

Mount Vernon First  
United Methodist Church

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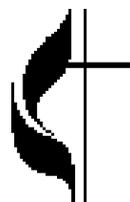


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# The Methodist Greeter

## JANUARY 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



*Snowflakes are kisses from  
heaven.*

*-unknown*

### Pastor's Corner

Pastor Dan Breznau

#### BIBLE READINGS FOR THE MONTH

##### January 3

Isaiah 60:1-6  
Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14  
Ephesians 3:1-12  
Mathew 2:1-12

##### January 10

Isaiah 43:1-7  
Psalm 29  
Acts 8:14-17  
Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

##### January 17

Isaiah 62:1-5  
Psalm 36:5-10  
1 Corinthians 12:1-11  
John 2:1-11

##### January 24

Nehemiah 8:1-10  
Psalm 19  
1 Corinthians 12:12-31  
Luke 4:14-21

##### January 31

Jeremiah 1:4-10  
Psalm 71:1-6  
1 Corinthians 13:1-13  
Luke 4:21-30

Greetings:

We are going through the Christmas season. From the song, you may remember the twelve days of Christmas, which ends on the day of Epiphany. Epiphany is the day we celebrate that not only has Jesus come into the world, but along with those that have come before us we also profess that he is Emmanuel, God with us. One way I have come to understand Jesus's entrance into the world is that I have been given the opportunity to know the love of God and share that with others. In a sense, to share in his birthday, by realizing that through his birth I have been given a new orientation on life. Sometimes that puts me at odds with the prevailing wisdom. For instance, there is a passage that speaks to having a Jesus party. In it, Jesus says to invite only those that don't have the means to pay you back – the poor and disenfranchised. Who are you going to speak to? Where do you hold it? How do you send out invitations? These are just a few of the questions that can arise, assuming that one does not dismiss the passage as being a hyperbole.

This year Daniel decided that he would like to share some Christmas cake with the community. (In our family we have had the tradition of celebrating Christmas with a birthday cake for Jesus that we all shared.) He purchased a couple of large cakes, but due to some unforeseen events, it turned out that we went out to share them just before the Christmas Eve service. It was pouring, gray, and getting dark. Yet here we were - asking in broken Spanish if the people we saw would like some cake. I am sure to the casual observer that it would have been rather amusing.

Two moments from that event particularly strike me as I reflect on the experience. One was when a young girl, possibly three feet high, stood in the rain shivering, and had come back to ask for cake to hand to her neighbors. What motivated her I do not know, but in that act, she seemed to embody the Christmas spirit. She had received and now was choosing to give to others. A second moment occurred with a family who was locked in their apartment. The door latch had broken, and they had to go in and out the window. The mother was obviously pregnant. Yet in spite of their circumstances they seemed quite joyful. I doubt I would be nearly as joyful in such an occasion – so it was, and is, a challenge to be thankful under stressful situations.

We may not all feel called to give out cake. I know of one grandmother that chose to take her grandchildren along to buy the presents for the giving tree. What a wonderful example for the children, but also an opportunity to share joyfully what God has bestowed upon us. I hope you come to know the love with which God holds you, and let it empower you to live with a sense of joy that allows you to be – different – as well.

Blessings, Pastor Dan

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

## FINANCIAL REPORT November 2015

	Income	Expense
<b>Regular Account</b>	\$22,149.72	\$21,023.86
<b>Special Accounts</b>	\$ 7,034.25	\$ 1,501.44
<b>Memorial Accounts</b>	\$ 320.00	\$ 151.02

We took in more than we spent in November and were able to pay all of our bills and our Conference apportionments. Thank you so much for your continued support of the ministries of the church.

If you have not had a chance to turn in a pledge card for 2016, it is not too late. There are pledge cards on the table in the Narthex or you can contact the church office for one.

### On-Line Giving at MVFUMC!

We have a new way that people can support our ministries at MVFUMC ... Mount Vernon First UMC is excited to announce that you can now manage your giving online! Giving online is easy and allows you to set up automatic recurring contributions and view your complete online giving history from anywhere you have access to the Internet. Simply follow these easy steps:

#### Manage your giving online

1. Visit the church website at [www.mvfumc.org](http://www.mvfumc.org)
2. Click on the "Online Giving" button,
3. Click on the Create Profile button, then
4. Follow the onscreen instructions to create an online profile and to schedule your recurring contributions.

For our members that currently give with a debit or credit card, you can also go on-line and create a profile and you can make any needed changes on-line yourself.

If you have any questions regarding on-line giving, please contact Lori Flores in the church office.

### Roots & Wings 2016

## Roots & Wings

Puget Sound District Training

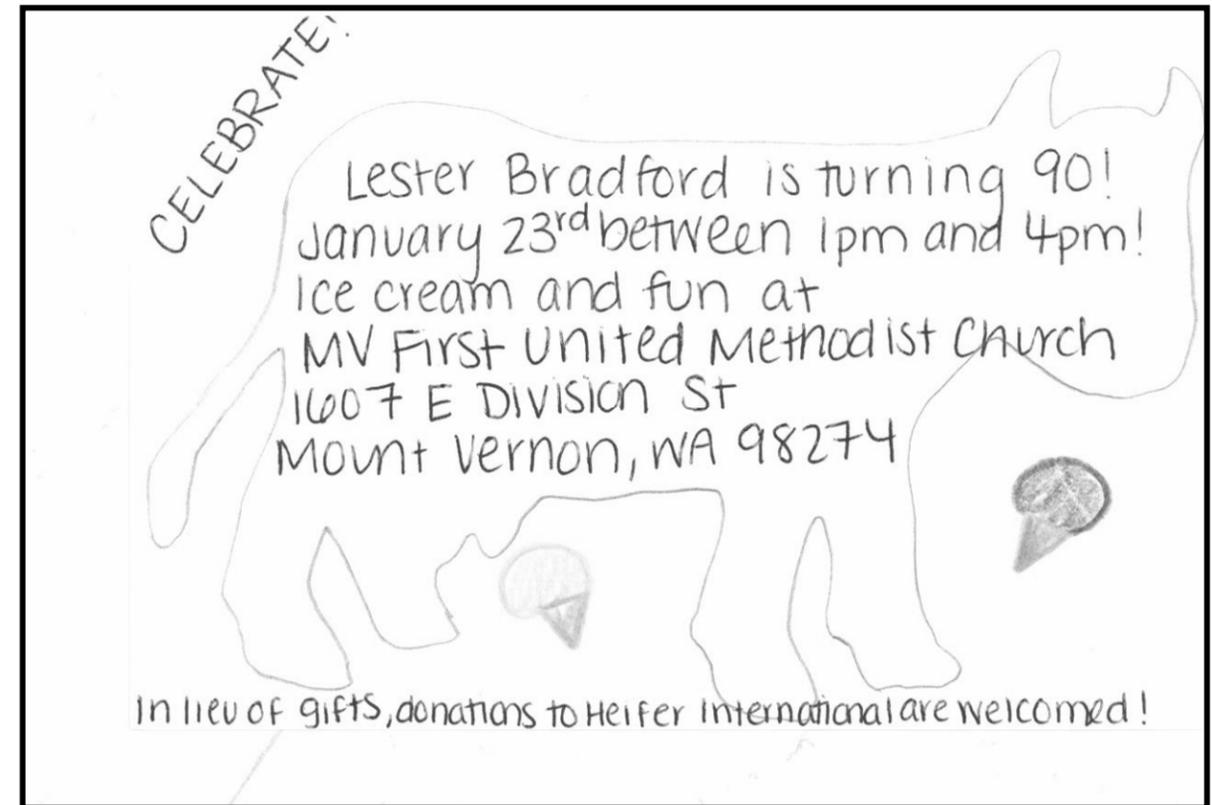
**Many Gifts, One Spirit;  
Many Roles, One Church**

*Keynote Speaker: Joan Holms*  
Conference Lay Leader

Saturday, January 30, 2016 • 9:00 AM - 2:30 PM  
\$20 includes lunch • Scholarships available  
Anacortes UMC • 2201 H Avenue • 98221

Register now at [bit.ly/Roots2016](http://bit.ly/Roots2016)

We hope that you will consider joining us on Saturday, January 30<sup>th</sup> at Anacortes UMC for our Puget Sound District gathering. There will be some wonderful workshops provided... something to interest everyone! Check out the information on the bulletin board in the Narthex. If you have any questions, please talk with Lori Flores. Hope that you will put this date on your calendar!!



### Sierra Leone Mission Project

On January 26, 2016 some of Lester and Winnie Bradford's children and grandchildren will leave for Sierra Leone, the country where they or their parents spent their early childhood. They have joined a United Methodist Volunteer In Mission education and medical team which will respond to needs expressed by the United Methodist Conference of Sierra Leone. They will spend one week in Freetown working with the staff at the U.M.C. Kissy Hospital. The second week will be spent at a U.M. school in a suburb of Freetown with 1200 students. The need there is the replacement of a deteriorating pit latrine. Dorcas, their civil engineering tech. daughter, would rather have the latrine replaced by a new type of latrine recommended by Engineers Without Borders for Africa. To make that possible it is estimated that she would need \$20,000 dollars available for a local contractor to buy the materials needed. A special fund for helping the team raise that money has been established at the church for anyone who wishes to contribute to the effort to raise the needed funds. If you wish to support this mission effort, feel free to write out a check to the church and write "Sierra Leone" on the memo line. Thank you!

### Faith in Action

Thank you to all those who participated in the Giving Tree project! We were able to provide gifts for thirty-five children, as well as supply gift cards to their families to help with the Christmas season. The families wanted to express their sincere appreciation for your generosity. Below is the contents of two cards that were given in response:

*“Thank you for giving my family an opportunity to open gifts this year and for giving me the best gift of all to see my children smile with excitement opening [their] gifts. I was worried this year I was not going to get that chance but [God heard] my prayer and sent you. Thank you so very much, love, [the family’s names].”*

*“Thank you so much for the christmas gifts we are very excited for christmas and really appreciate the presents you have given us Merry Christmas!” [Sic]*

As we move forward into the new year, we would be remiss in not celebrating the efforts and accomplishments of the last. With your support, we: Collected diapers for low-income mothers, housed and fed homeless families through Family Promise, grew and gave away vegetables from the community garden, collected coats for distribution, participated in the Habitat Helpers program, put together Christmas boxes for children, and much more. *Thank you!*

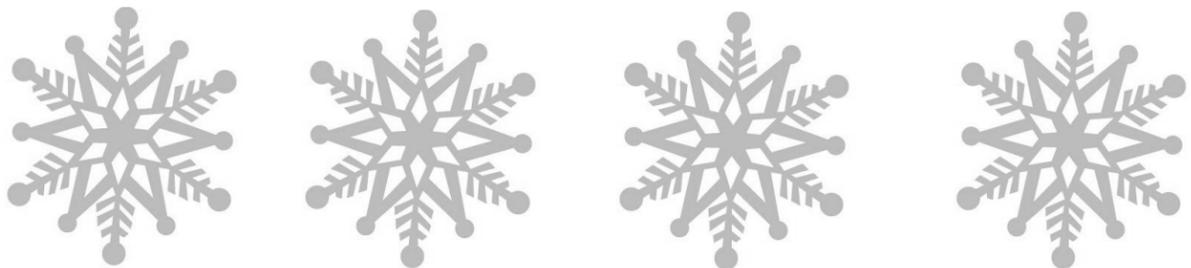
If there is a faith in action project or idea that you would like to pursue at any point in this new year, please contact Maria Breznau in person, at Maria@mvfumc.org, or at (360) 424-3628.

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### THANK YOU From Your Card Ministry Team

We appreciate very much the response from our church family to our greeting card sale, which was held on November 29. Donations in the amount of \$66 were collected, which will be used to purchase postage stamps. It is a joy for us to continue to celebrate the birthdays and anniversaries of our church family members.

Thank you from your Card Ministry Team,  
Bev, Nancy, and Linda



### Skagit Valley UMYouth Group

Hey all you 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> graders... grab your friends and join us for some fun, fellowship, faith-building and food! Our two meeting dates for January are the 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. On January 10<sup>th</sup> we will meet from 4 pm to 6 pm at Mount Vernon FUMC. The meeting place for the 24<sup>th</sup> is still being decided. We will also be getting the information out about CONVO 2016!!!! This year will be different since General Conference for the UMC will be held in Portland next May (when we would normally be having CONVO at UPS)... so we will be having CONVO over President’s Day weekend in February and it will be at Warm Beach Camp! Just a few miles down the road from us!!

Any questions, contact Lori or check out the Skagit Valley UMYouth Facebook page.

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### Adult Sunday School Class

A number of people have expressed interest in having an adult Sunday School/Bible Study class between the worship services on Sunday morning. We are working on it and just wanted to let you know to watch the weekly bulletin and the newsletter for more information.

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### Congratulations Matthew Replier!

Congratulations to Matthew on earning the rank of Eagle Scout! You may not know that the church was the beneficiary of Matthew’s Eagle Scout project. He worked with the church and Alpine Ridge Retirement Center and decided to build another raised bed for our Community Garden. The residents at Alpine Ridge will be invited to plant that bed in addition to the one that they currently use. Thank you Matthew and Congratulations!!

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### Church Address Directories

The church staff would like to say a huge “Thank You!” to Rita Newton for spearheading this project! An updated list of members’ addresses was long overdue and Rita did such a wonderful job of encouraging us all to fill out the updated forms to make sure that the church had the most current information. The new directories will be printed within the next 2 weeks. They will be available in the Narthex for pick-up. If you are unable to come to church, but would like the updated address directory, please contact the church office and we will get one to you.

# January

## BIRTHDAYS

- 1/7 Bill Burress
- 1/10 Cheryl Bishop  
Evan Repplier
- 1/11 Lois Yale
- 1/10 Jacinda Matson Herring  
Jessie Wiggins
- 1/12 Sharon Minor
- 1/13 Anne Lundquist  
Dee Brown  
Claire Miller  
Raven Golliver
- 1/15 Kurtis Scoby
- 1/18 Randy Rabenstein  
Roxanne Romanelli
- 1/19 Amy Flores
- 1/20 Lester Bradford  
Hazel Blakeslee
- 1/21 Delores Sward  
Brent Thompson  
Jacob Eastman  
Abigail Thompson
- 1/24 Kelli Walker
- 1/25 Bernice Petrish  
Chris Cooper
- 1/26 Yank Belisle  
Kathy Dean  
Jennifer Ruhland
- 1/29 Wayne Smith  
Adelicia Newall
- 1/31 Bob Hallberg  
Wes Minor

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Sunday Schedule</b> 8:30 am Worship 9:15 am Kids Gather with Gary 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship					1 <i>Happy New Year!</i>	2
<b>3 Communion Sunday</b> <b>See Sunday Schedule</b>  1 pm Matthew Repplier Eagle Scout Court of Honor	4	5 9:30 am MOPS 1:30 pm Bell Trio Rehearsal 7:30 pm Disciple 2	6 6 pm Girl Scouts 6:30 pm Bell Choir 7:30 pm Chancel Choir	7 8:30 am Men's Morning Ministry 9:30 am Quilters 12:30 pm Staff 3 pm Disciple 1	8	9
<b>10</b> <b>See Sunday Schedule</b> 2 pm Hispanic Ministries 4 pm Skagit Valley UM Youth (here)	11 2 pm Hugo's Accordion Band Rehearsal	12 1:30 pm Bell Trio Rehearsal 6 pm Girl Scouts 6:30 pm NAMI 7:30 pm Disciple 2	13 6:30 pm Bell Choir 7:30 pm Chancel Choir 7:30 pm Finance Mtg	14 8:30 am Men's Morning Ministry 12:30 pm Staff 3 pm Disciple 1	15	16
<b>17</b> <b>See Sunday Schedule</b> 12 pm Senior Ministries 5 pm All Church Potluck	<b>18</b> <b>Newsletter Articles due to Bridget Perez</b>	19 9:30 am MOPS 1:30 pm Bell Trio Rehearsal 7:30 pm Disciple 2	20 10 am Crafters 12 pm UMW Lunch & Program 6 pm Girl Scouts 6:30 pm Trustees Mtg 6:30 pm Bell Choir 7:30 pm Chancel Choir	21 8:30 am Men's Morning Ministry 9:30 am Quilters 12:30 pm Staff 3 pm Disciple 1	22	<b>23</b> <b>Lester Bradford's 90th Birthday Celebration!</b> (see bulletin for time)
<b>24</b> <b>See Sunday Schedule</b> 2 pm Hispanic Ministries 4 pm Skagit Valley UM Youth (here)	25 9 am Newsletter Mailing 2 pm Hugo's Accordion Band Rehearsal	26 10 am Worship Mtg 1:30 pm Bell Trio Rehearsal 6 pm Girl Scouts 7:30 pm Disciple 2	27 10 am Outreach Mtg 6:30 pm Bell Choir 7:30 pm Chancel Choir	28 8:30 am Men's Morning Ministry 12:30 pm Staff 3 pm Disciple 1	29	30 Roots & Wings Puget Sound District Gathering @ Anacortes UMC 9:30 am—2:30 pm
<b>31</b> <b>See Sunday Schedule</b>						

## ANNIVERSARIES

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

- 1/8 Bill and Darnell Burress
- 1/18 Todd and Stacy Ladwig
- 1/25 Leo and Sharon Waldschmidt
- 1/28 Bill and Anne Lundquist

