



Mount Vernon First
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The Methodist Greeter

MAY 2018

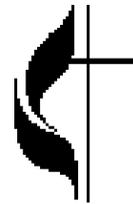
"Our mission as a congregation is to strengthen our personal and group relationship with Christ and to reach out to other people through faith in action."

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



"The only thing better than singing is more singing."
~Ella Fitzgerald

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



Pastor's Corner

Pastor Terry B. Hall

BIBLE READINGS FOR THE MONTH

- May 6**
Romans 5:1-11
- May 13**
Romans 6:1-14
- May 20**
Acts 2:1-4
Romans 8:18-38
- May 27**
John 3:1-17

What matters and why

Folks who are fleeing or avoiding "organized religion" often explain that decision with the claim that it has been the cause of more grief and injury than any other force in human history, reciting as evidence a litany of wars and horrors against humanity and Creation allegedly done on the basis of faith teaching. All the major religions have their shadowy stories of persecution, colonialization, even genocide, which should sadden and sober people of faith everywhere, helping us to wake up to what Jesus was revealing during the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7) when he warned us that the commandment to refrain from murder begins at the point of labeling others as less than human.

So what should we focus on as we attempt to "**strengthen our personal and group relationship with Christ and to reach out to all people through faith in action**" – our mission statement, boldly proclaimed on each week's bulletin? We have a huge number of stories to tell, some of them warnings, others promises, a few we can laugh at and many that break our hearts with grief, embarrassment or joy. As Methodists, we have some distinctive tales related to the work, accomplishments, failings and practices of the Wesleys, as well as those who followed John's pattern of 'itinerant' ministry. Again, some are confessions we need to make, others can sound a bit like bragging and all of them are part of our spiritual and organizational DNA. Of course, the biblical stories provide the foundation of what we mean when we identify ourselves as "Christian" – we hear them as life-giving, salvation-promising life lessons, intended to guide our decisions and goals. As such, we teach them in a variety of ways, using coloring pages, animated versions with talking vegetables, sermons, hymns, vacation Bible school, book studies and small group discussions.

So how do we know if our efforts are bearing fruit? What should we be looking for to determine whether we are, indeed, strengthening our personal and group relationship with Christ? Should we periodically administer tests of biblical knowledge, perhaps asking folks to explain what certain key passages mean, asking them to quote a given passage, or giving them a passage and asking where it is found? Or should we spend more time teaching and reciting creeds, marking them as one of the 'fundamentals' of our identity, how we can tell if someone is 'in' or 'out' of our tribe? Maybe we could take a vote to establish our 'official' Bible translation to insure that we are all reading the stories in the same words. That would certainly make some things easier, less confusing and challenging!

As you might guess, should we define our goals and outcome measures in any of those ways, I'll know it is time for me to retire and get out of your way, because none of them interest me much, nor do they sound like anything Christ was interested in. Jesus **embodied** his relationship with the Father and invited others to do likewise. When asked what mattered to God, knowing all the rules, requirements and prohibitions of a faith that was already at least a couple millennia old, Jesus said only one action demonstrated (turn the page for the rest of the story)



(Pastor's Corner continued)

faith, and that is love, which begins with loving the LORD our God with all of our being, the better to be prepared and able to love one another.

May we place love at the center of every decision, conversation and action! Why? Because it is what Jesus said and did!

Pastor Terry

FINANCIAL REPORT

March 2018

	Income	Expense
Regular Account	\$20,296.32	\$22,635.91
Special Account	\$ 544.25	\$20,755.10
Memorials	\$ -0-	-0-

As you can see we spent slightly more than we took in during the month of March. We did pay all of our bills and apportionments for the month. Thank you so much for your continued support of the ministries of our church.

Women's Brunch - Saturday, May 5th at 10:00 a.m.

We encourage our many faith-filled, grace-filled, strong and beautiful spirited women to celebrate spring at our festive Spring Hat Brunch, where love, laughter and joyful hearts will gather together.

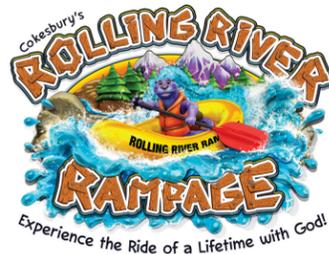
This fun fashion hat affair is where you will learn the answers to some of these queries...

Who is the newest mother in our midst? Who is the most mature mother? Who is the grandma with the most grandkids, great and great-great grandkids? Who is the woman with the most sisters? And What words of wisdom did your mother share with you that you still carry with you every day?

Will you be the one at Sunday's service who missed out on our most delightful Saturday morning brunch wondering about the answers to the "getting to know you" queries? We certainly hope you will be with us!

Vacation Bible School July 16-20

We will be joining our friends from the Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church for Vacation Bible School again this year. We will be meeting at the Presbyterian Church this year from 9:00 am to noon each day during the week of July 16-20. If you know of any young people ages Preschool to entering 6th grade, invite them to join us for this faith-filled week! More info to come... just mark your calendars now!



Calling All Grads...

We are getting ready to celebrate our 2018 Graduates and would love to include all that will be graduating from college, technical programs, certificates, along with our 8th grade and High School grads. Please let Lori Flores know your graduate info: Name, School, Degree, so that we can celebrate these achievements. Thank you!

Family Promise

Our church is hosting Family Promise guests Sunday May 6 through Sunday May 13. If you can help any time during this week, please contact Carolyn Gregg at (360) 424-7453, (360) 391-0288 or cgregg@valleyint.com. We need folks to: stay overnight, provide dinner, socialize from 7 to 9 PM for each night or wash a basket of laundry. Please also keep our guests and those helping in your prayers. In our 2 years of association with Family Promise, the program have settled 20 families in homes.

Many Thanks!

The Mike Minor family is grateful to the church family for all the love, hugs, words of encouragement, cards and donations in Mike's memory. His Celebration of Life was a wonderful tribute to Mike.

New Book on UMW Library Shelves

"Hiding in the Light: why I risked everything to leave Islam and follow Jesus" by Rifqa Bary is one of the 2018 UMW Reading Program books. "Hiding in the Light" is "the story of Rifqa's remarkable spiritual journey from Islam to Christianity. It is also the untold story of how she ran from her father's threats to find refuge with strangers in Florida, only to face a controversial court case that reached national headlines. Most of all, it is the story of a young girl who made life-changing sacrifices to follow Jesus." [Summary from Amazon.com]

Remember men and youth as well as women are welcome to read any of the books in the UMW Library. Just sign your name, title of the book, and the date you checked out on the clipboard prominently displayed on the third shelf of the Library bookcase.

Family Promise: a testimonial and a plea

A chapter of Family Promise has been started under the auspices of the Interfaith Coalition in Whatcom County. At a recent fundraiser for that endeavor, Colvin, a graduate of our Family Promise Chapter spoke movingly of his experience:

My sophomore year was the worst ever. At Christmas, my mom and dad split up and the family restaurant closed. It did not take long for us to end up homeless. I didn't tell anyone because I was embarrassed. I kept quiet and pretended everything was fine.

A few months later, we were helped by Family Promise. It was a very stressful time. One of the worst things was not having any privacy to sort out my feelings, and sleeping in the same room as my mother!

Some of the things that took my mind off it were swimming, picnics, fireworks, and making tie dye t shirts. My stay in Family Promise and the volunteers there showed me they cared and gave me hope.

Family Promise helped us find a home of our own. My future is looking bright! In the Fall I will be going to college.

If you would like to help the next group of children and their families find hope, we can use prayer, donations marked "Family Promise" in the offering, and most of all volunteers to:

Stay overnight (9PM to 7:30AM sleeping our comfortable air beds.

Someone to provide dinner on Sunday May 6.

Hosts for Saturday May 11 from 7-9 PM

Folks to wash a basket of laundry

Contact Carolyn Gregg at 360 424 7453 or 360 391 0288 or cgregg@valleyint.com

Needed!

Are you Spring Cleaning and find Birthday, Anniversary, Get Well and/or Sympathy cards you not using? The card ministry could sure use them.

Do you have yarn that needs a new home? The hats and scarfs for the homeless crafters could sure use it.

Please drop off any cards or yarns off at the church office.

Grieving a loss? Here's Help!

Hospice of the Northwest Bereavement Support Group – Every Tuesday from 3:00 to 4:30pm (no registration required)

Grief Recovery Method Support Groups Wednesday, May 16th thru Wednesday, July 25th from 3 to 5pm, Hospice of the Northwest (for more information and pre-registration call 360-814-5570)

Hospice of the Northwest

Compassion and dignity every moment of life. Transform your life. Volunteer for Hospice of the Northwest. Make a difference in the lives of our patients and their families. Hospice of the Northwest volunteers consider their experience rewarding, energizing and gratifying; one of the most sacred, loving, honest and spiritual experiences they've ever had.

Summer 2018 Volunteer Training Sessions are July 6th and 13th, 2018

Fall 2018 Volunteer Training Sessions are October 5th and 12th, 2018

To enrich your life in this way. Contact NHW Volunteer Services Manager, Erin Long at elong@hospicenw.org or 360-814-5588.

Volunteer Church Cleaning team

Tuesday, 5/1/18 from 9:30am until noon

Wednesday, 5/16/18 from 9:30am to 1pm

Tuesday, 5/22/18 from 9:30am to noon

Wednesday, 5/30/18 from 9:30am to 1pm

FAE Summer Academy Outreach Opportunity

Since last fall the Foundation for Academic Endeavors has been planning it's 2018 Summer Academy from it's office in the education wing of Mount Vernon First United Methodist Church. Each year FAE volunteers work alongside diverse students, teachers, college fellows and their families. This experience is an opportunity to reflect on the meaning of evangelism and outreach and it's power for mutual transformation.

As an extension of the hospitality First United Methodist Church has provided this year, FAE would like to invite you to send a team of volunteers to serve in the Summer Academy. It is our hope that together we can build cultural competency: the awareness of one's own cultural identity and views about difference, and the ability to learn and build on the varying cultural and community norms of students and their families. At the very core of the Foundations is the desire to walk side by side with the Skagit Valley community and hold their struggles and triumphs with a heart of compassion, understanding that our own future is bound to the success and empowerment of our brothers and sisters.

For more information please contact: Pastor Terry Hall

Summer Music Camp Planned for June

We are so pleased to announce that Mount Vernon First United Methodist Church offer children's summer music camp this year.

Plans are being made to hold a summer music camp at our church for two or three mornings June 27, 28 and 29. This camp will be led by Jung Jang, with assistance from another music professional. Since this is the first year for this camp, the maximum number of students for this camp will be 15 children from kindergarten to 6th grade. Contributions toward this camp would be most welcome and appreciated and would be used for supplies and payment to the teacher who would be assisting Jung. These contributions could be dropped off at the church office or in the offering plate, with 'Music Camp' written on the memo line of your checks. Stay tuned for more details.



Skagit Habitat for Humanity National Women Build Week: May 5-12



This is Habitat for Humanity's 11th annual National Women build week. This annual event, which was created in partnership with Lowe's and is held during the week leading up to Mother's Day, is meant to spotlight the homeownership challenges faced by women. More than 117,000 women from all 50 states have volunteered at past National Women Build Week events.

Lowe's will host a "**How to Safely Use Power Tools & PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) on Friday, May 11th at noon** on the construction site at 940 and 941 Summerlynd Lane. Learn how to select and use the proper power tools for minor and major home renovations and construction and how to properly use PPE to keep yourself safe. Then, practice your new skills by volunteering with Skagit Habitat for Humanity during National Women Build Week.

For more information and to learn how to be a part of National Women Build Week, contact Christi, Skagit Habitat for Humanity's Volunteer Coordinator at volunteer@skagithabitat.com or **360-420-3649**.

Other Community Volunteer Opportunities: Please check the sign-in table in the narthex for more information about these volunteer opportunities.

Friendship House needs: Office assistant, hospitality volunteer, café support, landscape crew

Viva Farms needs: Summer community supported (CSA) agricultural packer

Helping Hands Food Bank needs: warehouse assistant, loading volunteer, line volunteer, volunteer driver, volunteer interpreter

Skagit Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services needs: Direct service advocate (training required)

Community Action needs: Financial job coach

Goodwill needs: Instructor aid, office aid

Skagit Food Distribution Center needs: Food delivery driver

Camp Korey (for children and families living with life altering medical conditions) needs: Painting, general maintenance, outdoor and landscaping, cleaning and repairing facilities

MAY

BIRTHDAYS

- 5/1 Bryndal Barber
- 5/3 Jill Eliason
Chuck Cass
- 5/4 David Rubio
Sterling Johnson
- 5/5 Al Steiner
- 5/7 Susan Krienen
- 5/9 Dennis Wright
- 5/11 Alisa Sands
- 5/13 Eric Grant
Julie Miller
- 5/15 Ron Erickson
- 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 Carmelia Thompson
- 5/27 Allie Almvig

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 9:30 am MOPS 1:30 pm Book Study with Pastor Terry 5:30 pm Book Study with Pastor Terry 6:00 pm Boy Scouts Den 6:00 pm NAMI Board Mtg	2 1:00 pm Staff Meeting 6:15 pm Piano Class 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	3 8:30 am Men's Morning Ministry 9:30 am Quilters 10:30 am Welcome committee meeting 1:00 pm NAMI Peer to Peer 3:30 pm GS Troop 44345 7:00 pm Bell Choir	4 UMW Brunch set up	5 10:00 am UMW Brunch
6 Family Promise 8:30 am Service with Communion 9:00 am Children's Choir & Sunday School 9:15am Book Study with Barbara del Bosque 10:30 am Worship 11:40 am Coffee Hour 2:00 pm FAE Board Meeting	7 Family Promise 1:00 pm Hugo's Accordion Band 1:00 pm NAMI Peer to Peer 1:30 pm Forward Book Study with Barbara del Bosque	8 Family Promise 1:30 pm Book Study with Pastor Terry 5:30 pm Book Study with Pastor Terry 6:00 pm Boy Scouts Leadership 6:30 pm NAMI Education	9 Family Promise 1:00 pm Staff Meeting 6:00 pm GS Troop #45063 6:15 pm Piano Class 7:00 pm Chancel Choir 7:00 pm Finance Meeting	10 Family Promise 8:30 am Men's Morning Ministry 1:00 pm NAMI Peer to Peer 6:30 pm G S Troop 44129 7:00 pm Bell Choir	11 Family Promise	12 Family Promise 2:00 pm Hispanic Mother's Day Celebration
13 8:30 am Service with Communion 9:00 am Children's Choir & Sunday School 9:15am Book Study with Barbara del Bosque 10:30 am Worship 11:40 am Coffee Hour	14 10:00 am UMW Executive Board Meeting 1:30 pm Forward Book Study with Barbara del Bosque	15 9:30 am MOPS 1:30 pm Book Study with Pastor Terry 5:30 pm Book Study with Pastor Terry 6:00 pm Boy Scouts Last Den Meeting 6:30 pm Girl Scouts of WW (leaders)	16 12:00 pm UMW Luncheon and Meeting 1:00 pm Staff Meeting 6:15 pm Piano Class 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	17 8:30 am Men's Morning Ministry 9:30 am Quilters 2:30 pm Trustees Meeting 3:30 pm G S Troop 44345 7:00 pm Bell Choir	18	19 Girl Scout recruitment event
20 8:30 am Service with Communion 9:00 am Children's Choir & Sunday School 9:15am Book Study with Barbara del Bosque 10:30 am Worship 11:40 am Coffee Hour	21 1:30 pm Forward Book Study with Barbara del Bosque 1:30 pm Wesleyan Circle	22 1:00 pm Sleeping Mat Team 1:30 pm Book Study with Pastor Terry 5:30 pm Book Study with Pastor Terry 6:00 pm Boy Scouts Pack 7:00 pm NAMI Support Group	23 10:00 am Worship Support Team 1:00 pm Staff Meeting 6:15 pm Piano Class 6:30 pm GS Troop #45063 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	24 8:30 am Men's Morning Ministry 6:30 pm G S Troop 44129 7:00 pm Bell Choir	25	26
27 8:30 am Service with Communion 9:00 am Children's Choir & Sunday School 9:15am Book Study with Barbara del Bosque 10:30 am Worship 11:40 am Coffee Hour	28 Memorial Day 1:00 pm Hugo's Accordion Band	29 1:30 pm Book Study with Pastor Terry 3:00 pm Bridging Celebration and Potluck 5:30 pm Book Study with Pastor Terry 6:00 pm Boy Scouts	30 1:00 pm Staff Meeting 6:15 pm Piano Class 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	31 8:30 am Men's Morning Ministry		

ANNIVERSARIES

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

- 5/2 Lorence & Donna Freiman
Randy and Lynn Rabenstein
- 5/17 Jim and Annette Mentzer
- 5/28 Chris and Lori Flores
- 5/30 Tim and Linda Miller

