



MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Growing Followers Of Christ Since 1902

The Grapevine

I am the vine; You are the branches.

John 15:5

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May 2019

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Musings from the Pastor

It was the second time she was surprised that day. The stranger who Mary thought was the gardener, was actually the Christ who was standing in front of her; present with her in what she was dealing with right now. "Why are you weeping?" He asked, "Who are you looking for?" And then, as if to say "don't you see, I'm right here in front of you," he spoke her name. He knew her, not in some general, distant, "*Jesus knows everything*" kind of way but in specific, in particular, as a person, loved deeply and called by name.

In her book titled *An Altar in the World* (Harper One Press. 2009 p. 103), Barbara Brown Taylor tells the story of when she first came to faith while she was in college. "People I barely knew made a habit of telling me they loved me." She said. "They were Christians too, and I guess it was their way of welcoming me to the family. I didn't mind exactly, but since they barely knew me I wasn't sure what they were talking about. Did they love the way my right foot turned out, so that I left tracks like a penguin on the beach? Did they love the way my upper lip disappeared when I laughed? Or did they only love my willingness to make hand-printed signs for Bible Study? I decided to find out, so the next time one of the Christians said she loved me, I asked her why. She made a surprised face, like I should already know: 'Because God loves you!' she said... 'because God loves everybody!'"

And that's good news! God does love everybody. If that was the only thing made known by the resurrection accounts in the gospels; that would be enough to celebrate. But especially in John's gospel it's made abundantly clear that God not only loves *all of us*, but that God also cares about each of us, specifically; not just in the abstract but also concretely, not just generally but also particularly. *If you keep reading John's gospel, the resurrected Christ appears to the disciples in the upper room, and then a week later he comes back because Thomas missed it the first time. The resurrected Christ appeared on the lakeshore to discouraged fishermen who had been at work all night without catching anything and he showed them where to cast their nets to catch a ton of fish. Then he also pulled Peter aside in order to give him three opportunities to declare his love and commitment, once for each time Peter had denied Jesus just a few days earlier.*

(cont. next page)



SAVE THE DATE ** Everyone is Invited!

Please RSVP in the church office for the MVPC
Intergenerational Spring Tea.

Fun for all ages!

We will enjoy an afternoon tea and time to connect
with each other.

Please let Rebecca know if you have a nice tea pot, tea cups
and saucers, or a tiered serving tray we could borrow for the
event or if you would like to help!

(cont. from pg 1)

The specificity of the way Peter, Thomas and Mary encountered the risen Christ shows us how God relates with God's people. If your foot leaves tracks like a penguin, not only does God know that, God loves that about you. If your hair does that wild thing that drives you crazy, God knows it and God loves that about you too. But more importantly, if you've been through pain that's unimaginable, God's been there with you. If you've been through joy that's indescribable, God's been there with you too. Whatever you've gone through and whatever you're going through - whether you know it or even if you don't - God is right there with you and God cares immensely about what's going on.

Mary went to the tomb expecting to find Jesus' lifeless body, but when he spoke her name she realized that she had encountered the living Christ. All of the stuff we do to celebrate Easter - bunnies, eggs, candy, flowers, meals, songs, and even the worship services - none of it really amounts to much unless we are also looking for how we encounter the living Christ. Whether it happens in the face of a stranger who listens to our story or a friend who stands by us in a time of need, whether it happens as we take food to people who are hungry or welcome someone new into community. I can't tell you exactly where Christ will show up: but I can tell you that he will. You see, part of what it means to say "Christ is risen" is to say that He's alive and active in the world, and also in my life specifically. It seems everyone outside the doors of the church has moved on from last week's holiday, but for people of faith, encountering the risen Christ is central to who we are and what we do.

When Mary went back to the disciples, even though they didn't believe it yet, she had good news to share. And I wonder - a little over a week removed from our celebration of the resurrection - I wonder how you've encountered the risen Christ, and what good news you have to share because of it?

If you'd like to share your story, I'd like to hear it! Please get in touch and we'll set up a time.

Blessings on this Easter season,

Pastor Dan

The Easter Story On the Hall Art Wall

Illustrated By our
Youth



Next Family Promise Dates

Our next Family Promise Host dates are **June 2nd—
June 9th**. See the following people to volunteer.

Meals—Ruth Neal

Overnight Hosts—Gary Jones

Transport supplies—Lou Cheney

Thank you to all who help!

Vacation Bible School Volunteers Needed

We are already starting to plan this Summer's Vacation Bible School which will happen July 15th to 19th from 9 am to Noon. Please let Rebecca Holland know if you are interested in being a part of the amazing team of volunteers who have fun spreading God's love to kids! This year's theme is "To Mars and Beyond—Explore where God's Power can Take You!"

May 2019 Children and Family Ministries



Godly Play

Begin in Worship
Kindergarten to 5th Grade
Story - Reflection - Prayer

5/5 - Knowing Jesus: Absence & Bread

5/12 - Knowing Jesus: Doubt

5/19 - Knowing Jesus: Morning

5/26 - Knowing Jesus: Making Known

Church Nursery

Sundays 9 am to Noon
Drop Off & Pick Up
Play - Story - Craft



5/5 - Pentecost p. 326*

5/12 - Mother's Day Craft

5/19 - Paul p. 334*

5/26 - John p. 342*

*Stories from the Jesus Storybook Bible

MVPC Kid's Choir

Usually 1st & 3rd Wednesdays

Meeting 5/1, 5/15, and 5/29

5:30 to 6ish - Singing!

6ish to 6:30 - Potluck Dinner

Talk with Rebecca to sign up!



Family Small Group

2nd and 4th Sundays

The MVPC Family Small Group will be meeting in homes during the Spring! It's a great time to come check it out. Please

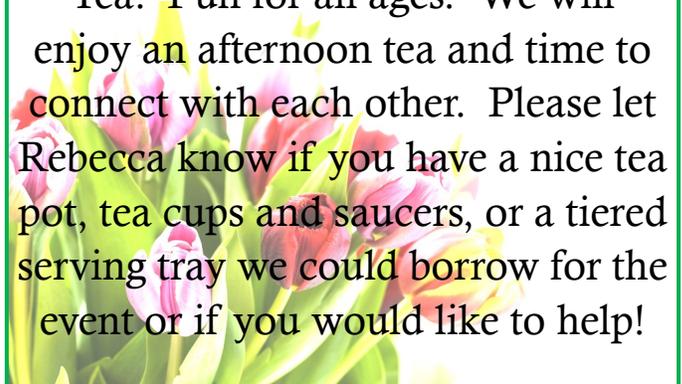
let Rebecca know if your family is interested in joining or hosting a meeting of dinner, fellowship, and prayer.



Intergenerational Spring Tea

Sunday, May 19th at 2 pm

Please RSVP in the church office for the MVPC Intergenerational Spring Tea. Fun for all ages. We will enjoy an afternoon tea and time to connect with each other. Please let Rebecca know if you have a nice tea pot, tea cups and saucers, or a tiered serving tray we could borrow for the event or if you would like to help!



Save the Dates:

-JUNE 15th: Summer Kick Off BBQ

-JULY 15th to 19th: VBS Day Camp!

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



A big **Thank You** to everyone who volunteered, donated candy and cookies, helped stuff eggs, helped to hide the eggs, and helped to make our church beautiful for hosting this wonderful event.

Neighborhood Easter Hunt April 20, 2019



Youth & Family Ministries

May 2019



Regularly Scheduled Youth Programs

Seekers (MS) & Explorers (HS) Youth Classes:

Students are excused from worship to their classes on the 2nd & 4th Sundays of the month to study the Bible. May 12 & 26.

Youth Group: Middle & high school students enjoy lunch, engage in fellowship, and celebrate our faith through lessons, activities and prayer. Due to Mother's Day, Youth Group on May 12 will be BEFORE WORSHIP, 9:15–10:15am. Youth Group on May 26 will be 12-1:30pm in the Great Room.



Fun

May 24 6:30—8:30 pm	Movie Night! <u>Jumanji</u>
June 28 6:30—8:30 pm	Movie Night! (tbd)
July 26 6:30—8:30 pm	Movie Night! (tbd)

Fridays!

Movie Nights are held at the home of our Youth & Family Ministries Director. Please contact Jodie or the church office for more information. All youth are invited, and, as usual, friends are welcome to come too!

Youth Opportunities

There are lots of ways that youth and their families can get involved at MVPC. If you are looking to live out your faith, get to know others in the church, and have a good time, these are great ways!

- Help in the nursery on Sundays.
- Join the bell choir! Mondays, 7pm.
- Bake cookies when needed for memorials.
- Volunteer at VBS in July!
- Bring supplies for PDA Hygiene Kits.

Talk to Jodie for more information!



Summer is Coming!

Save these dates to keep your youth and their friends connected!

- ☺ June 15: Summer Kick-off BBQ, 5pm
- ☺ June 28: Youth Movie Night, 6:30pm
- ☺ July 14-19: Tall Timber Jr. High Camp
- ☺ July 21: Campers' Lunch, after worship
- ☺ July 26: Youth Movie Night
- ☺ July 28—Aug 3: Tall Timber Sr.. High Camp
- ☺ Aug 24: Youth Retreat, all day!

Watch this space for updates as we get closer to summer!

Youth Summer Camp Update!



Still Time to Join In!



Summer camp at Tall Timber is an opportunity to disconnect from all of the distractions in a young person's life and reconnect with nature, people, and God. MVPC is sending 10 students to Jr. High Camp (entering 6-9): July 14—19. We are also exploring the possibility of sending a group to Sr. High Camp July 28-August 3. If you or someone you know would benefit from a week of peace and adventure in the mountains, please call the church office or talk with Jodie Kercheval, our Director of Youth & Family Ministries.

Bake and Craft Sale May 5!



We raise our registration fees together through multiple events, to ensure that everyone who would like to go to camp is able to attend.

Youth campers will be hosting a bake sale/craft sale at MVPC on Sunday, May 5.



Campers have been busy planning their creations and are excited to share them with everyone!

Dear Presbytery,



**PRESBYTERY OF THE
NORTHWEST COAST**

We are thankful to share the news that the Presbytery of the Northwest Coast is supporting our youth by providing scholarships for 1/3 of the \$400 registration fee for each of our campers. We appreciate their support and feel

blessed for all the ways they enrich the spiritual lives of our youth.

Camper's Lunch Planning!



Our annual Camper's Lunch, where our campers will share some of their camp experiences with the congregation, is scheduled for Sunday, July 21 after worship. Please note that this is the Sunday directly following camp. Our first planning meeting will be after worship on **Sunday, May 19** where we will plan the menu and assign volunteer roles. Campers and parents/guardians, please save the date!

MVPC Church Leadership 2019



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	Danya	Wolf	2021
Bill	DeHon	2019	Mission/Service	Ruth	Neal	2021
Bob	Higbee	2020	Ministry Support	Vacant		2021
Bruce	Lavers	2021	Ministry Support	Vacant		2021

Notes from April Session meeting

- Received a financial report showing a year to date difference through March 31, 2019 of \$21, 456.97.
- Received the nominating committee report they are struggling to fill positions.
- Approved a congregational meeting for May 19th to elect slate from the Nominating Committee.
- Approved financing 9 new furnaces in house up to \$55,300 with the funds to be paid back to the respective reserve funds.
- Established a “Community Service Fund” to be used to foster involvement and provide support for MVPC’s mission partners who serve people in need, regardless of the faith tradition.
- Reminded leaders that the annual program report is due May 12th.
- Received a report on the Emergency Building Use discussion which is continuing.



Missions committee invites all interested in learning more about our mission partner Love INC to attend the annual Love INC banquet at Saint Joseph’s Center on Friday, May 4th at 6 pm. MVPC is hosting a table of 8. Your dinner is free. The food is always good and the information inspiring. Contact mission elder Becky Goodell to sign up or address any questions.

Get to Know Elder Louise Cheney

I am entering my second year on Session, following a decades-long membership at MVPC.

Perhaps a look at my past experiences explains where I am now. My past experience as a mental health counselor for abused, disturbed, deprived children--many in foster care, would not seem a likely preparation for a church officer. Nevertheless, they were formative years wherein I had to re-think my 1950’s reward-based Christianity. Those years caused me to think, feel, search, and question until I had a reformed faith that encompassed every kind of pain. The hard work of discovery brought me to a very different, deeper understanding of God.

I value my time spent with others on Session where we search our faith to make decisions. I am grateful beyond words for our faith community at MVPC and willing to express that through my time with Godly Play, Glorify, and Women’s Fellowship.



From Friendship House Newsletter the following article:



The Hunger to Hope (H2H) program at Friendship House is in the coffee business as our food service apprentices learn the basics of roasting green coffee beans and challenges of packaging for sale.

Friendship House has been roasting & selling coffee since 2016. This has enables the H2H apprentices to learn the basics of coffee roasting, blending, grinding and packaging fresh roasted coffee beans.

Kitchen Manager and H2H Instructor Tom Hoffman said this has allowed us to teach a new specialty plus our apprentices are able to add a new skill to their resume as they prepare for employment in the food service industry.



Tom says the coffee is offered in a dark or “French” roast as well as a medium roast for those looking for a milder experience. Friendship House organic coffee will be available for sale this spring and summer at the Mount Vernon Farmer’s Market on the Riverwalk every other Saturday during the summer and at the Sedro-Woolley Farmer’s Market every other Wednesday. The one-pound bags (either whole bean or ground) will be available for \$12.11 per bag tax included.

You can visit the Friendship House webswite for the specific dates Friendship House coffee will be available. Skagitfriendshiphouse.org
For more information contact Jerry@skagitfriendshiphouse.org or 360-873-8022

The **Friendship House Café** continues to prepare and deliver a sack lunch to anyone who is hungry at the off-site distribution point every day. Café Kitchen Manager Tom Hoffman organizes the lunch preparation which includes a meat & cheese sandwich, a big of chips, a piece of fruit when available plus a cookie or pastry for dessert along with a bottle of water. A total of 375 sack lunches were distributed by volunteers in February.

Thank you to:

- * All who volunteered their time and talent to the successful Neighborhood Easter Egg Hunt.
- * The beautiful choral anthem and Kids Choir Introit on Easter Sunday and bells on Palm Sunday.
- * Pastor Dan for guiding us to a glorious Easter celebration.
- * Thanks to all those who worked so hard to clean up our landscape before Easter, especially Dan Long (Grounds Leader) & Ann Long for leading the effort over two weekends



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.mvpc@gmail.com

Children of the Valley After School Program invites you to our annual Cinco de Mayo, Art Auction, and Dinner on May 3, 2019 from 5:30-9:00pm at Maplehurst Farm in Mount Vernon.

Children of the Valley is a non-profit after school program serving low-income students in the Mount Vernon School District most in need of academic support and social and emotional development. As an independent 501c3, our program relies solely on the contributions of private donors, foundations, and grants. Our annual fundraiser provides an opportunity to engage the community to learn about the program, the students we serve, and to garner support. Our fundraiser will include a Silent Auction with art produced by well known Skagit Valley artists and COV children, dinner catered by COA Mexican Restaurant, and music by a local student Mariachi Group!

Tickets are \$50 in advance or \$60 at the door

Purchase tickets online at: charityauction.bid/childrenofthevalley OR in person at Bethany Covenant Church
1318 S 18th St, Mount Vernon, WA 98274

May Birthdays & Anniversaries

1-Rob Wortham
 4-Louise Cheney
 6-Doris Epley
 8-Pete Brown
 9-Glory Olwete
 Lynda Weston
 11-Melissa Johnson
 12-*Rob & Tracy Hall*
Ruth Dunn
 13-Ron McCarty
 Jace Swanson
 15-Glenda Mitchell
George & Collie Ridgeway
 16-Marcia Taylor
 Connie Bowser
 19-Tom Howard
 23-*Keith & Beth Tacker*



24-Gerd Leffler
 26-David Neal
 27-Gloria Olwete
 28-Hannah Kercheval
 30-Darlene Mailliard
 31-Timothy Long

Women's Fellowship

Meets Saturday May 25th at 9:00 am
 in the Fireside Room.

The women have a message for you. God
 will give you a cool glass of water
 whenever you want one.

Men's Breakfast meets the
 fourth Saturday May 25th for
 breakfast at 9:00 am in Good
 Shepherd Hall. Come
 experience fellowship and a
 great home-cooked
 breakfast.

Are we missing your special date?

Please contact the church office at

mvpc@mountvernonpres.org

or call or text

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

NEW MEMBERS Easter 2019



Howard Koozer

Barbara Koozer

Fran Zimmerly

Joe Seabott

Sandra Seabott

Darcy Olsen

Anna Olsen

Gail LaFleur

Wendy Bartholomew

Larry Peterson

Carol Peterson

Merlin Zimmerly

Aaron Kiesser



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.

Kids Choir on Easter Sunday 4/21/19



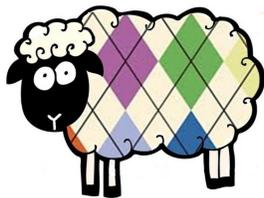
CONGRATULATIONS!

The Mount Vernon School District hosted the first annual Community Heroes Breakfast, designed to recognize and celebrate individuals and organizations within our community who have had a significant impact on behalf of the students, schools, and district. Honorees included Dale Irvine for his volunteer work at Washington Elementary School.

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.



Ever wonder where argyle socks come from?

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
Youth Movie Night:	4th Fridays @ 6:30 pm
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.
Bell Choir practice:	Mondays , 7:00-8:00 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.

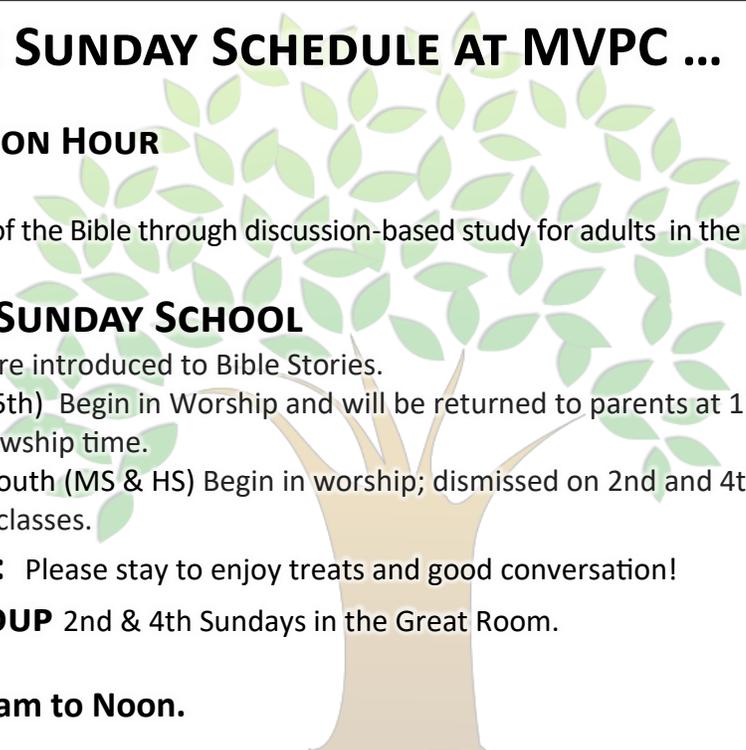
GODLY PLAY (K through 5th) Begin in Worship and will be returned to parents at 11:45 during Fellowship time.

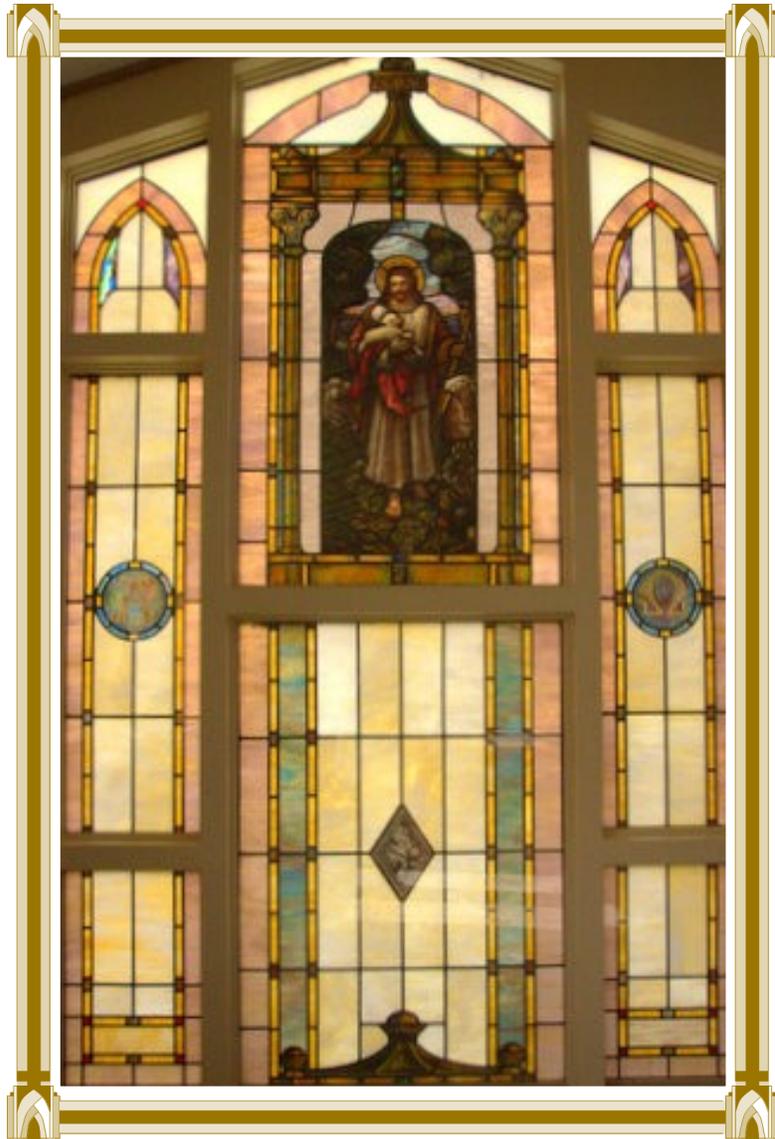
SEEKERS & EXPLORERS Youth (MS & HS) Begin in worship; dismissed on 2nd and 4th Sundays to classes.

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

Noon—1:30 YOUTH GROUP 2nd & 4th Sundays in the Great Room.

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





The Good Shepherd