



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>

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The Methodist Greeter

SEPTEMBER 2016

"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



By all these lovely tokens
September days
are here,
With summer's best of
weather
And autumn's best of
cheer.

-Helen Hunt Jackson
from "September"

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

September 4

Jeremiah 18:1-11
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
Philemon 1-21
Luke 14:25-33

September 11

Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28
Psalm 14
1 Timothy 1:12-17
Luke 15:1-10

September 18

Jeremiah 8:18-9:1
Psalm 79:1-9 or Psalm 4
1 Timothy 2:1-7
Luke 16:1-13

September 25

Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15
Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16
! Timothy 6:6-19
Luke 16:19-31

Slowly but surely, I feel the bonds growing between us! I know you all have endured a lot of changes in the past year, perhaps nowhere more evident than in our worship team. Yet I have felt graciously welcomed, with many of you taking the time to comment on specific aspects of a worship service you have appreciated, enjoyed or found personally meaningful. The music has been fantastic all summer, with the Children's choir offering an especially uplifting addition under Diane and Rodney Figaro's leadership, and Zulma's very active support. I sure have been enjoying our time together on Sunday mornings, and the sense of getting into a bit of a rhythm after stepping into the patterns here back in July.

Ah, but life does not stand still, even when we want it to. I have learned that having some preparation and forewarning can sometimes soften the blow of change, so I want to tell you about a few things I expect to introduce in September.

First, please know that these changes in no way reflect any judgement about how things have been done; rather, they are simply expressions of my own sense of timing and ways of bringing the Spirit to life in worship. I plan to start using the screen more frequently, both to use visual imagery and short video clips to illustrate my message and also as another means of lifting up announcements while reserving as much time as possible for the activities central to our worship experience. I also plan on rearranging the order of our process a bit – *without removing anything* – as a way to change the flow of our time together. I suspect that for many of you, this will be neither disruptive nor difficult; it may not even be all that noticeable. But I have learned to never underestimate the potential for change to be unsettling, even if on an unconscious level.

I look forward to taking the next step on this shared adventure, beginning on Sept. 11, when we will shift back to having two very different Sunday morning services. The mornings will be very full, as we will be packing a lot of life between services! We'll be busy in other areas as well, as we offer a chance for both current ringers and those who have wondered if the handbell choir might be a place to which you are feeling nudged. I hope to see many of you on Sept. 24 when we'll take the next step in the transformation of our leadership development process by having Stephan Ross come back for a full day of conversation (*see separate articles re: these opportunities*). I am also going to be starting a devotional blog that I expect to be accessible via the church Facebook page or a simple subscription ... more on that in the next few weeks.

Thank you all for the continuing warm welcome, for wearing your name tags and participating in the small group process!

Pastor Terry

Sermons Online

If you missed a sermon or particularly enjoyed one, they are available on our church website, mvfumc.org.

Financial Report for July 2016

	Income	Expense
Regular Account	\$23,772.10	\$21,022.44
Special Account	\$ 323.00	\$11,272.30
Memorial Account	\$ 250.00	\$ 500.00

We were able to pay all of our bills and Conference apportionments for the month of July and as you can see we took in a bit more money than we spent! If you have any questions regarding church finances, please feel free to contact: Lori Flores, Wylie Keeler, Barbara del Bosque or Doreen Nystrom. Thank you for your continued

Garage Sale Recap

Thanks to everyone for working so hard on the Project Rebuild Garage Sale. We raised \$1,781.66 which is enough to purchase all the flooring for one of the houses in the project! Thanks to all who donated, sorted, hauled and bought items from the garage sale, your efforts will make a big difference in someone's life!

Fall Schedule is just around the corner!

We will return to two services on September 11. Our Sunday mornings will look like this:

- 8:30 a.m. Worship with Communion (back of sanctuary)
- 9:00 a.m. Little Church with Gary Thompson (Rees Room)
- 9:15 a.m. Children's Choir Rehearsal (Rees Room)
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School Classes (classrooms)
- 10:30 a.m. Worship
- 11:40 a.m. Coffee Hour

The return of Stephan Ross – Sept. 24

In 2015, our church took some bold steps toward a new future, one in which this congregation could not only catch its collective breath but actually inhale deeply the Breath of Life. One of those steps was asking Stephan Ross to share his ideas about an alternative way to structure our governance – how we accomplish the business of being God's holy, living and vital presence in this place – call and train our leadership. The truth is, we are intended by God to be in the leadership formation and personal transformation business, and Steve Ross has written an inspired book about what that looks and feels like and how it can be done by churches of any size in any setting. At that time, only a small group of folks here met with Steve, read his book, and tried to learn enough to begin to implement his ideas. A major part of that process involved moving to a 'single board' model of church governance that uses a consensus model for decision-making. The changes have not been without their challenges, but it seems evident at this point that Spirit has begun to breathe new life, vitality and joy into this place! Now we want to bring more people into the process, the better to expand our 'spiritual lungs' and take the next steps in this unfolding story, and Stephan has agreed to return to help us once again. On Friday evening, Sept. 23, our current leadership will have a couple hours alone with Steve to check in and consult about what has happened so far, including a number of questions that have arisen from along the way. We hope many of you will join us the following day, Saturday, Sept. 24, when we'll host a two-part workshop to which other Puget Sound district churches will be invited. In the morning session, Steve will lead us through the basics of why the single board approach is useful and how to establish it. We'll offer a lunch onsite, and Steve will introduce an approach to identifying, inviting, training and resourcing leaders. Your Church Board has already been using this approach, but its true success depends on a broader base of people who understand what we're doing, and the 'how' and 'why' of the process. For more information, contact Barbara del Bosque, Lynnette Gerhard or Pastor Terry. To register for the event, contact Sue Erickson in the church office. There will be no charge for our church members, although we will gladly accept donations to cover the cost of the lunch.

Annual Choir Picnic - Chancel Choir & Bell Choir Saturday, Sept 10

12:30 p.m. Plan to eat at 1:30 p.m. Table Service and Beverages will be provided. Please bring a dish to share. Lynnette Gerhard's Home: 17058 Kokanee Court, Mount Vernon, 98274 (360) 422-5739

Anyone thinking of joining either of these choirs, and their families, are invited!

Bell Choir Is Starting Soon -- Newcomers are welcome

Weekly rehearsals begin on Wed, Sept 7. Set-up at 6:15 p.m. – Rehearse at 6:30-7:15 p.m.

Dates to Play in Worship – TBD

Bell Choir Workshop – September 17 from 9 a.m.-11 a.m., **open to anyone interested in joining our bell choir**

Chancel Choir Is Beginning Soon -- All are invited to join us

Weekly rehearsals begin on Wed, Sept 7 from 7:15-8:30 p.m.

Singing for the 10:30 a.m. service -- new info below

Children's Choir This Fall - All kids are welcome

We began a Children's Choir over the summer. It was a success, and we are thrilled that we are moving ahead and incorporating them into the music program. The Children will rehearse Sundays from about 9:15-9:45, right before Sunday School. The children will sing in worship one Sunday a month

Music Scholarships Available!

The Music Scholarship Committee is pleased to offer music scholarships to those in our congregation who are taking private instrumental, vocal and dance lessons. These scholarships may be used for music instruction and music camps. There are three levels of scholarships, with the music 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 or 206-271-5117 cell/text.

Sleeping Mat Project

Come join us in making sleeping mats for homeless people Wednesday, September 7th and September 14 at 10 a.m. in the conference room. Community Action has ordered 20 mats from us. WE NEED HELP! Mary Downing is most happy to teach you how to crochet and we can always use help in cutting the plastic bags. For more infor-

United Methodist Women

All women are invited to join us for our monthly meeting of United Methodist Women. Our first meeting for the Fall will be on Wednesday, Sept. 21st at noon in Sprague Hall. We will have a salad potluck for our lunch. Our program will be Naomi Foote sharing about her experiences at Mission U this summer. If you have any questions, please contact the church office or Sue Monty. Hope to see you there!

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.

Calling all Youth – Grades 6-12...

Don't miss out on our Fall Kick-Off Mystery Trip! We will meet at the church at 2:15 pm on Sunday, September 18th to head out on our exciting Mystery Trip! More information to come via e-mail and Skagit Valley UM Youth Facebook page. Our next meeting will be on Sunday, Sept. 25th and we will be meeting at the church at 4:45 pm to head to Sedro-Woolley. Normal meetings will be on the 2nd and 4th Sundays from 5 pm to 7 pm with dinner included. If you know of any youth that you think might like to be a part of this group, please contact Lori Flores in the church office.

Youth "Stay at Home" Mission Trip

By Lori Flores, Children, Youth & Families Coordinator

I just wanted to share with you all how proud I am of the youth in our church! It was my pleasure to be with them during our "Stay at Home" Mission Trip along with Pastor Cody Natland from Bayview & Central UMC. Here is a little outline of how we were the hands & feet of Jesus in our community.

Wednesday, Aug. 17—We worked along with youth from Anacortes UMC at the Helping Hands Food Bank in Sedro-Woolley bagging fish sticks, sorting produce, carrying groceries and stacking boxes

Thursday, Aug. 18—We spent the morning gleaning for Community Action in a field west of Mount Vernon along with a youth group from Olympia. We picked boxes of cucumbers and zucchini for the Food Distribution Center in Skagit County. In the afternoon we worked at the Skagit Habitat for Humanity Store in Mount Vernon. We then had our fun evening watching a movie at the church with lots of snacks followed by an overnight at our church.

Friday, Aug. 19— We worked cutting blackberries from the bank behind the Bayview UMC. They are getting ready to plant a "rain garden" which helps to cut down on runoff going down to Padilla Bay. We spent the afternoon helping a Bayview parishioner at her farmette, cleaning stalls to get them ready for fresh hay and holding the most adorable baby goat! We then headed out to Washington Park in Anacortes to join them for "Campfire Church".

Thanks to Megan & Hannah Perez, Emily Eastman and Shauna Flores from MVFUMC for spending a part of their summer vacation in service to others in our community!

Music Is Worship

by Diane Figaro, Director of Music Ministry

Hello everyone and welcome to a fall full of music opportunities! As we renew choir friendships and welcome new members, I want to take a moment and share a little about my vision for music at First United Methodist.

At our church, we are blessed by a Chancel Choir, Handbell Choir, Children's Choir, and many other musicians. Together, we contribute amazing music at worship. While we certainly strive for a beautiful, powerful, and meaningful presentation, our singing is not performance. Rather than impressing everybody, it enlivens worship, inspires participation from everybody, and brings a spirit of life, hope, and comfort. That is why I say: "Music is worship."

We lead worship musically, and we worship as we play and sing.

Music is worship when we develop the spirit of God's presence in our lives as musicians, Chancel Choir, Handbell Choir, and Children's Choir members. This happens through:

- Broadening our musical abilities and growing as church musicians
- Sharing friendship and love for each other and our church community
- Praying—lifting up our needs and joys with each other and with God
- Communicating the spiritual meaning and message of the music

Encouraging all of those with a passion and gifts to participate fully in worship-music.

Please go to the article that explains the details of our choirs! Sign-up to participate this fall! With the desire and gifts you bring, you will make worship alive through music.

Welcome Our New Faith in Action Coordinator

Kay Martin



Kay and her husband, Roger, joined the Mount Vernon First United Methodist Church in 2007 and have been active members since that time. Kay has taught Sunday School, including two confirmation classes, and she and Roger are part of the lawn mowing team. Kay has volunteered in the church office when the secretary is on vacation and is the current funeral coordinator for the church.

Kay graduated from Central Washington University with a degree in Accounting and spent the rest of her career in Human Resources. She retired from Janicki Industries as Director of Human Resources in December of 2014 and has been enjoying time with her husband, grandchildren, and two Jack Russell Terriers. She likes to read, garden, spend time at the beach looking for beach glass and agates, and go "camping" in their RV.

I'm excited and humbled by the challenge of being MVFUMC's Faith-in-Action Coordinator. Please note that my title is **Coordinator**. This means that, in addition to working with the Outreach Team and other service-related agencies to define service and mission projects, I am also counting on members of the congregation to inform me of projects within the local community and beyond which are in line with our church mission statement – "...to strengthen our personal and group relationship with Christ and to reach out to all people through faith in action" - and which will provide opportunities for our congregation and others to live into their faith through service. Please contact me at kay@mvfumc.org or 360-424-3628 if you would like to discuss a possible faith-in-action undertaking.

Thank you in advance for your prayers and support,

Kay Martin



Skagit Project Homeless Connect needs volunteers!

Skagit Project Homeless Connect (PHC) provides one day a year, in a single location, where health and social service providers collaborate to serve individuals and families experiencing homelessness or that are at-risk of becoming homeless, with comprehensive, holistic, and immediate services. PHC is open to all families and individuals looking to overcome their barriers to stable housing. Popular services have included haircuts, photo ID's, dental care, veterinary care, housing services, clothing, and a hot lunch.

This year the event is scheduled for Friday, September 9th with setup on Thursday, September 8th, and will be held in the Skagit Valley College Gymnasium.

How you can help: There is a need for 6-7 volunteers for Thursday morning, September 8th, to move clothing which has already been sorted by type and size, from the Life Transition Program facility at Skagit Valley College to the gymnasium. This would involve taking the clothing off the hangers, putting in boxes or separate piles, taking apart the clothing racks, loading into a couple of cars or SUVs, and then reassembling the racks in the gymnasium and hanging the clothes back on the racks. There will be a PHC volunteer to help coordinate the moving and setting back up.

If you would be interested in joining me in this opportunity to serve our community's less fortunate members, please enter your name and contact information on the sign-up sheet in the narthex. For further information please con-

Senior Ministries Fall Kickoff Meeting

After our summer break, we will resume our gatherings with a meeting Sunday, September 18th. We meet the 3rd Sunday of the following months: September, November, January, March and May. While our meetings are geared especially for seniors, everyone is welcome! We meet from about 12 noon to 1:00 p.m. Future tentative topics are "Nutrition for Seniors" with a focus on shopping and cooking for just one or two people, and "Checking Your Prescriptions", where someone with special training will help you review your medications. See you on Sunday, September 18th, after the second worship service! Barbara del Bosque 424-6494

SEPTEMBER

BIRTHDAYS

- 9/2 Matthew Repplier
- 9/4 Jason Bloodgood
- 9/5 David Matson
Nina Spitler
- 9/6 Tamara Cass
Noah Walz
- 9/8 Jack Krienen
- 9/9 Eva Foster
- 9/12 Bruce Coghill
- 9/13 Valerie Thomas
- 9/15 Doris Tillotson
- 9/16 Keri Drayer
Nick Torset
- 9/17 Karen Eckardt
- 9/18 Irene Williams
- 9/19 Linda Miller
- 9/20 Dorcas Toombs
- 9/24 Dane Hansen
- 9/25 Carolyn Rees
- 9/26 Terry Torset
- 9/27 Philip Belisle

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Fall Schedule 8:30 am Worship 9 am Little Church 9:15 am Children's Choir 9:45 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship				1 Family Promise 8:30 am Men's Morning Ministry 9:30 am Quilter's Group 7 pm Small group mtg with Pastor Terry @ Cooley's	2 Family Promise 3 pm Meeting with David Valera	3 Family Promise
4 Communion Sunday 10 am Worship	5 Labor Day— Office Closed	6 1:30 pm Bell Trio Rehearsal 2 pm Small Group mtg with Pastor Terry @ Thompson's	7 2:30 pm Staff Meeting 6:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal 7 pm Girl Scouts 7:15 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	8 8:30 am Men's Morning Ministry	9	10
11 Fall Schedule Begins See Schedule above	12 1 pm Hugo's Accordion Band Rehearsal 7 pm Small Group with Pastor Terry @ Repplier's	13 1:30 pm Bell Trio Rehearsal 6:30 pm Girl Scouts 6:30 pm NAMI	14 2:30 pm Staff Meeting 6:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:15 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	15 8:30 am Men's Morning Ministry 9:30 am Quilter's Group 1 pm Trustees Meeting	16	17 9 am—11 am Bell Choir Workshop
18 See Schedule above 12 pm Senior Ministries Gathering (Rees Room) 2 pm Hispanic Ministries 3 pm-7pm SV Youth Fall Kick-off (Anacortes)	19 10 am UMW Executive Board 1:30 pm Wesleyan Circle	20 9:30 am MOPS 1:30 pm Bell Trio Rehearsal	21 10 am Crafter's Group 12 pm UMW Lunch & Mtg 2:30 pm Staff Meeting 6:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal 7 pm Girl Scouts 7:15 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	22 8:30 am Men's Morning Ministry 2 pm Small Group Mtg with Pastor Terry @ MVFUMC 6:30 pm Girl Scouts	23 7 pm Church Council meets with Steve Ross	24 9 am-5 pm Steve Ross workshop on Church Governance & Leadership Development
25 See Schedule above 2 pm Small Group Mtg with Pastor Terry @ Minor's 5 pm SVUM Youth Group	26 9 am Newsletter Mailing 1 pm Hugo's Accordion Band Rehearsal 3 pm Open Door Community Kitchen—SW	27 10 am Worship Meeting 1:30 pm Bell Trio Rehearsal	28 10 am Outreach Mtg 2:30 pm Staff Meeting 6:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	29 8:30 am Men's Morning Ministry	30	

ANNIVERSARIES

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

- 9/2 Manny & Betty Saenz
Chuck & Judy Jerman
- 9/10 Hollis & Nina Spitler
- 9/12 Roger & Marjorie Mandery
- 9/25 Mike & Wynette Golliver
- 9/26 Bob Hallberg & Diane Southworth

