



The Grapevine

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

Year 118, Issue 1
January 2020

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Epiphany



Back in the 1st, 2nd and 3rd century, the very earliest days of Christianity, Epiphany was a much more significant holy day than Christmas. The word *Epiphany* means “a sudden insight into the nature of reality.” On the calendar it’s celebrated on January 6th, the traditional 12th day of Christmas. To this day, in many parts of the world, Epiphany is the day of gift giving and celebration. After all, the only gifts mentioned in connection with the birth of Jesus in the scriptural accounts happen upon the arrival of the wisemen, and Epiphany is the day tradition has set aside to remember when the wise men arrived to meet and pay homage to Jesus. And as tempting as it is to focus on the gifts the wisemen brought, I think the real insight of Epiphany is about a different gift altogether.

This story of seekers coming from the East, bearing gifts for a king and being overwhelmed with joy when they found him, isn’t just a nice story that decorates Nativity sets and lines Christmas cards. It’s part of a larger story: the story of a love that breaks down barriers, the story of God’s love, which opens possibilities for those who haven’t felt (and haven’t been) welcomed. It’s the story which says that even if you aren’t welcomed anywhere else, you are welcome where Jesus Christ is - and he’s the one who displays most fully the character of God! The insight we celebrate is that no-one is outside of God’s love. That love is the gift which reframes the nature of reality. To receive it is a blessing. To share it is our calling as followers of Jesus.

So, may this new year be filled with epiphanies allowing you to both recognize God’s love in your own reality and to realize the blessing of sharing what you’ve received with other people.

Happy New Year!

Pastor Dan

Ring in the New Year with the Bell Choir

Last year we were blessed to inherit a 5 octave set of bells and experienced bell ringers to play them! Our bell choir now has a permanent place in our sanctuary and rings monthly during worship. Versatile instruments, the bells have rung out samples from classical compositions to hymns to modern worship music and Christmas carols. Whether a ringer is a beginner with just one bell or more experienced with the ability to weave between 8 bells, each note plays an important part in the song.

As our bell choir continues to grow, we will expand our skills, flexibility, and joy in ringing. If you’ve set a goal to try something new in 2020, to be more active in church, to meet new people, or you just need a little something to add flavor to your life; consider joining us at bell choir. Practices are Monday evenings 7-8pm. The new year is the perfect time to welcome in new members at every skill level!



Forward to a Bright Future Capital Campaign 2019

Mary Ellen, Pastor Dan and I would like to recognize all those who played, and continue to play, a part in making our campaign a success. It could not have succeeded without their Time & Talent –THANK YOU!

Here is a list of the Team Leaders and congregational members who helped in planning and carrying out the assignments:

Hospitality-Toni Hulbert

Dee Jobe
Loretta VanderPol

Children and Youth- Patti Allen

Jodi Kercheval
Laurie Parker

Banquet- Laurie Parker

Doris Hansen, Mim Ambrose, Tracy Hall, Sarah Catton, Steve Hansen, Ted Langrehr, Patti Allen, Becky Goodell
Fran Zimmerly, Ward Ernst, Margo Wortham, Debbie Parker, Kimora Hansen.

Promotion- Sandy Ball

Joe Seabott
Dale Irvine
Barbara Koozer

Prayer Vigil- Colleen Higbee

Sarah Catton
Sumiko Reamer
Pat Papadopoulos
Josh VerHalen

Planned Giving- David Gale

Bill Dehon
Sandra Ball
Kitty Willis
Mary Ellen Byerly

Bible Study- David Reamer

Lou Cheney

Audio-Visual- George Ridgeway

JodieKercheval



Enrichment Gatherings- Gary Jones

| | | | |
|--------------|---------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Tom Howard | David Gale | Sarah Catton | Bob Mitchell |
| Molly Howard | Rosemary Gale | Doug Catton | Glenda Mitchell |
| Mim Ambrose | Bob Wygal | Bob Higbee | Ward Ernst |
| Don Wortham | Margo Wortham | Ron VanderStoep | Rita VanderStoep |

Commitment- Bob Wygal & Bob Mitchell

| | | | |
|------------|------------|----------|---------------|
| David Neal | Bob Higbee | Rob Hall | Becky Goodell |
|------------|------------|----------|---------------|

Brief Summary of Campaign progress as of 12/23/19:

\$878,123 in pledges and \$121,043.39 in cash.
Approved TRICO as our preferred contractor.
Approved/Identified an attorney to engage with contractor on behalf of the church.
Approved to form a task force to begin working toward financing the project

Available in the office are “How to” sheets if you would like to donate stocks, IRA’S, etc. to the Capital Campaign. If you still have questions please call the office 360-424-7675 for contact info for Dave Gale.

Together in Christ,
Mary Ellen, Co-Chair
Bruce Lavers, Co-Chair

Thank you to:

- ◆ Jodie Kercheval, the Youth and all who participated in the Nativity Story on Christmas Eve.
- ◆ Lou Cheney, Glenda & Bob Mitchell and others who provided the liturgical art for our Advent and Christmas celebrations.
- ◆ All who helped with organizing and providing for Christmas Baskets for families.
- ◆ Josh VerHalen for planning the longest Night Service.
- ◆ Gail LaFleur for writing the Advent dramas.



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. mvpc@mountvernonpres.org

Session Bio—Anne Long

I was raised in Camas, WA, Tiburon, CA, and Federal Way, WA in Presbyterian churches. After earning a Bachelor degree in Business, minor in Interior Design at WSU, I worked in LA. Then I returned to Washington, attended PLU where I received my MBA and met and married my husband who was stationed at La Push, WA. As a Coast Guard wife, I moved around and our 3 children, a daughter and 2 sons were each born in a different state.. After my husband retired we moved to Sedro Woolley and built a house north of town where my husband went to College and became a Science teacher. We have been attending Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church since fall of 2000. I help care for my mother who lives at Creekside. I enjoy sewing, crocheting, hiking and gardening among other activities.



The first 3 years as an Elder I served on Worship team and finance. I'm halfway through my second term and now serve on Membership & Evangelism and Personnel. I'm excited to be part of the new season here at Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church.

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 December 12th Special Session meeting

- Session decided at this time to not borrow more than what has been pledged for the Bright Future Capital campaign.
- Empowered Patti Allen and Bruce Lavers to form a finance task force to engage with Mission Development Certificate Program to work toward financing our project and begin communication with Executive Committee of Presbytery.
- Scheduled a vote of the membership of the congregation to encumber the property at the regularly scheduled business meeting of the congregation January 26th.
- Appointed Bob Higbee as the church representative to work with the selected contractor and develop the committee to work with him.
- Instructed Leslie Bauer, financial secretary, to transfer funds from Operating Fund to Operating Reserve Fund to bring the Reserve Fund back up to \$30,000.
- Adopted the budget as presented

Notes from Congregational Meeting December 29th

- Approved the Pastor's terms of Call for 2020.

January Birthdays & Anniversaries

1-Connie Shultz

Dave Wilson

3-Alberta Peters

4-Shirley Leamon

7-Beth Tacker

Lucy McLaughlin

8-Loretta Vander Pol

9-Rosemary Gale

10-David Lorente

15-Kurtis Scoby

16-Bud Gilbert

18-Pat Melton

19-Karin Brown

Arlene Andersen

22-Betty Anne Friedericks

Graham Kerr

23-Madison Yerigan



24-Allison Scoby

Sarah Catton

28-Elisa Gehringer

Janine Risenhoover

Darcy Olsen

29-Molly Howard

30-Linda Ream

Kevin Maas

31-Kitty Willis

31-Martin & Tonnie Boer

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.

Annual Congregational Meeting

Is Sunday January 26th following worship.

See you there!

Note date changes for January
Fellowships.

Men's Breakfast next meets
Saturday
February 1st, 2020 for
breakfast at 9:00 am in Good
Shepherd Hall. Come
experience fellowship and a
great home-cooked breakfast.

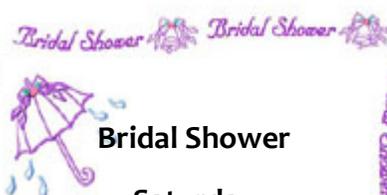


Women's Fellowship

The next meeting is Saturday
February 1st at 9:00 am in the
Fireside Room. Come
fellowship with others.

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 1pm in the
Great Room.
Questions? Talk with Patti Allen



Bridal Shower

Saturday

January 18, 2020

For

Melissa Johnson

At MVPC

Melissa is registered at
Amazon and Target.



Happy Birthday Highlight

Shirley Leamon January 4th – Happy 97th
Betty Anne Frederick January 22nd – Happy 97th

We have reason to celebrate this month with two amazing women in our church. Shirley Leamon and Betty Anne Frederick have spent their lives serving God and others. They both have a wealth of experiences to share. Talk to them to find out more of the story.

Shirley Leamon



Where did you spend your early childhood?

Shirley: In New Jersey. I was born and raised there

Where is the most interesting place you have lived?

Shirley: In Mexico. I went there on my sailboat and ended up living there for 17 years. First I lived in Panama then Alcapolco. I moved to Mount Vernon on my 85th birthday.

What did you do in Mexico?

Shirley: I taught English there and worked with women in Mexico. Mostly I enjoyed living with the people.

What is your prayer for the Church and the world today?

Shirley: I pray for healing of divisions in our country and around the world and that our leaders will work toward this end.

Shirley served as a Deacon at MVPC and is known for her great spaghetti sauce which she made and served for years at Friendship House.

Betty Anne Frederick



Where did you spend your early childhood?

Betty Anne: Pyongyang Korea. I was born there and left in 1940.

Your family arrived in Nepal 1951 as medical missionaries. How old were your children?

Betty Anne: Richard was born in 1947 and was 4 years old, Anne was about 2 years old, and Charlie was 2 months old, Jim was not born yet.

What practices do you keep in your daily life to remind you of God's sustaining grace

Betty Anne: I pray daily and read my Bible. I enjoy reading scripture from "Daily Life Devotionals".

What is your prayer for the Church and the world today?

Betty Anne: I pray that all people in the church will deepen their personal relationship with Jesus Christ. I pray that this occurs and that they will spread the gospel of Jesus Christ.

To find out more about the Frederick's ministry in Nepal UMN and its development 65 years later go to <http://www.tansenhospital.org.np/about/history.php>

Opportunities to Interact with Children and Youth



Become a Secret Valentine. See Children & Family Page.



Help with Kids Camp (formerly VBS) See Children & Family Page.



Be a chaperone for the Youth Overnight Lock-In. See Youth Page.

January 2020 Children and Family Ministries

Church Nursery



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

Godly Play

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



1/5 - The Ten Best Ways

1/12 - The Story of Moses

1/19 - The Story of Ruth

1/26 - The Ark and the Tent

**Kids return to worship for communion.*

MVPC Family Small Group

The Family Small Group meets the 2nd and 4th Sunday of most months to enjoy dinner together followed by a family-friendly time of sharing and prayer.



New families are always welcome! Talk to Rebecca to find out the next Family Small Group location.

Secret Valentines

Sign up before 1/16 with Rebecca to be a Secret Valentine with one of the MVPC Kids.



You will exchange notes with your Valentine on 1/26 and 2/2 and then attend the Secret Valentine Party to meet your Valentine and exchange small gifts from 9 to 10 am on Feb.9th. It's fun!

Kids Camp (formerly VBS)

We are making our summer Kids Camp (formerly VBS) more of a mission focus this year and would love help with planning at our planning meeting and



lunch from **Noon to 2 pm on 1/26**. Please also consider volunteering to help from **9 am to Noon July 20th to 24th**.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Our ministry is growing and we need more volunteers! Please consider helping out occasionally in the church nursery or joining the Godly Play Sunday School team. We will have a Godly Play Team potluck dinner and training on 1/8. Talk to Rebecca if you are interested!

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

Youth & Family Ministries

January 2020



Seekers (MS) & Explorers (HS)

Youth Bible study classes
Held during the worship service
on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month.
Jan. 12 & 26.



Youth Group!

(middle & high school students)

Jan. 12 & 26, Noon—1:30

January 12: Lunch, game, lesson, and discuss summer camp 2020!

January 26: Lunch, game, prayer and assembling disaster assistance hygiene kits.

Friends and newcomers are always welcome!

Winter Youth Lock-In!

All youth are invited to this fun-filled event
6pm January 19—9am January 20!



Please RSVP to Jodie by Sunday, January 12.

Evening, morning or overnight volunteers welcome. Talk to Jodie.

Youth Mission

On January 26, our youth group assembles hygiene kits for the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) program. Kits are given out when the PDA responds to crises and catastrophic events, such as hurricane relief, refugee and border crises, and even the OSO landslide here at home. We are asking for the following donations, which can be left in the church office, by Sunday, January 26:



- Hand towels
- Washcloths
- Wide tooth combs
- Nail clippers
- Full sized bars of soap (in wrapper)
- Toothbrushes (individually packaged)
- Adhesive bandage strips (bandaids)
- 1-gallon bags with zipper closures

Prayer

Would you like to join a prayer group?



PEOPLE OF PRAYER

We have many venues to present prayer requests.

- On Sunday, we have the Prayers of the People, during the service.
- Please feel free to write a prayer request on the Friendship Register form during worship. These requests are given to the deacons and Tuesday prayer gathering.
- Tuesday Intercessory Prayer Gathering - this takes place each Tuesday, at 10:30 in the library. Anyone who wishes to participate in group prayer is encouraged to come. It is a warm and caring experience, with huge rewards as we recognize all of the ways God has blessed us with answered prayer.
- Small Group Gatherings - sharing and praying together in our activities, requesting interaction with the rest of the church, as desired.
- Do you know about the EMAIL PRAYER MINISTRY? This is a place we can receive prayer during the week. There are two ways you can participate. 1) Sign up to be on the email Prayer Contact List (use the following email address) to receive prayer requests 2) Send in a prayer request to this same email address: prayers.mvpc@gmail.com. When you send in a request it will be reviewed by an individual for permission and confidentiality, and then sent out to those on the Prayer Contact List for immediate prayer.

“Peace to you, and may we all become people of prayer”.

What is Per Capita?

Often called the Presbyterian Covenant Community Fund, per capita pays for the operating overhead of the church at all levels beyond the congregation. It works like an insurance policy: the churches together provide services for congregations and spiritual leaders. Presbytery, funded by per capita, engages, equips and encourages congregations and their leaders.

The Westminster Confession states, “all believers, are therefore, under obligation to sustain the ordinances of the Christian religion where they are already established, and to contribute by their prayers, gifts, and personal efforts to the extension of the Kingdom of God throughout the whole earth” (6.058).

Per capita may be paid at any time. The church pays it in January each year. In 2020 the total per member is \$49.70. (Presbytery-\$40.50; Synod-\$.25; General Assembly-\$8.95) and if you'd like to help offset the cost to the church, you are invited to contribute “your” per capita and/or to “scholarship” someone else’s per capita!



The Longest Night Worship Service



Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church

Growing followers of Christ

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 10:30 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: | 2nd & 4th Sundays at 5 pm. Please RSVP to find out location. |
| Youth Movie Night: | 4th Fridays @ 5:30 pm |
| Chancel Choir: | Wednesdays from 6:15 to 7:30 pm |
| 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 2:30 p.m. |
| Finance Committee: | 2nd Tuesday at 5 p.m. in library |
| Mission Team Meeting: | 4th Sunday (Stay tuned for meeting time) |
| Children & Family Team: | 3rd week of Oct, Jan, April & July |

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

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

SEEKERS & EXPLORERS Youth (MS & HS) Begin in Worship; dismissed on 2nd & 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 for Fun, Faith and Fellowship.

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

