



MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Growing Followers Of Christ Since 1902

The Grapevine

I am the vine; You are the branches.

John 15:5

Year 116, Issue 1

January 2018

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

2018 Resolutions

At this time of year, I like to conduct a little informal, unscientific poll of people I know. It consists of two questions. First: Did you make new year's resolutions? And Second: How are you doing on them?

This year started with a Monday so I had to jump right in. I wasn't able to buy a few extra days with the reasoning that the new "normal rhythms" (if there is such a thing) will start on Monday. It's day 2 and I'm doing well. A couple years ago it was only the fifth day of the year when I realized I had already failed on every one of my resolutions. And the reality of new year's resolutions is that just about anyone who's ever made one has broken one, because change is difficult.

If we were to look behind any New Year's resolution I suspect we'd find the intention of shifting one's behavior and even perhaps shifting one's identity by shifting one's behavior. But change is difficult because experience is a great teacher. Most of our behaviors and patterns exist because of some experience in our lives. There are things that happen to us or things that happen in the world that shape who we are and what we do. Whenever we go through something that affects us deeply, it changes our world view. Our experiences lead us to think the way we do and relate to other people the way we do, and generally behave the way we do.

The other day, when I was asking about New Year's resolutions, someone quoted Paul to me claiming his words as their resolution. In his letter to the Philippians he said: "I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection." It was a pretty cool discussion and I went home to read up on the context of the passage (Philippians 3 if you want to look it up). Paul was writing from prison. He spoke about sharing in Christ's sufferings and becoming like Christ in death. I wondered if the person thought about that when claiming Paul's words as their own resolution. But then in the next sentence, Paul says that he hadn't reached the goal but that he would "press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own." And I was reminded that the story which shapes our identity as Christians is characterized by unending hope, (cont. next page)



CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER MEETING (JANUARY)

Contemplative prayer practices serve to bring us into a deeper conversation with God. There are many prayer practices - two we use often in the Contemplative Prayer meeting are Lectio Divina and the Examen. As we reflect on scripture and our personal experience, we listen for God's invitation to us. All are invited to this meeting including friends in the community. The January Contemplative Prayer meetings will be on the 2nd and 4th Thursday evenings (11th and 25th) from 6 to 8. We look forward to spending this rewarding time together. If you have questions please contact Pat Papadopoulos or Rebecca Holland.

(cont. from front)

newness of life, the impossible being made possible because of what God has already done in Christ and the fact that we who follow Jesus have been claimed as his own.

So at this time of year it's easy to look at the calendar, make resolutions, and wax poetic about how 2018 can be a new beginning; but really, I want for us to know new beginnings by more than just the calendar. The power of the resurrection is something Paul is able to reach for because he knows Christ has already claimed him. And my hope for 2018, for each of us, and all of us together is that we recognize Christ's claim on us, that we see what God is doing in our lives, that we follow the lead of the Holy Spirit by saying yes to opportunities which will help us grow in our faith, and that we experience the unyielding love of the triune God in a manner that opens our eyes to see that anything's possible.

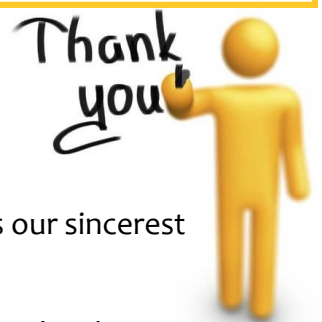
Praying much hope and many blessings for you and for all of us in 2018,

Pastor Dan

Discernment Report

Since September, MVPC has been in the midst of a season of discernment. At the **first retreat** all of the members and friends of the church were invited to participate as we practiced praying with the scriptures and listening for God's voice through Lectio Divina, we received an invitation to listen for God's voice daily in prayer. At the **second retreat**, the leadership of the church gathered to listen for our congregation's unique giftedness, or charism, which we articulated by saying: *"MVPC is and is becoming a welcoming, caring and graciously safe community because we are deeply committed to seeking Christ, listening for the Holy Spirit, and discerning God's will."* We also set out to frame a question for us to put before the Lord: *"Lord, what are you saying to us about nurturing and extending our charism inside and outside our church?"* Again, at the **third retreat**, all of the members and friends were invited. Among all that was discussed at least four consistent themes emerged: *Change, Focus, Partnerships and Education.*

The themes continued to be developed at the **fourth retreat** in early December, but at and at the end of the day, we realized that we were not yet ready with our discernment work. There was good progress but we still lacked clarity on some of the specifics about how to move forward. So Denise and Dianna (the pastors from Renewal Ministries NW) have graciously offered to come and meet again with the leadership of the church on the evening of January 9th. Please hold the church and the discernment process in your prayers.



Dear MVPC!

On behalf of all of those we serve, both here and across the region, I wish to express our sincerest gratitude for the support of the congregation, and the gift of \$500.

Your support is more precious than what I can ever say. We are able to help many people who cannot afford the cost of care, with or without insurance. But even more, we are able to provide a safe place, in a house of worship to those who may otherwise shun Christianity. Our service ministry allows us to introduce these people to Christ in a different way. And, there are many folks who come to counseling because of our faith-based practices, who only come because they can feel safe here.

God Bless!

Doug Chandler, Counseling Centers of North Puget Sound



We are in need of more volunteers to work with our Children and Youth Ministry programs!

-Please talk with Rebecca Holland, Director of Children and Family Ministries, if you are interested in volunteering as a Sunday School teacher (Kindergarten to 2nd Grade), Sunday School helper (Kindergarten to 2nd grade), or if you have a special creative talent you would like to teach during the Creative Kids program (meets Sundays from 9:30 to 10:15 am).

Please talk with Jodie Kercheval, Director of Youth and Family Ministries if you are interested in volunteering as the High School Sunday School teacher on the 4th Sunday of the month.

Meet Elder Steve Hansen



I am currently serving my second year as an Elder and serve on the Discipleship Ministry and I am the Chairman for the Finance Committee.

My wife Doris and I have been married for thirty-eight years and have two grown children Jason and Dyan. Our son has made a career with the Marine Corp and is currently stationed at Camp Lejeune North Carolina. He has served his country for seventeen years so far. Our daughter currently works at Applebees in Burlington. She was recently named employee of the year for her hard work in 2017. My son has two boys Kristian and Hunter. Dyan has a daughter Kimora. After I served three years in the Army with the 82nd. Airborne Division I returned to school and got my associates degree in forestry. I worked for Scott Paper Company and Crown Pacific in Hamilton for twenty-five years.

I began my faith with the First Presbyterian Church in Everett.

Doris and I became members of Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church in 1980. We needed to leave the church for a while to deal with stressful family issues. Our need to provide our granddaughter Kimora a Christian background brought us back to the MVPC family. We were welcomed with open arms and are proud to be a part of the MVPC family and watching Kimora grow with our church. Kimora has really enjoyed her Sunday school activities and being part of the Creative Kids program. Doris and I are grateful for Rebecca, Jodie and the teaching volunteers for their creative work.

I am currently working for Skagit Surveyors in Sedro-Woolley, but plan to retire in 2018. Doris and I enjoy short road trips to the ocean beaches, mountains, and Eastern Washington. I also enjoy trying to play golf and hope to get back to fishing when I retire.

Jan 2018 Children and Family Ministries

Family Night Epiphany Party

Everyone is invited to a special Family Night Epiphany Party on Wednesday, January 3rd from 5:30 to 7 pm in the Great Room. We will enjoy a potluck dinner (please bring something to share) and celebrate Epiphany together with activities and games!



January Sunday School Lessons

	<u>Seeds (Preschool)</u>	<u>Sprouts (K-2nd)</u>	<u>Saplings (3rd-5th)</u>
	<i>Meets in Nursery</i>	<i>Begin in Worship</i>	<i>Begin in Worship</i>
January 7th	Wise Men (Epiphany)	King of Kings p.192*	The Last Supper
January 14th	Jesus is Baptized	Heaven Breaks Through*	Tried and Sentenced
January 21st	Jesus' Helpers	Let's Go*	Triumph Over Death
January 28th	Jesus Heals	Jairus' Daughter*	Return of Jesus

*In the Jesus Storybook Bible

Creative Kids ~ January Art Session!

Sundays 9:30 to 10:15 am in the Great Room. Kids of all ages express their faith creatively. During January, the Creative Kids will be doing a few different art projects. Please let Rebecca know if your kids are interested in being a part of the fun so she has enough Art Supplies for everyone!

Family Night

Wednesdays 5:30 to 6:30 pm in the Great Room for food, faith, and fellowship for families of all ages and stages. Everyone is welcome! We will have a special Family Night Epiphany Party on Wednesday, January 3rd from 5:30 to 7 pm. Talk with Rebecca Holland to get on the email list.

**Questions? Contact Rebecca Holland, Director of Children and Family Ministries.
Church Office 360.424.7675 - Rebecca@MountVernonPres.org**



Secret Valentines!

Please let Rebecca or Jodie know if you are interested in being a Secret Valentine to one of our children or youth. Volunteering to be a Secret Valentine is a great way to get to know the MVPC kids a little bit more. Secret Valentines will be told who they are assigned by 1/21 and then:

- Bring in a small card or gift (under \$3) for them on 1/28 and 2/4
- Bring a small gift (under \$5) to the Secret Valentine Party at 9:30 am on Sunday, February 11th where you will get to know your valentine!



**Thank you to the MVPC
children and youth for
writing and performing
an amazing Christmas
Pageant on Dec. 17th!**



Youth & Family Ministries

January 2018



Youth Group, Seekers & Explorers

Youth Group, Seekers & Explorers meet on the 2nd & 4th Sundays of the month.

Seekers/Explorers: Seekers (middle school) and Explorers (high school) continue their studies in January, looking at Paul's writings and exploring the Gospels. New members welcome! We meet during Sunday worship on Jan. 14 & 28.

Youth Group: All youth are welcome to come to Youth Group for fun, faith and food! This month we'll decide on our mission projects for Winter and Spring quarters, discuss forgiveness, and have fun in fellowship together. Youth Group meets after worship, 12-1:30, on Jan. 14 & 28.



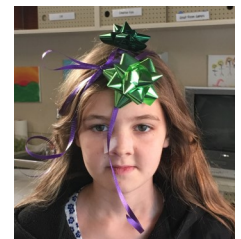
Thank you...

to the youth who participated in the Christmas Pageant! Our youth and kids created and performed the pageant. The youth handled all of the video interviewing and recording of the video, and served as narrators and an angel. Great job!



Mission

In December, our youth helped with the Underground Christmas program by gathering donations and wrapping gifts for 60 kids whose dad are incarcerated. Thank you to all of our youth for their help and engagement!



Coming Up ...

Sun., Jan. 14	Seekers/Explorers	Library/Great Room	Start in 10:30 Worship
	Youth Group	Great Room	12:00—1:30
Sun., Jan. 28	Seekers/Explorers	Library/Great Room	Start in 10:30 Worship
	Youth Group	Great Room	12:00—1:30

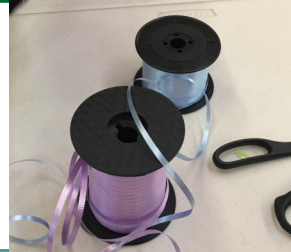
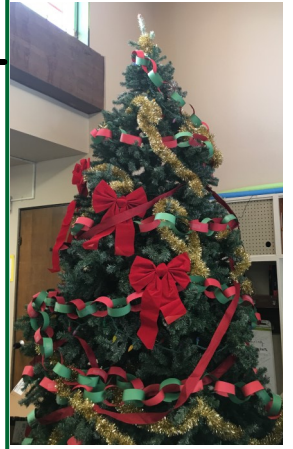
Questions? Please contact Jodie Kercheval, Director of Youth & Family Ministries.

360-424-7675 or Jodie@MountVernonPres.org



Thank You!

Thank you to all who participated in the Underground Christmas effort to connect incarcerated dad to their kids! Together with other area churches, we helped 23 dad connect with their 60 kids. You are truly appreciated!



YOUTH DISCERNMENT TEAM

SHAPING OUR MINISTRY'S FUTURE

We are forming a discernment team for our Youth & Family Ministries. The YFM discernment team will meet quarterly to discuss our Youth & Family Ministry plans and review our ministry efforts. Ideally this team will include parents, youth volunteers, and other congregation members. If you are interested in helping to shape the course of our Youth & Family Ministries, please contact Jodie Kercheval in person or at the church office at 360-424-7675.



The Women's Christmas Dessert of 2017

"THE CHRISTMAS LIGHT, LETTING CHRIST'S LIGHT SHINE THROUGH YOU"

"The 12 Tables of Christmas"

On the evening of December 7, 2017, 93 beautiful ladies graced Mt. Vernon Presbyterian Church to celebrate the "12 tables of Christmas", the annual Women's Dessert. They were treated to the beautiful voices of the Mt. Vernon High School Choir including Synergy, a presentation by Barb Clure on the impassioned paintings and life of Vincent Van Gogh, viewing of the beautifully decorated 12 Christmas tables, culminating in the sharing of an artistically-presented dessert of Cheesecake decorated with a raspberry sauce while being serenaded by Josh VerHalen at the piano. The Women's Dessert committee, consisting of Toni Hulbert, Chair, Rebecca Holland, Mim Ambrose, Britt Swanson, Lucy McLaughlan, Mary Ellen Byerly, and Leslie Ann Braun, with the help of Dee Jobe and Loretta VanderPol, is very appreciative of the hard work that went into bringing all this together. This also would not have been possible without the talents of the ladies whose imaginations once again presented breathtaking table artistry - Anne Long, Rebecca Holland, Dee Jobe, Molly Howard, Margo Wortham, Shelby Quilliam, Rita VanderStoep, Bernie Steele, Paula Rutledge, Sumiko Shinozaki (Reamer), Laurie Parker, Debbie Parker, Mackenzie Anderson, Pat Papadopoulos, Mable Long, Jodie Kercheval, Lynn Grobschmit, Laurel Coalwell, Lou Cheney, and Cathy Albiez. Lastly and most appreciatively, the 7 gentlemen "waiters" who graciously served the ladies coffee and hot water for tea as an accompaniment to their dessert were debonair and marvelous. Thank you to George Ridgeway, Bob Mitchell, Bruce Lavers, Paul Coalwell, David Neal, Bob Trinklein, and Martin Boer for doing such a fabulous job. To cherish these memories, Leslie Ann Braun captured the moment in her beautiful pictures presented here.

Again, thank you to all who participated.





As a result of this beautiful event, and in combination of a donation from Senior Shepherds, we were able to send a donation check in the amount of \$535 to the Skagit Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services. Thank you to all for making our 3rd Annual Women's Dessert a resounding success!





Prayer

Would you like to join our prayer group?

We have a small but dedicated group that meets to pray every Tuesday morning from 10:30 to 11:30 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.

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



Save the Date

You are invited to a MVPC Baby Shower for Brian and Mackenzie Anderson on Saturday, March 3rd at 10 am in the Fireside Room!

HEARING THE WORSHIP SERVICE



Are you having troubles hearing during service? If so, come to the sound desk before service! We have hearing devices available that can work with your T-Coil hearing aids or independently of any other hearing assist devices.

Women's Fellowship

Join us the 4th Saturday of the month, January 27, 2018 for Fellowship in the Fireside Room at 9 a.m.



MVPC Knitters & other Crafters

Starting in January, the knitters/crafters will be meeting on the 4th **Tuesdays** of every month from Noon to 1 pm in either the Fireside room or the Great Room whichever is available and warm. Mark your calendars for 1/23, 2/27, 3/27, 4/24 and 5/22. Everyone is welcome - bring any craft you want and come enjoy fellowship and friends!

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.

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

**Tea @ 2
Will resume
February 22nd, 2018**

Birthdays & Anniversaries

January

1-Connie Shultz

Dave Wilson

3-Alberta Peters

4-Shirley Leamon

7-Beth Tacker

8-Loretta Vander Pol

10-David Lorente

16-Bud Gilbert

16-Bob & Bev Helton

18-Pat Melton

19-Karin Brown

Arlene Andersen

22-Betty Anne Friedericks

Graham Kerr

23-Madison Yerigan

28-Elisa Gehringer

Janine Risenhoover

29- Molly Howard

30-Linda Ream

31-Sheila Daut

Kitty Willis

31-Martin & Tonnie Boer



**Per Capita for
2018**

Is

\$48.23

Recycling Volunteer Needed!

If you have the gift of recycling and would have the time to be in charge of recycling here at MVPC we can explore starting that program again. Please call (360-424-7675), email (mvpc@MountVernonPres.org) or stop by the church office to let Barbara know.

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!

REGULARLY SCHEDULED EVENTS @ MVPC:

Centering Prayer:	Tuesdays at 9 am in Pastor Dan's office
Intercessory Prayer Group:	Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. in the Library
Contemplative Prayer:	2nd and 4th Thursdays 6-8 pm in the Great Room
Small Groups:	Call the church to get connected to a small group!
Family Night:	Wednesdays, 5:30-6:30 p.m. at MVPC
Creative Kids:	Sundays, 9:30 to 10:15 am in the Great Room
Youth Group:	2nd & 4th Sundays, Noon-1:30 in the Great Room
Chancel Choir:	Wednesdays from 6:15 to 7:30 p.m.
Glorify!:	Wednesdays, 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Tea @ 2:	Will resume on last Thurs in Feb at 2 p.m. in Fireside Rm
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.
Worship Team Meeting:	1st Wednesday at noon
Finance Committee:	2nd Tuesday at 5 p.m.
Mission Team Meeting:	4th Sunday at 12:30
Personnel Committee:	3rd Tuesday at 4:15 p.m.
Session Meeting:	3rd Tuesday at 5:30 p.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.

Creative Kids 9:30 to 10:15 am

Kids of all ages express their faith creatively in the Sapling Room.

10:30 WORSHIP AND SUNDAY SCHOOL

SEEDS SUNDAY SCHOOL

Preschoolers are introduced to Bible Stories in the Nursery.

SPROUTS SUNDAY SCHOOL

K to 2nd graders journey through the Bible. Begin in Worship.

SAPLINGS SUNDAY SCHOOL

3rd to 5th graders study the New Testament. Begin in Worship.

SEEKERS (2ND & 4TH SUN)

Middle School Youth seek meaning in Paul's letters. Begin in Worship.

EXPLORERS (2ND & 4TH SUN)

High School Youth explore the Gospels. Begin in Worship.

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

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

