



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 12
December 2018

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Christmas Musings



With the new "Grinch" movie that's out in theaters I thought it might be fun to reprise one of my early Christmas Newsletter writings:

To set the scene... the Grinch had stolen all of the gifts and festive décor in hopes of destroying the Christmas merriment of all the good little Whos in Whoville. He was just about to finish the deed by pushing the sleigh with the loot over the edge of Mt. Crumpet. When he paused for a moment to listen for the misery of the Whos who were without presents on Christmas Day, this is what happened. Thanks to Dr. Seuss for writing the first bit...

"he did hear a sound rising over the snow. It started in low. Then in started to Grow... But the sound wasn't sad! Why, this sound sounded merry! It couldn't be so! But it was merry, very!

Every Who down in Who-ville, the tall and the small was singing without any presents at all! He hadn't stopped Christmas from coming! It came! Somehow or other, it came just the same!

And the Grinch, with his Grinch-feet ice-cold in the snow, stood puzzling and puzzling: "How could it be so?" "It came without ribbons! It came without tags! It came without packages, boxes or bags!"

And he puzzled three hours till his puzzler was sore. Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before! "Maybe Christmas," he thought, "doesn't come from a store." "Maybe Christmas... perhaps... means a little bit more!"

He was right, I might add, Christmas surely means more than what can be bought in a mall or a store. Yet, the Who-celebration as good as it was still left something missing, or wanting because:

The child in the manger was nowhere around so the best news of Christmas was not to be found. Not in the lights, the trees or the feast; not near the Grinch as he cut the roast beast.

So I thought to myself, that this story might humorously be, a way to invite: Come to church! Celebrate open your hearts! To God's work in the world the Christ child starts.

Sundays through Advent, and again Christmas eve come congregate, celebrate, give thanks and believe: the BEST news of

Christmas, we strive to know well: Jesus Christ is God with us —Emmanuel!

Have a Blessed Advent, a Merry Christmas! And may the grace and Peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you!

Pastor Dan.





Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

7:00 pm

“O Come all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant

O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!

Come and behold Him, Born the King of angels!

Christmas Events at Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church

- * **Dec 13th** 6:30 pm — Women’s Dessert
- * **Dec 9th**—Deacon’s White Gift Offering in worship
- * **Dec 16th**—Intergenerational Christmas program in worship
- Deadline for Christmas Basket gifts
- * **Dec 16-23**—Family Promise hosts
- * **Dec 22nd**—Christmas Basket deliveries
- * **Dec 24** 7:00 pm —Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
- * **Dec 30th**—Lesson & Carols worship service

Biography for Elder Bruce W Lavers

Born March 9th, 1949 in Richmond, CA. Was Baptized at the age of 10 with all of my siblings. Graduated from Mission San Jose High School, Fremont, CA in 1967. Served in the US Army 1967-71 with tours in Viet Nam and Thailand. Went on to serve in the US Navy beginning in 1976, retiring from the reserves in 1994. Graduated College with a Bachelor of Business Administration Degree from KSU, Kennesaw, GA in 1990.

I’ve been blessed to gain a wide & varied set of vocational experiences including manufacturing engineering with Mack Trucks & Peterbilt, electronic equipment development & manufacturing with three start-up companies and serving 22 years engineering & operations management in the wireless communications industry, retiring in 2014.



in

I thank my mother for introducing me to Jesus Christ at the age of five, but I cannot tell you when I was “Born again”. I can tell you the Holy Spirit came into my heart in March of 2008 at my father’s memorial service and I have been serving the Lord with pure Joy ever since in everything He calls me to do.

December 2018 Children and Family Ministries



Godly Play

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

12/2 - Advent Series

12/9 - Advent Series

12/16 - In Worship: Christmas Program

12/23 - Advent Series

12/30 - In Worship: Lessons & Carols

Church Nursery

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



12/2 - Birth of Jesus (p. 176)

12/9 - Story of the Shepherds (p. 184)

12/16 - Christmas Program & Craft

12/23 - Story of the Wise Men (p. 192)

12/30 - New Year's Craft

MVPC Kid's Choir



Meeting 11/28, 12/ 5, & 12/12
(usually 1st & 3rd Wednesdays)

5:30 to 6 pm - Singing!

6 to 6:30 pm - 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.*

**Thank you to everyone who
helped with the Kid's
Christmas Afternoon on 12/2!**



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



The MVPC Jesse Tree

The MVPC Kids enjoyed an afternoon of Christmas fun as they made presents, frosted sugar cookies, watched a Charlie Brown Christmas, and decorated the MVPC Jesse Tree in Good Shepherd Hall. A Jesse Tree shows the genealogy of Jesus using art and symbols representing the ancestors of Christ. The name Jesse Tree comes from Isaiah 11:1: "A shoot will come out of the stock of Jesse, and a branch out of his roots will bear fruit." Our Jesse Tree has a kid decorated ornament of Creation, Adam and Eve, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, the Ten Commandments, Ruth, Samuel, the branch of Jesse, David, Solomon, Elijah, Jonah, Isaiah, Daniel, Mary, Joseph, John the Baptist, Bethlehem, the Angels, and the Birth of Jesus. The kids shared what they knew about each of the stories as they added the ornaments to the Jesse Tree as a way to help them prepare for Christmas. They hope it will help you prepare for Christmas too!



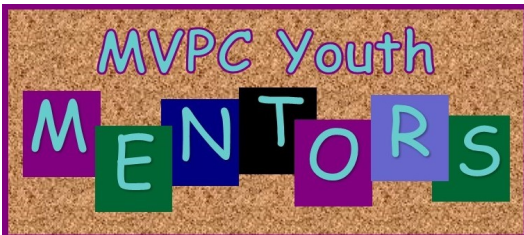
Youth & Family Ministries

December 2018



December Dates to Remember

- | | |
|---|--|
| Dec. 2: Gifts due for Underground Christmas | Dec. 23: Youth Group—Christmas Party! |
| Dec. 9: Regular Youth Group | Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Candlelight Service |
| Dec. 16: Chimes Choir plays during worship | Dec. 30: Lessons & Carols Worship Service |



Ideas for Youth Mentors

- Ask your youth if they have extra-curricular events such as concerts and games that you can attend to support them!
- Join our Youth Chimes Choir as a helper, director or chimer. See Jodie for more details.

Youth at the Giving Thanks lunch



Youth Chimes Choir Rehearsals



Youth Hand Chimes Choir rehearsals are Sunday mornings 9:00—10:00 in Room 3, Dec. 2, 9 and 16.

Regularly Scheduled Youth Programs

(Thru June 9, 2019)

Seekers & Explorers Youth Classes: Seekers (MS) and Explorers (HS) classes are held on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month. Students are excused from worship to their classes in the Library (Seekers) or the Great Room (Explorers). Classes use the PC(USA) Feasting on the Word tweens and youth curriculum to study the Bible and relate its wisdom to their everyday lives.

Youth Group: All middle and high school students are encouraged to attend Youth Group on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month, 12-1:30 in the Great Room. We enjoy lunch together, catch up on each other's lives, and celebrate our faith through lessons, activities and prayer.

Confirmation: This year's confirmation program meets on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month from 6:00-7:30pm, and runs September thru June. Following the PC(USA) Big God Big Questions curriculum, we reflect on the fundamentals of our faith and how that translates into a life committed to following Jesus.

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

360-424-7675 or Jodie@MountVernonPres.org

2019 Stewardship Report and Financial Outlook

Thank you! Your faithful response to this fall's Stewardship campaign has put us in relatively strong position as we move toward the new year.

So far for 2019 we have received 75 pledges (up from 68 last year) that combine for a total pledged income of \$314,342 (up from \$286,988 last year) which represents slightly more than 88% of our budgeted expenditures for 2019.

Based on our congregation's historical giving patterns, these numbers allowed Session to approve a balanced budget at their November meeting. It will be presented to the congregation along with the 2018 End of Year Financial statements at our congregational meeting in January.

If you plan to make a pledge and have not yet done so, it's not too late! You can pick up and/or deliver a pledge card to the church office or drop it in the offering plate any Sunday.



Christmas Baskets for 21 families require volunteers on two special days:

- **Dec 16** to inventory & match the children's gifts to the family, and assure that all gifts are in place for delivery on the following Saturday. **6 volunteers** for an hour after worship service please.
- **Dec 22**, Saturday is delivery day. People go out in pairs to make in-person contact. Beginning at 8am the Food Baskets are assembled and between 9am and noon all deliveries are made. **20 volunteers and 10 vehicles** are perfect. All are welcome for this heartwarming morning.

Family Promise at MVPC

December 16-23

Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church along with a dozen other local churches provides meals and

housing for homeless families as part of the Family Promise Program for a week. Our hosting week begins December 16th at 5pm. We are in need of volunteers who can help with meal preparation, overnight stay assistance or help transporting cots and supplies early on Sunday December 16th. If you can help, please see Ruth Neal or Gary Jones.



Update to the Kitchen Compliance Project as of November 30th.

- Phase-I of the new wall is built and ready for electric, gas and fire suppression system installation.
- 2-Mount Vernon building permits have been issued.
- Fire Suppression System installation begins on Tuesday, 12/4 with the electrical work.
- Anticipate ordering Inspection #1 (the wall) end of day, 12/4. Date TBD by City of Mount Vernon.
- Our contractor, Alpine, should be able to install the balance of the work by week ending 12/7.
- After Inspection #1, Phase-II of the wall will be completed & the stove will be ordered with approximately 2-weeks delivery.
- The project budget will be re-evaluated after receiving an estimate for one uncertain cost of work before ordering any new, permanent workstation with a sink.

Help Wanted

We do have a need. Both the **big oven** and **refrigerator** need a good cleaning beginning Monday, 12/10.

We also would like to thank you for your patience with this project. It is definitely an "on-the-job-training" project with all the details of a "construction and compliance" type project.

Bruce Lavers & Bob Higbee

M.A.L.T Event

(Music And Live Theater)

Mount Vernon High School Holiday Choral Concert

Monday December 10, 2018 @ 4pm

(No Host dinner following)

See Mary Ellen Byerly for details.



Women's Dessert 2017

ANNUAL WOMEN'S DESSERT

"Silent Night: Finding Peace in the Busyness"

Thursday, December 13th 6:30—8:30 pm

Reserve tickets for you and your friends before or after church on Sunday 11/18, 11/25, 12/2, and 12/9. Suggested donation per ticket is \$7 but please don't let money stop you and your friends from coming to this wonderful evening of music, inspiration, and fellowship. This year, Denise Easter from Renewal Ministries will be speaking and our very own Josh VerHalen will be performing as we take an evening to enjoy a bit of peace in the busy season of Advent. Our Mission focus will be in collecting items for the Women's Purse Ministry, supporting women in need. *We are still looking for volunteers to creatively decorate a table for the event and for volunteers willing to help serve during the event. Please call or sign up in the church office if you are interested.*

December Birthdays & Anniversaries

4-Ward Ernst

Carol Sanders

6-Pat Schlecht

9-Betty Haworth

10-Bob Wygal

10-Bill & Linda Ream

14-Kimora Hansen

16-Pat Papadopoulos

18-Martin Dunn

19-Laurie Parker

21-Keith Tacker



22-Troy Olsen

28-Barb Clure

29-Dave & Bev Wilson

31-Jodie Kercheval

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
mvpc@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	Evangelism/Member	Colleen	Higbee		2020
Anne	Long		2021	Evangelism/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

THANK YOU CORNER

- * The biggest THANK YOU possible to the many cookie providers, and those helping to make possible Memorial receptions at MVPC a pleasant and supportive experience for grieving families.
- * Another huge THANK YOU to all who helped decorate the church for the Christmas season.
- * More kudos to those overseeing the kitchen project. It is progressing.
- * Thank you to Pat Skelton, Mim Ambrose, Lou Cheney, and Rebecca Holland for helping the kids to create gifts for families, decorate the Good Shepherd Hall tree, and celebrate Christmas at the kid's afternoon on Dec. 2nd, giving parents a much needed afternoon off.
- * Thank you to Megan Nash for going above and beyond in filling in for Tracy Hall as the Kid's Choir director for practice on Nov. 28th!

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





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.

Underground Christmas



Our youth teamed up with Underground Ministries to connect incarcerated dads with their kids through their Underground Christmas program! Thank you to Chris Hoke for inviting us to participate in this mission.

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.



FREE UPRIGHT PIANO

The upright piano, which is now in room 3

is free to a good home. We are needing the space for other activities. The picture is only a representation.



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 Rm (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.
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 (Middle 6-8th & High school 9-12th) during worship on 2nd and 4th Sundays.

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.**