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# The Methodist Greeter

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

### Sermons Online

If you missed a sermon or particularly enjoyed one, they are available on our church website, [mvfumc.org](http://mvfumc.org).

## Pastor's Corner

Pastor Terry Hall

### BIBLE READINGS FOR THE MONTH

- September 3**  
"The rest of the story"  
Matthew 16:21-28
- September 10**  
"Relationships"  
Matthew 18:15-20
- September 17**  
"Another side of the story"  
Romans 14:1-12
- September 24**  
"What really matters"  
Philippians 1:15-30

### By what authority ... ? Part I

In case you haven't noticed, I am prone to 'overthinking' things. Actually, my most native tendency is to **under**-think things, but for decades I have been practicing a different, deeper approach to life. Growing up in a small town at the edge of farm country in New York State in a loving family and neighborhood, my life was relatively comfortable. Not without challenges, disappointments, and confusions, of course, but I never once wondered if I was loved or accepted by my parents and siblings. In fact, truth be told, it came as a considerable surprise when I discovered there were people who did not like me! I liked pretty much everyone and naively assumed that was how everyone worked. To this day, I don't know that I've ever had a true enemy, though I have certainly encountered folks who have been unhappy with me, some of them extremely so, and some who have actively worked to create personal and professional problems in my life. But I believe most of them felt threatened or confused by me and had neither the skills nor the inclination to approach me directly to work through whatever issues separated us. I'm sure that one of the things that drew me to the field of psychology was my rather late discovery that things are rarely as they seem at first glance, or at least are not **only** that.

So, here we go! The question of authority has emerged as one of the foundational shifts from 'modernity' to a 'post-modern' world, and is woven into every aspect of our lives, individually and communally. Our news outlets both reflect and expand the issues here as they increasingly base much of what they share on unidentified sources who they claim have some insider status, which is intended to add authority to their description of events. Of course, when we are left to imagine who is providing the information, we have no basis in reality for discerning the reliability of the alleged facts. There is also a growing trend of blurring the distinction between facts, feelings and opinions, which implies that one set of ideas is always equal in some way to all others. Scientific methodology, which specifically attempts to test ideas and theories, led us into the long segment of history referred to by the term 'modernity'. Not every idea can be readily subjected to such testing, but this process has helped us immeasurably as humanity battled against not only physical, psychological and emotional injuries and illnesses, but also rumors and intentionally misleading claims.

Religion has not escaped these challenges. People of faith are, by nature, involved in the pursuit of understanding and wisdom in an area where science can offer no proof. **The New Oxford American Dictionary** defines 'faith' as follows: "Strong belief in God or in the doctrines of a religion, **based on spiritual apprehension rather than proof**" (emphasis added). Christians across a wide spectrum of denominations claim **The Holy Bible** as at least one of our primary sources of authority for understanding our lives and the context in which they play out. However, the stories in the Bible were recorded in written form in languages that no longer exist in the world, so require translation to be of use to us. We all know how complex communication is, involving

(continued next page)

(Pastor's Corner continued)

not only 'flat' words we can simply move about from one page, language or situation to another, but a living, interactive relationship that when carried out 'live' includes facial expressions, voice tones, gestures and other things we sum up with the term 'body language.' Our faith is centered in extraordinary claims, some event-specific (e.g., the immaculate conception, miracles performed or channeled by God's chosen representatives, and the resurrection of Jesus), others generic and overarching (e.g., there is a single, three-Person God Who is the Author of life and has a very long-term, caring plan for us), none of which can be finally or definitively proven. So while some place a heavy emphasis on the "inerrancy" of God's story, as presented in the Bible, that story gets to us through the work of a long line of human beings who are not only subject but prone to errors. Sometimes the claim is made that the scriptures were written and edited under divine supervision, and are intended to be read and shared in the context of prayer so the Holy Spirit sort of guarantees the claims of inerrancy will hold even through our human processes. However, those very scriptures bring us countless stories of kings, prophets and everyday people who had at least as much access to the Spirit as any of us, yet either failed or exceeded God's desires repeatedly. And throughout history, including this very day, learned, dedicated, faithful, careful, caring, intelligent people read the same stories and come to very different, even contradictory understandings of what God is revealed or revealing through them. So, we are left with foundational questions of authority when sharing or even trying to apply our beliefs. More simply, we need to ask ourselves **who are we believing when we form our beliefs and why do we believe them?**

To be continued...  
Pastor Terry

**Financial Report for July 2017**

	Income	Expense
Regular Account	\$21,969.13	\$19,356.66
Special Account	\$ 1,844.20	\$ 4,364.51
Memorial Account	\$ 0	\$ 750.00

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 support of the ministries of this church.

**Fall Schedule is just around the corner!**

We will return to two services on September 10. Our Sunday mornings will look like this:

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

**Grieving a Loss? Here's Help!**

GriefShare <http://www.griefshare.org>

**GriefShare**, a 13 week Christian seminar and care group for those who have lost a loved one recently or may be 'stuck' in grief from past loss. To find out more or register call Emmanuel Baptist Church, 360-424-1173, sessions begin Monday, September 11, 2017 at 7pm or GriefShare, Contact His Place, 360-757-3111 for more information on their schedule.

Hospice of the Northwest will be starting their **Grief Recovery Method Support Groups**, August 29<sup>th</sup>, runs every Tuesday through October 24, from 3:00 to 5:00pm. For more information and for pre-registration 360-814-5570.

**Skagit Widowed Support Services**, next 6 week grief workshop to begin on September 5 in the Burlington Senior center. To pre-register please contact Terri Heuterman at 360-336-3037

**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. 2—Megan Perez, Hannah Perez, Shauna Flores, 3 youth from the Bayview UMC, Pastor Cody & I went to the Helping Hands Food Bank in Sedro-Woolley. While we were there we sorted & bagged produce, carried boxes of food to cars for folks, worked on the line handing out food to people and passed out flyers about a new food program for children. 761 families were served that day equaling over 2100 people!

Thursday, Aug. 3—We spent the morning gleaning for Community Action in a field west of Mount Vernon and Owen Smith was able to join our group. We picked 1160 pounds of zucchini for the Food Distribution Center in Skagit County. That afternoon was our fun time... we enjoyed lunch on the banks of Friday Creek (and cooled our feet in the creek), went to the mall to play Mini golf, had a pizza dinner and then were the overnight hosts for Family Promise here at our church.

Friday, Aug. 4— We worked cutting back flowers from around the Bayview UMC. They are getting ready to paint their church. Then we went to Angela's farm to help out. Angela is a member of the Bayview church and the youth are always excited to go there to see her sheep, goats and chickens. She really appreciates the help the youth give her cleaning out her barn to get ready for the winter.

A big "Thank You" to our church family for supporting us in all we do!

**Calling all Youth – Grades 6-12...**

Something new for Youth Group this Fall! We are going to be meeting on Wednesday evenings twice a month during the school year for our Skagit Valley UM Youth Group. Be watching your e-mails and mailboxes for upcoming information on the first gathering of the fall... it may have something to do with kidnapping those 6th graders... shhhh—don't tell them!

**Sleeping Mat Team**

Thanks to the faithful saving of plastic bags by our congregation and the First Lutheran Church, we have run out of storage space for bags. Please do not drop any off at the church until further notice. What is needed is more crocheters to use up our stash of bags. The need for sleeping mats continues! Thanks everyone!



### Skagit Crop Walk

**When:** Sunday, October 1st, 2:00 p.m.  
**Where:** Mount Vernon Christian School, 820 W Blackburn Rd  
**Why:** to End Hunger One Step at a Time

Please consider joining the walking team from Mount Vernon FUMC on this walk to end hunger locally and globally. Not able to walk... feel free to sponsor our walking team! Watch for sign-ups for walkers in the Narthex in the coming weeks. We will also be taking donations to support our team. You can also go on-line to make your donation at <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/mountvernonwa/Team/View/46892/MV-First-United-Methodist-Church> or just check out the church website at [www.mvfumc.org](http://www.mvfumc.org) for a direct link to donating. Any questions, contact Shauna Flores, team captain. Thanks for your support!



### Congregational Care Team – Update and Invitation for any who might wish to join this ministry.

The Congregational Care Team members attended several weeks of training here at the church and have been busy this summer reaching out to care for members of our congregation by visiting, making phone calls, sending cards of encouragement, preparing meals, and, in general, being models for our new church logo: *Faith expressing itself in love.*

We would love to start another training session for anyone who might be interested in joining us in this very vital and rewarding mission endeavor. Not only are we reaching out to help others in our congregation, but we are enjoying getting to know our fellow team members better as we work together, and we are growing in our faith and understanding of our mission as Christ's disciples.

Please prayerfully consider becoming a part of our team. We won't ask more of your time or commitment than you are willing to give. Contact Kay Martin (360-424-3628) or Mary Downing (360-770-1113) for more information or to let us know you would be interested in finding out more about the Congregational Care Team.



### North Sound Communities Are Invited to Support Recovery!

The "Join the Voices for Recovery" brings stories, challenges, and hope about recovering from mental illness and substance abuse or both. On Saturday, Sept 16<sup>th</sup> from noon to 4pm, there will be a large gathering at First United Methodist Church in Mount Vernon. This event is free and is for anyone wanting to learn more, help more, or just help "bust the stigma" around these issues and help celebrate recovery.

Free food, music by Seattle Seahawks DJ RoyBoy, mini education sessions (including our own Pastor Terry), social time, etc, along with a very dynamic keynote speaker are the order of the day. Author, comedian, and nationally-renowned champion of recovery, Marti MacGibbon is the Keynote. She has truly walked the walk, having escaped from human traffickers, dealt with PTSD, and conquered addiction.

This day is a collaboration of organizations, agencies, businesses and individuals from all five North Sound counties. **Free tickets** are available at Eventbrite at "jointhevoices". **Volunteers are also needed** and may sign up at [signupgenius.com/findasignup](http://signupgenius.com/findasignup) (then search for [cldiversified@gmail.com](mailto:cldiversified@gmail.com)). You may also contact Marti Wall at 360-770-5666

### Choir Potluck

The Chancel and Bell choirs will kick off the season with a potluck on Labor Day, September 4th hosted by Lynnette and Dan Gerhard. All Chancel and Bell Choir members and their families are invited. If you are considering joining either choir and would like to get acquainted, please come with your family. If you are a past member thinking of returning, join us! We will gather at the Gerhard's home beginning at 12:30. Please bring a dish to share. Beverages will be provided. Come prepared for an afternoon of fun, food, and fellowship. Please RSVP to Lynnette at 360-422-5739 or by email [lynnetteg6244@gmail.com](mailto:lynnetteg6244@gmail.com)



### Fall/Winter Music Opportunities

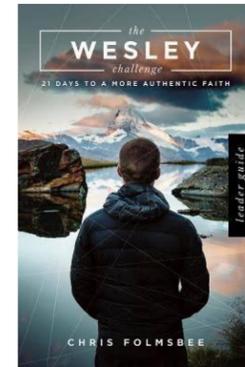
**Chancel Choir** – Chancel Choir will resume rehearsals on Wednesday, September 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. All who enjoy raising their voice in song are welcome to join us! New choir members please contact Jung. 206-437-4762

**Children's Choir** – We will have a Children's Choir again this year which will meet on Sundays at 9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. with Sunday School 9:30 – 10:15 a.m. Children grades K through 6 are encouraged to participate. The first meeting will be Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. There are flyers out in the narthex to share with the children in your neighborhood.

**Bell Choir** – The first rehearsal of the bell choir will be the week of September 10<sup>th</sup> if the bells are back from being refurbished by then. Which day and the time of rehearsal to be determined. If you have been enjoying the bells during worship and would like to be a part of the fun, contact Sarah Breckenridge, 971-226-3196, [newberg310@yahoo.com](mailto:newberg310@yahoo.com). The Bell Choir is planning a 'Ring and Read' session for Saturday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> 8:30 a.m.— 11:30 a.m. followed by a potluck salad lunch. This is a good time to come see what ringing is all about.



### COMING THIS FALL: The Wesley Challenge



We are excited to be starting a new small group study for adults this fall, beginning Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup>. Each lesson will be offered twice during the week, once on Sunday mornings at 9:15 am, and again on Thursday afternoons at 1:30 pm. We will be using material developed by Chris Folmsbee, the Director of Discipleship at the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection. Many of you will recognize that church as the church of Adam Hamilton, whose studies we have used in the past. The study is based on the original 21 questions John Wesley used with his "Holy Club" in Oxford, England. He developed these questions for spiritual growth, and they remain powerfully relevant for today's Christians. They will help us toward having a deeper love for God, becoming the person God intends for us to be, and developing healthy, life-giving relationships with others. For those seeking a more vibrant faith, this may be your doorway to that new life!  
- Barbara del Bosque



### 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. 20<sup>th</sup> at noon in Sprague Hall. We will have a salad potluck for our lunch. If you have any questions, please contact the church office or Sue Monty. Hope to see you there!

### UMW District Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the Puget Sound District UMW will be held on Saturday, Sept. 16<sup>th</sup> at Garden Street UMC in Bellingham. The theme of the day is "I Was a STRANGER and you WELCOMED me" and the keynote speaker will be Rosalinda Guillen, Executive Director of Community to Community Development in Bellingham. A special performer will be Susan Little from Haller Lake UMC, sacred dancer, choreographer and author. And of course a delicious lunch will be served. If you are interested in attending, registration is due by Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>. Cost is \$9.00 for the day. Please see Sue Monty or contact the church office if you would like to attend.

# 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
- 9/12 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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 6:00 pm Women's AA meeting	2
3 9:30 am Worship 10:40 am Coffee Hour	4 5:30 pm Overeaters Anonymous	5 6:00 pm NAMI Board Meeting	6 1:45 pm Staff Meeting 7:00 pm Chancel Choir 7:00 pm Finance Meeting	7 8:30 am Men's Morning Ministry 9:30 am Quilters 6:30 pm Bell Choir	8 6:00 pm Women's AA meeting	9
10 8:30 am Service with Communion 9:00 am Children's Choir 9:15 am Adult Study 9:30 am Little Church & Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 11:40 am Coffee Hour	11 1:00 pm Hugo's Accordion Band 5:30 pm Overeaters Anonymous	12 1:00 pm Sleeping Mat Team 1:30 pm Bell Trio Rehearsal 6:30 pm NAMI Education	13 1:45 pm Staff Meeting 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	14 8:30 am Men's Morning Ministry 1:30 pm Adult Bible Study 6:30 pm Bell Choir 6:30 pm G S Troop 44129	15 12:00 pm Voices of Recovery set-up 6:00 pm Women's AA meeting	16 <b>Mental Health Conference</b>
17 8:30 am Service with Communion 9:00 am Children's Choir 9:15 am Adult Study 9:30 am Little Church & Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 11:40 am Coffee Hour	18 10:00 am UMW Executive Board Mtg 1:30 pm Wesleyan Circle 5:30 pm Overeaters Anonymous	19 9:30 am MOPS 1:30 pm Bell Trio Rehearsal	20 12:00 pm UMW Luncheon and Meeting 1:45 pm Staff Meeting 6:00 pm G S Troop 42444 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	21 8:30 am Men's Morning Ministry 10:00 am Quilters 1:30 pm Adult Bible Study 2:30 pm Trustees Meeting 6:30 pm Bell Choir	22 6:00 pm Women's AA meeting	23 8:30 am Bell Choir Read and Ring
24 8:30 am Service with Communion 9:00 am Children's Choir 9:15 am Adult Study 9:30 am Little Church & Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 11:40 am Coffee Hour	25 9:00 am Newsletter Mailing Day 1:00 pm Hugo's Accordion Band 5:30 pm Overeaters Anonymous	26 1:00 pm Sleeping Mat Team 1:30 pm Bell Trio Rehearsal 7:00 pm NAMI Support Group	27 10:00 am Worship Support Team 1:45 pm Staff Meeting 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	28 8:30 am Men's Morning Ministry 1:30 pm Adult Bible Study 6:30 pm Bell Choir 6:30 pm G S Troop 44129	29 6:00 pm Women's AA meeting	30

## ANNIVERSARIES

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

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

