

MOUNT VERNON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

7801 Church Lane, Toano, 23168-9110

<http://mtvernontoano.org>



The Flame



VOLUME 1

January—February 2015

Dates to Remember

Sunday School at 9:00 am

Human Relations Day—
Sunday, January 18

Ash Wednesdays Services
– See Page 8

UMM Sweetheart Dinner-
Feb. 11th at Red Lobster
at 7:00 pm.

The Administrative Board's hope is you are able to attend the events that are offered in January and February and invite someone to join you.

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Pastor's Page

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. I pray you had a blessed Christmas and a gracious New Year. Turning the pages on the calendar to a new year gives me time to reflect on the past and joy in looking to the future.

Twenty-fourteen had many blessings for the church. Several people joined the church, the leadership took on new challenges, and you, the members were very faithful in your tithes and gifts. It was a very blessed year. Please see Gene Turner's "State of the Church" Report for the details.

We also transferred four members to the Church Eternal and rejoiced in their services of Death and Resurrection or Memorial Services as we remembered the faithful lives of Stewart Howard, Roberta Minick, Roxie Sheldon, and Stella Earman. We are all blessed to have known them, loved them, and had them grace our lives.

We are blessed to have eight new members this year; Jim & Barbara Jones, Mike & Paula Sumrall, Diane Burton, Gloria Watkins, and Tom & Sharron Ridpath. We rejoice in receiving them into the fellowship of the church.

Looking ahead to the new year, the Reaching New People Team are excited about their plans for building relationships in the community and offering invitations to fellowship in the church. Their programs of "elbow event" to invite people to join them in everyday activities that are do able will establish relationship outside of church before the people are invited to come to fellowship and worship. Look for their announcement

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and ask how you can help.

My role in Reaching New People is to establish my presence in the community as the Pastor of Mt Vernon, and someone they will be able to talk with. I will be having breakfast each Thursday morning at Fox's Ordinary Restaurant in Toano, I'm getting to know the staff and they wave and greet me when I come in. I'm learning their stories, and about their families and oh by the way, one was looking for a church! It is in these types of relationship in the community that opportunities arise where an invitation to fellowship can take place. Because they have come to know you, they can trust you and feel good about coming to church. We know have eight team members; Betty Smith, Jim & Barbara Jones, Gene & Shirley Turner, Alan & Helen Palmer, and myself. If you would like to join the team to help build the church for Jesus Christ and the transformation of the world please come and talk with me.

As we look to the future, you all know of course that I will be retiring this June. At Annual Conference in June Bishop Cho will appoint a new pastor for Mt Vernon. I am confident that Pastor Kim, the York River District Superintendent will do her best to ensure Bishop Cho and the cabinet will make the best selection of a pastor for Mount Vernon. Over that last eleven years you have grown as a church and individuals. I have discerned that my term is complete with you and you are ready for new leadership to lead you into a new future, new growth and new possibilities. I am confident in your ability to love and accept a new pastor.

But until then we have more work to do to continue to build the kingdom of God, reach new disciples, offer fellowship, and the right hand of God's love, grace and mercy to the community.

Who is ready to take the next step, to offer a helping hand and rejoice in how God can work in us, through us all for the Glory of God.

Blessings in our Work for the Kingdom
Pastor David

Finance Corner:

Thanks to the generous giving of the people of Mt. Vernon, 2014 was one of the best years we had in giving. Our conference apportionments were paid at 94.63% and our District apportionments were paid at 100%. Additionally, Mt. Vernon received two very generous checks for the Trustee's in memory of two people as well as a large check for the reserve fund in memory of someone.

Mt. Vernon has been blessed with a congregation of caring and loving people who seek to help further Mt. Vernon through their gifts of tithe, time and talent. Thank you!!

State of the Church
Taken from Mt. Vernon's 2014 Charge Conference
Submitted by Gene Turner, Administrative Board, Chair

One of the issues Mount Vernon UMC has been trying to overcome in this past year is our presence in the community. Many of the people who visit us in worship or special events made comments they did not know a church was located here. It became apparent to the congregation and Pastor Craig that being off the main road and Church Lane being a no-through street with minimal traffic that we were really "the best kept secret" in Toano, VA. While the church advertised events and has submitted articles to the local newspaper, The Virginia Gazette, it was apparent it was not enough.

Mt. Vernon has become more aggressive in letting people know about us and our location. Bob and Carole Dishman, had a sign made to put in the median of Richmond Road on Sunday mornings and for special events to raise more attention to the church. Events are advertised on the local radio station, taking advantage of the religion section of the VA Gazette: putting in pictures and various articles of not only Mt. Vernon, but the James City Chapel Cemetery as well. Colorful informational flyers about events are placed in the post office and library. Also, when we have events we have information about the history of Mt. Vernon and ask people if they would like to see the sanctuary that is 127 years old.

Besides advertising, Mt. Vernon UMC has a Visitation Committee which makes personal contact with our visitors and homebound members. Pastor Craig sends a Welcome card to all new visitors. The Visitation Committee also contacts members who have missed 2 or 3 services to determine if they need help. We have several new couples visiting and have indicated an interest in joining Mt. Vernon.

Our membership is actively involved in local ministries outside the church such as: "Proclaiming Grace Thrift Shop", "FISH", and "From His Hands". These organizations help the least of these in our community. We also partner with "Faith in Action" a local outreach in the community. With outside activities as well as in-house events we have badges for the members to wear that states Mt. Vernon Cares about the people and community. There is an active prayer shawl ministry that has provided shawls to church members, friends, and family. The shawls has been received in 17 states and 6 countries. We continue to have Senior Workshops that are open to the community. Pastor Craig and a team of five people attended the District training for "How to Reach New People" are and currently implementing the concepts from our training.

Mt. Vernon has worked diligently on increasing our payments for apportionments. Our 2015 budget will bring us up to 90.8% of the Conference apportionments and 100% of the District apportionments.

Our leaders are working very hard to ensure that Mt. Vernon's membership is active and we are reaching out in the community and bringing in new members. We are encouraged by the process we are making, but we have more work ahead.



UMW NEWS



United Methodist Women Report Taken from Mt. Vernon's 2014 Charge Conference Submitted by Nora Abbott, UMW, Chairperson

Mt. Vernon has three active circles that make up the United Methodist Women. They are Mary and Martha, Susan Richards and Susanna Wesley. Between the three circles there are approximately 36 members and 4 honorary members.

The circles meet monthly at various times and places with two being at Mt. Vernon and one rotates at a member's home. Devotions are read at the beginning of each circle meeting and the circles have a program presented by a member or guest speaker, then a discussion on how to help within the community. The programs range from studying Bishop Cho's York River Prayer Guide to discussing Christian articles from newspapers or magazines to articles from Response, a UMW magazine on missions.

As followers of Christ the women give their time, talents and giving to better the community and Mt. Vernon.

The women volunteer their time at FISH and Proclaiming Grace. Both organizations help the working poor within the community. Dinners are served to the James City Board of Agriculture. The funds raised by serving the dinners are given to missions throughout the community and world. The women also remember the homebound of Mt. Vernon by sending Thanksgiving and Christmas cards. Cards are sent to church members who are ill and widows.

Some of the organizations the circles support are:

Dream Catchers, Hospice House, From His Hands, The Heifer International Project, The Pastor's discretionary fund, Meals on Wheels, Wesley Community Service Center, Karios Prison Ministries (baking cookies), collecting and mailing supplies and treats to soldiers in Afghanistan, UMCOR Kits and donations to help families in need.

The circles help with the annual yard sale and Holiday Bazaar with bake goods, homemade crafts, setting up and working at the events. This is not only a time for fellowship for the women it also is interaction with the people within the community.

The UMW had their annual meeting with all 3 circles and the guest speaker was Melanie, King, the founder of Proclaiming Grace Outreach ministries. The women made a donation of \$120.00 and it raised awareness for the Proclaiming Grace Outreach and the needs they have.

Mary and Martha Circle

The Mary & Martha Circle met Tuesday evening, December 2, and completed their mission work as follows:

Christian Appalachian Project, \$75.00, Dream Catchers,\$100.00, From His Hands, \$75.00, Hospice, \$100.00, A sheep for Heifer, \$120.00 Mt. Vernon General Fund, \$400.00, Pastors David's Pastoral Fund, \$300.00, American Veterans' Dogs \$100.00, Letitia's House, \$100.00 and the renewal of the Response, \$24.00 for a grand total of \$1,394.00.

As chairperson of this Circle, I am extremely proud of the members, although short in numbers, the work they do, the cooperation and the fun in doing it. Thank you.

Our next meeting will be held in the Wesley Room of the church at 7 pm on Tuesday, January 6 with Suzanne Latimer as hostess and Sue Warman in charge of the program. All ladies are welcome.

June Kasperek

Holiday Bazaar Update

This year, our Holiday Bazaar earned \$3,707.41, the most we have earned since the start of it. I would like to give thanks to Betty Smith who stood in for me while I was mending and all the others who helped out, setting up, marking, and making the Brunswick stew etc. Also, I wish to thank George Nice, for his lovely contributions of the sugar chest and two rocking horses. **God Bless you for your beautiful handicrafts.**

June Kasperek

Flower News

"Bare branches of each tree on this chilly January morn look so cold so forlorn.
 Gray skies dip ever so low left from yesterday's dusting of snow.
 Yet in the heart of each tree waiting for each who wait to see
 new life as warm sun and breeze will blow, like magic, unlock springs sap to flow,
 buds, new leaves, then blooms will grow."
 - Nelda Hartmann, *January Morn* (Internet)

Anyone wishing to place flowers in the church for a special occasion will find sign up lists for 2015 on the bulletin board. If you have suggestions or need assistance, please contact Bonnie Sears at 566-0609 or via email at brb49@aol.com.

The Nominations and Leadership Development Committee would like to thank Sue Warman for being the coordinator of the alter flowers along with the coordinating the Easter Lilies and Poinsettias for the holidays for the past 6 years.



United Methodist Men Report
Taken from Mt. Vernon's 2014 Charge Conference
 Submitted by Richard Abbott, UMM, Chairperson

The UMM were very busy this last year. We continue to mow the church yard and grounds. Thank you not only to the UMM but also to men of the church who helped but do not belong to the UMM.

The UMM help and support the following Missions:

- From his hands, we donate monthly and have made a room available at the church to store food items. This storage helps FHH serving partners at this end of the county to pick up food supplies when needed.
- Have Valentine dinner with significant other (hopefully, the love of your life).
- Have a membership meal 2nd Monday of the month (off during the summer months).
- Provide evening meals for VBS week.
- Members provide time helping Proclaiming Grace Ministries in Barhamsville.
- Members help with Jenna bash at Rock-A-Hock yearly.
- Volunteer to ring bells for the Salvation Army at Christmas time.
- Help the trustees with projects at the church and parsonage.
- Have a 5th Sunday breakfast at the church. It is open to the entire church and provides a time of fellowship and good food.
- Help and sell hot dogs and sausage biscuits at Mt. Vernon's annual yard sale and holiday bazaar.

**United Methodist Men invites you to a
 Sweetheart Dinner on February 11, 2015**

The United Methodist Men invites you and your significant other to attend their annual Sweetheart Dinner at Red Lobster at 2100 Richmond Road, Williamsburg on February 11th at 6:30 pm.

This is a great opportunity to invite family and friends to attend this time of fellowship and get to know others outside of Mt. Vernon. Any questions please contact Richard Abbott or a member of the United Methodist Men. Each person is responsible for the cost of their dinner.



As a Faith Community You Give Hope to Others



As a Faith Community you have made a difference in the lives of the working poor and homeless residing in area hotels. As a member of the Executive Committee of From His Hands, I cannot put into words how proud I am to be a part of Mt. Vernon UMC, and how very much it is appreciated how the people of Mt. Vernon has embraced helping the hungry and homeless in our community. In 2014 with the United Methodist Men donating monthly to FHH, along with the individuals of the congregation, Mary and Martha Circle, a donation from the bazaar and memorials from Mark Cole approximately \$800.00 was given to FHH for leave behind bags. Not only was money given to help supply food for the leave behind bags, but members bought food in on their own and also hygiene products. With the money and food donations the churches who are able to serve the homeless, but do not have the funds for the leave behind bags have used the food stocked at Mt. Vernon. On behalf of The Executive Committee of FHH and the churches who use Mt. Vernon's pantry and the people we serve thank you!

Kim

As a Faith Community you have given your time, monetary donations and material donations to Proclaiming Grace Outreach. Proclaiming Grace is a mission of Tabernacle United Methodist Church. If you have any questions pertaining to Proclaiming Grace Outreach please contact Kay Rowe. Melanie King, the Executive Director of Proclaiming Grace Outreach noted in a thank you letter how many families has been served and the amount of food distributed. An excerpt from Ms. King's letter:

*" 2013 held more for Proclaiming Grace Outreach than we thought possible. **Our Food Pantry**, open on the first and third Fridays of each month, continues to serve on average 57 families each opening and was able to give away **76,000** pounds of food. **The Thrift Spot** showed record sales and continues to generate the income need to serve the community. It serves basic needs as well as a community gathering place of fellowship and sharing. **The Work Project Branch** was able to help change the lives of nine families with much needed home repairs. To read more, please go to our website at Pgova.com."*

As a Faith Community you have also given generously to the St. Olaf food pantry.

The pantry gives food weekly to people who would otherwise not be able to eat a meal without the food they receive from the pantry. Mt. Vernon fills the food basket for St. Olaf by bringing in food every week. The food is then taken to St. Olaf's by Pryia Mathew.

The above does not include what the UMW Circles nor the UMM give to various organizations. Your witnessing of caring about others is able to give hope to hundreds of people in our community and world-wide. Thank you!!

Community Lenten Services

At 7:00 pm

Mt. Vernon UMC is joining five other churches in the community for Lenten Services. Lent is the Christian season of preparation before Easter. Ash Wednesday marks the first day, or the start of the season of Lent, which begins 40 days prior to Easter (Sundays are not included in the count).

Lent is a time when many Christians prepare for Easter by observing a period of fasting, repentance, moderation and spiritual discipline. The purpose is to set aside time for reflection on Jesus Christ - his suffering and his sacrifice, his life, death, burial and resurrection. It is the sincere hope and prayer that you will be able to attend these meaningful services.

The Lent Services will be held at the following Churches:

February 18th -

Stonehouse Presbyterian Church

9401 Fieldstone Parkway, Toano

Speaker: Rev. James Nickols of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

February 25

Mt. Vernon United Methodist Church

7801 Church Lane, Toano

Speaker: Rev. Earnest Graham III of Hickory Neck Episcopal Church

March 4

Olive Branch Christian Church

7643 Richmond Road, Williamsburg

Speaker: Rev. Donna Desarro-Raynal of Stonehouse Presbyterian Church

March 11

Williamsburg Mennonite Church

7800 Croaker Road, Williamsburg

Speaker: Rev. David Craig of Mt. Vernon United Methodist Church

March 18

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

7479 Richmond Road, Williamsburg

Speaker: Rev. Richard Cline, Olive Branch Christian Church

March 25

Hickory Neck Episcopal Church

8300 Richmond Road, Toano

Speaker: Rev. David Lehman of Williamsburg Mennonite Church

January and February Birthdays and Anniversaries

January Birthdays

- 1 Wendalyn Shockley
- 6 Robert Fulks
- 7 Angie Frantz
- 8 Bonnie Sears
- 14 Betty Brantley
Richard Abbott
- 15 Bob Fulks
- 16 Stuart Short
- 17 JoAnn Strader
- 23 Michael Latimer
- 24 Jebadiah Boseck

February Birthdays

- 7 Dora Mae Martin
- 8 Charlotte Schmid
- 9 Edith Dinwiddie
- 22 Bob Delo
- 25 Barbara Hounshell



January Anniversaries

- 2 Daniel & Carol Curley
- 7 Ray & Sandra Stafford
- 19 Lanny & Betty Smith
- 20 Bob & Carole Dishman

February Anniversaries

- 4 Jim & Barbara Jones
- 9 Fred & Charlotte Schmid

We apologize if we have missed anyone's birthday/anniversary. Please call Kim and let her know. Thank you.

January and February Calendar

DINNERS		
JCC Board of Agriculture	Monday, Jan. 19 & Feb. 16	6:30 PM

MEETINGS		
Finance Meeting	Wednesday, Jan. 7 & Feb. 4	6:30 PM
Administrative Board	Wednesday, Jan 7 & Feb. 4	7:00 PM

UNITED METHODIST MEN		
UMM Meeting	Monday, Jan. 12 & Feb. 9	6:30 PM

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN CIRCLES		
Susan Richards	Monday, Jan. 5 & Feb. 2	1:00 PM
Mary & Martha	Tuesday, Jan. 6 & Feb. 3	7:00 PM
Susanna Wesley	Mon., Jan. 12 & Feb. 9	7:00 PM

WE CARE GROUPS			
We Care #1	Sun. Jan. 25	We Care #5	Sun. Feb. 22
We Care #2	Sun. Feb. 1	We Care #6	Sun. Jan. 4
We Care #3	Sun. Feb. 8	We Care #7	Sun. Jan. 11
We Care #4	Sun. Feb. 15	We Care #8	Sun. Jan. 18

MEETINGS/WORKSHOPS		
Staff/Pastor/Parish Meeting	Tuesday, January 6	6:30 PM
Bridge Workshops	Saturdays— Jan 10—31.	9:30—4:00
Reaching New People	Fri. Jan. 9 @ Fox's Ordinary	9:00 AM
Reaching New People Team Coaching		7:00 PM
District Leadership Training at Chestnut UMC in Newport News	Saturday, February 7	9:30-11:30 AM
Sweetheart Dinner @ Red Lobster	Wed. February 11	6:30 PM
Ash Wednesday Services	See Page 8 of Flame	7:00 PM

Special Sundays		
Human Relations Day	Sunday, January 18	Pamphlets on Information Table

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7801 CHURCH LANE
TOANO, 23168-9110

*The deadline for
the March—April
Flame is Monday
February 9th.*

**Thank you to all that help with the
production and contribution to the
newsletter.
Without you, we would not have
the *Flame*.**

**Mt. Vernon's web page has been
updated with a new look.
The website is:
[www.gbgm-
mc.org/mtvernontoano](http://www.gbgm-mc.org/mtvernontoano)**

Articles may be sent to:

The office at
Office.mtvernon@verizon.net
Telephone:
757-566-0162
Church Office
7801 Church Lane
Toano, VA 23168

Mt. Vernon's Vision Statement:

We seek to live and share the Gospel of Jesus Christ,
to nurture persons of all ages and circumstances for faithful
discipleship, and to transform faith into service to others.