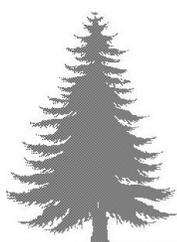


MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Know God's Love... and Share it with Other People



2021-22 ANNUAL MINISTRY REPORT



Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.
1 Thessalonians 5:11

REPORT FROM THE PASTOR

Rev. Daniel Holland, Pastor

Pastor's Report 2021 - 2022

March 8, 2020 was the final service in the sanctuary pre-covid. It would have been hard to imagine at that time that we would still be talking about the Coronavirus over 2 years later, but to put this year in context, we have to realize that when the last annual report was published in June of 2021, we were not yet meeting in person. August 8, 2021 nearly a year and a half after we stepped out of the building, we held our first hybrid service where we were worshiping both online and in the sanctuary. It's been quite a year since then!

In September we finalized the contracted scope of work to renovate the sanctuary. In October we welcomed home an incarcerated brother who has been working with our OPOP team for a number of years. In November, we opened the doors to Vida Abundante (a Spanish language ministry). In December we engaged with our mission partners in a whole new way of doing our Christmas missions. In January we moved into Good Shepherd Hall as our temporary home for worship while the renovations were being done in the Sanctuary. In February we welcomed Skagit MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) to become a ministry of MVPC. In March the mask mandate was lifted in our state and the process of re-opening the church building started in earnest. In April after we celebrated Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Easter Sunday in our newly remodeled sanctuary, we flung open the doors to our community and our mission partners to celebrate God's faithfulness and dedicate our worship space as part of moving toward the bright future on which our capital campaign was based.

Those are just a few of the highlights of the last year as we've continued to worship and pray, to connect and grow, to learn and serve, to share life together. It's remarkable how we've been able to be church for one another and to be the body of Christ in our community as well. The report you are reading is intended to be equal parts celebration of what has been and inspiration toward what might be. As we look back and see what God has done in this congregation and through this congregation over the last year there is much to celebrate... especially when we consider that it all has taken place in the midst of a difficult season of world history. As we look forward I'm always aware of the question "What's my part in what you're doing Lord?"

I firmly believe that, as a church, God has given us what we need in order to do what God has called us to do. When each of us contributes the gifts we've been given, the ministry and the mission of the church will flourish. We'll be able to reach, to serve, to love more and more faithfully. I hope that as you peruse these pages you'll find something that sparks your interest. When you do, please don't keep it to yourself! Reach out to me or to the person who wrote the article that strikes you. Sharing our gifts and talents is a blessing- not just to those we serve, but also because that's how we grow in our faith!

Enjoy the annual Ministry Report!

Pastor Dan



**Current and to be installed ruling elders serving on session
and Deacons serving on the Board of Deacons**

Class of 2022 will rotate off in July and Class of 2025 will begin their 3 year term of service.

SESSION

Class of 2023



Becky Goodell



Joe Seabott

Class of 2024



Bruce Lavers



Sarah Maas

Class of 2025

To be Installed



Jan Eerkes



Rob Hall



George Ridgeway
Clerk of Session



Pastor Dan Holland,
Moderator

BOARD OF DEACONS

Class of 2023



Arlene Andersen



Rosemary Gale

Class of 2024



Ward Ernst



Kitty Willis

Class of 2025

To be Installed



David Lorente



David Reamer

WORSHIP

This past year saw the church building renovations finished. We are so thankful to be able to meet together again since covid cases have decreased, and now we can meet in our newly renovated sanctuary. For the first few months of 2022 worship was either in Good Shepherd Hall fully masked, or on zoom online. Happily, Zoom is still available for those who prefer it or are ailing. We have updated technology, new carpeting, comfortable chairs, permanent place for bell tables, and several other improvements.

Advent and Christmas saw us using "Advent in Plain Sight" by Jill Duffield as a different inspiration. The follow-up devotion, "Lent in Plain Sight" was used as the inspiration for Lent.

On Palm Sunday we paraded from Good Shepherd Hall to the sanctuary with palms in a two-fold celebration: 1. For Jesus triumphant entry into Jerusalem, and 2, for our triumphant entry, after 2 years, into our newly renovated sanctuary.

A rededication service on April 23 with our mission partners, and the whole community, past and present remembered the history of Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church and highlighted the missions of Underground Ministries, Counseling Centers of North Puget Sound, Care Pals, Love Inc., New Earth Recovery, Family Promise and Friendship House. An Open House with refreshments followed.

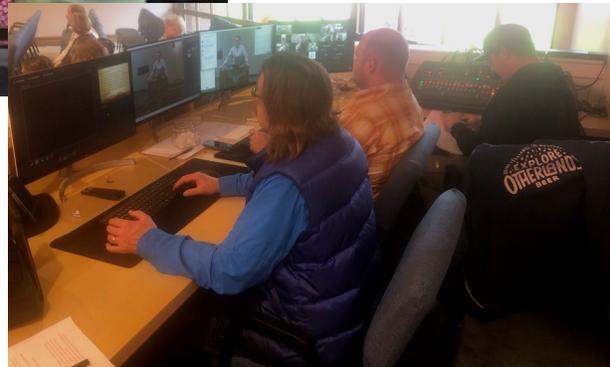
Easter Sunday brunch was served in Good Shepherd Hall and the Easter service followed in the sanctuary, with choir singing for the first time in two years.

Thank-you to our tech team, Glorify, Bell Choir, musicians, singers; to Patti and Sumiko and décor group, liturgists, communion preparers and servers, and everyone else who helps make our worship services go smoothly.

Gail LaFleur
Worship Ministry Coordinator



Choir
And
The new Sound Booth



MISSION AND SERVICE

It was a busy year! It was a good year!

How blessed we are as a church family with people who are so generous with offering their gifts of all stripes to the work of God in our community and world.

This was so evident with the congregation's response to the Christmas giving program. In 2021 we decided to engage directly with our mission partners to be more involved in supporting what they were doing with the people they support. It was a great learning experience for all involved with one mission partner saying they had never had a church reach out to them in this way before and they were so grateful that we did. The cold weather clothing drive for Friendship House provided warmth for many who otherwise would have been cold this winter. We provided gifts for 4 families from Family Promise, 1 extended family from Love Inc. and 20 households being served by Underground Ministries. We played support roles by providing cupcakes for New Earth Recovery's seasonal fundraiser and goodie baskets for each of the New Earth Recovery houses. And a number of folks supported the Care Pals projects by preparing craft materials and engaging in new ways with that ministry as well. Overall the Christmas program was a huge success and will provide a new model for us moving forward.

We also have multiple teams who regularly set out to serve the community. One provides meals for The Friendship House Cafe and First Step Shelter in Burlington on a monthly basis. Care Pals go every week to Where the Heart Is (an assisted living and memory care facility in Burlington) to engage the residents with crafts and conversation. Our One Parish One Prisoner team has supportively connected with Leroy, who has been out of prison for 6 months and is doing well and Joe Ray who is looking forward to being released soon.

We are looking forward to hosting Family Promise in our church building again after two years of delivering meals to the day center. Our host week in the summer starts on June 19th. We have new people in the leadership roles for Family Promise. We are grateful they have stepped up and are equally thankful for the many that have gone before.

It's due to the amazing people of this congregation and their generous spirits that we can carry out these ministries as well as financially supporting:

Care Pals

Family Promise

Friendship House

Counseling centers of North Puget Sound

Kevin and Danielle Riley

(Mount Baker Presbyterian Church, Concrete)

Love INC

Nepal Ministries

New Earth Recovery

OPOP

Tall Timber

Underground Ministries

Thank you! And if you want to get involved or learn more, give me a call or show up for a Mission team meeting!

The MVPC Missions and Service Team

Dave Gale, Ministry Coordinator



MEMBERSHIP & EVANGELISM

This ministry has continued the focus established by others, communication and welcoming newcomers and regulars alike in the journey with Jesus. Congregational care is under the auspices of the Deacons.

- Kind notes were sent during the end of year holiday season keeping people in contact with each other while in another holiday season with covid restrictions.
- The card ministry for an individual's special days is under the care of Mim Ambrose. Let the office know of Birthdays (month & day only) and anniversaries.
- The Grapevine newsletter moved to a nominally quarterly publication timed to the church seasons of the year.
- A weekly email started using Mailchimp to keep friends and members informed of events and meetings each week. This method of communication is more successful getting into email inboxes.
- A concerted effort was made to get written invitations to past and present friends and members of MVPC for the Sanctuary dedication and Open House in April 2022. (Mission partners of MVPC were able to highlight their work by video at the dedication and were available during the open house.
- Thanks to Mim Ambrose and Laurie Parker for the new look of the bulletin boards in the narthex Welcome Center.
- Deacons updated name tags and provide greeters for Sunday morning worshippers.
- Aaron Kiesser has taken on responsibility for keeping the sign message new and fresh.

Those of you with office skills who would like to be part of MVPC's communications efforts let Barbara, in the office, know you would like to be part of the communication team overseeing the website, newsletter, weekly email, bulletin boards or other fresh ideas of supporting the members and friends of MVPC.

Barbara Koozer, Membership & Evangelism Ministry Coordinator.

HOSPITALITY

The Hospitality ministry of MVPC strives to provide members and friends of the church opportunities to enjoy each other's company, build friendships, and continue the church's tradition of having great food!

We are slowly returning to 'pre-pandemic ' activities. Sunday coffee fellowship and espresso after worship is now in GSH with tables and space to share, meet new people, and experience the community that is MVPC.

Easter Sunday breakfast before the service and Mother's Day cake and coffee events were a great preview of hopefully the salmon kick-off dinner in the fall and our traditional Giving Thanks dinner in November..

The success of Hospitality is made possible through volunteer effort of members sharing their time and talents. Many hands make light the work and many blessings.

Thank you to all.

Mary Ellen Byerly,
Hospitality Ministry Coordinator



Mother's Day 2022

DISCIPLESHIP

MVPC Discipleship continued to thrive during the 2021-2022 Program Year, while also adjusting to the challenges of hybrid options and Covid precautions. Highlights included:

-The reopening of the MVPC Nursery after being closed due to Covid! We hired two nursery staff and have been working to build up our nursery volunteer teams so that we can better support families returning to worship in person at MVPC and offer a wonderful place to play and experience God's love for the youngest members of our congregation.



-The Godly Play Kid's Ministry Program returned to in person programming (with an online option) from 9:30 to 10:15 am on Sundays in the Godly Play room. Using the Montessori based [Godly Play](#) method, we explored the Stories of Faith looking at the stories of the people of our faith from mystics and reformers to Mr. Rogers and the people of the church today, as well as the stories of the church like Baptism, Communion, the Bible, and the story of MVPC. Middle School Youth were also welcomed into the circle and it was a wonderful experience for kids from Kindergarten to 8th grade (and even a few guest adults ranging all the way up to their 90's). We plan to continue to focus on elementary aged kids with an open door for whoever wants to attend. The families and the volunteer team especially appreciated the shift to Godly Play happening before worship to allow families and volunteers to attend the worship service together. *Next year, we will continue the three year Godly Play rotation of Old Testament, New Testament, and Stories of Faith, with an in depth look at stories of the Old Testament. We are hoping to grow our team of Godly Play storytellers and helpers if you know anyone who loves sharing with kids.!*



-Youth Group returned to in person programming (with an online option) for Middle and High School aged youth on Sundays after worship from noon to 1:30 pm in the Great Room (and sometimes expanding into the whole church building for games and activities). The youth grew in their faith as they explored the books of the Old Testament through [Bible Project](#) videos

and discussions, in addition to enjoying a pizza lunch together and having fun with games and group building activities. Next year, we plan to continue our journey through the Bible with a focus on the stories of the New Testament. *We need to grow our team of Youth Mentors if you know anyone who might be interested!*

-The Skagit MOPs (Mother's of Preschoolers - but moms of kids of all ages are welcome) became one of the newest ministries of MVPC as they met monthly on the third Saturday mornings to support and encourage moms in the thick of the challenges and joys of parenting. We are excited to shift to a more "normal" MOPs schedule of the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays from 9:30 to 11:30 am in the coming year and to be able to offer childcare so the moms can spend time together growing in faith and fellowship. *We need volunteers to play with the kids on 1st and 3rd Tuesday mornings in order for this amazing ministry to happen, if you know anyone who might be interested in being a part of the team! We believe other local churches will get involved as well.*

-The congregation participated in a variety of devotional books and groups during Advent and Lent including Advent in Plain Sight, Lent in Plain Sight, Weary World Advent, Women of Christmas, and Women of Easter. Families were encouraged in their faith at home through a variety of devotionals and the Faithful Families at

Home Lenten Devotional, complete with an opportunity to join with other Northwest Coast Presbytery Churches in meeting and talking with the author Traci Smith through an online workshop. The congregation responded well to having the resource of the devotionals and the option of participating in dedicated small groups during Advent and Lent. *We anticipate offering devotionals and groups in the coming year.*

-The MVPC Leaders (and everyone who wanted to come) participated in several online Ministry Enrichment evenings throughout the year, focusing on how to creatively incorporate the four ministry priorities Session has adopted into all of the groups and teams of the church, as well as taking time to check in and support each other in ministry, and to hear the latest updates on programs and construction. The Ministry Coordinators also began to meet as a team to further connect, support, and work together to provide meaningful worship, programs, and events at MVPC. *We plan to continue this ministry to the leaders in the coming year.*

-Plus, wonderful ongoing MVPC Discipleship Ministries, Programs, and Groups:

-Sunday Bible Study met online/hybrid weekly for an in depth study of the Bible and we *expect to add more Christian Education Opportunities in the coming year.*

-Prayer Group met online weekly to learn and practice contemplative prayer.

-Ongoing Small Groups met as they were able, online and in person, to provide opportunities for fellowship and support to one another. *We hope to add more groups in the fall to allow more people to participate in a small group.*

-Women's Fellowship met monthly online and in person for faith and fellowship.

-Knitting Group met online and then in person twice a month for fun crafting.

-Men's Breakfast returned in April 2022 for once a month programming.

-*We wish to add a ministry for Seniors in Fall of 2022 (but need volunteers).*

-MVPC Special Events continue to transition back after the pandemic. We enjoyed a few special events this year like summer movie nights, summer hikes, online pumpkin carving, a family Christmas party (with gingerbread house decorating), Valentine Pals between children and members of the church, and, of course, the big Sanctuary Dedication and Celebration. *We hope to offer even more fun and fellowship with special events in the coming year, including returning to the Tall Timber Family Snow Camp, and offering a summer kid's day camp in connection with other local churches.*

-We are sending even more kids and youth to [Tall Timber Camp](#)! In Summer of 2021, we sent 6 youth to Tall Timber Summer Camp for Jr. High and Sr. High Camp. In Summer of 2022, we are sending 11 kids and youth to Tall Timber Summer Camp for the Mini Camp (1st-3rd grades), Junior Camp (4th-6th grades), Junior High Camp (6th-9th grades), and Senior High Camp (9th-12th grades). *We expect to continue building our program of sending kids and youth to camp and to even get families attending the Tall Timber Family Snow Camp again next year.* Thank you for your continued support!



ANNUAL MINISTRY REPORT 2021-2022

MINISTRY SUPPORT

The purpose of Ministry Support, commonly known as Building & Grounds (B&G), is to provide a functional, operational, safe and comfortable facility in which we can worship and grow and from which we can serve our community. From a budgeting perspective, Ministry Support is responsible for the Building, Grounds and Office Operations. It has the second largest budget for the church, next to Personnel.

Operationally, the Ministry Support Team has responsibility for coordinating with all utilities, maintenance activities –planned and unplanned- , mandatory and required inspections, grounds and landscape upkeep and special projects, computer hardware/software support, direct contact with outside contractors and coordinating most aspects of building use with our Ministry Facilitator – Office Coordinator (MFOC), Barbara Koozer. As you can imagine, we stay in close relationship with our Finance Team, Staff and most of our ministries.

The Ministry Support Team requires a lot of volunteer hours to maintain its functionality, security, upkeep and community use. Our team is made of the following;

Building Coordinator: Bruce Lavers

Grounds Coordinator: Dan Long

Computer/Software support: Brad Clure and David Neal

Members: (Active) Doug & Sarah Catton, Ted Langrehr, Bob Wygal, Bob Higbee, Bill DeHon, Leslie Braun, Lou Cheney, Sumiko Shinozaki, Jim Byron and Anne Long.

A great deal has been accomplished this past year. Especially, with the near completion of the interior renovation of the *Forward to a Bright Future Project*. In addition, here are a few major items completed:

Session approved an updated Building Use Policy and related Use documents.

Installed a new drainage system in and around the South entrance to the church.

Modified and enhanced the landscape of the South entrance. Designed and began installing a new “Contemplative Walk Garden” on the West Side.

Major garden area trimming, cleanup, bark dusting and beautification around the church.

Upgraded our security by installing a complete new master-keying of the interior/exterior access to the church.

Repaired some bathroom plumbing and classroom electrical issues.

We are always looking for active new talent, skills and ideas. **Please** contact Bruce or Dan if you feel the need for serving. Our regularly scheduled meeting is the 4th Thursday of the month from 6:30-8:30pm. We sincerely thank all those who volunteer to keep our church in an operational and safe place from which to minister inside so we can reach outside into our community.

Bruce Lavers and Dan Long Ministry Support Coordinators





Worship in Good Shepherd Hall



Care Pals & music



Easter 2022



Godly Play

MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

