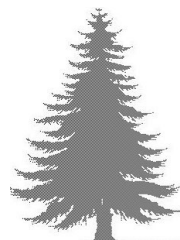


MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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



2022-23 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 2022 - 2023

As I think about how to sum up the program year of 22-23 a single word comes to mind: Faithfulness.

In 2017-18 we at MVPC discerned a statement that has guided our direction since then: "we are, and we are becoming, a welcoming, caring and graciously safe community." We call it our *charism* - it's how we've been gifted by the Holy Spirit. I love the fact that in our statement we can see something of how the church operates and something of how we *want to*. God continues to call us to ministries in line with our charism and we continue to respond faithfully so that both the people of MVPC and the people of the community can live more fully because of what we do!

This year some highlights have been:

Commissioning Rebecca Holland as our Associate Pastor for discipleship. Along with teams of volunteers, Rebecca has done great work with MVPC's new MOPS ministry to support moms and their kids; the new Shepherds ministry to support seniors of the church.

Receiving Carine Ndifon under care as she explores her call to ordained ministry. Carine found MVPC during the pandemic, she has met with the Session and the Commission on Preparation for Ministry at the Presbytery level and is currently enrolled in Seminary. I look forward to opportunities for her to share her gifts and what she's learning with the rest of the congregation.

Welcoming Underground Ministry's new youth program for kids who are at high risk to happen at MVPC so that they have a safe place to process what's going on in their lives, practice healthy patterns, and grow on their journey of faith.

Receiving a generous designated gift to establish a new "Ministry Seed Fund" to allow MVPC leadership to take advantage of unforeseen ministry opportunities.

Connecting with God's story as we completed the first year of our Narrative Lectionary experiment, following the narrative arc of the scriptures from beginning (Genesis) in September through instructions to the churches (in the epistles) in May.

And, just recently, welcoming 10 new members to MVPC!

And, friends, it's a wonderful thing that those are just a few of the highlights of the last program year. You'll find more as you read through the pages of this report. When we look back at what God has done, both in us and through us, we can see evidence of God's faithfulness. There's a lot to celebrate and there's a lot to be grateful for. I hope that as you peruse these pages you'll find something that inspires you. For when we look forward, I'm confident that there will be even more to celebrate and be grateful for as we keep paying attention to the nudges of the Holy Spirit and keep responding with faithfulness.

Blessings to you and 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 2023 will rotate off in July and Class of 2026 will begin their 3 year term of service.

SESSION

Class of 2024



Bruce Lavers



Sarah Maas

Class of 2025



Jan Eerkes



Rob Hall

Class of 2026

To be Installed



Jessica Jasper



Craig Riggs



George Ridgeway
Clerk of Session



Pastor Dan Holland,
Moderator

BOARD OF DEACONS

Class of 2024



Ward Ernst



Kitty Willis

Class of 2025



David Lorente



David Reamer

Class of 2026

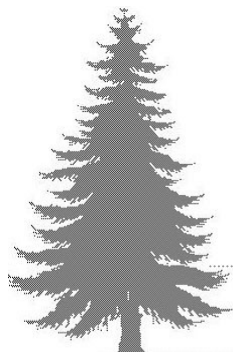
To be Installed



Laurel Coalwell



Carol Pursell



MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

“Growing Followers Of Christ”

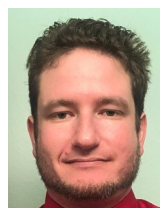
MVPC STAFF



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 cell phone: 360-854-8881



Barbara Koozer
 Ministry Coordinator and
 Office Coordinator (MFOC)
 Email: office.mvpc@gmail.com
 phone: 360-424-7675



Nursery Attendants
 Miriam Cooksey
 Natalie Holland



Others who work in the church building

Counseling Centers of North Puget Sound :

Clay Peet	Counselor	Email: cpeet@counselingnps.com office phone: 360-424-4296
Doug Chandler	Counselor	Email: douglas.chandler@live.com office phone: 360-708-9595

Underground Ministries

Chris Hoke	Executive Director	Email: Chris@undergroundministries.org
Alvin Shim	One Parish One Prisoner Coordinator & Communications	Email: Info@undergroundministries.org

*The church is the body of Christ in the world.
 Every member and friend is important to its life and ministry.*

MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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WORSHIP

Last year saw MVPC returning to full programming since covid. We have remained a hybrid worship service, providing Zoom for people unable to attend services in person, both for meetings and our regular worship services. As I write this, there are still occasional kinks that turn up, but our wonderful tech team jumps right in to work them out.

Earlier this year, we participated in the service commissioning Rebecca Holland as Associate Pastor of Discipleship, and have seen her presence more frequently during our services. Patti Allen and Marcie Ruthford are in full swing arranging the liturgical seasons, including banners and other décor. Rita VanderStoep has taken the reins of communion. Otherwise, Barbara Koozer is still in charge of handbells, and I arrange the liturgists. Josh VerHalen is in charge of music and tech.



Ash Wednesday was celebrated this year with a labyrinth, walking in with soft music playing, contemplating our transgressions, then receiving the blessings of Jesus, starting with forgiveness. Easter Sunday started with a light breakfast before worship for everyone. Bells were ringing and people singing during the service, making it a true celebration of resurrection.

Pastor Dan is taking his sabbatical this year from May 22 through Aug 20. During this time we are blessed to have Rev. Linda Stewart-Kalen fill in as sabbatical pastor. She has impressed those of us who interviewed candidates with her imagination and energy. It will be an interesting summer!

Our new elders and deacons will be installed on July 16, to continue with our new method of governance. MVPC will return to regular scheduling after Pastor Dan returns. The school kick off is Aug. 27.

I would like to wish the Holland family a revitalizing vacation this year! After all your hard work, you deserve it.

Sincerely, and love to you all,
Gail LaFleur



MISSION AND SERVICE

This past year has seen growing relationships with many of our mission partners as we try to live into one of MVPC's four priorities – *"Unified mission with the marginalized."* Funding and other resources are essential, but we also look for ways to be God's hands and feet wherever possible.

Being involved with Care Pals, OPOP/ Underground Ministries, Family Promise, Friendship House, New Earth Recovery, Tall Timber, Love INC, Tall Timber, and the Christmas giving program has strengthened and grown our own faith and relationship with God in ways that are sometimes difficult to verbalize, but nonetheless very enriching and motivating.



For example, we were able to serve David, Erica and their family while they were staying with us during our Family Promise week. Now they are joining us in worship on Sundays having moved into their own place. We helped the Underground Ministries team as they helped a neighbor beautify her fence that had been tagged with graffiti. There are more stories such as these.

This fall we will be joining many others in our community as we go on the Crop Hunger Walk. This will be an easy (mostly flat) walk that many can participate in and all can support. And we get to host the Homeless for a night program/fundraiser for Family Promise. Both of these are in the early stages of planning, but details will be passed on as soon as they are available.

Bushel baskets full of thanks and blessings and appreciation to the mission team and their helpers: Patti Allen, Tammy and Craig Riggs, Sarah Catton and Madeline DeLia, Laurel and Paul Coalwell, Ted Langrehr, Linda Ream, Pat Papadopoulos, Mary Pugsley, and Dan and Rebecca Holland.

The MVPC Missions and Service Team
Dave Gale, Ministry Coordinator



MEMBERSHIP & EVANGELISM

This past year the ministry has morphed into Communications and Evangelism. Membership and congregational care now falls under the Deacons ministries.

Efforts have been focused on improving the forms of communication for the MVPC community of folks and the wider community of Skagit Valley. We were fortunate to have the volunteer efforts of Heidi Yantz's industry knowledge to make improvements in several areas. The MVPC website www.mountvernonpres.org has been reorganized and updated. Effort is made by the office staff to keep events current. The quarterly newsletter, Grapevine, also benefitted with standardization of font and new formatting. If you have knowledge of events of our mission partners please let the office know so they can be included in communications before and reported on after the event.

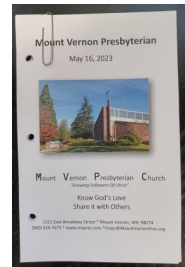
The weekly email is being sent out via Mail Chimp and is the most efficient way to keep people informed about what is happening. To have information included please have it to the office by Thursday morning of that week.

Cards for birthdays, anniversaries and other events are regularly sent to the MVPC community by Mim Ambrose. It is very helpful to keep the office informed of new addresses, phone numbers and emails so your recognition gets to you. New directories are printed directly from the database about 4 at a time to keep information up to date without having a lot of old directories to recycle. Stop by the office to pick up your new copy.

We are wanting to be able to focus on evangelism soon. What do you see as a need to enhance the ability to walk with Jesus, others and ourselves on the journey of life?

If you have a flair for creating and maintaining bulletin boards let the office know. Your help would be appreciated.

The committee: Anne Long, Aaron Kiesser, Patti Allen, Heidi Yantz
Barbara Koozer, Ministry Coordinator



DEACONS

Pre-Pandemic, the Deacon board was reconfigured from 12 folks to 6, for the purpose of creating greater involvement for the true ministers of the church, the congregation. This last year the Deacon board has settled into its new configuration and has been in the process of identifying and creating outlines of responsibilities for the commissioned deacons, who are taking the lead roles for areas of ministry to the congregation. By identifying the areas of need, and creating defined guidelines for the coordinator position, the tasks are less daunting for the good folks who have the gifts for the needs, but might not have any idea of how to go about it.

Examples are:

Meal Train Coordinator - Tracy Hall
Greeters and Welcoming Coordinator – Bev Helton
Visitation Coordinator - Still to be filled
Special Events Coordinator - Patti Allen

These coordinators have some folks helping them in their ministry areas, and report periodically to the Board on how it is functioning, and if they have any needs. If anyone feels the pull of the Spirit to assist in any of these or other ministries, please let either the coordinators or one of the deacons know.

Ending their terms and going off the board are Rosemary Gale and Arlene Anderson, and we thank them for their contributions. We are welcoming to the board Laurel Coalwell and Carol Purcell.

Peace, David Lorente.

HOSPITALITY

Hospitality is under new management this year due to the retirement of the former. Management has been successful because of the great team operating flawlessly. Great big shout out and thanks to Patti Allen, Laurie Parker, Ted Langrehr, and others who pulled off the fall kick off salmon feed, giving thanks dinner, coffee fellowship time, and other events involving food and fellowship. Learning the job and continuing into the coming year, Hospitality, God willing, will continue to provide opportunities for fellowship gathered around the table.

Blessings,
Ward Ernst, Hospitality Ministry
Coordinator

Salmon Barbeque



Giving
Thanks
Lunch



Easter Breakfast

DISCIPLESHIP

Discipleship continued to thrive with even more opportunities for people to grow in their faith during the 2022-2023 Program Year. We hope to build our volunteer teams so that we can better support our growing programs! Please consider getting involved or being a part of the Discipleship Team that will be starting this year to prayerfully discern MVPC Discipleship.

Highlights of 2022-2023 included:

-Bible Studies and Classes: The Sunday morning bible study continues to thrive. In addition, the congregation was offered opportunities to participate in an Advent Devotional with a Sunday morning gathering, a Lenten Devotional with a Wednesday morning gathering, a Lenten Sunday morning prayer class, and a 3 week Tuesday evening Peacemaking class. The Wednesday Lenten gathering turned into an ongoing Wednesday morning Bible Study! *We will continue to offer Sunday and Wednesday bible studies as well as seasonal devotionals and groups in the coming year.*

-Prayer Group: The Pause Prayer Group continues to meet every Thursday morning at 9 am to learn and practice various contemplative prayers. A special introduction to Prayer class was offered during Lent to draw more people into a deeper life of prayer. The email prayer chain also continues to connect people in prayer. *We hope to continue to grow as people of prayer in the coming year!*

-Small Groups: The small groups continued to meet to provide opportunities for fellowship and support to one another. The Family Small Group started to meet again as well! *The desire is to add more groups in the fall to allow more people to participate in a small group at MVPC.*

-Women's Fellowship: The women of the church continued to meet monthly on the fourth Saturdays for faith and fellowship. After countless years of service, Lou Cheney retired from leadership and a wonderful team took on the leadership to keep the ministry thriving. There was a fantastic Women's Fall Day Retreat. *We plan to continue to meet monthly with hopes to grow.*



-Men's Breakfast: The men of the church continued to enjoy breakfast and hear from guest speakers on the fourth Saturdays of every month. It was wonderful to be back enjoying fellowship together in person. *This is a great way for the men of MVPC and guests to get to know each other.*

-Shepherd's (Seniors) Group: The Shepherds group started up again after a few years off, with a monthly gathering for dessert, coffee, fellowship, and a variety of guest speakers from our congregation. *The plan is to offer a monthly lunch and program next year if enough volunteers step forward.*

-Skagit MOPS Moms' Group: The MOPS Moms' group met twice a month on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays from 9:30 to 11:30 am to support and encourage moms of all ages. We're able to offer childcare this year due to the amazing MVPC MOPS volunteer team. *Next year we hope to continue to grow the program and to create the Kid's Program into more of a VBS style experience. More volunteers to work with the kids and mentors to work with the moms will be needed.*

-Youth Group: Our middle and high school youth gathered 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 New Testament through [Bible Project](#) videos and discussions. In addition they enjoyed a pizza lunch together and fun with games and group building activities. The youth also attended the Tall Timber Fall Retreat! *Next year, we plan to offer a confirmation program and hope to match all of the youth who choose to participate with a one on one mentor from the congregation.*

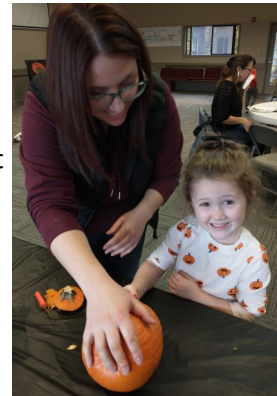
-Godly Play: The Godly Play Kids Ministry Program gathered before worship from 9 to 10 am on Sundays in the Godly Play room. It was open to all ages with mostly elementary aged kids but also included middle school and high school youth. Using the Montessori method based on [Godly Play](#), we explored the Stories of the Old Testament. *Next year, a larger volunteer team would enable Godly Play to take place during worship, with the kids beginning in worship and then invited and prayed into Godly Play during the Prayers of the People.*



-Nursery: With an amazing team of volunteers and nursery staff we provided nursery care during worship and special services, supporting families attending services and offering a wonderful place for the youngest members of our congregation to play and experience God's love. *Plans for the coming year include adding to the number of nursery staff available.*



-Special Events: We enjoyed a few special events this year for all ages: summer movie nights, summer hikes, the Pumpkin Party, the Christmas Cookie Exchange, Secret Valentines between children and members of the church, and more. We also had a Fall Day Retreat for the women's ministry, a Family Snow Camp at Tall Timber, and a Fall Youth Retreat at Tall Timber. There is a multigenerational team heading up to the Tall Timber Service



Weekend over Memorial Day weekend this year. *We plan to continue offering multigenerational events and retreats in the coming year.*

-Leadership: The Ministry Coordinators meet as a team to further connect, support, and work together providing meaningful worship, programs, and events at MVPC. CPR/1st Aid/AED certification was encouraged of all staff, volunteers, and leadership, especially for everyone working with children and youth. Due to Covid restrictions we were not able to do a training at the church (we hope to in three years). *We plan to continue the Ministry Coordinators team as well as to re-start the quarterly Ministry Enrichments for all of the leaders at MVPC to receive additional training and to be able to connect and support each other in ministry.*

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 in our faith, 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 regulatory and safety inspections, grounds and landscape upkeep and special projects, computer hardware/software support, direct contact with outside contractors and coordinating all functions of the building and its 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 other ministries. The Ministry Support Team requires a lot of volunteer hours to maintain its functionality, security, upkeep and community use. Our team is made up of the following;

Ministry Support/Building Coordinator: Bruce Lavers
Grounds Coordinator: Dan Long
MFOC: Barbara Koozer,
Computer/Software support: Brad Clure and David Neal.

Our active members are: Doug & Sarah Catton, Ted Langrehr, Bob Wygal, Bill DeHon, Leslie Braun, Benjamin Branigh, Sumiko Shinozaki, Jim Byron, Anne Long, Pete Papadopoulos, Ron Pinaire and Jessica Jasper.



The following represents some of the accomplishments for this past year:

- Great progress being made on our "Contemplative Walk Garden" on the West Side.
- Began a volunteer vacuuming team to supplement the custodial service to save \$.
- Began semi-annual pest control service.
- Replaced our Property & Liability insurance with greater coverage @ a reduced cost.
- Renewed our Skagit Hospital Parking Lot Agreement with a new 3-year contract.
- Work of volunteers who replaced the outdoor carpeting at the North Narthex entrance.
- Work of volunteers who repaired damage to the BBQ pit.



We are always looking for active new talent, skills and ideas. Please contact Bruce or Dan if you feel the call for serving. Our regularly scheduled meeting is the 4th Thursday of the month from 6:30-8:00pm.

Thank you to 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.

MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



ANNUAL MINISTRY REPORT 2022-2023

MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH • 1511 EAST BROADWAY STREET • MOUNT VERNON, WA 98274