

MOUNT VERNON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

7801 Church Lane, Toano, 23168-9110

<http://www.gbgm-umc.org/mtvernon>



The Flame

January—February Newsletter

VOLUME 1

January—February 2014

Dates to Remember

Wednesday Bible Study:

1:30 —3:00 pm

Sunday School at 9:00 am

Human Relations Day—

Sunday, January 19

Senior Ministry Steering

Committee — January 28

from 10:00—11:30 am

Words to ponder:

**It is impossible to be
negative while we are
giving thanks.**

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Pastor's Page

Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Janet and I pray you had a Blessed Christmas and a Gracious New Year. While the weather outside is chilly and cold, the outlook for Mount Vernon is warm and bright. The church year ended positively on many fronts. In terms of ministry and missions, we continued to serve the needy in the community as we partner with St. Olaf's Catholic Church by helping to stock their pantry. Each Sunday the basket by the fellowship hall is the place to drop off your food items. Please check the expiration dates. Each donation is a big help as each month St. Olaf's reports new clients and more families being served. The UM Men have partnered with From His Hands to feed the area needy. Our old food pantry room is the new stocking point for the Left Behind Bags which are give to each family to have snack foods over the weekend. You can support this ministry mission by making donations to the UM Men. For more information on this ministry please contact our Admin. Kim Romberg.

Of course, part of your offering dollars supports world wide mission work of the United Methodist Church through our apportionment giving. This year we reached a new record high in our apportionment! By your generous offerings and gifts Mount Vernon was able to pay eighty-six point six-nine percent. Give yourself a pat on the back! This years stewardship drive had an increase in pledges and pledge dollar amount! Thank you for your support of Mount Vernon and the local and world wide ministry missions.

I have a very positive outlook for Mount Vernon in terms of our leadership team. I am thankful for each leader because of your devotion and attention to details and getting your tasks completed in a timely manner. Ministry as a partnership is much easier as I



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can count on you to do your very best for God's work through the committee work and working together on each workshop, fund raising activity and fellowship groups. Mount Vernon is blessed to have a great congregation of people who are devoted to God, to the church and each other.

Our visitation committee is working hard at welcoming new visitors, and supporting our members by mailing cards and personal visits. I am happy to report this ministry is being very successful in their work. I am visiting new visitors and planning a new member Sunday in the very near future. **Please continue to welcome Mike and Paula Sumrall and Jim and Barbara Jones to our fellowship.**

Of course, none of these event could not be a success without them being undergirded and supported in prayer. The York River District has published a PRAYER GUIDE for each day of the week. This is in concert with Bishop Cho prayer covenant. "Bishop Cho has requested our churches and members to be a people of prayer. Leadership on the District are encouraging our churches to be actively moving to praying faithfully and fasting as the a Lord leads you for the prayer requests found in the guide. We join our voices together as we pray in these specific ways for God's work to be accomplished on our District and in the Virginia Conference."

"For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them."

Matthew 18:20 NIV

The prayer guide booklets are available in the church office or online from the church web site <http://mtvernonoano.org>. click on the download doc tab.

I agree with Bishop Cho that everything the does in worship, ministry and missions needs to be guided, directed and supported in prayer. As a people of prayer we can have a strong spirit led church for God.

It's Worth Pondering.....

Blessing in your service to God

Pastor David

Finance Corner

As with most churches the finance of the church is something many people are uncomfortable talking about. Many of you have strived to help meet the challenges financially of Mt. Vernon as you are able to. We thank you for that.

In 2012 we were fortunate to have closed the year out with a surplus in the checking account. We transferred that surplus to reserve fund. Unfortunately, for 2013 we had to transfer \$9548.34 out of reserve to pay bills in 2013. The majority of the money was transferred the first 4 months of 2013. With the yard sale, bazaar and your generosity the situation greatly improved. We ended 2013 with a surplus of \$6721.07 which was transferred to the reserve fund for emergencies for 2014. Thank you for your support of Mt. Vernon.



UMW NEWS



Susanna Wesley Circle

The Susanna Wesley Circle met at the Olive Garden in December for a time of fellowship and good food.

We will meet at Fran Delo's home on February 10th and Nora Abbots home March 10th. All ladies are welcome.

Susan Richards Circle

Susan Richards Circle met on January 6th and discussed the missions they supported and volunteered for in 2013. The circle will meet on February 3rd at 1:00 pm in the Wesley Room and discuss the missions they will be supporting in 2014.

All ladies are welcome to attend any of our meetings for a great time of fellowship. Being a member of Mt. Vernon is not a requirement to be a part of Susan Richards Circle.

Mary and Martha Circle

On December 2nd, the Mary and Martha Circle was able to give \$1,194.00 to various Mission projects. As chairperson of the Circle, I am proud to say thank you and God Bless you for all your hard work in making this possible. The Circle has lost 4 persons due to illnesses, but has been an inspiration in their spirit.

If any ladies reading this is interested in becoming a part of this Mission minded Circle, we would welcome you with open arms!!

The January 6th meeting will be held in the Wesley room at 7pm with Suzanne Latimer as hostess and Sue Warman with the program. From June Kasperek



As of December 3rd, the amount raised at the Holiday Bazaar is \$3,381.91. Thank you for those crafter, workers, Brunswick Stew cooks and all who participated in this endeavor. Next year, there will be two events, the yard sale and the bazaar.

UNITED METHODIST MEN

The United Methodist Men meet on the second Monday of each month at 6:30 pm in the Wesley Room. The meeting begins with a pot luck dinner than a discussion on various items they can do for Mt. Vernon and the community. All men of the church are welcome to attend any of the dinners/meetings. Being a member of Mt. Vernon is not a requirement.

In December the men rang bells for the Salvation Army and every month they donate money to From His Hands, a organization that helps feed the homeless in two area hotels.

Thank you for being a blessing to others.

If we thanked every person individually for what they do to support Mt. Vernon it would take the whole newsletter. So, we thank the leaders and those who serve on committees, the nursery workers, the people who decorate the church at Christmas, the United Methodist Men, The United Methodist Women Circles, the choir, the fellowship group, the teachers who teach Sunday school, prayer shawl ministry, giving an offering to support not only Mt. Vernon, but the various missions as a church that it supports. We thank those who work so hard at the yard sale and bazaar, keeping the church and parsonage looking nice and inviting. We thank you for showing God's love in all that you do!

Thank you for supporting St. Olaf Catholic Church Food Pantry and From His Hands. By supporting those two missions you are helping both organizations feed the hungry and homeless in our community. In November, St. Olaf provided food for 128 families and From His Hands fed approximately 620 people (including children). Both organizations are thankful to the people of Mt. Vernon for being a part of a church family that helps care for those in need. You truly are a blessing to so many in our community and right here at Mt. Vernon.



Flower News



"From December to March, there are for many of us three gardens - the garden outdoors, the garden of pots and bowls in the house, and the garden of the mind's eye."- Katherine S. White

<http://www.yakimaherald.com/news/yhr/sunday/1705526-8/master-gardeners-december-a-time-for-dreaming-about>

Anyone wishing to place flowers in the church for a special occasion will find a sign up lists for 2014 on the bulletin board. If you have suggestions or need assistance, please contact Sue Warman at 566-0688 (home) or 570-0803 (cell) or via email at Warmanslea@aol.com.

Birthdays and Anniversaries for January & March

January Birthdays

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

January Anniversaries

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

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

February Birthdays

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



February Anniversaries

- 9 Fred & Charlotte Schmid

Did You Know...

1. Over fifteen million people have the same birthday as you.
2. In the distant past, it was only kings that had birthday parties because no one else was considered important enough to have a celebration.
3. The world's largest birthday cake was created in 1989 for the 100th birthday of the city of Fort Payne, AL. The cake weighed over 128,000 pounds. More than 16,000 pounds of that was icing.
4. The Germans created the first birthday cake about 200 years ago. It was made from sweetened bread dough topped with sugar.
5. In England when you reach one hundred years of age, you receive a telegram from the Queen.
6. Almost two billion dollars is spent in the United States annually on birthday cards.
7. The most common birth date in the USA is October 5th.
8. The song Happy Birthday is copyrighted and makes around two million dollars a year from licensing fees.

Source: www.grammarmancomic.com/factsbirthdays.

January and February Calendar

CHOIR	Every Thursday	7:00 PM
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DINNERS		
JCC Board of Agriculture	Monday, Jan. 20 & Feb. 17	6:30 PM

MEETINGS		
Finance Meeting	Wednesday, Jan. 8 & Feb. 5	6:30 PM
Administrative Board	Wednesday, Jan 8 & Feb. 5	7:00 PM

UNITED METHODIST MEN		
UMM Meeting	Monday, Jan. 13 & Feb. 10	6:30 PM
5th Sunday Breakfast	Sunday, Jan. 26	9:15 AM

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN CIRCLES		
Susan Richards	Monday, Jan. 6 & Feb. 3	1:00 PM
Mary & Martha	Monday, Jan. 6 & Feb. 3	7:00 PM
Susanna Wesley	Mon., Jan. 13 & Feb. 10	7:00 PM

WE CARE GROUPS			
We Care #1	Sun. Jan. 1 & Feb. 23	We Care #5	Sun. Jan. 26
We Care #2	Sun. Jan. 5	We Care #6	Sun. Feb. 2
We Care #3	Sun. Jan. 12	We Care #7	Sun. Feb. 9
We Care #4	Sun. Feb. 19	We Care #8	Sun. Feb. 16

MEETINGS/WORKSHOPS		
Staff/Pastor/Parish Meeting	Tuesday, January 14	6:30 PM
Lay Pastoral Care Training	Wed. Jan. 22 & No meeting in Feb.	7:00 PM
Senior Ministry Steering Com.	Tuesday, January 28	10:00 AM
Annual District Board of Missions meeting	Saturday, February 8 at Crooks UMC in Yorktown	10:00 AM
Cemetery Committee	Wed. February 19	7:00 PM

Special Sundays		
Human Relations Day	Sunday, January 19	Pamphlets on Information Table

MOUNT VERNON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
7801 CHURCH LANE
TOANO, VA 23168

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**

Articles may be sent to:

Kay Rowe, Editor
jesseandkay@hotmail.com

Home telephone:

757-566-0136

Church Office:

757-566-0162

7801 Church Lane

Toano, VA 23168

Please Keep in Your Prayers

Please pray for the following: Our Military, Our leaders, Mark, Jeff, Mel, Stewart, Florence, JoAnn, Debbie, Lisa, Betty, Bert, Diana, Wendalyn, Melissa, Timothy, Ily, Helen, Elmer, Phyllis, Becky, Stella, Angel, Sue, Marcy, Dora, Leta, Sue, Dick, Mark, Sandra, Haley, Alan, Anna, Shirley, Elizabeth, Jack, Jesse, LeAnn, Mike, Helen, Nicole, Robert, Debbie, Ricardo, Ruth, for all students and staff members of all schools across the country, Maggie and Jordan.

We may not know their last name, but if we lift them up in prayer God will know the needs of each and every one we pray for. Please make a commitment to say the above names in prayer once a day.

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.