

Mount Vernon First  
United Methodist Church

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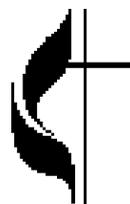


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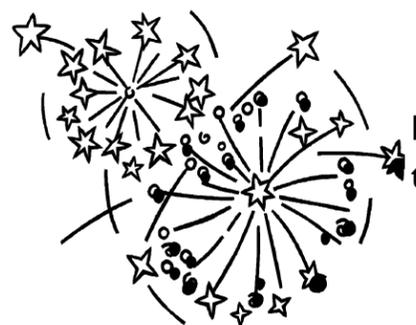
# The Methodist Greeter

## JULY 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



Freedom is nothing but a chance to be better.

~Albert Camus

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

### Pastor's Corner

Pastor Terry Hall

#### BIBLE READINGS FOR THE MONTH

##### July 3

2 Kings 5:1-14  
Psalm 30  
Galatians 6:(1-6) 7-16  
Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

##### July 10

Amos 7:7-17  
Psalm 82  
Colossians 1:1-14  
Luke 10:25-37

##### July 17

Amos 8:1-12  
Psalm 52 or 82  
Colossians 1:15-28  
Luke 10:38-42

##### July 24

Hosea 1:2-10  
Psalm 85  
Colossians 2:6-15  
Luke 11:1-13

##### July 31

Hosea 11:1-11  
Psalm 107:1-9, 43  
Colossians 3:1-11  
Luke 12:13-21

In the beginning ...

Beginnings are such tender and often anxious moments. We do not know one another, and change is so, well, unpredictable! When congregations experience a pastoral change, most of us, pastors included, come in with at least a bit of anxiety. You don't know who I am or how I will treat you; my wife and I step into your spotlight knowing almost no one and unsure how we will be received. In this odd system of ours, where churches and pastors sometimes find themselves called to undergo a switch they did not seek, it can be especially challenging to say hello when we really never wanted to say goodbye.

Thankfully, we are not in this work or set of relationships alone! We are drawn together by the Spirit of Christ, the same Spirit that inspired fishermen, a tax collector, and others to speak in languages they had never studied, bearing witness to God's love for all. The same Creator found a way to show Peter that the 'chosen people' were being called into the next stage of their long relationship with the One who does the choosing – accepting as family those they had long considered outsiders. Whatever our Bishop and Cabinet had in mind in calling us together, it will now be up to us to bathe both our work together and one another in prayer, remembering that the most important portion of our prayer lives is the part where we are listening.

I want to thank Pastor Dan and the Administrative Board for taking the extraordinary step of including me in some of the work here even before my official start date, providing a significant boost to both my understanding of some of the exciting work underway and my sense of welcome. Dennie (my wife) and I both look forward to getting acquainted with you, and want you to know that one of our favorite ministries is going out to visit folks together. We are very excited about the Children's Choir Diane has been working with, and I hope to get to work on improving my Spanish so I can fully support and interact with Zulma and the Hispanic Ministry you are developing.

Blessings! See you soon!

Pastor Terry Hall and Dennie Sherman



## Financial Report for May 2016

|                 | Income      | Expense     |
|-----------------|-------------|-------------|
| Regular Account | \$19,535.56 | \$24,584.69 |
| Special Account | \$27,686.69 | \$29,137.96 |
| Memorials       | \$ 155.00   | -0-         |

As you can see, for the month of May we did spend more than we took in. Even though our income was less than expenses, we were able to pay all of our bills and our monthly apportionments to the conference. Our special accounts numbers are higher than normal because the figures reflect money that came in from the Endowment Fund and then went out to pay for the repaving of our parking lot. Thanks to the Trustees and Church Council for all their work on this project.

Summer is a time when giving is typically down because of people traveling, etc. Please remember your church pledge during the summer months as well. The Finance committee would like to thank this congregation for supporting the ministries of our church.

### Thank You

#### Thank You from Lois Yale

The honoring ceremony and program on Sunday, May 22nd, was wonderful and definitely made me feel duly recognized for my 25 years of service as your chancel choir director. I served under 5 pastors and 5 accompanists over those years which brought many challenges, but the challenges never overshadowed the JOY of providing music to enhance the worship service. The chancel choir definitely felt like family to me and I love each one! Thank you for the special recognition every Sunday of the 25 years. There were very FEW Sundays when someone didn't express appreciation for our music. I was blessed over and over again.

**Thank you, Bridget Perez** for the years of service as editor of The Greeter, our church newsletter. Your patience with articles being submitted after the deadline and your skill at design are much appreciated. Bridget retired from the position after doing the May edition. Sue Erickson is the new editor.

**Thank you to all those who have provided the beautiful flowers** for the altar in recent weeks. This reminder of God's grace through the beauty of nature around us uplifts us in our worship. As you enjoy the beautiful flowers of your yard through the summer, please remember this opportunity. The sign up sheet for providing Altar flowers is in the hallway outside Sprague Hall.

### Babies, Babies, Babies!

Congratulations to David and Cindy Matson on the birth of their first grandchild, Juniper Quin Herring born June 9th. Juniper is the new daughter of Jacinda and Jonah Herring.

Linda and Al Steiner were excited to announce at the early service on June 6th of the birth of twin grandbabies Simone Marie Steiner and Elijah Bruce Steiner. The twins joined Nicole and Ben's family just before midnight on June 3. Their older sister had the honor of revealing their sexes and names at a reveal party Saturday afternoon. Congratulations!

### Job Opening -- Faith in Action Coordinator

As Maria Breznau moves with her family to Lacey, we are again seeking a person to serve as Faith in Action Coordinator. The person in this position identifies mission/service opportunities in the congregation and the community and organizes and supervises groups and individuals participating in these opportunities. He/she works closely with the pastor and Outreach team. We are looking for a person of strong Christian faith who feels a calling to do this work. A full job description and desired qualifications can be found on the church website [mvfumc.org](http://mvfumc.org). If interested in this half time position, please send a resume with a cover letter to the church office.

## MUSIC MINISTRY NEWS

### Children's Choir --- Coro de los Niños

Our church has started a Children's Choir this summer. It includes several children from Sunday School, our Hispanic Ministry, and the Mount Vernon community. We rehearse on Sundays at 9am, and we sing at the 10am service. All children K-5 are invited to join us! Just come to rehearsal or to sign up, contact Diane at 206-271-5117 or [dfigaro@mvfumc.org](mailto:dfigaro@mvfumc.org).

Nuestra iglesia está empezando un Coro de los Niños este verano. Incluye muchos niños de nuestra escuela de los domingos, nuestro grupo latino, y la comunidad de Mount Vernon. Los ensayos son cada domingo a las 9am, y cantamos durante el servicio a las 10am. Todos los niños K-5 están invitados para participar. Vengan al ensayo, o por favor contactar Diane al tel. 206-271-5117, o [dfigaro@mvfumc.org](mailto:dfigaro@mvfumc.org).



Please note: Your children do not have to be here the whole summer to participate! Just come when you can!

### Welcome to Our New Organist-Pianist—Halden Toy!

Our church family warmly welcomes a key new musician, Halden Toy! Halden will be playing organ and piano throughout our worship services, including instrumental keyboard pieces and accompanying the Chancel Choir (adult choir). Halden has experience playing for churches in Everett and Idaho Falls, is an apprentice in harpsichord and clavichord building and maintenance, and has won organ competitions locally and internationally. Please read more about Halden in his bio, also in this newsletter. We all welcome you, Halden!

Halden Toy, 22, organist and harpsichordist, has been playing the organ since the age of 10. He has studied with Norma Aamodt-Nelson, Douglas Cleveland and Daniel Kerr. In 2009 he took first place at the American Guild of organist's Region VIII competition, and was featured in 2010 as a rising star at the American Guild of Organist's national convention in Washington D.C. Halden has been in demand as an organist in many venues. In the spring of 2014 he was awarded the Nona C. Hunter music scholarship. He is frequently in demand as an accompanist on both organ and harpsichord. Halden was accepted as one of 8 finalists in the 5th International Organ Competition Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck in 2014. In 2015 Halden was selected as one of The DIAPASON's 20 under 30.



### Welcome to Our New Nursery Attendant—Ashleigh Jacobson!

We are excited to welcome Ashleigh as our nursery attendant at MVFUMC. Ashleigh is probably a familiar face as she has been worshipping with our church family over the last year. She has been a volunteer child care provider with our MOPS program and has volunteered at VBS. Ashleigh recently graduated from Skagit Valley Community College with a degree in Early Childhood Education and has been a nanny for two different families in our area over the last 3 years. We are excited to have Ashleigh on staff and taking care of our littlest members.



## CHURCH COUNCIL UPDATE

Your Church Council has had a very busy but productive few months! Just to recap, in the fall of 2015 we shifted from the Administrative Board form of church governance (as spelled out in the [Book of Discipline](#)), to a single board governance. The reality was that it was getting harder and harder to adequately fill all of the various committees under the old system. Nine people (including the pastor) were recruited to serve on the single board, which was named the Church Council. The original members were: Pastor Dan, Barbara del Bosque, Ron Erickson, Lynnette Gerhard, Blair Hoey, Gary Isham, Wylie Keeler, Doug Rindal, and Chris Satterlund. (Due to his wife Sue's recent retirement as our church organist, and their desire to travel, Doug has recently resigned.) While this is a new form of government for our church, a number of other Methodist churches have successfully tried this single board concept. It is unique to each church and more flexible. Some of the advantages are fewer meetings, less "layers" to work through, and quicker decision making.

We had no idea at the time we switched that we would be looking at a change of pastors in 2016. That became a major focus as the Church Council first prayerfully fought to retain Pastor Dan, and then worked to make the transition as smooth and loving as possible for all involved. This has meant a number of meetings with Daniel Foster, our District Superintendent; Terry Hall, our new incoming pastor; sub-groups of SPRC, staff, & the Church Council; and a wonderful Conference-sponsored Saturday workshop on "Pastoral Transitions." We recognized the grief that many in our congregation would feel on losing Pastor Dan and his family, and have tried to encourage anyone to contact us if they had questions or concerns. We planned celebrations, gifts of a memory scrapbook & money tree, and worship litanies as we worked toward accepting the final days with Pastor Dan. Children were given an opportunity to express their goodbyes. Crews are lined up to help with their move, as we recognize that due to family surgeries, this is a difficult time for a move. Letters of recommendation have been provided for Maria, as our departing Faith in Action Coordinator, and Daniel, as our volunteer "technology expert." Many hours have gone into this process, and too many wonderful people have been involved to even try to start listing them! We have done everything in our power to accept this as "not our will, but Thine, O Lord!"

Meanwhile, we have set in motion things to welcome our new pastor. Small group gatherings are planned so we can visit and get to know him better (more information to come). You are all being encouraged to wear your name tags and get your photo updated for the picture board in the hall. (Remember, we are having to get to know two people, the pastor and his wife. They have to get to know hundreds of us!!!) The Pastor's Office is being repainted, and lists of home-bound and ill church members are being prepared. A publicity campaign is in the works to introduce the community to all of our recent changes. There will be welcoming events and other special items as we move into our future of ministry with Pastor Terry and his wife, Dennie.

Other business that has been accomplished has been the hiring of our new organist, nursery attendant, and the advertising for a new Faith in Action Coordinator, thanks to the outstanding work of the SPR Committee. The paving of the parking lot and the purchase of a new (required by the fire department) hood for the kitchen stove, are being ably handled, thanks to the hard work of the Trustees. A review of our technology needs is in the works, as well as a second workshop with Stephan Ross on the whole single board governance plan.

While this is a LONG article, it is just a glimpse of what has been going on! If you have any questions or concerns, please contact any of [your](#) Church Council members.

Barbara del Bosque  
424-6494

## Sleeping Mat Update



The first of June, Maria Breznau delivered three mats to Friendship and three mats to the Phoenix Center. Both were excited to receive the mats as there is quite a demand for them.

Thank you, Maria and those who supply bags, those who cut bags and those who crocheted the bags together.

The project will continue under the very capable leadership of Mary Downing. If you have any questions or would like to learn how to make a mat, please contact Mary

Downing at 360-428-8942 or at [mt.downing@comcast.net](mailto:mt.downing@comcast.net)

### Sleeping Mat Workshops Wednesday, 7/6/16 and 7/27/16

Sleeping mat project needs your help with either cutting bags or crocheting in a group on Wednesday, 7/6/16 and Wednesday, 7/27/16 at 1pm. If you have any questions or would like to learn how to make a mat, please

### Vacation Bible School 2016 - July 18-22, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

Inviting all children, preschool through 6<sup>th</sup> grade, to join us for Vacation Bible School! We are again working cooperatively with our friends from the Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church. Our theme this year is "Surf Shack: Catch the Wave of God's Amazing Love!" We will be meeting this year at the MV Presbyterian Church, 1511 E Broadway. If you know of a young person that may enjoy having a week filled with fun, friends and faith, please invite them to join us!

If you have some spare time that week and would like to volunteer to help, please contact Lori in the church office. Watch the bulletin board in the narthex for sign-up sheets to help out with snacks for VBS week. And, of course, we would love to have you praying for all of our leaders and children! Thank you!

### VBS Family Fun Night – Friday, July 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30 pm

Our whole church family is invited to join us for our final gathering of VBS. We will meet in the Sanctuary at Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church for some songs and our video slide show of the week's activities. We will then head off to Good Shepherd Hall for a dessert potluck, fun and fellowship! Hope that you can join us!

### Welcome BBQ for Pastor Terry and Dennie

You are invited to join in welcoming Pastor Terry and Dennie at a "Welcome BBQ" following worship on Sunday, July 10<sup>th</sup>. Hamburgers, hot dogs and dessert will be provided. Please bring a salad or side dish to share. Also, looking ahead, we will be setting up some small group gatherings in homes so that Pastor Terry can get to know the members of our church family. Within the next few weeks you will receive an invitation to join in on one of these gatherings. If you have any questions or maybe would like to host one of these gatherings in your home, please contact the church office.

### Singing & S'Mores

The Bay View United Methodist Church has invited us to join them for Singing & S'mores the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays in July and August, 7:00 p.m. at the Picnic Area in Bay View State Park. Enjoy the beautiful weather and God's wonderful creation while singing worship songs and roasting marshmallows around the campfire? Song books and s'mores will be provided. Questions? Contact Pastor Cody Natland at 360-499-6768 or [Pastor.BayViewUMC@gmail.com](mailto:Pastor.BayViewUMC@gmail.com).

**BIRTHDAYS**

- 7/2 Emma Eliason
- 7/3 Shannon Golliver
- 7/7 Charlotte Ambrose  
Buffy Gullberg-Williams
- 7/8 David Edwards  
Erica Nystrom
- 7/11 Barbara del Bosque  
Amelia Pirkle
- 7/12 Janeie Belisle  
Asher Latulippe
- 7/13 Janielle Coghill  
Hannah Ermi  
Barbara Jackson  
Robert Seabury
- 7/15 Vicki Cooley  
Shirley Nickerson
- 7/18 William Burress
- 7/21 Donald Semrau  
Debbie Bloodgood
- 7/22 Daniel Breznau
- 7/23 Susan Fisher  
Dylan Thomas
- 7/24 Brandon Thompson
- 7/25 Jeff Drayer
- 7/27 Joe Ambrose
- 7/29 Michael Hennessey
- 7/31 Rebecca Ayers



# JULY



| Sun   | Mon  | Tue  | Wed  | Thu   | Fri   | Sat                                  |
|---|--|--|--|---|---|--------------------------------------|
|   |  |  |  |   | 1   | 2                                    |
| 3 Pastor Terry's First Sunday<br>Communion Sunday<br>10 am Worship                        | 4  | 5<br>1:30 pm Bell Trio Rehearsal                                 | 6<br>7:30 pm Finance Meeting                       | 7<br>8:30 am Men's Morning Ministry             | 8   | 9                                    |
| 10<br>9 am Children's Choir<br>10 am Worship<br>Welcome BBQ for Pastor Terry & Dennie Sue | 11<br>2 pm Hugo's Accordion Band Rehearsal   | 12<br>1:30 pm Bell Trio Rehearsal                                | 13<br>7 pm Singing & S'mores at Bayview State Park | 14<br>8:30 am Men's Morning Ministry            | 15  | 16                                   |
| 17<br>9 am Children's Choir<br>10 am Worship  | 18 <b>VBS</b>  | 19 <b>VBS</b><br>1:30 pm Bell Trio Rehearsal                     | 20 <b>VBS</b><br>6:30 pm Trustees Mtg.             | 20 <b>VBS</b><br>8:30 am Men's Morning Ministry | 22 <b>VBS</b><br>6:30 pm VBS Family Fun Night at MV Presbyterian Church | 23<br>8:30 am Church Council Meeting |
| 24<br>10 am Worship   | 25<br>9 am Newsletter Mailing<br>2 pm Hugo's Accordion Band Rehearsal<br>4 pm Open Door Community Kitchen (SW) | 26<br>10 am Worship Comm. Meeting<br>1:30 pm Bell Trio Rehearsal | 27<br>7 pm Singing & S'mores at Bayview State Park | 28<br>8:30 am Men's Morning Ministry            | 29  | 30                                   |
| 31<br>10 am Worship   |  |  |  |   |   |                                      |

**ANNIVERSARIES**

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

- 7/24 Leonard and Jill Eliason
- 7/26 Dan and Lynnette Gerhard  
Colin and Alisa Sands
- 7/30 Dan and Marti Wall
- 7/31 Jim and Nancy Finkbeiner

