



MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Growing Followers Of Christ Since 1902

The Grapevine

I am the vine; You are the branches.

John 15:5

Year 118, Issue 6

June 2020

A Message from your Deacons

During these challenging times The Deacons want to reach those of our congregation who are experiencing job loss and economic hardships. This care can come in a variety of ways including:

Engaging in conversation and prayer with someone who has experienced similar situations

Providing short term financial assistance

Providing encouragement through a break from your new normal.

You or someone close to you may be experiencing some of these struggles. This is what you can do.

Contact either Pastor Dan or Tom Howard to let them know of the need. All conversations will remain confidential.

If you are communicating on behalf of another person please get that person's permission. A simple ask of "I think our church has an avenue to help. Would you mind if I pass your name to Pastor Dan or Tom Howard"?

We are all a part of God's family and have experienced his grace at one time or another. Here is one story:

The first time my husband experienced a job loss it rocked our entire family to the core. We had three children who needed to be reassured that we would be okay while we navigated our way through the maze of financial realities and emotions that accompany that experience. Our emotions ranged from depression to hope for a brighter future and everywhere in between.

This Grapevine issue contains special updates from our mission partners.

Family Promise

Friendship House

Campus Ministries at Skagit Valley College

Kids Camp (Online) 2020 is coming!

MVPC is co-hosting an online Kid's Camp July 13th to 24th on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9 am to 10 am for kids heading in to Preschool through Middle School. Please let Rebecca Holland know how you would like to get involved:



* Please consider being a volunteer or even a "if you really need more volunteers" volunteer. We don't know how many kids will sign up for online camp but our limiting factor is that we need a few adults in each of the breakout rooms of about 10 kids. We will train you! It will be fun!

* We are in need of a few folks who understand Zoom to help manage our meetings. If we have enough folks, they could even rotate through the 6 meetings so that they don't have to be at all of them! This is a great way to help behind the scenes!

* And of course, **please pray for the volunteers and kids** as they attempt this new format!

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Submitted by Josh VerHalen, Director of Music at MVPC

Robert Robinson was just a small boy when his dad died. In 18th century England, there was little in the way of a social welfare system and this meant that he had to go to work while still very young. Without a father to guide and steady him, Robert fell in with bad companions.

One day his gang of rowdies harassed a drunken gypsy. Pouring liquor into her, they demanded she tell their fortunes for free. Pointing her finger at Robert she told him he would live to see his children and grandchildren. This struck a tender spot in his heart. "If I'm going to live to see my children and grandchildren," he thought, "I'll have to change my way of living. I can't keep on like I'm going now."

Robert Robinson decided to go hear the Methodist preacher George Whitefield. Whitefield preached on the text: "O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?" (Matthew 3:7). Robert left in dread, under a deep sense of sin that lasted for three years. Finally, at the age of twenty, Robert made peace with God and immediately set out to become a Methodist preacher himself. Two years later, in 1757, he wrote a hymn which expressed his joy in his new faith:

*Come, Thou Fount of every blessing, Tune my heart to sing Thy grace
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, Call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet, Sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, Mount of Thy redeeming love.*



In 1755 he converted to Methodism and first preached at a Calvinistic chapel in Suffolk, England before going on to found his own independent congregation in Norwich. After taking up Baptist theological perspectives, he was re-baptized in 1759. He then spent nearly 30 years pastoring a Baptist church at Cambridge.

Robert Robinson died on June 9, 1790. A widely-told but unverifiable story says that one day, not long before his death, as he was riding in a stagecoach, a lady asked him what he thought of the hymn she was humming. He responded, "Madam, I am the poor unhappy man who wrote that hymn many years ago, and I would give a thousand worlds, if I had them, to enjoy the feelings I had then."

Lost to time due to an omission in one of the earliest uses of the song in a hymnal is a fourth stanza. I have included it below.

*O that Day when freed from sinning, I shall see thy lovely Face;
Clothed then in blood-washed Linen How I'll sing thy sovereign grace;
Come, my Lord, no longer tarry, Take my ransom'd Soul away;
Send thine Angels now to carry me to realms of endless Day.*

Many have lamented the omission with one editor noting the additional stanza "eliminates the apocalyptic climax of the author's invitatory prayer to the Holy Spirit."

Meet Elder Patti Allen

I was born in Seattle, WA at Sandpoint Naval Air Station to Warren and Mary Allen. I soon left for Utica, New York, the next USMC duty station where I was baptized in the Second Presbyterian Church. I am a graduate of Mount Vernon High School, Skagit Valley College (Early Childhood certificate) and Western Washington College (P---12 Special Education).



My two grown daughters are an inspiration to me, Rachel, a financial analyst for Starbuck's in Seattle and Claire, wife and mother of two growing boys in Mukilteo. During my 52 years at MVPC I've been on a journey. This year, I am completing the second of 2 terms serving as an elder on Session. During this time I've served on the Personnel committee as well as the Fellowship, Worship and Discipleship ministry areas. As I rotate off Session, I look forward to continuing my journey with many members and friends. I'm not sure what the Lord will call me to next, but I know I will be surprised and energized by the plans He has.

“Forward to a Bright Future” – General Terms in the Construction/Mortgage Loan for Approval

Loan Amount:	up to \$600,000
Construction Period:	Within 12 months, or upon the completion of construction, whichever comes first.
Construction Interest Rate:	4.75% per annum
Mortgage Amount:	\$ Total amount drawn at the end of construction.
Length of Term:	180 Months [15 years]
Interest Rate:	4.25% [Requires MVPC to invest at least 10% of loan amount into MDC investment instruments. Otherwise, interest is 5.25%, adjustable after 3 years]
Estimated Monthly Payments:	Approximately \$4,667 based on borrowing \$600,000 limit
Payoff Plan:	3 years from date of closing with pay-down on principle [no pre-payment penalty] as member Campaign Commitments come in.



MVPC
Church Leadership
2019-2020

Elders			Class Year	Ministry Area	Deacons			Class Year
Patti	Allen	2020		Hospitality	Brian	Anderson	2020	
Becky	Goodell	2020		Hospitality	Sarah	Catton	2020	
Bob	Rauch	2020		Discipleship	Colleen	Higbee	2020	
Bob	Higbee	2020		Ministry Support	Toni	Hulbert	2020	
Lou	Cheney	2021		Worship	Danya	Wolf	2021	
Chris	Hoke	2021		Discipleship	Ruth	Neal	2021	
Bruce	Lavers	2021		Ministry Support	Connie	Bowser	2021	
Anne	Long	2021		Membership/ Evangelism	Tracy	Hall	2021	
MaryEllen	Byerly	2022		Capital Campaign Chair	Tom	Howard	2022	
Bill	DeHon	2022		Mission	Sandi	Seabott	2022	
Gail	LaFleur	2022		Worship	Sumiko	Shinozaki	2022	

Notes from May 19th Session meeting

- The meeting was opened with prayer.
- Approved Congregational Meeting to be called on June 7, 2020 at 11:45 am with two items of business:
 - Vote to encumber the church property with construction loan.
 - Vote to elect the slate of elders, deacons, Nominating Committee members and Endowment Committee.
- Approved a plan for distributing notice to congregational members.
- Affirmed moving toward a new plan for the ministry of Deacons at MVPC.
- Session voted to establish a paid, short term position as Reopening Point Person to establish guidelines for our eventual church building reopening using resources from Presbytery and elsewhere.
- It was reported that MVPC is approved for the construction loan for repair of the building envelope.
- Finance is to develop a way to submit expense reimbursement electronically.
- Session approved the budgeted amount (\$1,000) be sent to Tall Timber camp.
- The meeting was closed with prayer.

June 2020 Children, Youth, and Family Ministries

Kid's (Online) Camp 2020: Making a Difference

July 13th-24th - Mondays, Wednesdays, & Fridays - 9 am to 10 am

Preschool through
Middle School

Games, Songs, Stories, Crafts,
and Special Community Guests

Co-Hosted on Zoom by
Mount Vernon Presbyterian
And First United Methodist

You are the light of the world.

Matthew 5:14

Register soon at MountVernonPres.org or
MVFUMC.org.

MVPC Family Online Opportunities



Sundays 10:30 am	All Ages Worship
1st & 3rd Sundays 5 pm	Family Small Group
Wednesdays 8:30 am	Coffee Break (Adults)
Wednesday 7 pm	Reflections Study
Thursday 7 pm	Youth Group

Contact the church to find out about these and additional opportunities and to get on the mailing list for weekly Zoom meeting numbers and passwords.

MVPC Family Small Group

The MVPC Family Small Group is meeting for online games, fellowship, and prayer on the 1st and 3rd Sunday from 5 to 6 pm. Everyone is welcome! Contact Rebecca to get on the list!

Youth Group

Youth Group for youth in MS and HS is continuing to meet online at 7 pm on Thursdays until the end of the school year, when they will switch to the summer schedule. Contact Pastor Dan to get on the list!

Questions? Contact Rebecca Holland, Director of Children and Family Ministries.

The Creative Corner

Being "shut in and out" does have its advantages, so it is said. We'd like to take advantage of your attention. As part of our "continuing education" for the church, we are creating a "Creative Corner" segment for the Grapevine. Now, we know that there is a lot of talent out there just waiting to bud out and be shared with everyone. Won't you help keep this newly created segment of the Grapevine going with your creative contributions? Create and submit your talent piece via email to the church office (mvpc@mountvernonpres.org) to entertain all of us, and become a beacon of hope while we are all separated from one another. It can be a poem, a short story, a story about a particular talent you have and how it came about, funny antidote of something you experienced, a photo of something cheerful, artwork, something your kids/grandkids did, anything.

AKK!! By Al Berger

My eyes are all puffy, my nose is all stuffy,
It's allergy season , I fear.
The pollen - intently, the kleenex box empty,
My pills are not working, oh dear.
The flowers of summer, my sneezes a bummer
My wish is that winter were here.
A cruise on the ocean, no pollen or potion,
To breathe again – passages clear.
When summer is over, no flowers or clover,
Such misery gone
"Til next year. AKK!!



What do you do
when flour is scarce
and yeast
unobtainable?

**Make sourdough
bread!**

Of course, first you
have to find the directions for making the sourdough
starter from scratch.

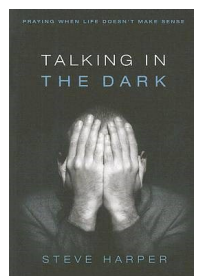
Wolf Story

The rustling of bushes caught my immediate attention. Before me stood a magnificent 4-legged creature who immediately stole my heart. It was a beautiful, sunny, early summer's day in Nova Scotia when this unusual and extraordinary encounter took place. The wolf began to approach me as I stood frozen in place feeling awe, excitement, wonderment, and trepidation. I was told to kneel down and let this alpha male approach me at his pace. With slow, methodical, and curious steps he advanced until I could feel his breath on my face. I stared into his magnificent eyes and became one with his spirit. He allowed me to stroke his fur as he nuzzled against my body and sniffed my essence. The strength and power of his muscles nearly toppled me over as he pushed against me, but I found my footing and maintained my balance. Though we parted ways and would never meet again, his spirit lives within me today. A transformation of my spirit took place that day and left me with memories that I will never forget.

True story by Leslie Ann Braun

Talking in the Dark by Steve Harper

This is a serious, deep pursuit of answers to hard questions of faith. If you have time for a slow, thoughtful read, this book will reward you. The author writes: "Praying is one of the ways we build spiritual muscle and become stronger and better able to face the unfairness of life." One reviewer says, "He has the ability to cut through theological jargon, clear a pathway to Jesus, and guide others into the embrace of the Comforter." Find this volume in the "Inspirational" shelves, alphabetically in "H"s, in the MVPC library.





Exerpts from a letter from Family Promise

“...I imagine you all have your days of feeling discouraged (we are all human). It is hard to be distant from those that we love and to not be able to help in the ways we are accustomed to. “I feel like a caged lion” as one of my pastoral friends explained it.

However, I find myself recognizing the balance in life. While we may have lost some good Christian friends to this virus, on the other side there is a cleansing of the unessential things from the lives of many. May Good will come from all of this because since the Lord has promised this in his Word, and that is something that we can be certain of.

My friend wrote to me the other day and in a time of great sorrow she was able to somehow find the joys in these times. It brightened my spirits, let me share it with you....

...The following is a list of The Good, that we put together to encourage you in result of being stuck at home.

...THE GOOD

1. The elderly will be cherished as they should be.
2. Our homes, yards and our planet is getting a much needed cleanup and people can now see the sky in China for the first time in years.
3. People can clear their heads, now that the world has slowed down for just a while, perhaps the stillness will allow for a deeper calling.
4. Books and songs will be written to serve God! God will bloom in people as there is an abundance of time to reflect, journal, pray and heal. We may see a surge in Christian authors, songwriters and composers, praising God for his mercy and grace.
5. Children will get bored of their usual activities and realize that there are things to do outside, bringing great joy and peace to parents working at home.
6. A majority of the world will go virtual, broadening the reach, creating new jobs and more education.
7. People will eat at home, teaching their children new habits and cooking skills.
8. Families will love and record good memories that could not have been had without being home together.
9. LAST BUT NOT LEAST—A WORLDWIDE BABY BOOM starting in 10 to 12 months.

These are such simple things to remember. In this time of uncertainty. We can feel discouraged by the many unkind words or the brokenness that may surround us. While we sit in our homes wishing we could save the world, let's be reminded that God is hard at work doing this already....”

CCF Ministry at Skagit Valley College (from their newsletter by Johanna)

“ “One bright spot in the middle of ministry during quarantine has been our ladies Bible study. This group has been one of the best I’ve ever had at Skagit: Ladies show up on time, share about their lives, eagerly desire to study the Bible, and want to seek Jesus in their own life and on behalf of others.

One girl even organized an online devotional we could all do together through a Bible app to help support and encourage each other in this hard time. I wanted to share a few of their responses (anonymously) that blew me away. While quarantine has its challenges, it’s opened up a new facet to see these lady’s hearts for the Lord and I’m thankful. These are from different days, responding to different verses and prompts:

“ I have inherent value because I am a daughter of Christ. God created myself and all of the other people on Earth because we each have a purpose that only we can fulfill. God deliberately designed us.”

“God has equipped each of us for the job we’ve been given-nobody else can do our job like we can, and likewise, we can’t do anybody else’s. When God gives us something to do, it’s best just to get to it with the faith that He will supply our every need, because He always does. I can’t express enough how thankful I am for this fact. God is so good.” “

2020census.gov



The above website is a link where you can read all about the 2020 census. The faith community is being asked to spread the word about the importance of responding to the Census questionnaire and being counted. The count impacts funding for school breakfasts and lunches, Pell grants for college, roads, bridges, senior and community centers, hospitals and housing programs. It also determines our representation in Congress. Grocery stores and retail all use the data to determine where to open new stores and reduce checkout lines. Library funding is allocated depending on the Census data for the next 10 years. Everyone counts and we are all equal. There is translation help in 59 languages.

Friendship House and the COVID-19 crisis

The Corona Virus has affected Friendship House, as it has many other business. We have had to close certain operations and change how we offer others. Our main concern is and always will be the health and safety of the most vulnerable in our community. We are still serving meals, but they are now “to go” including the food for our shelter residents as well as the people on the street. We continue to provide sack lunches too. We welcome all the people that use our services and urge everyone to practice social distancing. Everything is sanitized on a regular basis.



2019 By the Numbers

Men housed: 208	Total Bed Nights: 11,203
Women houses: 157	Melas Served: 42,968
Children Housed: 27	Showers provided: 1,070
Clothing & Toiletries provided: Thousands	

June Birthdays & Anniversaries

5-Betty Washer	24-Dick Johnson
7-Jan Eerkes	Carolyn Wortham
7-Bill & Jan DeHon	25-Linda Walser
9-Mabel Long	26-Colleen Higbee
9-Don & Margo Wortham	Tom Long
10-Ron Vander Stoep	Gordon Mau & Dee
11-Lynn Grobschmidt	Jobe
Bob Rauch	28-Iva Rauch
Don Riedel	29-Jim & Jean Byron
Howard & Barbara Koozer	
Bob & Colleen Higbee	
David & Ruth Neal	
12-Bavon Olwete	
15-Madeline DeLia	
18-Bob Higbee	
20-Bob & Glenda Mitchell	
Larry & Carol Peterson	



Thank you to:

- ♥ To all of the Deacons for caring for all.
- ♥ The “tech” hands behind the scenes for Sunday Worship.
- ♥ Rebecca for Godly Play stories.
- ♥ Natalie, Michaela, Ben and Jon for the extra help they give so their parents can lead the congregation.
- ♥ Everyone helping to plan for online Kids Camp this summer.

If you would like to acknowledge your gratitude for someone's role in the church in next month's newsletter please email Barbara in the church office. mvpcc@mountvernonpres.org



Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church

Growing followers of Christ

Our Vision Statement

Encounter The Hope
of the living God through Jesus

Engage One Another
in authentic friendship

Embrace The World
with the heart and hands of Jesus