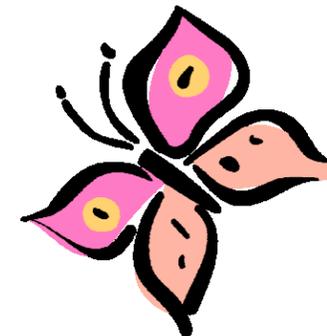
To use a hearing loop, you flip on the t-switch on the hearing aid or cochlear implant to activate the telecoil. Usually, no additional receiver or equipment is needed. If your hearing aid doesn't have a telecoil, you will need a headset plugged into a loop receiver to achieve the same effect. This will be a great benefit to our worshippers needing hearing assistance.

Two loops have been installed under the carpeting circling the pews. It is not installed in the chancel area so you will only hear the usual sound system there. A special thank you to those who contributed to the endowment fund to make this happen as well as a special contribution from one of our members for this project.

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### Senior Ministries Fall Kickoff Meeting

I hope you are having a good summer & enjoying this wonderful weather! Our first meeting this fall will be Sunday, September 20<sup>th</sup>. Robbie Liechty from Ashley Gardens will be here to talk about this wonderful place in Mount Vernon. Even if you doubt that you will ever live there, many of us will have occasion to visit someone there, and it will be helpful to know what Ashley Gardens is all about. We meet after the 10:30 worship service, so grab a cup of coffee, and head on down to the Rees Room. Anyone is welcome to come, and it is always nice to have a good size group when we ask a guest speaker to come! See you on September 20<sup>th</sup>. Keep cool!



## 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 30<sup>th</sup> for the 9:30 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!

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## Faith in Action

Earlier this month, Teresa Pugh, Executive Director for Skagit Valley's branch of Habitat for Humanity, came to our coffee hour to talk about the Habitat Helpers program. People who volunteer with Habitat Helpers repair or improve the home of someone who could not otherwise be able to have the work done (usually because of physical limitations or financial issues). Habitat provides a location, a site manager, and all of the necessary materials – all volunteers have to do is show up!

Our church has the opportunity to participate in this wonderful program! Prior experience in construction is not required – nor is the ability to do difficult physical tasks. Habitat works hard to ensure that there is something that everyone can do, such as gardening or painting (though for the more ambitious, other tasks will be available).

If you are interested in being involved in a one-day project with Habitat Helpers, please let us know! Talk to Maria Breznau (509-881-4426), or indicate your interest on the sheet posted on the Faith in Action bulletin board in the narthex.

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## Address List Update

It has come to our attention that several changes in addresses and phone numbers have occurred since we put out our last church pictorial directory. We would love to update the name and address portion of our directory for our church family. For the first 4 Sundays in August, Rita Newton or Barbara del Bosque will be in the Narthex prior to worship with an Address Update Form. We would love for all of our church members to complete one of these and turn it into the office. Our directory update should be out early this Fall. Thanks for your help!

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## Fort Worden Weekend

Looking ahead to Fort Worden Weekend. Mark your calendars for a fun time - **November 6-8**. Regardless of the weather, we have a great time! Time year we will be in 3 NCO houses and 1 - 5 bedroom house. There is still plenty of room to gather in one house for a meal or two. Any questions - call Sharon Minor at 766-5202.

## Blessing of the Animals and Worship on the Lawn!

Join us on Sunday, August 9<sup>th</sup> for a "Blessing of the Animals". Bring your pet, a photo of your pet, or your favorite stuffed animal for a special blessing. We will also be worshipping on the lawn in front of the church, weather permitting.

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## 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 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>**. 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.

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## Skagit Valley UMYouth

We are meeting this summer just prior to our "Singing and S'mores" events at Bayview State Park for a potluck dinner and games. All families with youth and children are encouraged to attend. Any questions, please see Lori Flores.

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## All-Church Monthly Potluck for August

We have a change in date and a change in place for our monthly potluck for August...

When: Sunday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> at 5:00 pm

Where: Mike & Sharon Minor's home, 9701 Samish Island Rd, Bow, WA 98232

Who: All of our church family!

Why: for food, fellowship and fun!

Bring a main dish, salad or dessert to share and be prepared for a beautiful picnic potluck on Samish Island!

Beautiful water views, wonderful company, and you can go down to the beach if you want to skip some rocks!

Any questions, please contact Sharon Minor or Lori Flores.

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## "Staycation" Mission Trip

Have you ever heard of a "staycation" where you stay at home to vacation? Well our youth group will be holding a "mission trip at home"! We are planning on having several different service projects for our youth on August 24-26 at different locations around Skagit Valley (along with some fun stuff as well!!!). If you have any wonderful ideas for possible projects, please see Lori in the church office.

# AUGUST

## BIRTHDAYS

- 8/1 Zachary Costa
- 8/2 Bonnie Spittler
- 8/4 Jon Turnbull
- 8/6 Dale Rutan
- 8/10 Hulda LeGro
- 8/11 Faye Martin
- 8/12 Chris Neblett
- 8/13 Lois Anderson  
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
- 8/21 Amanda Grant  
Dolores Tawes
- 8/23 Katie Olson  
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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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<b>Sunday Schedule</b> <b>9:30 am Worship</b> <b>10:40 am Coffee Hour</b>						1 11 am Memorial Ser- vice for Rich Allen
<b>2 Communion Sun- day</b> See Sunday Schedule	3	4 7:30 pm Administra- tive Board (Rees Room)	5 9 am MOPS Steering Committee Mtg 7:30 pm Finance Mtg	6 8:30 am Men's Morning Ministry 2 pm Staff Meeting	7	8
<b>9 Blessing of the Ani- mals</b> <b>Worship on the Lawn</b> See Sunday Schedule	10 2 pm Hugo's Accordion Band (Rees Room)	11	12 5:30 pm SVUMYouth Potluck & Games at Bayview 7 pm Singing and S'mores at Bayview State Park	13 8:30 am Men's Morning Ministry 2 pm Staff Meeting	14	15
16 See Sunday Schedule	17	18	19 6:30 pm Trustees Mtg (Conference Room)	20 8:30 am Men's Morning Ministry 2 pm Staff Meeting	21	22
23 See Sunday Schedule <b>5 pm All Church Pot- luck at the Minor's</b>	24 Youth At Home Mission Trip 2 pm Hugo's Accordion Band (Rees Room) 3 pm Open Door Com- munity Kitchen (SWUMC)	25 Youth At Home Mis- sion Trip 10 am Worship Work Area	26 Youth At Home Mission Trip 5:30 pm SVUMYouth Potluck & Games at Bayview 7 pm Singing and S'mores at Bayview State Park	27 8:30 am Men's Morning Ministry 2 pm Staff Meeting	28	29 1 pm Aylesworth/ Cook Wedding
30 <b>Back to School Bless- ings</b> See Sunday Schedule	31					

## ANNIVERSARIES

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

- 8/4 Brandon & Donna  
Thompson
- 8/10 Bruce & Janielle Coghill
- 8/11 Donald & Margaret Semrau
- 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
- 8/29 David & Cindy Matson
- 8/31 Eric & Debbie Grant

