

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

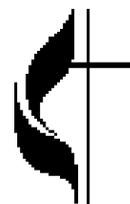


NON - PROFIT ORG.  
U. S. Postage  
PAID

Mount Vernon  
Permit No. 22

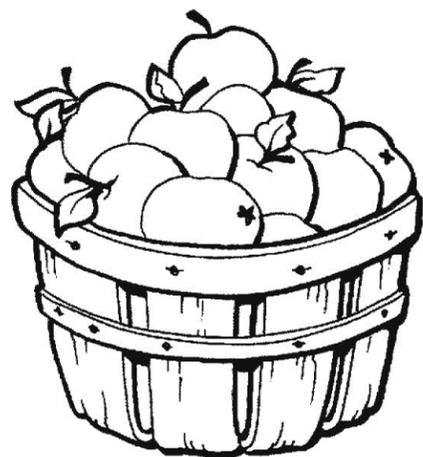
# The Methodist Greeter

SEPTEMBER 2015



"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](http://www.mvfumc.org)

## Pastor's Corner

Pastor Dan Breznau

### BIBLE READINGS FOR THE MONTH

**September 6**  
Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9,  
22-23  
Psalm 125  
James 2:1-10, 14-17  
Mark 7:24-37

**September 13**  
Proverbs 1:20-33  
Psalm 19  
James 3:1-12  
Mark 8:27-38

**September 20**  
Proverbs 31:10-31  
Psalm 1  
James 3:13-4:3, 7-8  
Mark 9:30-37

**September 27**  
Esther 7:1-6, 9-10,  
9:20-22  
Psalm 124  
James 5:13-20  
Mark 9:38-50



Photos courtesy of Gary Thompson

We have had some wonderful worship gatherings this past summer at the church and even outside the church. Shown above are photos of our time of blessing our animal friends along with special musical accompaniment by *Sinners on the Lamb: a New Story*. To bless is more than an expression of goodwill or caring. To bless is to impart God's power – in this case, on the creation! Each animal, by name, received a blessing calling for health, healing and life mediated from God for the benefit of the animal in its relationship with its human partners. **Shalom** is one Hebrew expression of blessing. Other music specials at the church this summer have included bell, flute, violin piano accompaniment as well as particular musical focuses such as classical music, spirituals, and family favorites by the Cass family.

Greetings:

I have been following a devotional called, "The Upper Room" as of late (for those who are interested, it is available free in our Narthex). One of the things that I have found is that those devotions which seem particularly meaningful to me are those that connect life with a particular Biblical text. With that in mind, I found one such text came to me. It is a quote from Psalm 125:2, "As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so does the Lord surround His people from this time forth and evermore." Perhaps it is growing up in Detroit with the possibility of violence at every turn, but this psalm creates an image of God as a protective hedge around us. No matter what the occasion, God's presence is very real. Like the hills that ring my home, God is there. However, there are times in my life when I have ventured beyond the hedge. Like those that leave Jerusalem and its mountains (which provided a physical obstacle to invading troops), we may find ourselves moving away from what God would have for us. The mountains are still there, but it is up to me to return. At other times, a fog rolls into the valley and though I may not be able to see the hills, I know the permanence of them, like that of God, and I am called to trust that they – and He – are there. If you have not, know that He calls to you.

Blessings, Pastor Dan

### FINANCIAL REPORT July, 2015

	Income	Expense
Regular Account	\$18,336.00	\$21,198.49
Special Account	\$ 5,013.88	\$ 2,453.69

As you can see from the figures above we spent more than we took in for the month of July. As I shared in worship one Sunday, this has happened a few times this year which has depleted the reserves that we have on hand. We have been able to pay all of our bills and our conference apportionments to date and I would love to continue to be able to do this. We have the last portion of our insurance due which we will pay \$2500.00 in August and \$2500.00 in September. We thank you for your continued support of the church's ministries. If you have any questions about outstanding amounts on your pledge, please contact Lori in the church office. Thank you!  
~The Finance Committee

### Annual Choir Picnic

Open to all current and prospective choir members and their families and current and prospective bell choir members and families. This year's picnic will be held on Labor Day, Monday, September 7<sup>th</sup> at the home of Lynnette and Dan Gerhard at 17058 Kokanee Court, MV. Please bring your favorite dish to share. Beverages will be provided. Call Lynnette at 360-422-5739 for directions if needed. Come any time after noon. We will plan to eat around 1:30 p.m. Come and enjoy an afternoon of visiting, extreme croquet, bocce ball, etc.

### Fall Schedule is just around the corner!

Beginning on September 13<sup>th</sup> we go back to our Fall Worship schedule.

We will once again have 2 worship services, one at 8:30 am in the back of the sanctuary and one at 10:30 am in the main part of the sanctuary. We will have Little Church with Gary and the kids at 9:15 am in the Rees Room and then Sunday School at 9:30 am in the classrooms. And of course there will be Coffee Hour at 11:40 am. See you there!

### From the Church Librarian, Sue Monty:

The UMW library is available for each member of our church. The library, dedicated to Peggy Perry, is located outside the back door to Sprague Hall. Feel free to borrow a book, sign the card, and put the card in the card box on the shelf. We request a month limit so others can enjoy these wonderful books.

#### Monthly book review

This month I would like to highlight the book, "Sum It Up: 1,098 Victories, A Couple of Irrelevant Losses, and A Life in Perspective" by Pat Summitt. At age 22, after winning an Olympic medal, she became head coach for the University of Tennessee Lady Vols. This book is full of humanity, wit, and fierceness by a giant among coaches who has transcended American sports.

### 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. 16<sup>th</sup> at noon in Sprague Hall. We will have a salad potluck for our lunch. Our program will be Sue Monty sharing about her experiences at Mission U this summer. If you have any questions, please contact the church office or Donna Perez. Hope to see you there!

### Music Scholarships Available

The Memorials Committee is excited to offer music scholarships to those in our congregation who are taking private instrumental, vocal and dance lessons. 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. There are certain guidelines that scholarship recipients would be expected to follow. Please note that those who received a music scholarship last year are encouraged to apply again. This scholarship fund is available due to generous memorial gifts in memory of Jane Brazas, Bill Collins, and Ruth Mischke. This is an ongoing project of the Memorials 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 the church office.



### Faith in Action

Many exciting opportunities for service are arising as we head into fall! At the end of August, the Youth Group will be participating in a stay-at-home mission trip, serving with Habitat for Humanity, La Conner Food Bank, Open Door Community Kitchen, and the Padilla Bay Interpretive Center (as well as doing some other fun activities).

Our first time hosting Family Promise was an outstanding success thanks to many volunteers, and in September, we will have another chance to do so. Also in September will be a coat drive for those in need, especially children and factory workers. (All sizes are welcome, but the coats need to be clean and new or in good condition).

The church has the opportunity to participate in the Habitat Helpers program in October – helping make necessary repairs on the home of someone who is unable to do so.

There will be a chance to hear Christmas carols in November – as we fill boxes for Operation Christmas Child, a Christian organization that provides gifts to children around the world while sharing the Christmas story.

Keep listening for details on these and other future chances to express your faith through service! If interested in these or other opportunities, contact Maria Breznau at [Maria@mvfumc.org](mailto:Maria@mvfumc.org) or call (509) 881-4426.



### Senior Ministries Fall Kickoff Meeting

Our first meeting this fall will be Sunday, September 20th. Robbie Liechty from Ashley Gardens will be here to talk about this wonderful place in Mount Vernon. Even if you doubt that you will ever live there, many of us will have occasion to visit someone there, and it will be helpful to know what Ashley Gardens is all about. We meet after the 10:30 worship service, so grab a cup of coffee, and head on down to the Rees Room. Anyone is welcome to come, and it is always nice to have a good size group when we ask a guest speaker to come! See you on September 20th.



### Fort Worden Weekend

Looking ahead to Fort Worden Weekend. Mark your calendars for a fun time - **November 6-8**. Regardless of the weather, we have a great time! Time year we will be in 3 NCO houses and 1 - 5 bedroom house. There is still plenty of room to gather in one house for a meal or two. Any questions - call Sharon Minor at 766-5202.

### Disciple Bible Study

This fall we will offer two different Disciple Bible study opportunities. Last year Pastor Dan led the Old Testament portion of the Disciple Bible study and he will do that again this year. That class will begin on Thursday, September 24<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm here at the church. This class is a wonderful way to get to know your Bible better. It is for all people, whether you have spent a lot of time in your Bible or are just beginning to read your Bible. If you are interested or have any questions, please contact Pastor Dan or Lori in the church office.

For the folks that took the Old Testament class last year, Pastor Dan will continue on with them on the New Testament portion of the Disciple Class. This class will begin on Tuesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7 pm.



### Bible Sunday

We hope that you will be in worship on Sunday, September 27<sup>th</sup> when we will be handing out Bibles to our third graders and older Sunday School children that have not already received a Bible. If you have a Bible that you received as a child from a church, would you bring it to worship that day? We will be having a special time during Children’s Moments to share about all these special Bibles. Thank you!



### Youth “Stay at Home” Mission Trip

As I am writing this article, I have just gotten up from an overnight here at the church. This was just one of the fun parts of our “Stay At Home” mission trip with the youth from the Skagit Valley United Methodist Youth Group. One thing I have learned is that I may be too old for overnights at the church! Another thing that I have learned is that I feel truly blessed to be a part of this Youth Group! In the last two days we have served at the Habitat Store (moving tools from one trailer to their new truck), at the LaConner Food Bank, at a Habitat Helpers project where we painted a wheelchair ramp, and at the Open Door Community Kitchen at Central UMC in Sedro-Woolley. Today we are headed out to the community of Bay View where we will work at the Interpretive center, do some yard work around the Bay View UMC and help one of the church members at her home. This has been an exciting year getting these youth together from UM churches in the Valley and they are a great team! We heard over and over again about what great workers they are and how they made such a difference at the places we served. We look forward to sharing more with the congregation about our adventures. I thank God for each and every one of these amazing young people and for all of the gifts that God has placed in them. It is truly wonderful to see how they have grown over the last year and how the youth from the different churches have become closer as well. Thank you for the support of the youth of our Valley UM churches! ~Lori

# SEPTEMBER

## BIRTHDAYS

- 9/2 Matthew Repplier
- 9/4 Jason Bloodgood  
Joyce Smith
- 9/5 David Matson  
Nina Spitler
- 9/6 Tamara Cass  
Noah Walz
- 9/7 Everett Ticknor
- 9/8 Jack Krienen  
Kevin Stout
- 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 Ginny Darvill  
Carolyn Rees
- 9/26 Terry Torset
- 9/27 Philip Belisle

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Fall Worship Schedule</b> <b>8:30 am Worship</b> <b>9:15 am Little Church</b> <b>9:30 am Sunday School</b> <b>10:30 am Worship</b>		1	2	3 8:30 am Men's Morning Ministry 2 pm Staff Meeting	4	5
<b>6 Communion Sunday</b> 9:30 am Worship 2 pm Hispanic Ministries	<b>7 Labor Day</b> 12 pm Choir Picnic at the Gerhard's home	8	9 7:30 pm Finance Meeting	10 8:30 am Men's Morning Ministry 2 pm Staff Meeting 6 pm Girl Scouts	11	12
<b>13 Fall Worship Schedule Begins</b> <b>See schedule above</b> 4 pm Skagit Valley UM Youth 5:30 pm Family Promise	<b>14 Family Promise</b> 10 am UMW Executive Board Meeting 10:30 am Bell Trio 2 pm Hugo's Accordion Band (Sprague Hall)	<b>15 Family Promise</b> 9:30 am MOPS	<b>16 Family Promise</b> 10 am Crafters Group 12 pm UMW Lunch & Program 6:30 pm Trustees Mtg	<b>17 Family Promise</b> 8:30 am Men's Morning Ministry 9:30 am Quilters (Sprague Hall) 2 pm Staff Meeting	<b>18 Family Promise</b>	<b>19 Family Promise</b>
<b>20</b> <b>See schedule above</b> 12 pm Senior Ministries Gathering (Rees Room) 2 pm Hispanic Ministries 5 pm All Church Potluck	<b>21</b> 10:30 am Bell Trio 1:30 pm Wesleyan Circle	<b>22</b> 10 am Worship Work Area Meeting 7 pm Disciple New Testament Class	<b>23</b> 10 am Outreach Meeting 6:30 pm Bell Choir	<b>24</b> 8:30 am Men's Morning Ministry 2 pm Staff Meeting 6 pm Girl Scouts 7 pm Disciple Old Testament Class	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27 Bible Sunday</b> <b>See schedule above</b> 4 pm Skagit Valley UM Youth	<b>28</b> 9 am Newsletter Mailing 10:30 am Bell Trio 2 pm Hugo's Accordion Band (Rees Room) 3 pm Open Door Community Kitchen (Central UMC)	<b>29</b> 7 pm Disciple New Testament Class	<b>30</b> 6:30 pm Bell Choir 7:30 pm Chancel Choir			

## ANNIVERSARIES

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

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

