



The Grapevine

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

Year 115, Issue 5
May 2017

CAPTURE THE MOMENT Photography as a Spiritual Practice

**Mark your calendar! Friday evening, June 9, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
and Saturday morning, June 10, 9-11 a.m.**



This workshop is an opportunity to learn to “see differently.” Whether family events, our wonderful children and grandchildren, activities of life or the beauty of nature, those photos which create such special memories for us can also become a window into how God is working in our lives.

Craig Goodwin, who is a Pastor, author and photographer, will present two workshops at Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church. The workshop Friday evening will present photography as a spiritual practice. Saturday morning’s workshop will focus on taking better photos.

The workshops are open for beginners through advanced photographers. So don’t be intimidated! Whether you use a DSLR or your cell phone as your camera, you are welcome to come, learn something new, enjoy the community and see differently.



You can find Craig Goodwin’s photos on his website:

www.craiggoodwinphoto.com

and read his blog at www.CraigGoodwin.com

More information to follow.



Contact Information during Pastor Dan’s Sabbatical

Pastor Dan will be on Sabbatical June 1 through Sept 1.

During this time the leadership of the church will be the responding body for personal pastoral care and other concerns of the church. The deacons are prepared to provide pastoral and spiritual care if you have that need. If you have a situation you would normally talk to Pastor Dan about during this time, you may call or text the church office during regular office hours to be connected to the appropriate person. Otherwise, contact Ward Ernst, moderator of the deacons, and he will arrange a contact for you.

This is a special time of retreat and refreshment for our pastor, and it is a blessing for the Deacons to provide for our congregation and support Pastor Dan in this way. Ward’s phone number is (406) 868-2944 and his email is wardnernst@gmail.com. The MVPC office number is (360) 424-7675. Regular office hours during the summer are Tuesday-Friday, 9-3:30. The office will be staffed by volunteers on Mondays from 9-12.

Look Around

PASTOR DAN HOLLAND

I am in the midst of preparing for one of the most incredible gifts I've ever received. The gift of time from the Church and resources from the Lilly Endowment Inc. have come together in a way that's already begun to renew and feed my spirit. By the time you read this, it will be approximately one month until my sabbatical starts. I thought I'd share with you some of what we wrote in the grant application:

"For Pastor Dan, renewal will come via a Sabbatical built around the theme "Capturing the Moment." While on leave, he will explore some of the most famous parks in the western United States and Canada finding space and time to breathe deeply and enjoy the beauty of the creation which God spoke into being and called good. He will savor unhurried connection with his wife, enjoy moments of delight with his children and venture into the wilderness with friends who have been his long-time support network. Throughout the Sabbatical, as a spiritual practice, Pastor Dan will engage his love of photography to capture and reflect upon the moments of God's presence and grace so that the eyes of his heart might be enlightened (cf. Ephesians 1:18). The Sabbatical will conclude for Pastor Dan with an intentional time of consolidating what he's learned, discerning how the Spirit is leading him into a new season of ministry at MVPC."

And as excited as I am about my part in this, I'm also looking forward to what's going to be going on here too. The elected leadership of MVPC (Elders and Deacons) have been asked to step into fuller roles. You'll find in this newsletter the plan for pastoral care coverage while I'm gone. It relies heavily on the Deacons and Elders to take care of the people of the congregation and the functioning of the church, and God has given everything that we need to be assured that all will be well. On top of that, the grant application process encouraged the grant writing team to think about how the congregation might also be renewed over the course of the summer in manners that parallel what the pastor is going to be doing. When the team brainstormed possibilities, we thought of seeing the world differently, getting out into nature and sharing life together.

There are at least three activities being organized for the congregation that I want to make you aware of. First, we've planned a seminar with Craig Goodwin, who is a pastor, author and photographer based in Spokane. There's information on the front page of this grapevine about that and there will be more info to come. Next, we're in the process of planning hikes so members and friends of MVPC have an opportunity to get out into nature and enjoy each other's company. Dan Long will be organizing the hikes and I'd encourage you to let him know how you'd like to participate. And third, throughout the summer, I'm hopeful that you will also look around, pay attention to where you see God in your everyday life and try to capture that in a photo and share it with the rest of us. Michelle is prepared to put the photos you share with her into a montage to then be shared with the congregation during worship as part of our collective offering. We'll have a few cameras available to be borrowed from the church office but you're also welcome to use your cell phones or whatever equipment you have so that we might share what holds meaning so that we might notice where God's at work in us.

As I wrote in the grant application:

I'm excited for the ways the creative expression of seeing the world through a new lens will renew the congregation and deepen our journey together. More than sharing just what happened, we'll be able to share why particular images or moments of our lives that we captured in a snapshot spoke to us of God's goodness, or the world's brokenness, or our community's expression of the good news of Jesus Christ. The possibilities for captured moments are endless and I look forward to sharing both the practice and the journey with the congregation when I get back.

Grace and Peace to you,
Pastor Dan

Thank You

WEEDERS, WINDOW WASHERS AND BARK SPREADERS!

Thank you so much to all of those volunteers who came to the Saturday yard work parties - rain or shine or hail! MVPC is a beautiful church with a gracious and welcoming heart, and the grounds are showing it. Windows have been washed, shrubs pruned, weeds pulled, bark spread and flowers planted.

We will be posting sign up sheets for various types of yard upkeep for the summer - so if you love weed eating and pulling ivy, the opportunity will arise! And of course, there are supplies available for independent weeding for anyone at any time - bring a friend and have a healthy conversation while you make MVPC a more inviting place.

Women's Fellowship: Saturday, May 27 @ 9 a.m.

All women are invited to the Women's Fellowship gathering—in their walking shoes! We will walk together in the neighborhood of the church with the goal of discovering God's presence in our steps. Upon our return to the church, we will share our experiences of seeking God through daily devotions.

MVPC's Easter celebration was very inspiring and meaningful to all. The day began with a fantastic Easter breakfast with great food and fellowship. Thanks to all who contributed the delicious casseroles and Easter breads to provide a truly enjoyable feast. Your efforts reached out to many.

-Mary Ellen Byerly



Coming soon!

Opportunities to connect with each other through congregational hikes. We will have hikes of varying difficulty so everyone can participate. Check your bulletins and listen for announcements during worship.

For more information, talk to Dan Long.

A SEASON OF *Discernment*



It's not always easy to know how God is inviting us to act. And the process only becomes more complicated as we try to work through that as a community of faith. Recently Session began addressing questions of what might the future of Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church look like? How is God calling us to "be church" together now so that our ministry can be thriving 10 or 20 years from now? What difference are we called to make in our community and in our world? These are big questions... more than can be answered in a single session meeting or even our annual retreat. As we began to discuss some of the issues we realized that we haven't have a good process to listen for the Spirit's guidance in the big questions, to involve the congregation and make sure voices are heard, and to be intentional about listening for God's invitation as a community of faith.

Luckily for us there's a local resource to help churches discern these kinds of big questions. We've decided to partner with Renewal Ministries Northwest, one of our Presbytery's covenant partner ministries (RenewalMinNW.org), to enter into a season of discernment. When Pastor Dan returns from sabbatical, it will be an opportune time to consider what God is saying to us as a congregation and then how to faithfully respond.

We've set aside 4 dates:

September 30th - To Teach and Equip: all members and friends of the congregation are welcome and encouraged to participate. Based on the prayer life of Jesus, we explore and learn about Abiding Prayer and Listening Prayer. Instruction on a Process of Communal Discernment is provided.

October 14th - Preparation for Discernment: by the leadership of the church. Through a process of appreciative Inquiry – We will identify how MVPC has been uniquely gifted by the Holy Spirit and we will frame the question for discernment.

November 18th - Communal Discernment: all members and friends of the congregation are welcome and encouraged to participate. We listen together for **what** God is saying to us collectively in response to the question that is before us. After we have discerned what God is saying, we listen together for **how** God is calling us to act on what we have heard.

December 2nd - Communal Discernment: The leadership of the church will distill the results of the congregation's discernment and engage further in discerning **how** God is calling us to act on what we have heard and develop a plan of action.

If you're interested in reading more about the process or outcomes for other congregations when they've undertaken similar processes, please check out <http://renewalminnw.org/spiritual-discernment>.

We will be nailing down the November date within the month and keep you posted. Please mark the dates on your calendar and plan to participate. It's an exciting time to be part of the church as we look toward the future!

A BRIEF SYNOPSIS OF THE MOST RECENT STATED MEETING OF THE SESSION

At the April 25th, 2017, Stated meeting of the Session, the following occurred:

- The meeting convened at 5:30pm in the Fireside Room with fellowship and dinner.
- Following dinner, members offered prayers of thanksgiving for both personal and church related aspects of their lives.
- Approved the expenditure of \$2,000.00 from Parking Lot Maintenance to put down up to forty yards of bark, purchase gardening supplies, and possibly hire temporary help to complete the upkeep of the yards should there be insufficient volunteer help.
- Examined and accepted Nathan Curtis into membership at MVPC.
- Approved the calling of a Congregational Meeting on May 21, 2017, to elect Elders and Deacons.
- Discussed the building evaluation prepared by Tim Garrison, P.E. The evaluation contained some repair items than need to be addressed.
- Designated the Stewardship Committee as responsible for the gathering of long-term information regarding the priorities and options for the future of the building. The emphasis is on the future, not current repairs and maintenance.
- Agreed to use \$1,500.00 from the Maintenance Reserve account to defray the expenses of the structural engineer who evaluated the building.
- Training for new Elders and Deacons will be led by Elders Hanson, Allen, and Ridgeway.
- Appreciation Sunday will be held on May 28, as will the Passing the Torch from Pastor Holland to Pastor Sonnanburg. *Janet will be serving MVPC on a part-time basis from Memorial Day through Labor Day. She will be in the office 1-2 days per week in addition to Sundays, and available as needed via phone and email. She will be formally introduced to the congregation on Sunday, May 28.*

Tom Howard
Clerk of Session

MVPC Elders

Patti Allen	Anne Long
Arlene Andersen	Bob Mitchell
Bill DeHon	David Neal
Steve Hansen	Pat Papadopoulos
Molly Howard	George Ridgeway
Gary Jones	

Rev. Dan Holland, Moderator

Ministry Area Assignments

Worship	Membership & Evangelism
Anne Long	Molly Howard
Discipleship	David Neal
Patti Allen	Mission
Steve Hansen	Gary Jones
Ministry Support	George Ridgeway
Bill DeHon	Hospitality
Pat Papadopoulos	Arlene Andersen
	Bob Mitchell

MVPC Deacons

Sandy Ball	Tracy Hall
Mary Ellen Byerly	Ted Langrehr
Jim Byron	Ruth Neal
Laurel Coalwell	Pete Papadopoulos
Madeline DeLia	Sumiko Shinozaki
Ward Ernst	Rita Vander Stoep

Ward Ernst, Moderator

Quarter 1 Offering Received (Jan-March 2017)



Knitting/Crochet Fellowship

4th Wednesday of the month at noon
in the Fireside Room

All are welcome to join, regardless of your knitting
or crocheting expertise (or lack thereof)!

**All Yarn and Thread Crafters welcome ... crochet or
knit, even quilting questions have been discussed
so come check it out!**



Women's Fellowship

The good fellowship, coffee, tasty refreshments,
and warm fireplace go along with the spiritual lift
on the 4th Saturday of the month. *Come and see!*

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

Senior Shepherds

Everyone 50 years and better is invited!

Join us May 16 for a delicious lunch.

Only \$5, as usual!

Questions?

Please talk to Dave & Arlene Andersen
or Bob & Glenda Mitchell.

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.

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/>

Birthdays & Anniversaries

May

1-Rob Wortham

4-Louise Cheney

Henry Kostek

6-Doris Epley

8-Pete Brown

9-Glory Olwete

11-Dick Irwin

Melissa Johnson

13-Ron McCarty

Jace Swanson

15-Glenda Mitchell

Bill Nowadnick

15-George & Collie Ridgeway

16-Marcia Taylor

19-Tom Howard

23-Ted Kostek

23-Keith & Beth Tacker

26-David Neal

28-Hannah Kercheval

31-Timothy Long



Are we missing your special date?

Please contact the church office at

MVPC@MountVernonPres.org or

424-7675 so we can celebrate with you!

IT'S BACK!

Birthday Sunday at MVPC has returned!

Everyone enjoys celebrating their Birthday
and the Deacons are making that happen.

On the last Sunday of each month during

Fellowship time there will be a large
Birthday cake in honor of all that had a
Birthday that month.

Come, join in, and enjoy the festivities.

*If the church office doesn't have your
birthday, please send an email to
mvpc@MountVernonPres.org so you can
be honored on Birthday Sunday!*

KIWANIS PRAYER BREAKFAST:

May 11

The Kiwanis Club of Mount Vernon is hosting the Annual Skagit County Community Prayer Breakfast on Thursday, May 11 at McIntyre Hall.

The event begins at 6:30 a.m. and will feature guest speaker Rick Skeen, Assistant Principal and Athletic Director at King's Schools in Seattle. It will also feature music from Mayor of La Conner and gifted musician Ramon Hayes, as well as a full breakfast prepared by the Culinary Arts program from Skagit Valley College.

Tickets are \$15 and can be paid for at the door. RSVP to Bob Hyde: (360) 661-07565 or email: bobhyde@windermere.com

Vacation Bible School this year is July 17th-21st!

We are in need of:

- Volunteers who want to work with kids, help behind the scenes, and more!
- Six 5 gallon storage containers for water (put your name on it and you'll get it back)
- Six Hair Dryers (put your name on it and you'll get it back)
- 80 plastic bottle tops of assorted sizes and colors!

Thank you!

Welcome Jodie, our Interim CYF Director for the Summer



Hi! I'm Jodie Kercheval. I grew up in Monroe and got my B.Sc. in Math from Central Washington University in Ellensburg. After college I moved to Seattle and worked as an actuary for 15 years. My work also allowed me to live and work on the outskirts of London, England for one year. I made my way to Skagit county in 2007 and love it here. I have a small hobby farm in Conway where I raise chickens for their eggs, grow flowers for cutting, and also grow and sell various produce through the honor stand at the foot of my driveway. The greatest joy off my life is my 6 year old daughter Hannah. Hannah was baptized in our church last October and was the "star" in our recent Easter drama. She is vivacious, passionate, intelligent and kind hearted – who could ask for anything more? Hannah and I have been attending MVPC since the spring of 2014. I served for 1 year on session, which was a wonderful experience, but stepped down before completing my 3 year term due to an upheaval in our family. Unfortunately, my marriage to Hannah's dad has recently ended. The past year and a half have been a tumultuous time for our family, and I am so thankful for the stability and joy our church has provided for Hannah and I as we continue to go through this change. I have been volunteering with the youth group for the past year, and am looking forward to helping make our children's ministries happen this summer while the Holland's are on sabbatical.

Want to Get Involved at MVPC??

*Here are some
opportunities...*

Participate in crafts time

at Where The Heart Is on Monday mornings

Serve dinner at Friendship House

twice a month (First Thursday, Second Tuesday)

Participate with Family Promise

During our quarterly host week

Volunteer at MVPC

- * Participate in Church work parties inside and outside
 - * Setup/cleanup for events
- * Be a sound technician during worship
- * Volunteer with Children, Youth & Family
 - * Count Offering after church
- * Help with building maintenance (changing light bulbs and batteries, paint touch-up, trouble-shooting, etc.)
 - * Volunteer in the church office

Contact the church for more information:
mvpc@MountVernonPres.org

MVPC Children, Youth, & Family ~ May 2017



Children, Youth, and Family Discernment Team Meeting 5/7, 12-1 pm
 CYF Spring Cleaning (date TBD) - Please contact Rebecca to help!

Sign up to volunteer with Vacation Bible School, Summer Sunday School, or Summer Youth Group! Talk with Jodie, CYF Summer Interim ASAP!



SUNDAYS

Nursery 9 to Noon Sundays

A time for the youngest kids to play! Everyone in the nursery is invited to join the Seeds Sunday School.

Creative Kids 9 to 10 am Sundays - May Yarn Fun!

A time for grade school kids to express their faith creatively. In May, we will be exploring yarn fun on May 7th and 21st with some of the talent knitters from MVPC. We will not meet on May 14th due to Mother's Day or on May 28th due to Memorial Day weekend. Please send any ideas for next year's classes to Rebecca!

Sunday School during 10:30 am Worship

	<u>Seeds (Preschool)</u>	<u>Sprouts (K to 2nd)</u>	<u>Saplings (3rd to 5th & Youth)</u>
5/7	Growing In Faith	Paul's Conversion	The Church around the World
5/14	Mother's Day Activity!	Mother's Day Activity!	The Church Today
5/21	Loving God and Neighbors	A Dream of Heaven	Our Congregation Today
5/28	<i>End of the Year Celebrations during Sunday School!</i>		

FAMILY NIGHT Wednesdays 5:30 to 6:30 pm

Everyone is invited Wednesdays from 5:30 to 6:30 pm in the Saplings /Great Room for food, faith, and fellowship! Dinner is potluck so please bring food to share.

***Family Night at the Farm in the beginning of May and
 The Family Night End of the Year Celebration on May 31st!***

YOUTH GROUP 3rd Sundays Noon to 1:30 pm

-Help serve food at Friendship House from 4:45 to 6:45 pm on Thursday, May 4th! RSVP.

- ***Youth Group End of the Year Celebration***, Noon to 1:30 pm on 5/21!



Please plan to attend church with your family on Sunday, May 28th for the annual presentation of the Bibles, End of Year Parties, and Volunteer Appreciation Lunch!



“Like Us” on [facebook.com/MVPCChildrenYouthandFamilyMinistry](https://www.facebook.com/MVPCChildrenYouthandFamilyMinistry)
 Questions? Email Rebecca@MountVernonPres.org or call 360.424.7675

Thank you to everyone who helped with the Neighborhood Easter Egg Hunt (hosted by Trinity Lutheran, First United Methodist, and Mount Vernon Presbyterian)! Whether you donated candy, helped fill the eggs, helped hide the eggs, or volunteered during the event - thank you for bringing joy to so many families!





REGULARLY SCHEDULED EVENTS @ MVPC:

Centering Prayer: Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m. in the Pastor's Office

Prayer Group: Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. in the Library

Small Groups: Call the church to get connected to a small group!

Family Night: Wednesdays, 5:30-6:30 p.m. at MVPC

Youth Group: 3rd 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.

Senior Shepherds: Third Tuesday of the month at noon.

Tea @ 2: Last Thursday of the month at 2 p.m. in the Fireside Room

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 5 p.m.

Worship Team Meeting: 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at noon

Finance Committee: 2nd Tuesday at 5 p.m.

Mission Team Meeting: 2nd Wednesday at noon

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 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 - Birth to preschool age kids enjoy playing together.

Creative Kids - Kids express their faith through art, music, and drama.

10:30 WORSHIP AND CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Nursery / Seeds Sunday School - Birth to preschool age kids are introduced to Bible Stories

Sprouts Sunday School - kindergarten-2nd Grade (begin in worship) journey through the Bible.

Saplings Sunday School for 3rd - 5th Grade (begin in worship) journey through Christianity.

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

