

Mount Vernon First
United Methodist Church

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The Methodist Greeter

MAY 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



"Earth provides enough to
satisfy every man's need,
but not every man's greed."

-Gandhi

Pastor's Corner

Pastor Dan Breznau

BIBLE READINGS FOR THE MONTH

May 3

Acts 8:26-40
Psalm 22:25-31
1 John 4:7-21
John 15:1-8

May 10

Acts 10:44-48
Psalm 98
1 John 5:1-6
John 15:9-17

May 17

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26
Psalm 1
1 John 5:9-13
John 17:6-19

May 24

Acts 2:1-21
Psalm 104:24-35
Romans 8:22-27
John 15:26-27; 16:4-15

May 31

Isaiah 6:1-8
Romans 8:12-17
John 3:1-17

Greetings,

In the Gospel of John we hear about of a pool of water in Jerusalem, which in Hebrew is called Bethesda. Near the pool lay a multitude of those who were sick, blind, lame, and withered, waiting for the moving of the waters. At certain seasons an angel of the Lord went down into the pool and stirred up the water; whoever first stepped in was made well from whatever disease with which he or she was afflicted. The story shifts when Jesus arrives and heals a man who had laid there for thirty eight years. The man had not been able to get into the waters before others, who were more agile, got in first. (John 5:2-4) How heart rending it must have been for this poor man to wait for all those years, until, thankfully he meets Jesus.

Over the course of the last forty years, I have been intrigued by what the role of the church is in our world. I have been offered a variety of answers from professors to parishioners, some of them believers and others not at all; together they have provided quite a range of responses. Yet as I reflect on Jesus' message and His actions, I continue to return to the notion that the church should be primarily a place of healing. Jesus bids his disciples "peace;" the root of the word is healing of heart, mind and soul. The restoration of a right relationship with God and all creation undergirds many of the terms and actions seen in the New Testament to describe Christ's ministry. As in the above story, there are many who look for solutions to their problems but find that on their own, they are not able to enter the waters of transformation.

As a church we have been given the example that Christ set before us, to be conduits of healing. How, one might ask, do we undertake such a grand adventure? I believe that the early church has provided us with examples. Christ's disciples experienced His resurrection first hand. Through their encounter with the risen Lord, their inner transformation was experienced in a new way. It was from this deep well, that they carried "healing waters" to the world. In a like manner, I suggest that we have a need for both acts of inner healing, as well as external healing actions which bring a cure to our world. However, without first encountering the living Christ, we are simply carriers of the contagion that afflicts the world.

As with any illness or infirmity, to recognize that we need healing is the first step; but then to participate in our treatment is our responsibility. In this regard prayer, meaningful Bible study, Holy Communion, fasting/self-denial, and conversations in which we share stories of our faith life are all essential. It is through our cooperation and participation that God's grace is revealed to us all the more will bring healing to us as the Holy Spirit moves, and transforms our lives. As we become more whole and share this with others, we then become conduits of God's love and healing to our world.

May God grant you grace and peace, Pastor Dan

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

FINANCIAL REPORT

March, 2015

| | Income | Expense |
|-----------------|-------------|-------------|
| Regular Account | \$23,844.78 | \$27,334.73 |
| Special Account | \$ 8,576.80 | \$ 2,174.00 |

As you can see, we spent more than we took in during the month of March and this was due to the fact that we paid 1/2 of our insurance bill for the year in the amount of \$5,000.00. Thank you for your continued support of our church ministries.

Administrative Board

We will be making a decision as to the direction we take as a church either to go forward with a Single Board governance or return to our former committee led church structure. If you would like to share your thoughts on the matter, please join us on May 5th @ 7:00p.m. If you have questions, please see Barbara del Bosque or Pastor Dan.

Calling All Grads...

We are getting ready to celebrate our 2015 Graduates and would love to include all that will be graduating from college, technical programs, certificates, etc. Please let Lori Flores know your graduate info: Name, School, Degree, so that we can celebrate these achievements. Thank you!

Spring Clean Sweep/Des Colores Potluck May 16 at 3:00 p.m.

Celebrate the colors of Spring and help in making God's house beautiful. Work party followed by potluck dinner at 5 p.m. Children of all ages expected! We would love to see you at both but feel free to come to either part as you are able. Please bring a main dish, salad or dessert to share at the potluck. Any questions, contact the church office.

Women's Brunch May 16th at 10 am

The United Methodist Women are inviting all women and girls to join us for our annual brunch. This year's theme is "Antiques Roadshow". If you have some kind of antique that you would like to bring to share with the group, please feel free. This is a wonderful time to gather together, share some delicious goodies and some wonderful fellowship. Feel free to invite friends along!

Is this your gift?

We are in need of a volunteer for the position of Kitchen Manager to oversee food preparation in the kitchen during special events. Please contact the office if you are interested.

school friend, Louise, and they visited Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Germany, Paris (very briefly), Holland, Belgium and England. Diana said they felt "protected by God" during this trip, as the vacation was a great experience, and they arrived home safely after their three-week trip.

Diana met her husband, Dusty, an Anacortes native, while they were both counselors at a United Methodist church camp on Vashon Island in 1971. Dusty was a seminary student at Wesley Seminary in Washington D.C. A few years passed, and in 1975 Dusty and Diana were together again at Camp Burton for a young adult retreat. They both realized at that time that they had a future together. They were engaged in October and married in November on Thanksgiving Day of 1975. They honeymooned on Orcas Island and later in Tahiti. While snorkeling there, Dusty lost his brand new wedding ring!

In 1976 Dusty and Diana took a five week camping trip back to Washington D.C. where Dusty completed his final year at Wesley Seminary. He earned a Master's degree in Theological Studies. They moved back to Washington state and settled in Mount Vernon. Diana began working at United General Hospital in Sedro-Woolley and was employed there for 1-1/2 years. During this time, their daughter, Ellen, was born in 1978. Diana then went to work with Dr. Winnie Bradford, a member of our UMC congregation, at the Mount Vernon Birth Center. She worked there for four years, and in 1983, Diana went to work at Cascade Valley Hospital, where she is still currently employed and has worked for most of that time as an operating room nurse. Daughter, Bryndal, was born in 1980, and son, Max, was born in 1990. A huge highlight on September 12, 2013 was the birth of grandson, Andrew, to daughter Ellen and her husband, Tom. Diana and Dusty receive so much joy in being grandparents and find it hard to go more than two weeks without seeing Andrew!

In 2008, Diana was in a vehicle accident and broke both legs. After a long recuperation, she changed jobs at the hospital and became a surgical pre-admission nurse, which was less physically challenging than her work in the operating room.

Diana has been very active in our church over the years. She is a valuable member of the alto section in the chancel choir, helped to operate the sound system during worship services for several years, was active in young adult ministries, and was assistant to her sister, Lois, in Lois' Sunday school class.

Retirement may be on the horizon in the next few years. Diana is hoping to renew her interest in quilting and sewing. She enjoys kayaking, walking, and a "little" gardening. She is looking forward to volunteer work and having the time to enjoy these things.

Diana knows without a doubt that she is "unconditionally loved by God" and is open to learning new things as she continues on her life's journey. She tries to be "the best she can be every day", to help others feel validated, and to try to be positive and find the silver lining in all circumstances. She prays each day, "Fill me to overflowing with the white light and love of the Holy Spirit and please keep negativity away."

With Diana's generous and caring spirit, we know she has been a valued member of the nursing profession. She is one who recognized her true calling and never looked back. These qualities are part of who Diana is, no matter where she goes. Diana, thank you for taking the time to share some of the stories of your life with us and for the many ways you have served our church over the years. God bless!

-- Contributed by Linda Cook

Thank You

We want to thank our church family for the outpouring of love on Doug's behalf following his fall. We appreciate the calls, texts, e-mails, cards and most of all your prayers. There is no doubt in our minds that God has had His hand on Doug every step of the way. The prayers offered for Doug have lifted and sustained us. Many thanks dear friends. "Great is thy Faithfulness, oh Lord unto me." — In the love of Christ, Doug & Sue Rindal

Favorite Anthem Sunday Lois Yale, Chancel Choir Director

Chancel Choir members will present some of their favorite anthems on Sunday, May 31st. Please mark your calendar, invite a friend, and plan to be in worship that day. Music speaks to our hearts like nothing else can.

Summer Music Opportunity Lois Yale, Chancel Choir Director

The time is near when the Chancel Choir members will be sitting in the pews with all of you during the summer months! Music offerings are needed to enhance our summer worship experience beginning June 7th. Will you or a family member or friend prayerfully consider sharing music with us this summer? All ages are welcome to share ~ any kind of music ~ vocal or instrumental! Contact Lois Yale to sign up today!



GETTING TO KNOW..... ★ DIANA BARBER ★

Diana has been a longtime, committed member of Mount Vernon UMC since 1977, and many of us feel we have gotten to know her well during the ensuing years. However, in taking the time to really talk one on one with Diana about her life's journey thus far, I feel I learned so much more about her and hope you will too after reading this.

The old hospital on the hill in Arlington, Washington is where Diana was born into this world. Her family lived in a rural area east of Arlington on a farm, where they were basically self sufficient. They had milk cows, a large vegetable garden, beef from the cattle, hens, ducks, and rabbits. The barn had 10 stalls for milking the cows. They also had a huge cherry orchard. Diana's father started out as a logger but changed jobs and was a crane operator for Western Gear before retiring. He would get up early in the morning to milk the cows before going to work and then do other chores when he came back home. Diana's mother was a stay-at-home mom and ran the farm when her husband was at work. The third of five children, Diana has three sisters (Sandy, Lois, and Janet) and a brother, Eddie, who is the youngest of the five. Did you know that Diana's sister, Lois Yale, is director of our Chancel Choir? Also, brother Eddie occasionally is a special music guest at our church with his ensemble, 'A New Song: Sinners on the Lamb'. Diana's father passed away in 2009, and her mother continues to live on the farm and still takes care of three cows.

Diana completed grades 1-4 in a small schoolhouse in the community of Trafton and then finished the rest of her schooling in Arlington. She enjoyed being part of the drill team in high school and eventually became the leader. Diana "always" knew she wanted to be a nurse. Even at preschool age, Diana and her grandma would play with her teddy bear together, he would fall out of a cherry tree and break a bone, and she would put a 'cast' on the fractured limb or bandage his injuries. In first grade, she would put Band-aids on her school-mates' cuts. In her senior year of high school, a new Health Occupations class was offered, which was perfect timing for Diana. She worked at Cascade Valley Hospital the summer after high school graduation, and subsequently earned a scholarship to Tacoma General Hospital School of Nursing. At the time, a three-year program was offered, with a lot of hands-on experience at the hospital. Armed with her R.N. diploma, Diana began her nursing career back at Cascade Valley Hospital in 1972. At that time, nurses did many things in addition to taking care of regular patients including working in the emergency room, respiratory therapy, equipment sterilization, and even cleaning the hospital rooms between patients. Diana lived at home with her parents during this time and saved her money. She was able to vacation in Europe with high

Confirmation Class

Please continue to hold our Confirmation Class and leaders in your prayers. This is a wonderful group of young people and they have been very dedicated in attending Confirmation classes each Sunday this school year. We are nearing the end of the Confirmation process and soon (June 7th) they will be deciding if they intend to officially join the church (we already consider them part of our church family, but this will make it official!) We also have had some wonderful adults in our congregation agree to be Faith Friends to our confirmands and we want to take a moment to thank them for their support of these young people. Below you will see a list of the confirmands and their Faith Friends. (Confirmands' names are in bold)

Emily Eastman – Kay Martin, **Megan Perez** – Edie Diver, **Hannah Perez** – Denise Breznau, **Owen Smith** – Daniel Breznau, **Shauna Flores** – Winnie Bradford, **Logan Eastman** – Lori Flores

 **What is CONVO?** The Bishop's Convocation of Youth is a gathering of 6th through 12th graders from all over Washington and Northern Idaho. We will gather at the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma over the Memorial Day weekend for Rallies, Worship, Small Groups, Games, Singing, Eating, and Fellowship. This is a wonderful opportunity for our young people to make connections with other young United Methodists in our Conference. If you would like to help send our young people to CONVO, feel free to make a contribution to our Scholarship fund. Any questions, please contact Lori in the church office.

Take Me Out to the Ball Game...

Have you been wanting to go to a Mariner's game, but didn't want to go on your own... well join us for MVFUMC day at the Mariners! We are purchasing tickets for the game on Friday, June 19th (it is a 7 pm game) when the Mariners will be playing the Astros. We will be trying to set up carpools from here at the church so if you don't like to drive to Seattle, maybe we can work something out! The tickets will be \$12 at the group discount... what a deal. Any questions, please contact JoAnn Garcia or Lori Flores.

Salmon Dinner

Join us on Saturday, May 30th for a Salmon Dinner to benefit our Family Promise program. We will be serving a delicious Salmon dinner. from 5:00 pm to 6:30 pm. Suggested donation is \$10 per adult, children under 12—\$5 and children under 5 years—free. Invite your friends and neighbors to this event. If you would like to help prep, cook or serve this meal, please contact JoAnn Garcia in the church office.

Kitchen Clean Up

Judy Jerman and I have cleaned up the kitchen a little. If you are missing a dish or plastic container you brought to church, please check the cart in the Narthex, it may be waiting to go home with you. We are hoping to keep the kitchen a little cleaner - so--- when you use something in the kitchen, please wash it (if necessary) and put it back. Many people use our kitchen, if we all do our part, the kitchen will look tidy for the next person. Thank you for your help in keeping the kitchen clean. — Sharon Minor

MAY

BIRTHDAYS

- 5/3 Jill Eliason
Bryan Minor
- 5/4 David Rubio
- 5/5 Al Steiner
- 5/7 Susan Krienen
Ellen Walworth
- 5/9 Jim Holt
- 5/11 Alisa Sands
- 5/13 Chuck Cass
Eric Grant
Julie Miller
- 5/14 Pat Wilson
- 5/15 Ron Erickson
Nick Grillot
- 5/19 Mary Ann Mercer
Betty Saenz
- 5/20 Laura Morris
Scott Thomas
- 5/21 Lynne Almvig
- 5/22 Mary Beth Rubio
- 5/24 Vicki Johnson
- 5/26 Nikki Golliver
Carmelia Thompson
- 5/27 Allie Almvig
- 5/28 Betty Currington

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|--|---|--|--|--|
| Sunday Schedule 8:30 am Worship 9:15 am Kids Gather w/Gary 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship | | | | | 1 10 am Leader Mtg for Hispanic Ministries | 2 9 am :”Have a Heart Run/Walk” at Edgewater 10 am Girl Scout’s Mothers Tea (Sprague Hall) 3:15 pm Confirmation Trip to Bellingham |
| 3 Communion See Sunday Schedule 2 pm Hispanic Ministries | 4 10:30 am Bell Trio | 5 9:30 am MOPS 7 pm Administrative Board Meeting (Rees Room) | 6 6:30 pm Bell Choir 7:30 pm Chancel Choir | 7 8:30 am Men’s Morning Ministry 9:30 am Quilters 2 pm Staff Meeting | 8 | 9 |
| 10 Happy Mother’s Day! See Sunday Schedule NO Youth Group | 11 10:30 am Bell Trio 2 pm Hugo’s Accordion Band | 12 1 pm Education Comm. 6 pm NAMI Education (Sprague Hall) | 13 6 pm Girl Scouts 6:30 pm Bell Choir 7:30 pm Chancel Choir | 14 8:30 am Men’s Morning Ministry 2 pm Staff Meeting 6 pm Girl Scouts | 15 10 am SPRC Meeting | 16 10 am Women’s Brunch Clean Sweep & Des Colores Work Party & Potluck (see article) |
| 17 See Sunday Schedule Confirmands meet with Pastor Dan following worship 2 pm Hispanic Ministries 4 pm Skagit UM Youth (here) | 18 Newsletter Dead- line 10:30 am Bell Trio 1:30 pm Wesleyan Cir- cle | 19 9:30 am MOPS | 20 10 am Crafters Group 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 2 pm Staff Meeting | 22 1 pm Care & Hospitality Meeting | 23 Youth to CONVO |
| 24 Pentecost & Join- ing Sunday! See Sunday Schedule | 25 Memorial Day Office closed 10:30 am Bell Trio 4 pm Open Door Com- munity Kitchen (SW) | 26 10 am Worship Work Area Meeting | 27 10 am Outreach Meet- ing 1 pm Newsletter Mailing 6 pm Girl Scouts 6:30 pm Bell Choir 7:30 pm Chancel Choir | 28 8:30 am Men’s Morning Ministry 2 pm Staff Meeting 6 pm Girl Scouts | 29 | 30 5-6:30 pm Salmon Din- ner (Sprague Hall) |
| 31 Favorite Anthem Sunday & Grad Sunday! See Sunday Schedule | | | | | | |

ANNIVERSARIES

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

- 5/2 Lorence and Donna
Freiman
- 5/2 Randy and Lynn Rabenstein
- 5/3 Paul and Kelly O'Donnell
- 5/28 Chris and Lori Flores
- 5/30 Tim and Linda Miller

