



Mount Vernon First
United Methodist Church
1607 East Division Street
Mount Vernon, WA 98274
Phone: 360-424-3628
Fax: 360-424-1057
office@mvfumc.org
Website:
<http://www.mvfumc.org>

**NON - PROFIT ORG.
U. S. Postage
PAID**

**Mount Vernon
Permit No. 22**



The Methodist Greeter

OCTOBER 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



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

Pastor's Corner

Pastor Terry Hall

BIBLE READINGS FOR THE MONTH

**October 1— World
Communion Sunday**
Philippians 2:1-13

October 8
Philippians 3:4b-14

October 15
Philippians 4:1-9

October 22
Matthew 22:15-22

October 29
Matthew 22:34-46 **OR**
All Saints Day (early)
Revelation 7:9-17; 1 John
3:1-

By what authority ... ? Part 2

My Dad loved to learn. He read all the time and was a good listener, but he did not really trust either his intellect or his information enough to get into the sort of deep conversations for which he was, I believe well-prepared and which he seemed to enjoy on the few occasions he came across a conversation partner he trusted enough to engage. While he was generally skeptical of new ideas and information, he clearly believed there is such a thing as TRUTH and was willing to sort through information in an effort to find and recognize it. My Mom learned in different ways and tended to have very different interests, but until Alzheimer's began to steal her ability to gain new understandings and siphoned off what she had once known, she was very curious, learned from everyone, and shared what she knew generously. So I come by my thirst for understanding naturally, and am thankful for all the folks who have helped and continue to help me learn how to balance skepticism and openness.

Getting back to the Bible, church, human beings and authority, our task, should we choose to open ourselves to it, is to ask ourselves, "**How do we discern to whom and what we should grant authority when it comes to understanding the unknowable, pondering the meaning of our collective faith history, and engaging both the Divine and one another as guided by what we learn from them?**"

The New Oxford American Dictionary lists several meanings for "authority," including these:

The power or right to give orders, make decisions, and enforce obedience

The power to influence others, especially because of one's commanding manner or one's recognized knowledge about something.

A person or organization having power or control in a particular - typically political or administrative - sphere:

the confidence resulting from personal expertise

a person with extensive or specialized knowledge about a subject; an expert

a book or other source able to supply reliable information or evidence, typically to settle a dispute

All of these are relevant to our topic, right? We certainly hope to be influenced by what we read, hear and talk about in our faith lives; most of us look for people who have more, or more specialized, knowledge and experience to learn from and with; and we are all subject in some ways to the orders and decision-making of others. We can examine the training and education of a teacher or role model, but that may not tell us much about the human being or what influences their own criteria for authority- granting, much less their understanding of the authority they are being granted. Even before we

(continued next page)

(Pastor's Corner cont'd)

can turn to the Bible, we face the decision of which translation to pick up from an ever-growing shelfful. Christian bookstores often had nice, laminated comparison sheets of all the main version---s, with information about how each translation was done (i.e., by an ecumenical panel, individual, small group; focusing on the best translation of each word, each sentence, each paragraph, each concept, etc.), whether it offers explanatory notes, average grade reading level, and other helpful information. In truth, many of us choose a favorite version of the Bible for less academic and more personal reasons, and may find all others a bit jarring. Next we must decide (continuously) how much authority to grant ourselves – our openness to God's Spirit as we read, listen or otherwise engage Scripture and the God it reveals; how much to utilize our intellect; whether and if so, how, to allow our prior experiences with God and the learning process they have offered influence our understanding, etc. And, of course, we need to discern when and how to trust one another, especially the folks who lead our worship, teach us, name and engage others in our ministries.

There's a whole set of topics in all of this I'd love to talk through with anyone who is interested, but what I want to do right now is get the authority issues up on the table, in plain sight and named as an inescapable aspect of our shared journey. Our denomination, like all others, has been engaged in powerful, highly emotional, too-often caustic and harmful debate/battles that center on what we believe the Bible authorizes, who gets to determine that and how much do we have to line up with those answers to still call ourselves United Methodists or even Christians. I'm not interested in tackling all that right now; what I do want to say is this: **no person, group or institution should be granted full authority to interpret the Holy Bible or define God's Nature or intentions, especially when their definition places limits on what God can do!** Likewise, any teacher who claims questions should be stifled, individual wrestling with the scriptures avoided, and all other viewpoints blocked entirely as God-opposing/atheist/unorthodox should, in my experience and value system, be viewed with great caution, skepticism and suspicion! As some biblical stories illustrate, these questions have always been a challenge for those who want to deeply engage their faith, and when pressed, Jesus and others provided a consistent answer to the question of how to discern who we should trust: **fruit**. That is, we are to pay attention to what grows from the teacher and teaching. Jesus also said the whole of scripture boils down to loving God with all our being and resources and loving neighbors and even enemies like God loves us. So, do the teachings and teacher lead us to become better, clearer, more frequent conduits of God's love and grace? Do they teach and demonstrate compassion and acceptance, humility and trust in God to do the judging and any avenging or separating? Are we engaging the world more deeply and lovingly, being shaped by God's concerns rather than the likely status with our peers we might gain or lose? I believe very strongly that God welcomes our questions as long as we are actually pursuing them while awake and aware of the lenses through which we are perceiving everything. We have been given amazing brains ... I'm pretty sure God wants us to bring them to church! *Pastor Terry*

FINANCIAL REPORT

August, 2017

	Income	Expense
Regular Account	\$18,037.57	\$ 22,734.13
Special Account	\$ 1,184.59	\$ 2,553.67
Memorials	\$ 70.00	\$ 5,759.00

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

During the month of August we were able to pay all of our bills and our Conference Apportionments. We also paid a \$3,000.00 installment on our annual insurance premium.

Thank you for your continued support of the ministries of our church!

Children's Choir!

Children's Choir – Children grades K through 6 are encouraged to participate on **Sundays at 9:00 a.m.** We have 12 children participating right now and have plenty of room for more. Not only do the kids sing but they are also learning to ring the hand chimes. There are flyers out in the narthex to share with the children in your neighborhood. Please contact Jung, 206-437-4762 or tenorjang@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Bell Choir — Newcomers are welcome

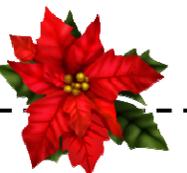
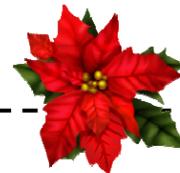
Weekly rehearsals on Thursday —
Set-up at 6:45 p.m. – Rehearse at 7:00 —8 :00 p.m.
Dates to Play in Worship – 4th Sunday of the month

Chancel Choir — All are invited to join us

Weekly rehearsals on Wednesdays from 7:00 — 8:30 p.m. Singing for the 10:30 a.m. service

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.



Poinsettias for Advent and Christmas!

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

Faith in Action

Homeless for a Night

Thanks to all who donated funds so that Pastor Terry could spend the night in his car. This year the event included a concert at the Salem Lutheran Church along with a pie social prior to the overnight.

And a big thanks to Carolyn and Floyd Gregg for all that they do in support of Family Promise each time our church is host to the families! Such a lot of work goes into each host week and because of the many people that have stepped up to sleep over, make dinners, wash bedding, etc. we are able to host these families 4 times a year. If you would like to help in some way, please talk with Carolyn Gregg.

Save the Date! October 7th at 5:00. p.m.

Join us on a safari to Tanzania to learn more about the mission that our own Tyler and Neema Satterlund are undertaking and how we as a congregation can support them as they minister to the people in their region. Meet and greet Tyler, Neema, Bridget, and new baby Gabriella, learn about their plans and how we as a congregation can help. We will have a potluck dinner inviting you to bring dishes related to your particular heritage or culture or just your favorite dish to share. We will be offering rides to those who do not drive after dark. Contact Kay Martin at 360-424-3628 or kay@mvfumc for questions or if you would like to be part of the planning and decorating team.

Sleeping Mats for the Homeless Team

Sleeping mats for the Homeless Team will be meeting Tuesday, October 10th at 1pm to sort, cut bags and crochet sleeping mats in the conference room (please add to calendar). We will NOT be meeting on October 24th.

Congregational Care Team

We will meet the 2nd Monday of each month at 1:30 p.m. in the church conference room. If you are interested in learning more about the Care Team ministry, we would love to have you join us.

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 Jung Jang, Music Scholarship Coordinator, at tenorjang@gmail.com or 206-437-4762.

Skagit Valley United Methodist Youth

We will be gathering for our first meeting of the year on Wednesday, Sept. 27th. We are a youth group for young people in the 6th through 12th grade and we are made up of youth from MVFUMC, Sedro-Woolley Central UMC, Bayview UMC and Anacortes UMC. This year we are trying something new by meeting on Wednesday evenings from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm. We take turns being hosted by all the churches.

If you know of a young person that falls into this age group that might like to be involved, please contact Lori Flores so that she can add them to her list.

Sunday School

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

9 a.m. Children's Choir

9:30 a.m. Little Church with Gary Thompson

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.

Central Circuit Gathering

This is the time of year when we are usually getting ready for our annual Charge Conference, but get ready for something new this year! Our District Superintendent, Rev. Daniel Foster, will be meeting with the Church Council to do the business of the Charge Conference at a special meeting and the rest of us just get to come celebrate!

The Central Circuit of the Puget Sound District (including the following churches: Allen UMC, Anacortes UMC, Bayview UMC, Central UMC, Darrington UMC, LaConner UMC, Stanwood UMC and Mount Vernon First UMC) will be gathering on Saturday, Nov. 4th at 2:00 p.m. here at Mount Vernon First UMC for a celebration of ministry! Each church will have a time to share something that they are excited about at their church, Rev. Daniel Foster will be speaking, we will share in worship and have a guest speaker.

More information to come... but get this date on your calendar!

Potluck, Hymn Sing and Movie!

You are all invited to stay after church on Sunday, October 15th for a fun event! We will be having a potluck following church and then this will lead into an Old-Fashioned Hymn Sing and after that there will be a movie in the Sanctuary. Please feel free to come to any or all of these activities! The movie that will be shown is "The Conscientious Objector". This is a documentary made about Desmond Doss, who because of his faith served our country during World War II without carrying a weapon. The movie "Hacksaw Ridge" was made last year about his service.

If you have any questions about this event, please see Lori Flores or Barbara del Bosque.

OCTOBER

BIRTHDAYS

10/1 Robert Yale
 10/3 Steve Olson
 Jacquie Petersen
 10/4 Erin Malone Shaffer
 10/7 Jaimie Nunez
 10/12 Nancy Finkbeiner
 10/14 Mike Golliver
 Edith Thomas
 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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:30 am Service with Communion 9:00 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 11:40 am Coffee Hour 2 pm CROP Walk	2 2:00 pm NAMI Peer to Peer 5:30 pm Overeaters Anonymous	3 9:30 am MOPS 1:30 pm Bell Trio Rehearsal 6:00 pm NAMI Board Meeting	4 1:45 pm Staff Meeting 7:00 pm Chancel Choir 7:00 pm Finance Meeting	5 8:30 am Men's Morning Ministry 10:00 am Quilters 2:00 pm NAMI Peer to Peer 7:00 pm Bell Choir	6 6:00 pm Women's AA meeeting	7 5:00 pm Tanzania Potluck
8 8:30 am Service with Communion 9:00 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 11:40 am Coffee Hour	9 1:00 pm Hugo's Accordion Band 1:30 pm Congregational Care Team 2:00 pm NAMI Peer to Peer 5:30 pm Overeaters Anonymous	10 1:00 pm Sleeping Mat Team 1:30 pm Bell Trio Rehearsal 6:30 pm NAMI Education	11 1:45 pm Staff Meeting 5:30 pm Skagit Valley UM Youth Group 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	12 8:30 am Men's Morning Ministry 2:00 pm NAMI Peer to Peer 3:30 pm GS Troop44345 6:30 pm GS Troop44129 7:00 pm Bell Choir	13 6:00 pm Women's AA meeeting	14 8:30 am Church Council
15 8:30 am Service with Communion 9:00 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 11:40 am Coffee Hour Potluck Lunch, Hymn Sing & Movie	16 10:00 am UMW Executive Board Meeting 1:30 pm Wesleyan Circle 2:00 pm NAMI Peer to Peer 5:30 pm Overeaters Anonymous	17 9:30 am MOPS 1:30 pm Bell Trio Rehearsal	18 12:00 pm UMW Luncheon and Meeting 1:45 pm Staff Meeting 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	19 8:30 am Men's Morning Ministry 10:00 am Quilters 2:00 pm NAMI Peer to Peer 2:30 pm Trustees Mtg 7:00 pm Bell Choir	20 6:00 pm Women's AA meeeting	21 10:00 am Women's Spiritual Garden Luncheon
22 8:30 am Service with Communion 9:00 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 11:40 am Coffee Hour	23 9:00 am Newsletter Mailing Day 1:00 pm Hugo's Accordion Band 2:00 pm NAMI Peer to Peer 5:30 pm Overeaters Anonymous	24 1:30 pm Bell Trio Rehearsal	25 10:00 amWorship Support Team 1:45 pm Staff Meeting 5:30 pm Skagit ValleyUM Youth Group 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	26 8:30 am Men's Morning Ministry 2:00 pm NAMI Peer to Peer 3:30 pm GS Troop42444 6:30 pm GS Troop44129 7:00 pm Bell Choir	27 6:00 pm Women's AA meeeting	28
29 8:30 am Service with Communion 9:00 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 11:40 am Coffee Hour	30 2:00 pm NAMI Peer to Peer 5:30 pm Overeaters Anonymous	31 1:30 pm Bell Trio Rehearsal 7:00 pm NAMI Support Group				

ANNIVERSARIES

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

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

