

Mount Vernon First
United Methodist Church

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The Methodist Greeter

NOVEMBER 2017



“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



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

Pastor's Corner

Pastor Terry Hall

BIBLE READINGS FOR THE MONTH

November 5
| Thessalonians 2:6-13
The Message

November 12
| Thessalonians 4:13-18
The Voice

November 19
| Thessalonians 5:1-11
The Voice

November 26
Ezekiel 34:11-14
King James

Ministry = mission + methods

When the UMC asked a national executive employment firm to look at our process for equipping and deploying congregational ministers via an extensive examination of the expectations of congregations, pastors and our denominational hierarchy, the first and most resounding response was that the firm had encountered NO other executive position with as long a list of desired skills! In a similar vein, congregations face the daunting task of finding a balance between the overwhelming needs of the world, including their little patches of it, and the limited physical, financial and spiritual resources they can muster in a sustainable manner. Discerning what any congregation claims as their ministry is as simple as looking at their stated mission and examining the methods they use to accomplish it.

If a visitor asked you, “What sorts of ministries does your church focus on?” what would you name? As we saw in last year’s Ministry Fair, people associated with this congregation actively support a wide range of services around the Skagit Valley, and even that did not fully reflect others supported only financially. Still, we know there will always be more needs than we can meet, and hopefully will remember God is not calling us to be “fixers” so much as to respond to the Divine Nudges that keep poking at us. Those usually lead to either new or renewed relationships ... or both! After nearly 16 months of co-ministry here, I would say we clearly have a heart for work with houseless people and the eradication of that situation for children and families. Our full-hearted support of Family Promise leads us to open our building for several weeks each year, prepare and share meals with people we would meet in no other way and even sleep in the building, while also providing major financial support to that agency and events like Crop Walk. When our Samaritan Fund has money, we assist people pretty much every week in ways that seem tiny to us but loom large in their lives, even when all they received was a warm welcome and the respect due every person.

There has been a Hispanic Ministry located here for 2-3 years that seems to have moved into and out of focus during that time, in large part because things did not work out as planned in the leadership (from outside our congregation) and Zulma has been in a sort of holding pattern until recently. Our conference leadership, which intended this to be an effort to start a new worshipping community for the Hispanic community of the Skagit Valley, is showing a renewal of interest in and support for Zulma’s work. Last year, we greatly enjoyed the Children’s Choir started by Diane Figaro, and our current Music Director, Jung Jang, has been working with the kids once again, leading both their vocal efforts and some training with the chimes. In fact, be sure to join us for worship on Oct. 29th, when the Children’s Choir will be part of our worship experience at 10:30! Once again, you will see that the majority of kids involved are from families who participate in the Hispanic Ministry.

(continued next page)

(Pastor's Corner continued)

As one of our Council members so succinctly pointed out recently, 'we have been hoping and praying for families with young children for years, and it turns out, these are the ones God is sending us at the moment!' Thanks be to God!

Another ministry area in which we are increasingly involved is the area of mental health and recovery. We are blessed to have some members with both a deep passion and real knowledge about both these challenges, and as you might guess, it is very near and dear to my heart as well. In addition to some 12-step groups using a bit of our space on a regular basis, NAMI (the National Alliance on Mental Illness) is currently using the Bride's Room on a frequent and regular basis, and we hosted the recent 5 County event that brought together workers from both substance abuse/recovery and mental health services. This year, we have also been privileged to provide space for Sue Quick's "Women's Spiritual Garden" series, and I hope we will continue to support that work. These are challenges that have no regard for our usual separating boundaries, like social status, race, age, economic means, etc.

With the Council's decision to welcome Boy Scout Troop 1 and their Packs, we are beginning a new form of ministry here ... which some of you will remember is actually a revival of a long-ago ministry.

These seem to me to be our primary missions. For a sampling of the methods by which we claim and support them, find the separate article on the Church Council meeting. **Pastor Terry**

**FINANCIAL REPORT
September, 2017**

	Income	Expense
Regular Account	\$34,734.50	\$20,220.77
Special Account	\$23,660.15	\$ 6,930.26
Memorials	\$ 0	\$ 0

Thank you to all who have supported the ministries of our church. We were able to pay all of our bills and our Conference Apportionments this month. As you can see our income in both the regular account and special account was higher than normal in September. This is because we transferred money from our Endowment fund for the Music Ministry and Faith in Action salaries for the year. If you have any questions, please see Lori Flores

You will soon be receiving a letter from Pastor Terry and the Finance committee along with a pledge card for 2018. We are asking each of you to consider how you can faithfully participate in the life of this church through your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service and your witness. We are hoping to receive the pledge cards on November 19th, Dedication Sunday. Thank you again for your continued support of our church.

All Saints Day Celebration – October 30

We will celebrate All Saints day on the final Sunday of October, during both services. You are invited to bring a photo of anyone you would like to name that morning as a saint in your life who has passed on, especially (but not exclusively) in the past year. During the services, there will be an opportunity to come forward and name the person/people, and share one or two words that describe your relationship or that person's gift to you.



Central Circuit Gathering

In place of our annual church charge conference we will be hosting the first annual Central Circuit Gathering. This event will take place on Saturday, Nov. 4th beginning at 2 pm. Each of the 7 churches in our circuit have been asked to share a short report on what is happening at their churches. We will also have a couple of special guest speakers: Carlene Anders, mayor of Pateros and director of the Okanagan Long Term Recovery Project, and Rosalee Mohny, lay leader for the Seattle District. These ladies will be sharing an update on the Rebuild: Up from the Ashes campaign and the work that is going on building houses in the Pateros area. We will also hear a message from our District Superintendent, Rev. Daniel Foster. All this will be followed by a pie social in Sprague Hall. If you have any questions, please contact Lori Flores in the church office. We hope to see you there!

**Join the Chancel Choir for the Candlelight
Christmas Service**

You are invited to sign-up and sing! All are welcome.

Rehearsals:

Wednesday nights, starting Oct 25 at 6:30 pm and maybe a couple of Saturday morning rehearsals in December

Performance:

In December

Come to rehearsal or contact:

Jung, 206-437-4762, tenorjang@gmail.com

Poinsettias for Advent and Christmas!

Once again we will be ordering vibrant red poinsettias from Safeway to grace our church from Dec. 3rd through the Christmas Eve service. After that you are welcome to take home the flower/s that you purchase. Order forms may be found in the church office, on the "sign-in" table on Sundays or included with the weekly e-mails.on-line.

To order, please fill in this order blank; and, **along with your payment**, drop it into the offering plate or mail/bring it to the church office. Checks should be made out to Mount Vernon First United Methodist Church and marked "poinsettias." Each poinsettia costs \$10.50 (including tax.)

Last day to order: Sunday, October 29th.

Please print clearly for your poinsettia/s to be accurately acknowledged in the Advent bulletin.

ORDER FORM

Attached is \$_____ in payment of my order for _____poinsettia/s for use in the Advent/Christmas services.

Your name _____ Phone number _____

The poinsettia/s will be listed in a brochure as follows (please print):

In memory of: _____

In honor of _____

_____ Presented to the Glory of God

Advent Booklets

It has been our tradition for the last several years to put together a book of Advent Devotionals that can be used by our church family during the Advent season. The special thing about this book is that it is written by YOU! Each page in the book has a scripture passage for the day as well as a short devotional written by one of our church members. These devotionals could be a reflection on the scripture passage, a special family memory, or maybe a story that goes with that particular day. Soon you will see the bulletin board in the Narthex looking like a giant calendar, if you would like to write a devotion, take a copy of the scripture for that day and write your name on that square. Lori would like to have devotions written and turned in to her by November 22nd so that she can get the book compiled prior to the Advent season. Any questions, please contact Lori Flores.

Sleeping Mat for the Homeless Team

Everyone has been so helpful in collecting plastic bags that we are overrun with plastic bags. Thanks so much! **Now we need people to do the crocheting!** We can supply you with both the plastic bags and a jumbo crochet hook. You are welcome to come work with us on the dates below or you can crochet in the comfort of your own home. Contact Mary Downing, 360-770-1113, mt.downing@comcast.net for more information.

Tuesday, November 14, 2017 @ 1pm	First United Methodist Church	Mount Vernon
Tuesday, November 28, 2017 @ 1pm	First United Methodist Church	Mount Vernon
Tuesday, December 12, 2017 @ 1pm	First United Methodist Church	Mount Vernon

A Tanzanian Christmas

On a Sunday shortly after Thanksgiving (date to be announced), Tyler and Nema will once again set up a table in Sprague Hall with the beautiful items crafted by villagers in Tanzania. This will be an opportunity for you to purchase unique Christmas presents and support the Mawingu Project all at the same time. All proceeds will go towards the composting toilets and property fencing that are the next step in expanding their ministry to the people of Kisongo.

Attention Congregational Care Team Members

We have more visitor books, prayer cards, and Congregational Care Ministry business cards available in the church office. The next Congregational Care Team meeting is November 13th at 1:30 pm in the church conference room.

UMW Cookie Extravaganza!

Mark your calendars! The annual UMW Cookie Extravaganza will be on Saturday, Dec. 2nd from 10:00 a.m. to noon (or whenever we run out of cookies!). Come and purchase a delicious assortment of Christmas cookies to serve to friends, give as gifts, or just to enjoy yourself! Be there at 10:00 a.m. for the best selection. Proceeds from this sale fund our United Methodist Women's mission budget.

Calling All Bakers!!

In order to have plenty of cookies for our sale... we are asking for your help! If baking is something that you enjoy doing, we would love for you to share that gift with us. Cookies can be brought to the church on Nov. 30th or Dec. 1st for the sale. If you don't like to bake at home alone... join us on Thursday, November 30th at 1 p.m. (or whenever you can come) in the church kitchen when we do some major baking. This is always a fun time to get together and produce a lot of cookies for our sale. If you have any questions, please contact the church office.

Your Church Council

The Council met on Oct. 14th, with several important issues already well under prayer, discussion and consideration Here's a short summary of agenda items, action taken and implications for our shared life:

ACTION APPROVED: Committed to a renewed partnership with PNW Annual Conference to house and support a new worshipping community start process, led by Zulma Tifre.

IMPLICATIONS:

Zulma will continue to provide pastoral leadership within the local Hispanic community, including Sunday morning worship opportunities here in our church.

Pastor Terry and Zulma, with support from others here, are in conversation with the PNW Annual Conference regarding the financial support of Zulma's ministry. They have recently enrolled her in a new program to prepare Hispanic ministers theologically, in line with the requirements of our **Book of Discipline**, and have provided her with a denominationally-trained and deployed Hispanic, new-church-start Ordained Elder as a Mentor.

ACTION APPROVED: Enter into a partnership with F.A.E. Co-op Preschool

IMPLICATIONS:

Basic costs of preschool will be underwritten by the Foundation for Academic Endeavors, who will employ teachers and some support staff for a dual-language (English/Spanish), affordable preschool, with a single classroom with up to dozen or so children. Classes will meet from 9-noon on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays during the usual school year, with no class during June-August. We will provide a classroom (Toddler Room) with tables, chairs and storage space plus use of the child's bathroom between that room and the Nursery, all of which will remain available for church use during times they are not using it. The playground and general exterior church grounds will also be available.

Preschool staff and parent-volunteers will perform basic daily maintenance at the end of each school day in that space, while we will support their enrollment process by using our Division Street sign, offering flyers and registration forms in our public spaces. Additionally, we envision opportunities to work together to accomplish shared goals, including but not limited to mutual language classes, interacting with the children in scheduled, approved ways consistent with their teaching practices.

Some increased janitorial needs likely; additional wear and tear on some church areas anticipated.

F.A.E. will pay \$100/month toward increased utility and other costs. During Family Promise weeks, the classroom will continue to be available overnight for our Host quarters, with the air mattress moved out prior to the arrival of preschool staff at 8:30 a.m.

ADDITIONAL IMPLICATIONS OF THESE 2 DECISIONS:

We'll be encouraging and instituting a variety of activities aimed at creating a welcoming facility and congregation for Spanish-speaking people, and opportunities for increased interaction between our current, English-speaking congregation and the Hispanic community.

ACTION APPROVED: Become chartering organization for Boy Scout Troop 1 and its related Packs.

IMPLICATIONS:

Tuesday evenings will become Scout night in the church with multiple rooms dedicated to their use, with as many as 50-70 kids present weekly, plus 30-40 adults. They will perform general clean-up of the spaces they use each night and will work with the Trustees to plan and assist with some maintenance tasks.

Some increase in janitorial needs will definitely be incurred.

They need some storage space within our building for regularly used paraphernalia and supplies, plus some external storage for larger, less-frequently used items, like camping gear.

During Family Promise weeks, the Scouts will not use the church for their meetings.

ACTION APPROVED: The congregation will be responsible to provide their portion of the Pastoral Compensation package, which remains the same as for 2017, with the exception of a \$300 increase in reimbursable funds, from \$3700 to \$4000.

ACTION APPROVED: The positions of Faith in Action Coordinator (now filled by Kay Martin) and Music Director (currently filled by Jung Jang) will continue to be funded through the end of 2018 at current levels.

Skagit Valley United Methodist Youth Group

By the time you read this the Skagit Valley United Methodist Youth Group will have met for a couple of meetings as well as a Halloween Party. We are excited to have 3 new 6th graders joining us (including our own Isabel) along with youth from past years. We have also been joined by Pastor Mark Johnson of Allen UMC and Drew Frisbie of Anacortes UMC at our meetings. If you know of a youth between the ages of 6th grade – 12th grade that might like to be a part of this group, please talk with Lori Flores. We are looking forward to a year of fun times, good discussions, and service in our communities.

NOVEMBER

BIRTHDAYS

- 11/03 Don Morgan
- 11/04 Chris Satterlund
Marion Larsen
- 11/06 Laurie Anderson
- 11/07 Ben Dunlap
Emily Stewart
- 11/08 Diana Barber
- 11/09 Darnell Burress
Isabel Neblett
- 11/10 Bob Olsen
- 11/11 Wylie Keeler
Nancy Edwards
Shelby Schlittler
- 11/12 Chris Flores
- 11/16 Shauna Flores
- 11/18 Beni Garcia
- 11/20 Colin Sands
- 11/22 Carleen Sheahan
- 11/23 Chuck Jerman
- 11/26 Ruth Downes
- 11/27 Larry Freiman

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Family Promise 1:00 pm Staff Meeting 2:15 pm Worship Design Team 6:30 pm Chancel Choir 7:00 pm Finance Meeting	2 Family Promise 8:30 am Men's Morning Ministry 10:00 am Quilters 11:30 am Betty Currington Memorial 1:30 pm Wesley Challenge Class 2:00 pm NAMI Peer to Peer 7:00 pm Bell Choir	3 Family Promise 6:00 pm Women's AA meeeting	4 Family Promise 2:00 pm Central Circuit Gathering
5 Communion Sunday 8:30 am Service with Communion 9:00 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 11:40 am Coffee Hour	6 5:30 pm Overeaters Anonymous	7 9:30 am MOPS 6:00 pm NAMI Board Meeting 6:00-8:30 pm Boy Scouts	8 1:00 pm Staff Meeting 5:30 pm Skagit Valley UM Youth Group 6:30 pm Chancel Choir	9 8:30 am Men's Morning Ministry 1:30 pm Wesley Challenge Class 3:30 pm G S Troop 44345 6:30 pm G S Troop 44129 7:00 pm Bell Choir	10 6:00 pm Women's AA meeeting	11
12 8:30 am Service with Communion 9:00 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 11:40 am Coffee Hour	13 10:00 am UMW Executive Board Meeting 1:00 pm Hugo's Accordion Band 1:30 pm Care Team Meeting 5:30 pm Overeaters Anonymous	14 1:00 pm Sleeping Mat Team 6:00-8:30 pm Boy Scouts 6:30 pm Girl Scouts of WW (leaders) 6:30 pm NAMI Education	15 12:00 pm UMW Luncheon and Meeting 1:00 pm Staff Meeting 2:15 pm Worship Design Team 6:30 pm Chancel Choir	16 8:30 am Men's Morning Ministry 9:30 am Quilters 1:30 pm Wesley Challenge Class 2:30 pm Trustees Meeting 6:00 pm Lion's Club tentative 7:00 pm Bell Choir	17 6:00 pm Women's AA meeeting	18
19 8:30 am Service with Communion 9:00 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 11:40 am Coffee Hour	20 1:30 pm Wesleyan Circle 5:30 pm Overeaters Anonymous	21 9:30 am MOPS 6:00-8:30 pm Boy Scouts	22 10:00 am Worship Support Team 6:30 pm Chancel Choir	23 	24 6:00 pm Women's AA meeeting	25 5:00 pm Hispanic Ministry
26 8:30 am Service with Communion 9:00 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 11:40 am Coffee Hour	27 9:00 am Newsletter Mailing Day 1:00 pm Hugo's Accordion Band 5:30 pm Overeaters Anonymous	28 1:00 pm Sleeping Mat Team 6:00-8:30 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 pm NAMI Support Group	29 1:00 pm Staff Meeting 5:30 pm Skagit Valley UM Youth Group 6:30 pm Chancel Choir	30 8:30 am Men's Morning Ministry 7:00 pm Bell Choir		

ANNIVERSARIES

- HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!
- 11/8 Gene & Jessie Wiggins
 - 11/9 David & Mary Beth Rubio
 - 11/16 Roger and Kay Martin
 - 11/21 Jeff and Keri Drayer
 - 11/23 Dean and Dianne Ramsey
Doug and Sue Rindal
 - 11/25 Wayne and Diann Smith
Ben & Kelli Walker
 - 11/27 Dusty and Diana Barber

