



I am the vine; You are the branches.
John 15:5

MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Growing Followers Of Christ Since 1902

The Grapevine

Year 117, Issue 1
January 2019

1511 East Broadway Street . Mt Vernon, WA . 360 424-7675 . www.MountVernonPres.org
mvpc@MountVernonPres.org



A New Year's Reflection

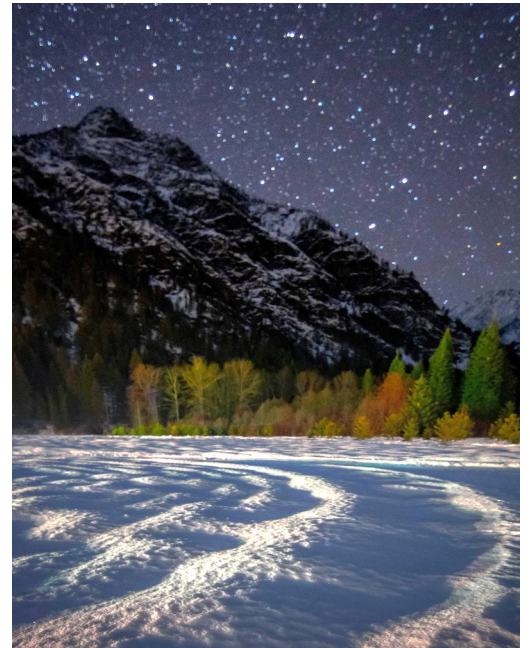
My family had a great New Year's getaway to Tall Timber for Snow Camp. During the day there were all sorts of new experiences for us: a hike through the woods to a waterfall for my kids' first time snowshoeing; I tried cross country skiing for the first time... I still have a bruise from one particularly hard fall.

A few photos of the days grace a later page of this newsletter, but the pictures on this page are my favorites from each of the two nights we

were there. On New Year's Eve, there was a firework display to rival many I've seen. The camp director told us there were 95 shells of up to 4 inch diameter... the echo from the explosions reverberated between the peaks in the valley. It was quite a way to ring in the New Year!

The night before I was also treated to a clear night sky at camp. The stars were amazing. I ventured out with my camera to try to capture what I could of that particular slice of the beauty of God's creation. It was cold... and it was thought provoking. I let my mind wander to scripture as I wandered looking for a good photo. God's promise to Abraham came to the fore "I will bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven." I realized some of the stars I saw that night were likely some of the same ones Abraham saw when he looked up so many years ago. They became for me a witness to the constancy of God's presence.

And then a different scripture from Isaiah 43:19 popped into my head and it created a little tension because it's all about what's new rather than what remains constant... Isaiah reports the Lord saying "I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?" (cont. next page)



Can you be a Secret Valentine?

For Details look on the Children and Family Ministry page.

And now, it's a new year but in a lot of ways it doesn't feel much different than last year... I even wrote "2018" on a check yesterday. But I have to believe that part of God's constancy is in the invitation to something new. The continuation of God's promise to Abraham says "by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, *because you have obeyed my voice* (Genesis 22:17-18).

And these scriptures played together in my mind to come to a new year's reflection question, which I offer to you: How are you being called to obey God's voice in this new year, in order to see the new thing God is doing and be part of God's blessing in our community and our world?

I'd love to hear your thoughts... and look forward to seeing what comes as we walk this path together.

Blessings,
Pastor Dan

All Ages Welcome!



May 24-27

You probably know that Tall Timber is the camp in the Cascade mountains that we send our youth to during the summer; but did you know that Tall Timber hosts events for children, families of all shapes and sizes, and retreats as well? If you would like to explore Tall Timber for yourself, we have an opportunity to do so! Over **Memorial Day weekend, May 24-27**, you are invited to attend the Work Weekend at Tall Timber. A group from MVPC will join with other volunteers to help with needed maintenance and repairs at the camp. In addition to lending a hand, there will also be opportunities to explore the camp and the wilderness around it. All meals are provided, and the cost is by donation if you are able. Families, singles, old and young are all welcome. If you are interested in participating in this wonderful ministry, please call the office or let Jodie Kercheval know!



News from Friendship House



In early 2016 the Friendship House Board of Directors purchased a rental property which was the beginning of a place called “Barbara’s House”. Over the next two years the property was transformed from a sell-worn rental house into a comfortable living space with 5 –single units with shared bath and kitchen facilities available for lease as permanent housing for those on Social Security or Disability Insurance with low income that had completed the resident program at Friendship House. From the first day all five units were filled. Barbara’s House has proven itself to be a concept that works. The following is from a resident:

“I want to say thank you from the bottom of my heart to all the staff at Friendship House for believing in me and caring so much to give me a beautiful home and a new life. I doubt that I would still be here if not for them all.”

In other news:

Recently, after much discussion with neighbors of Friendship House, the Mayor’s office and the Mount Vernon Police Department, the Friendship House Board of Directors made the decision to stop serving breakfast and lunch to the public as of October 1st. Friendship House began a mobile meal service providing a sack lunch to anyone who is hungry at a site outside the immediate neighborhood. Currently the mobile lunch effort continues everyday with a sack lunch available from Noon to 1:00 pm on West Fir Street in Mount Vernon across from the Carpet One Floor and Home store. Matthew 25: 34-40



**Are you interested in being part
of a Chimes/Bell Choir?**

See Jodie Kercheval



Needs for Friendship House

New warm sox

Clean lightly used coats

Hats & Gloves

Biography for Elder Becky Goodell



Hi from Becky Goodell, session member at MVPC for a year and a half now. Life is good. I’m thoroughly enjoying my involvement in the life and work of the church. My primary area of responsibility is missions. OPOP team participation has provided a wonderful opportunity for personal growth and a profound love and respect for the wealth of talent within our loving fellowship. Serving on nominations committee is delightful with so many truly wonderful people to draw from. Godly Play is another area of MVPC life that really floats my boat. It is a privilege to serve in the Sunday School rotation to witness first hand the children’s reverent response to

God’s word. Children fill my life pretty thoroughly. I thrive as grandmother to 5 and physical therapist to about 75 and XC coach to another 30 in the Sedro-Woolley School District.

Recreational activities I enjoy most include running, hiking, and all things aviation with my husband Jerry Burr. We fly a hopped up J3 Cub that I really enjoy introducing youth to flight in, so kids, don’t be afraid to ask.

Notes from December Session meeting

- Received report from OPOP (One Parish, One Prisoner). This mission welcomes new participants.
- Discussed the possibility of an Orthodox Mission using some of our space for worship.
- Renewed an agreement with Underground Ministries for two years for use of office space without expectation of user cost recovery.

January 2019 Children and Family Ministries



Godly Play

Begin in Worship

Kindergarten to 5th Grade

Story - Reflection - Prayer

1/6 - Epiphany

1/13 - Parable of the Good Shepherd

1/20 - Parable of the Good Samaritan

1/27 - Parable of the Great Pearl

Church Nursery

Sundays 9 am to Noon

Drop Off & Pick Up

Play - Story - Craft



1/6 - Jesus is Baptized p. 200

1/13 - Jesus in the Desert p. 208

1/20 - Jarius' Daughter p. 214

1/27 - The Lord's Prayer p.222

MVPC Kid's Choir

No Kid's Choir in January! We will see you in February for more singing and choir fun!



(usually 1st & 3rd Wednesdays)

5:30 to 6ish - Singing!

6ish to 6:30 - Potluck Dinner

Talk with Rebecca to sign up!

Family Small Group

2nd and 4th Sundays 5 to 6 pm

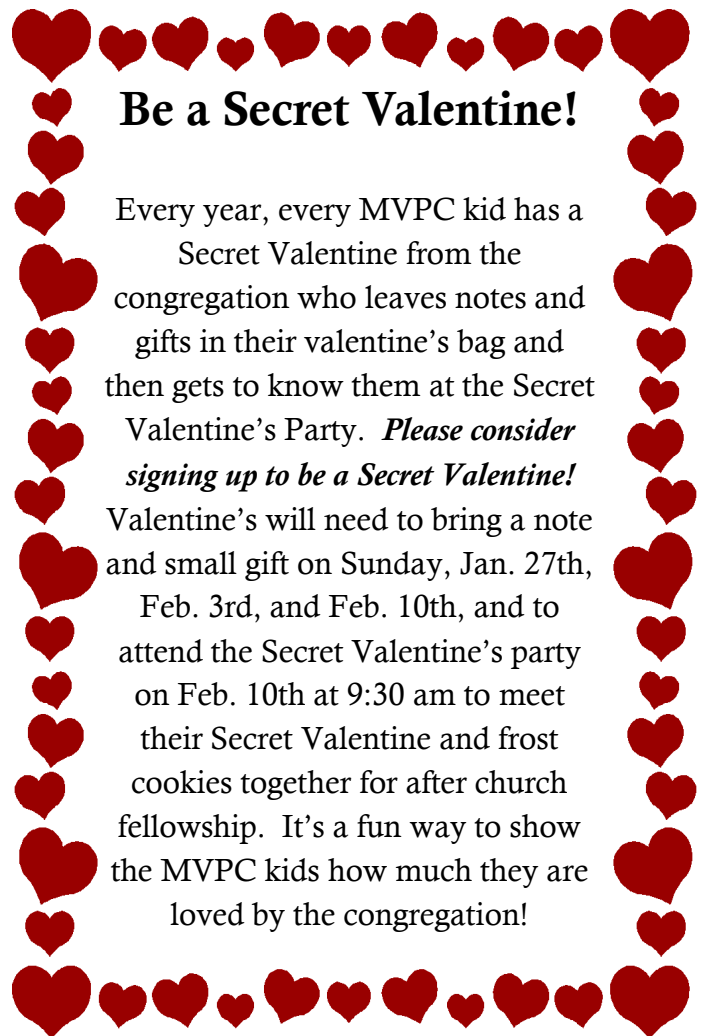
4:30 to 5 pm - Optional Group Game

5 to 5:30 pm - Pizza, Salad, & Dessert

5:30 to 6 pm - Share & Prayer



Talk with Rebecca if your family is interested in joining this committed small group.



Be a Secret Valentine!

Every year, every MVPC kid has a Secret Valentine from the congregation who leaves notes and gifts in their valentine's bag and then gets to know them at the Secret Valentine's Party. ***Please consider signing up to be a Secret Valentine!*** Valentine's will need to bring a note and small gift on Sunday, Jan. 27th, Feb. 3rd, and Feb. 10th, and to attend the Secret Valentine's party on Feb. 10th at 9:30 am to meet their Secret Valentine and frost cookies together for after church fellowship. It's a fun way to show the MVPC kids how much they are loved by the congregation!

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

Youth & Family Ministries

January 2019



This Christmas season, our youth participated as members of our chimes choir, kids choir, readers and actors in our Christmas program on December 16. Thank you to all who helped make this event lively, spirit-filled and fabulous!



Summer Camp is Coming!

Tall Timber is a Christian camp in the Cascade mountains near Leavenworth. Check it out at www.TallTimber.org! Youth interested in attending camp this year, please see Jodie!

July 14—19: Jr. High Camp (entering 6-9)

July 28—Aug. 3: Sr. High Camp (entering 9-12)

Celebrating Love

- Jan. 27—Youth Group focus: The Love of Jesus
 - Feb. 3—Love-focused art activity after worship
 - Feb. 10—Youth Group focus: Sharing God's Love
- We are in need of adult volunteers to help with or participate in these 3 special Sunday events. Please contact Jodie if you are interested in helping!

Regularly Scheduled Youth Programs (Thru June 9, 2019)

Seekers (MS) & Explorers (HS) Youth Classes: Students are excused from worship to their classes in the Library and the Great Room on the 2nd & 4th Sundays of the month to study the Bible. Jan. 13 & 27.

Youth Group: 12-1:30 in the Great Room on the 2nd & 4th Sundays of the month. Middle & high school students enjoy lunch, engage in fellowship, and celebrate our faith through lessons, activities and prayer. Jan. 13 & 27.

Confirmation: Meets on the 1st & 3rd Sundays of the month from 6:00-7:30pm, and runs September thru June. We reflect on the fundamentals of our faith and how that translates into a life committed to following Jesus.

Thank you to all who helped make our Christmas program an enjoyable celebration of Jesus' birth!





Tall Timber Snow Camp 2018





Getting Ready For the Christmas Program

The Purse Project

A Ministry of Women's Fellowship

A huge THANK YOU to everyone who contributed to the Women's Fellowship Purse Project! We are still in need of socks, scarves and gloves for this first delivery; but this will be an ongoing project, so we'll always be collecting! A reminder: because purses are of many different sizes, we ask only for travel size hygiene items. Again, thank you for your contribution, and look for a box for future donations coming soon!



Women's Christmas Dessert 2018



January Birthdays & Anniversaries

1-Connie Shultz

Dave Wilson

3-Alberta Peters

4-Shirley Leamon

7-Beth Tacker

Lucy McLaughlin

8-Loretta Vander Pol

10-David Lorente

15-Kurtis Scoby

16-Bud Gilbert

16-Bob & Bev Helton

18-Pat Melton

19-Karin Brown

Arlene Andersen

22-Betty Anne Friedericks

Graham Kerr

23-Madison Yerigan

24-Allison Scoby

28-Elisa Gehringer

Janine Risenhoover

Darcy Olsen

29-Molly Howard

30-Linda Ream

31- Kitty Willis

31-Martin & Tonnie Boer



We need to increase our list of who is able and willing to help out in the nursery occasionally on Sundays or for additional church childcare needs (new members classes, special services, etc.). Please talk with Rebecca if you might be interested in being on the list of folks who can help with the little ones!

Are we missing your special date?

Please contact the church office at

mvpcc@mountvernonpres.org

or call or text

360-424-7675 so we can celebrate with you!

| Elders | | Class Year | Ministry Area | Deacons | | Class Year |
|--------|--------------|------------|------------------|----------|--------------|------------|
| Patti | Allen | 2020 | Worship | Laurel | Coalwell | 2019 |
| Lou | Cheney | 2021 | Worship | Madeline | DeLia | 2019 |
| Bob | Rauch | 2020 | Discipleship | Tracy | Hall | 2019 |
| Chris | Hoke | 2021 | Discipleship | Pete | Papadopoulos | 2019 |
| Sandy | Ball | 2019 | Hospitality | Brian | Anderson | 2020 |
| Steve | Hansen | 2019 | Hospitality | Sarah | Catton | 2020 |
| Pat | Papadopoulos | 2019 | Evang/Member | Colleen | Higbee | 2020 |
| Anne | Long | 2021 | Evang/Member | Toni | Hulbert | 2020 |
| Becky | Goodell | 2020 | Mission/Service | Melissa | Johnson | 2021 |
| Bill | DeHon | 2019 | Mission/Service | Ruth | Neal | 2021 |
| Bob | Higbee | 2020 | Ministry Support | Ron | Vanderstoep | 2021 |
| Bruce | Lavers | 2021 | Ministry Support | Danya | Wolf | 2021 |

Women's Fellowship

Meets the 4th Saturday, January 26th at 9:00 am in the Fireside Room. All are welcome.

Men's Breakfast meets the fourth Saturday January 26, 2019 for a delicious home-cooked breakfast at 9:00 am in Good Shepherd Hall. Questions? Speak to Bob Wygal.

THANK YOU CORNER

- ♦ To all who made this Advent and Christmas season so beautiful and uplifting with music, decoration and inspirational thoughts and theater.
- ♦ For the continued progress on the kitchen compliance project we thank Bruce Lavers and Bob Higbee
- ♦ For exciting classes and events for youth and children and families thanks go to Rebecca Holland and Jodie Kercheval.

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. Office.mvpcc@gmail.com





Prayer

Would You like to join a prayer group?

We have a small but dedicated group that meets to pray every Tuesday morning from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. in the Library. You are always welcome to come pray with us. There is no right or wrong way to pray, so don't feel intimidated. You don't have to come every week—come when your schedule permits. Centering Prayer, a form of contemplative prayer, is held on Tuesday mornings at 9:30 in Pastor Dan's office.

Would you like prayers, for you or someone you know?

Email prayers.mvpc@gmail.com and you will be prayed for during this time as well as throughout the week. You can also write your prayer request on the Friendship Register on Sunday mornings and they will be forwarded to the Prayer Team.

Talk to Pat Papadopoulos if you have any questions about the Prayer Team, or just about praying in general.



Do you like to research history?

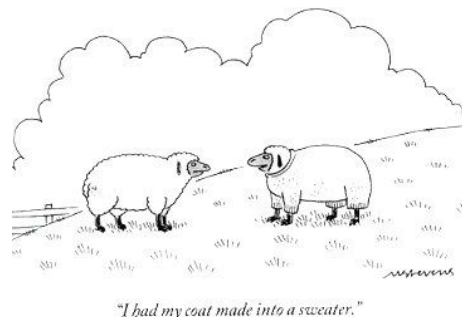
Volunteers are welcomed to help search, organize and sort, reminisce and file as they explore the old church records for interesting 'nuggets' of our history. The following skills would be helpful:

- * Interest and knowledge of this church
- * Ability to glean and file

The rewards are friendship, reminiscing and maybe a 'spot' of tea. The goal is to meet in February this year. See Pat Papadopoulos.

MVPC Knitting/Crafts

Bring your craft project and enjoy fellowship with other MVPC knitters, crocheters, and more on the 2nd & 4th Tuesdays of every month from Noon to 1 pm in the Great Room. Questions? Talk with Patti Allen.



2019 Per Capita

\$49.95

Presbytery 40.00

Synod .50

General Assembly 8.95

If you wish to contribute to this label your check '2019 per capita'.

Our Vision Statement

*E*ncounter The Hope

of the living God through Jesus Christ

*E*ngage One Another

in authentic friendship

*E*mbrace The World

with the heart and hands of Jesus

REGULARLY SCHEDULED EVENTS @ MVPC:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Centering Prayer: | Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m. in Pastor Dan's office |
| Intercessory Prayer Group: | Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. in the Library |
| Small Groups: | Call the church to get connected to a small group! |
| Friendship House: | First Thursday and second Tuesday @ Friendship House |
| Family Small Group: | Second and fourth Sundays 5:00-6:00; food, fellowship, fun |
| Youth Group: | 2nd & 4th Sundays, Noon-1:30 in the Great Room |
| Chancel Choir: | Wednesdays from 6:15 to 7:30 pm |
| Kids Choir: | 1st and 3rd Wednesdays from 5:30—6:30 |
| Glorify!: | Wednesdays, 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. |
| Tea @ 2: | Last Thurs at 2 p.m. in Fireside Room (March through Sept) |
| Women's Fellowship: | Fourth Saturday of the month at 9:00 a.m. |
| Men's Breakfast: | Fourth Saturday of the month at 9:00 a.m. |
| Deacons Meeting: | 1st Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. |
| Personnel Committee: | 3rd Tuesday at 4:15 p.m. |
| Session Meeting: | 3rd Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. |
| Worship Team Meeting: | 1st Wednesday at noon |
| Finance Committee: | 2nd Tuesday at 5 p.m. in library |
| Mission Team Meeting: | 4th Sunday (Stay tuned for meeting time) |
| CF Discernment Team: | 3rd Sunday of Oct, Jan, April & July 8:30-10 a.m. |

THE SUNDAY SCHEDULE AT MVPC ...

9:00 CHRISTIAN EDUCATION HOUR

The Bible Class

An in-depth exploration of the Bible through discussion-based study for adults in the Conference Room.

10:30 WORSHIP AND SUNDAY SCHOOL

NURSERY Preschoolers are introduced to Bible Stories.

GODLY PLAY (K through 5th) Begin in Worship and will be returned to parents at 11:45 during Fellowship time.

SEEKERS & EXPLORERS Youth (MS & HS) Begin in worship; dismissed on 2nd and 4th Sundays to classes. Youth are always welcome to stay in worship.

11:45 FELLOWSHIP TIME: Please stay to enjoy treats and good conversation!

Noon—1:30 YOUTH GROUP meets on 2nd & 4th Sundays

***Nursery Care Available 9 am to Noon.**

