



MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Growing Followers Of Christ Since 1902

The Grapevine

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

Year 114, Issue 3
March 2016

Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, March 26th
10 to 11:30 am

Invite your friends and family to come join the fun of games, crafts, bouncy house, photos with the Easter Bunny, and Easter Egg Hunts by age.



Women's Retreat

Friday, April 29 6:30-9 p.m.

Saturday, April 30 8:30-5 p.m.

Led by Brita Hammit of Pink Shoes Ministries in Prescott, Arizona. Brita is an inspirational friend of Loretta Vander Pol and Arlene Andersen, both of whom have attended Brita's workshops and retreats in Arizona.

This is an opportunity to find renewal in your journey with God, strengthen your relationships with other women and—well—just pray about it!

If you have any questions, please contact Loretta Vander Pol: 360-336-3759 or Molly Howard: 360-424-4348 or contact the church office: 360-424-7675

The cost of the 2 day retreat is \$40, including meals. Scholarships are available, and childcare is provided!

Accepting Nominations

⁴Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; ⁶and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. ⁷To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. -- 1 Corinthians 12:4-7

We are called into the church of Jesus Christ by baptism, and marked as Christ's own by the Holy Spirit. The common calling of all Christians is to be disciples and servants of our Lord, Jesus. Within the community of the church, some people are called to particular service. The task of the nominating committee is simple: to identify people who are called into four roles at MVPC (Elder, Deacon, Nominating Committee member and Endowment Committee member). The slate of nominees will be presented to the congregation before the Spring/Summer annual congregational meeting to be held in May, but the process starts long before that. The Nominating committee has already begun meeting and we are entering into the stage of the process where we gather input from you, the congregation.

We are ready and excited to receive your nominations! Please consider whose faith and service you admire, whose counsel you trust, whose compassion shines through, and whose life reflects the love of Christ. These are the kind of people we want to lead MVPC and we encourage you to nominate them! Nomination forms can be found in the narthex and church office. You can also nominate someone via email to mvpc@mountvernonpres.org.

Please keep the Nominating Committee in your prayers as they continue with their work.

A BRIEF SYNOPSIS OF THE FEBRUARY 16, 2016, STATED MEETING OF THE SESSION

- The meeting convened at 5:30pm in the Great Room with fellowship and dinner.
- Following dinner members offered prayers concerning personal needs and needs of the church.
- Bill DeHon from the Endowment Committee gave a status report on the Endowment Fund and explained some of the details of the Endowment Resolution.
- Elder Papadopoulos discussed the status of the landscaping activities at the church. She will obtain a design, which will be used to solicit bids from vendors to execute.
- The Session approved an amendment to the Personnel Handbook stipulating that President's Day and Martin Luther King Day will be recognized as paid holidays.
- The Session elected Elders Bob Mitchell and David Neal as Commissioners to the Presbytery Meeting scheduled for May 19, 2016, in Kennewick.
- Elder Neal gave a report on the activities of the Nominating Committee. There are upcoming vacancies for three Elders, four Deacons, one Nominating Committee member and two Endowment Committee members.

Tom Howard
Clerk of Session

MVPC Deacons

Jim Byron	Pete Papadopoulos
Laurel Coalwell	Sumiko Shinozaki
Ward Ernst	Rita Vander Stoep
Ted Langrehr	Dave Wilson
Ruth Neal	

Pete Papadopoulos, Moderator

MVPC Elders

Patti Allen	Bob Mitchell
Brad Clure	David Neal
Molly Howard	Pat Papadopoulos
Gary Jones	George Ridgeway
Jodie Kercheval	Margo Wortham
Anne Long	Bob Wygal

Rev. Dan Holland, Moderator

The Labyrinth

In a continuing worship journey to provide MVPC with a contemplative and experiential Ash Wednesday service, a stone and light labyrinth was set up in Good Shepherd Hall for the night. Participants were invited on a journey of contemplation and discovery as they walked the twists and turns toward the center of the labyrinth and then back out again along the same path. A labyrinth is a symbol for the journey *into* the center of our deepest self where we find God and then *back out* into the world with a broadened understanding of who we are and how God calls us to live in the world. Christians have been walking labyrinths since at least the 14th century when 7 main cathedrals in Europe had them carved into the floors. This was a place for pilgrims to come and experience a journey with God since pilgrimages to Jerusalem had become exceedingly unsafe. The journey into the center and back out again was different internally for each Ash Wednesday participant, however, the path we all walked was the same. What a great metaphor for our own lives and our journeys to God.

The labyrinth is available to walk whenever Good Shepherd Hall is open and special time is set aside before and after church during Lent to walk in contemplation. It's easy to do, just start at the entrance, walk toward the center, and return to the beginning uplifted from your journey.



Men's Breakfast

All men are invited to join us on the 4th Saturday of the month at 9:00 a.m. in Good Shepherd Hall for a delicious home-cooked breakfast and great conversation.

If you have any questions about Men's Breakfast, please speak to Bob Wygal.

Childcare Is Provided!

Women's Fellowship

Normally the 4th Saturday of the month, but because of the Easter Egg Hunt we're rescheduling for April 2. Feel free to help us at the Easter Egg Hunt on March 26!

The good fellowship, coffee, tasty refreshments, and warm fireplace go along with the spiritual lift.

Come and see!

All are welcome April 2 @ 9:00 a.m. in the Fireside Room.

Nursery care is available in the church nursery so both Moms and Dads can both enjoy their separate gatherings.

SENIOR SHEPHERDS

March 15 at noon! We're having a special St. Patrick's Day lunch complete with traditional homemade soda bread.

Anyone over 50 is invited to come.

Bring a friend, neighbor, or relative and enjoy a delicious meal and a fun program.

Please sign the 'reservation sheet' (by the fellowship coffee pot) so adequate food can be prepared.

Want to keep up with what's going on at MVPC? Check out the calendar that's posted on our website!

<http://www.mountvernonpres.org/calendar/>

March

Birthdays & Anniversaries

2-Ruth Haines

Lucy Nash

5-Jim Byron

Don Schlumberger

Katie Weeks

8-Barbara Hazelwood

Margie Riedel

10-Margo Wortham

11-Ryan Daut

Reid Kostek

14-Harry Worley

15-Brad Vardy

16-Jacquie Gwaltney

19-Kurt Swanson

Jesse Hanna

22-Ron & Rita Vander Stoep

27-Pete & Pat Papadopoulos

29-Jim Ervine

Wayne Yerigan

29-Martin & Joanne Thomas

Are we missing your special date?

Please contact Michelle in the church office at

Michelle@MountVernonPres.org or

424-7675 so we can celebrate with you!

Want to get more involved at MVPC?

There are several ways to get involved in ministry at MVPC and newcomers are always welcome.

Contact people are listed below.

Mission Ministry Team: Meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month at noon at MVPC.

Questions? Talk to Gary Jones.

Worship Ministry Team: The worship team meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 1:30 p.m. at MVPC. *Questions? Talk to David Neal.*

Prayer Team: The Prayer Team meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. in the MVPC Library.

Questions? Talk to Pat Papadopoulos.

Check out the bulletin board near Good Shepherd Hall for other ways to get involved in worship and fellowship at MVPC.

Listen for the Spirit ... Blessings abound.



Yard Work Party

Weeding and Window Washing

March 12, 9-11 a.m.

Refreshments provided!



A Letter from Pat Melton ...

Dear MVPC Friends,

It was a joy to hear from you and I thank you so much! I have missed you in so many ways. But it was so necessary for us to be near our son in Lacey as we went through so many changes in our lives. Steve has been such a help and strength that I needed. Dean's illness progressed rapidly in spite of all the efforts to help him. He soon did not know me anymore. A blood disorder took over with no cure available after our doctors consulted many other doctors and clinics. He had an illness called Idiopathic Thrombositopenia Purpura, which meant his immune system was killing his blood platelets. Nothing helped. It happened rapidly, and he passed on October 13, 2013. I was there with him.

I have been doing alright living at Merrill Gardens in Olympia (now called Brookdale Retirement Home). We are undergoing a complete rehabilitation now. It is very nice and comfortable. I have a 1 bedroom apartment with living room, kitchen, and bathroom with shower. I am on the 3rd floor with western windows and room for much of my furniture. Our oldest son Steve is about 10 minutes away. He works for Boeing managing their computer system. Our second son lives in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho and our third son lives in Lincoln City on the Oregon Coast. They come to visit. I spent a week in Coeur d'Alene at Christmas. I have a house phone: 360-459-8396. I don't have internet or a cell phone. God bless you—much love to all. -Pat Melton

New Life Centre—Nepal

The "New Life Psychiatric Rehab Centre" has been running for 2 1/2 years now! We are thankful to UMN, UMHT and friends abroad who are supporting us through prayers, encouragement and financial support. We have had 2 clients graduate from the centre in the past year and find simple work locally.

We continue to learn and gain experience as we work with our clients. Mental health services are more available now but not everyone can access them. Most of our clients are broken-hearted people who can't find ways to reintegrate back into community life after the tragedies they have experienced.

We were unable to obtain free government land to build a safe home despite our extensive efforts, so after viewing more than 40 potential sites we finally purchased a piece of land several months ago. It is 4 km from Tansen. Our hope is to create a very simple village-type building with separate male, female, and staff quarters, as well as a strong perimeter fence so the severely disturbed or violent clients remain safely inside. We plan to have a vegetable farm, poultry, and buffalo for milk, all of which will generate income as well as allow us to become more self-sustaining.

Please join us in prayer for our staff, clients, building costs and future funding. Mental health is still a neglected area of health care here but we are encouraged as we try to make a loving, home-like environment for our clients.

*-Pun N. Shrestha, Head of Department, Pastoral Care
New Life Psychiatric Rehab Centre*

*(MVPC has supported New Life Centre since 2013 with prayers and finances. This article was truncated from the original.
The full-length article is available in the 2016 Friends of Tansen newsletter, available in the church office and on our website:
www.MountVernonPres.org)*

Thank
You



Secret



Valentines!



Children, Youth & Family



FUN



Summer 2016

Please let Rebecca know if you would like to be a part of the **Summer 2016 Sunday School Team**. Our Summer Sunday School runs June, July, and August and is the time we combine all the classrooms together for fun, fellowship, and faith activities. We are hoping to pull the team together before selecting the curriculum so that they can help in the selection!

We are also pulling together our **Summer Camp Teams!** Please let Rebecca know if you are interested in volunteering with **Art and Music Camp** (June 20th to 24th in the Evenings) or **Vacation Bible School** (July 18th to 22nd in the Mornings). We need station leaders, group leaders, and behind the scenes support - *there's something for everyone!* Plus, it's fun!

Easter Egg Hunt!

MVPC is hosting the Neighborhood Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 26th from 10 to 11:30 am with Trinity Lutheran Church and First United Methodist Church. Invite your friends and family to come join the fun of games, crafts, bouncy house, photos with the Easter Bunny, and Easter Egg Hunts by age. Don't have a kid to bring? Consider helping with the fun! We need volunteers to hide eggs and help out in a variety of areas.



Fill The Eggs!

We Need Candy!

Please help us fill our 2500 eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt. When combined with the other churches we will have over 7,500 eggs for the egg hunt - yes, we need that many. We will have an egg filling party after church on March 20th and could use your help. Thanks!

Youth Group

Painting as a response to their prayerful reflection on how they can better stay connected with God on their journey of Faith.



MVPC Children, Youth, & Family ~ March 2016

SUNDAYS

Sunday School during 10:30 am Worship

	Seeds (Pre)/Sprouts (K to 3rd)	Saplings (4th to 8th Grade)
March 6th	The Last Supper	Lesson 23: Job
March 13th	The Garden of Gethsemane	Lesson 24: Review
March 20th	The Crucifixion and Resurrection	Lesson 25: 2 Kings
March 27th	Easter Sunday - Enjoy Worship with your families (no Sunday School)	
<i>Sprouts (K to 3rd) and Saplings (4th to 8th) begin in worship and then head to their classes, while Seeds (Preschoolers) begin and meet in the Seeds side of the nursery. Seeds and Sprouts are journeying through the Jesus Storybook Bible while the Saplings are exploring the Old Testament as part of a 3 year rotation of New Testament, Old Testament, and Church History to prepare them for Middle School Confirmation Class.</i>		

Nursery during 9 am Adult Ed and 10:30 am Worship

Birth to Preschoolers play in the church nursery while their parents attend 9 am Adult Ed and the 10:30 am Worship Service. Everyone in the nursery is invited to join the Seeds Sunday School story, activity, and snack happening in the Seeds side of the Nursery during Worship.

FAMILY NIGHT LENTEN STUDY

Everyone is invited to attend Family Night on Wednesdays from 5:30 to 6:30 pm in the Saplings and Great Room for a delicious potluck dinner, a family friendly faith activity, and fellowship time. Talk with Rebecca if you'd like to be on the email reminder list. During Lent, we are exploring building faith at home as the parents read through *The Sticky Faith Guide for Your Family* by Dr. Kara E. Powell and kids get a little play time. **Easter Celebration on 3/30.**

YOUTH GROUP

1st Thursday from 4:45 to 6:45 pm - Service Project (must RSVP with Rebecca)
3rd Sunday from Noon to 1:30 pm - Youth Group (pizza, faith, and fellowship)

EASTER EGG HUNT

We are hosting the Easter Egg Hunt from 10 to 11:30 am on Saturday, March 26th with Trinity Lutheran Church and First United Methodist Church. We hope to see you there for Easter Bunny photos, games, crafts, cookie walk, bouncy house, and Egg Hunts by age. Invite your friends and family. If you don't have kids to bring, please consider helping with the fun!

“Like Us” on [facebook.com/MVPCChildrenYouthandFamilyMinistry](https://www.facebook.com/MVPCChildrenYouthandFamilyMinistry)

Questions? Contact Rebecca Holland, MVPC Children, Youth, and Family Director

REGULARLY SCHEDULED EVENTS @ MVPC:

Prayer Group: Tuesdays at 10 a.m. in the Library
Bible Study: Tuesdays at 10 a.m. in the Fireside Room
Small Groups: Call the church to get connected to a small group!
Family Night: Wednesdays, 5:30-6:30 p.m. at MVPC
Chancel Choir: Wednesdays from 6 to 7:30 p.m.
Glorify!: Wednesdays, 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Senior Shepherds: Third Tuesday of the month at noon. *Join us!*
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.
Childcare provided on the 4th Saturday so Moms and Dads can attend!

THE SUNDAY SCHEDULE AT MVPC ...

9:00 ADULT EDUCATION HOUR

ADULT CLASSES:

The Bible Class

Join teacher Bob Rauch for an in-depth exploration of the Bible. This class is a discussion-based study and meets in the Conference Room. No prior Bible experience required.

KIDS PROGRAMS:

Nursery Fun for birth-preschool age in the Church Nursery

10:30 WORSHIP AND CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Nursery Care available for infants through toddler in the Nursery

Seeds Sunday School for preschool age kids in the Seeds Room

Sprouts Sunday School for kindergarten-3rd Grade in the Sprouts Room (begin in worship)

Saplings Sunday School for 4th-8th Grade in the Saplings Room (begin in worship)

11:45 Fellowship Time: Please stay to enjoy treats and good conversation!

The Grapevine

Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church

Rev. Dan Holland, Pastor

1511 East Broadway

Mount Vernon, WA 98274

(360) 424-7675

<http://www.MountVernonPres.org>

*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
