

Mount Vernon First  
United Methodist Church

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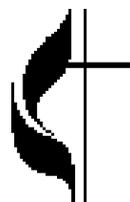


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# The Methodist Greeter

## OCTOBER 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



*I'm so glad to live in a world  
where there are Octobers.*

*-L.M. Montgomery*

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

**October 2**

Lamentations 1:1-6  
Psalm 137  
2 Timothy 1:1-14  
Luke 17:5-10

**October 9**

Jeremiah 29:1m 4-7  
Psalm 66:1-12  
2 Timothy 2:8-15  
Luke 17:11-19

**October 16**

Jeremiah 31:27-34  
Psalm 119:97-104  
2 Timothy 3:14-4:5  
Luke 18:1-8

**October 23**

Joel 2:23-32  
Psalm 65  
2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18  
Luke 18:9-14

**October 30**

Habakkuk 1:1-4: 2:1-4  
Psalm 119:137-144  
2 Thessalonians 1:1-4,  
11-12  
Luke 19:1-10

#### Past, present and future

With just one small group remaining in the series designed to give Dennie and I a chance to really get to know folks here and vice versa, I am very thankful for all the folks who hosted or participated in this process. In addition to being a huge help in learning names, we've had the chance to get a real taste of a portion of this congregation. Stories are important to me – both personal ones and biblical ones – and we have been sliding along the spectrum of history in our conversations. Beginning with names and how and when folks found their way to this church, then moving to name beloved aspects of our current shared experience, and finally dreaming together about the not-so-distant future, we have been able to hear what drew folks in over the years, what holds them here now and what they'd like to build and pass on. I hope this won't be the end of such discussions, and I know Barbara del Bosque has said if there are still folks who would like to participate in such a gathering, she'd be willing to help coordinate additional meetings.

We have a rich history as individuals, as the congregation of Mt. Vernon First UMC, and as Methodists. I'm working with a team to offer a series of six 90 minute classes I have been referring to as "Methodism 101," beginning next month. While it should be of interest to anyone who is relatively new to this church and/or Methodism, I suspect even some folks who have been here for years might discover some new stories. Our denominational founder, John Wesley, is a huge figure in not only our history, but in the larger field of Protestant Christianity as well. Because he was so methodical in his work, which led him to keep detailed journals which we still have, we know a lot about his life. And because he was so insistent on things being done a certain way – we might be tempted to label him a "control freak" or "anal retentive" – we continue to organize ourselves very much around his practices and instructions. I expect to spend the first two sessions sharing stories from our early history, up to the beginning of Methodism as a denomination, then take the next couple to explore how we work - our organization, governing rules and "connection" - then finish by drawing on our own congregational history. If you are interested in attending some or all of these classes, there will be a sign-up sheet outside the office, asking folks to indicate best days & times. If there is enough interest, I'd be delighted to offer both a daytime and evening opportunity.

While our history certainly does not predict, control or limit our future, it can offer some important insights about our unique place in the Body of Christ. Clearly, we need to be constantly asking God, "What do You want us to do today?", "What important expressions of Your love, mercy and acceptance won't be realized if we don't give ourselves over to You?" and "Who will be left out, continue to feel rejected or unworthy, or go unloved if we don't step up and step out in Your name?" Then, of course, we need to listen both for and to the answers!

*Pastor Terry*

**FINANCIAL REPORT****August, 2016**

	<b>Income</b>	<b>Expense</b>
<b>Regular Account</b>	\$ 18,564.34	\$20,496.23
<b>Special Account</b>	\$ 6,799.86	\$ 1,297.85
<b>Memorials</b>	\$ -0-	\$ 450.00

As you can see, we took in less than what we spent during the month of August.

The Finance Committee met recently and felt that there are some important pieces of information that we wanted to communicate with our church family.

-First of all, thank you for your continued support! We have been able to pay our monthly bills, staff wages and Conference Apportionments to date. Thank you!

-Second, we have been able to use some of the interest money from our Endowment Fund to fund some very important projects including: repaving and sealing our parking lot, installing a new hood and fire suppression system over our range, and funding our Music Ministry and Faith in Action positions on staff.

That being said, we are finding ourselves with a lower and lower amount of reserves at the end of each month, which causes us to worry about being able to continue paying all of our bills each month. Did you know that it takes approximately \$5075.00 per week to run our church and its ministries? We will soon be sending out letters for our annual Finance Campaign and ask that you all prayerfully consider how you can support the ministries of this church. Thank you again! If you have any questions, please feel free to contact a member of our Finance Committee: Wylie Keeler, Barbara del Bosque, Doreen Nystrom, Lori Flores or Pastor Terry Hall.

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### **All-church Potluck Next Sunday, October 2!**

We will start holding all-church potlucks on the first Sunday of the month at 5:00 p.m. beginning October 2<sup>nd</sup>. This is a wonderful time to get to know each other. The theme this month will be Summer Memories. Bring a dish to share and something to represent a special memory you have from this past summer. You will have a time to share that memory. All are welcome!

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### **Blessing of the Animals**

On Sunday, Oct. 9th we will be having a Blessing of the Animals at 9:45 am during Sunday School time. This blessing is for all animal friends (real or stuffed) and will take place on the patio off of the Sanctuary (weather permitting). All members of the church are invited to bring their pet to church that morning.

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### **Annual Charge Conference**

Our annual Charge Conference where we meet with our District Superintendent, Daniel Foster, will take place on Thursday, October 13th at 7 pm in the Rees Room. This is a meeting where we do the business of the church and celebrate the ministries that have gone on the prior year. We will also be taking some time to dream together about the future like of the church and its ministry. This meeting is open to all people and we hope that you will join us!

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### **Fort Worden Weekend**

Looking ahead to Fort Worden Weekend. Mark your calendars for a fun time - **November 10-13**. Regardless of the weather, we have a great time! We get the two large houses this year so there is space for everyone. It is over a holiday weekend so we will be able to stay 3 nights. Enjoy a ferry ride and spending time with your church family. Any questions - call Sharon Minor at 766-5202.

*Music continued*

I am a bit reminded of the tale of Moses in Egypt. Moses asks God for a sign, admitting he many not have the perfect things to say or do to confidently launch out and do God's work. And God gives Moses that sign in the burning bush. I believe strongly that God always meets us, even more so in our imperfection, fear, and mess. That is where faith matters the most and we are surprised by the beauty and inspiration around us. For musicians on a journey, there is no better place to declare one's faith in God — no matter the trials — than through soulful expression. So, let's all embrace the challenge to move into greater things, and build on the solid rock that is our church. Let's seek out how to make music matter by healing the wounds within us. In the words of hymn, "All I have needed, Thy hand hath provided. Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me."

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### **Help Wanted: Volunteer Pianist at 8:30 a.m. service**

Help Wanted! We are seeking another volunteer to play hymns for the 8:30am service. You would play about once a month, and you would be a great service to our worship. Please text Diane, Director of Music Ministry at 201-271-5117 or email [dfigaro@mvfumc.org](mailto:dfigaro@mvfumc.org)

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### **Music (and Dance!) Scholarships**

The Music Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce that Isabel Neblett has been awarded a scholarship to study private dance lessons. The Music Scholarship Committee offers scholarships to those in our congregation who are taking private instrumental, vocal and dance lessons, as well as camps. There are three levels of scholarships, with the instructor determining the skill level. They are: beginning student, up to \$250/year; intermediate student, up to \$500/year; advanced student, up to \$750/year.

Please note that those who received a music scholarship last year are encouraged to apply again. This is an ongoing project of the Music Scholarship Committee, and donations to the Music Scholarship Fund/Memorials would be most welcome at any time. Scholarship applications are available in the church office. For more information, please contact Diane Figaro, Music Scholarship Coordinator, at [dfigaro@mvfumc.org](mailto:dfigaro@mvfumc.org) or 206-271-5117 cell/text.

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### **Children's Choir!**

All of your children and grandchildren grades K-5 are invited to join our Children's Choir! We are singing songs about Jesus, faith, love, and peace. Rehearsals are each Sunday during Children's Time, 9:00 – 10:20 a.m. The Children's Choir will sing on the second Sunday of the month during the 10:30 service beginning October 9th. Any questions, please contact Diane at 206-271-5117, [dfigaro@mvfumc.org](mailto:dfigaro@mvfumc.org).

### **¡El Coro de los Niños!**

*Todos sus hijos y nietos del grado K- 5 estan invitados para participar en el coro de niños! Estamos cantando canciones acerca de Jesus, fe , amor, y paz. Los ensayos son cada domingo a las 9- 10:20 durante la Escuela Dominical. Ellos estarán cantando cada segundo domingo del mes durante el Servicio a las 10:30 a.m. empezando Octubre 9. Cualquier pregunta, por favor contactar á Diane al tel. 206 271 5117, or [dfigaro@mvfumc.org](mailto:dfigaro@mvfumc.org).*

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### **Bell Choir — Newcomers are welcome**

Weekly rehearsals on Wednesdays —  
Set-up at 6:15 p.m. — Rehearse at 6:30-7:15 p.m.  
Dates to Play in Worship — TBD

### **Chancel Choir — All are invited to join us**

Weekly rehearsals on Wednesdays from 7:15-8:30 p.m.  
Singing for the 10:30 a.m. service

### Faith in Action

#### Coming soon!

Mount Vernon First United Methodist Church has a mission statement: "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."

Ever wonder how the church is working to support that mission statement and what ministries actually take

place at the church, in the community and beyond?

Ever think about how you might be able to take part in helping to fulfill our mission statement and strengthen your personal relationship with Christ?

Mark October 16<sup>th</sup> on your calendar and join us in Sprague Hall following both the 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. services for a time of education and celebration of the ministries supported by our church. There will be goodies to eat and prizes to win. You will be able to talk with those volunteering in the various ministries and find out how God is changing lives, both of the volunteers and those they are serving. You might just find a place that speaks to your heart and where your time and talents would be a perfect fit. *If you would like to help in the planning of this event or to highlight your ministry, please contact Kay Martin at kay@mvfumc.org.*

#### Homeless for a Night

Yes, Pastor Terry was homeless for a night! Our church family donated over \$1300 to be sure he slept the whole night in his car in the Christ the King parking lot in Burlington. This is the main money-raising event for Family Promise and a total of about \$40,000 was raised!



#### Scheduled Sleeping Mat Project Workshops

Wednesday, October 5, 2016 at 6:30pm	St. Charles Catholic Church	Burlington
Tuesday, October 11, 2016 at 1pm	First United Methodist Church	Mount Vernon
Wednesday, October 19, 2016 @ 6:30pm	St. Charles Catholic Church	Burlington
Tuesday, October 25, 2016 @ 1pm	First United Methodist Church	Mount Vernon
Tuesday, November 8, 2016 @ 1pm	First United Methodist Church	Mount Vernon
Wednesday, November 9, 2016 @ 6:30pm	St. Charles Catholic Church	Burlington
Tuesday, November 22, 2016 @ 1pm	First United Methodist Church	Mount Vernon
Tuesday, December 13, 2016 @ 1pm	First United Methodist Church	Mount Vernon
Tuesday, December 27, 2016 @ 1pm	First United Methodist Church	Mount Vernon

#### Music Matters

By Diane Figaro, Music Director

Although I've been ministering in music for several months, I feel like I'm really still getting acquainted. I'm building new work relationships and friendships every week with all of you. In working with Pastor Terry, I have shepherded in new worship music, choirs, and instrumentalists — people like Nick Neidzwski who is an incredible trumpet player, our fabulous organist Halden Toy, and the amazing children who make up our new Children's Choir. I'm also directing our Chancel Choir and overseeing the Bell Choir, both of which have stable ministries, but also a great amount of change. My husband Rodney and daughter Sarah have been a huge support to me and become have become a new part of our music program. What does all of this change mean, and how can we face the challenges that come along with it?

### Sunday School

Sunday School is off to a great start! We have a new schedule this year for our Children's Time...

9 am Little Church with Gary in the Rees Room

9:15 am Children's Choir/Coro de los Niños

9:45 am Sunday School Classes

If you are interested in helping out in a Sunday School classroom, please talk with Lori Flores or Sharon Minor.

#### Skagit Valley United Methodist Youth

We had our first meeting for the Fall of 2016 and what a great time we had! Our group travelled over to Anacortes where we all participated in a "Video Scavenger Hunt" ! Some of our challenges included video taping a cheesy commercial for the United Methodist Church, pretending that there was an earthquake while walking down a main street in Anacortes, giving a stranger a "high five" and serenading a waiter or waitress (and this is just a few of the fun challenges that we filmed) We then headed back to Anacortes UMC for a delicious dinner and the screening of our team videos.

This year we will be meeting on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month from 5pm-7 pm at various locations (watch the bulletins for more info). This group is open to all youth between the ages of 6th to 12th grade. If you have any questions, please fee free to talk with Lori Flores in the church office.

#### Celebrating the Saints of our lives

If you have been to Costco in the last several weeks, you will be aware that Halloween is just a bit more than a month away. At our house, we do not buy candy to give away more than a day or two in advance, because we have learned chocolate has a very short shelf-life around us. Actually, where we currently live, no trick-or-treaters come to the door because the streets are simply not safe (traffic-wise) for them to be out.

While we miss seeing the costumes and getting to know the neighborhood kids, we still look forward to the other aspect – older, deeper, and closer to our hearts – of the foundation of that odd 'holiday.' In our churches we call it "All Saints Day," and it is a special time for us to remember and give thanks for the saints of our lives – those people who shaped us in positive ways and have left this life for the next stage of eternal life. We're going to get a tad ahead of the game this year by celebrating All Saints on the final Sunday of October, the 30<sup>th</sup>. In what I find to be a very appropriate intersection of events, that will also be Reformation Sunday, set aside to remember the revolution within Christianity that was kicked off when Martin Luther posted his second set of protests against practices of the Roman Catholic Church.

I want to ask you to do a little preparation for that Sunday's worship – both services – by pulling out a photo of anyone you would like to remember from your own life - it's perfectly okay to have more than one – and thinking about one or two words you might use to describe that person or the impact she/he had on your life. During our time together on that day, there will be an invitation for people to come forward with their photo(s), speak the name(s), and just share that word or two. Perhaps during our fellowship time we can share stories about both how those dear ones impacted us and what we are doing to try to have a similar impact on others. *Pastor Terry*



# OCTOBER

## BIRTHDAYS

- 10/1 Robert Yale
- 10/3 Steve Olson  
Jacquie Petersen
- 10/4 Erin Malone Shaffer
- 10/5 Diane Graff
- 10/7 Jaimie Nunez
- 10/12 Nancy Finkbeiner
- 10/14 Mike Golliver
- 10/16 Wynette Golliver
- 10/17 Kerry Keeler  
Bill Lundquist
- 10/18 Paul O'Donnell
- 10/19 Craig Bloodgood  
Kay Martin
- 10/20 Winnie Bradford  
Anne Thompson
- 10/27 Sierra Crowell  
Leo Waldschmidt
- 10/28 Amanda Scoby
- 10/30 Megan Perez
- 10/31 Dusty Barber

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Sunday Schedule</b> 8:30 am Worship 9 am Children's Time 9 am Hispanic Ministries 10:30 am Worship 11:40 am Coffee Hour						1 8:30 am Church Council
<b>2 World Communion Sunday</b> <b>See Sunday Schedule</b> 9:15 am Adult Bible Study 5 pm All Church Potluck	3	4 9:30 am MOPS 1:30 pm Bell Trio Rehearsal 1:30 pm Adult Bible Study	5 2:30 pm Staff Meeting 6 pm Girl Scouts 6:15 pm Bell Choir 7:15 pm Chancel Choir 7:15 pm Finance Mtg	6 8:30 am Men's Morning Ministry 9:30 am Quilters	7	8
9 <b>See Sunday Schedule</b> 9:15 am Adult Bible Study 9:45 am Blessing of the Animals 5 pm SVUM Youth	10 2 pm Hugo's Accordion Band Rehearsal	11 1 pm Sleeping Bag Workshop 1:30 pm Adult Bible Study 1:30 pm Bell Trio Rehearsal	12 2:30 pm Staff Meeting 6:15 pm Bell Choir 7:15 pm Chancel Choir	13 8:30 am Men's Morning Ministry 6 pm SPR 6:30 pm Girl Scouts 7 pm All Church Charge Conference	14	15
16 Laity Sunday <b>See Sunday Schedule</b> 9:15 am Adult Bible Study 11:40 am Ministry Fair in Sprague Hall	17 <b>Newsletter Deadline</b> 10 am UMW Executive Board Mtg 1:30 pm Wesleyan Circle	18 9:30 am MOPS 1:30 pm Bell Trio Rehearsal 1:30 pm Adult Bible Study	19 12 pm UMW Lunch & Mtg 2:30 pm Staff Meeting 6 pm Girl Scouts 6:15 pm Bell Choir 7:15 pm Chancel Choir	20 8:30 am Men's Morning Ministry 9:30 am Quilters 1 pm Trustees Mtg	21	22
23 <b>See Sunday Schedule</b> 9:15 am Adult Bible Study 5 pm SVUM Youth	24 9 am Newsletter Mailing 2 pm Hugo's Accordion Band Rehearsal 3 pm Open Door Community Kitchen	25 10 am Worship Mtg 1 pm Sleeping Mat Workshop 1:30 pm Bell Trio Rehearsal 1:30 pm Adult Bible Study	26 10 am Outreach Mtg 2:30 pm Staff Meeting 6:15 pm Bell Choir 7:15 pm Chancel Choir	27 8:30 am Men's Morning Ministry 6:30 pm Girl Scouts	28	29
30 <b>Celebrating All Saints Sunday</b> <b>See Sunday Schedule</b> 9:15 am Adult Bible Study	31					

## ANNIVERSARIES

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

- 10/11 Chuck and Tami Cass
- 10/24 Jon and Carol Turnbull

