

MOUNT VERNON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

7801 Church Lane, Toano, 23168-9110

<http://mtvernontano.org>



The Flame

May-June Newsletter

VOLUME III

May-June 2015

Dates to Remember

Sat, June 13 at 1pm—
Pastor David's and Janet
farewell party

Sunday, June 14 Pastor
David's last sermon at Mt.
Vernon

June 19-21— Annual Con-
ference

July 1 Reverend Tang ar-
rives

July 5—Rev. Tang's first
Sunday at Mt. Vernon

Monday, July 13 from 1-3
pm Bunco.

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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. This is my last newsletter before my retirement. It has been an honor serving each and every one of you. My tenure here at Mount Vernon has been almost half of my ministerial career. It has been the highlight and the most blessed part of my ministry. Thank you for all the years for faithful partnership in the ministry making disciples for the transformation of the world.

With Pastor Tang the work of the ministry will continue at Mount Vernon. In support of the ministry the Reaching New People Team, [Betty Smith, Jim & Barbara Jones, Gene & Shirley Turner, Richard & Nora Abbott, Alan Palmer and Jesse Rowe] will be continuing in building relationships with people within the community. This effort is to make relationships with people in the hope and prayer that our witness as Christians will lead others to a place where we can share information about Mount Vernon. They will see Mt. Vernon, as a friendly active church with our missions and outreach that will lead them to come and visit us in worship. We are not leading them to discipleship or to salvation, we simply want to establish a friendship that will enable the grace of God to work in their lives and come to a place where He can lead them into His salvation, and a relationship with a church community. The team cannot do the work of the whole church! More people need to become involved in this vital ministry. We are all called as Christians to witness and to share the love of God with others.



(Continued from page 1)

Reaching New People is a very easy way to establish these types of relationship. I invite each of you to talk with a team member and see how you can become a part of this vital ministry that will transform our church into a vibrant growing church.

The ministry of the Reaching New People Team means the church will be in a positive state of transition. We are experiencing new visitors and new members which is a blessing. This sometimes leads to change. New faces, new energy, new ministries is what churches need to grow and minister to others. Brothers and Sisters change can be a good thing. To be a vital growing church there needs to be change to evolve. We need to embrace the fact of growing and some changes will be good for Mount Vernon.

The next new face will be that of your new pastor, Rev. Ann On-Lin Tang. Rev. Tang has been an ordained elder in the United Methodist Church in the Virginia Conference for the last seventeen years. She has pastored UMC churches in VA at, Sherbourne, Richmond District; Rapidan, Charlottesville District; Mt Laurel, Farmville District; Assoc. at Immanuel, Alexandria District and before coming to us she is currently a Major in the Army Chaplain Corp. The Staff/Pastor Parish Relationship committee has met with her and are excited about how the church will grow in her leadership. Rev. Tang fits the requirements the Staff/Pastor Parish Relationship committee outlined in the church profile. Rev. Tang is excited about the appointment and is looking forward to being your pastor. I pray that in all the changes of clergy this year as in ever year you will accept and welcome Rev. Tang as your pastor. Her first Sunday will be July 5th. I pray that will be a very special day in the life of the church as you welcome and worship with her together.



I am confident that God has prepared you with the gift of the Holy Spirit to be a great Church! Mount Vernon has grown over the years and has deepen its faith and is now lead by the Holy Spirit. I pray that the spirit of Christ that lives in each of you will continue to be blessed and be highly favored. Ministry is really a partnership. The work of the church cannot be done by the laity or clergy alone. It must be a partnership in order for it to thrive and to grow and to effect change in the world. I am confident in Pastor Tang's ability to lead Mount Vernon into the future.

May God richly bless you and keep you, make his face to shine upon you, and give you peace.

Blessings in our Work for the Kingdom
Pastor David

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.

Biography on Rev. Ann On-Lin Tang

Rev. Ann Tang's Christian faith traces back to her great-grandfather who was the first convert in his village when the missionary came to China. She received her personal salvation at 12 years old. Rev. Tang was called to ministry in 1983 and prepared for full time ministry in the United Methodist Conference of Hong Kong and then in the Virginia Conference here in the States.

Arriving here from Hong Kong in 1992, Rev. Tang set out to give something back to her new country, Rev. Tang became a citizen of the United States in 2005.

Rev. Tang has been an ordained elder in the United Methodist Church in the Virginia Conference for the last seventeen years. She has a Masters in Divinity and a Doctorate Degree. She has pastored the following churches; Sherbourne UMC, on the Richmond District, Rapidan UMC, on the Charlottesville District, Mt Laurel UMC on the Farmville District, and Associate Pastor at Immanuel UMC in the Alexandria District.

With an endorsement from her church and recommendations from her supervisors, Rev. Tang attended the Chaplain Officer Basic Course (CHOBC). Serving in extension ministry beyond the local church Rev. Tang was appointed to serve in the United States Army as a Chaplain. Chaplain Tang has achieved the rank of Major in the U.S. Army. Chaplain Tang provides pastoral care, counseling, suicide prevention classes and worship services. In addition, she regularly sends letters to Soldiers who are being deployed. "It's a personal touch, being able to touch those people, give them hope," adds Chaplain Tang. "It makes me feel good that my ministry is very effective in that way." For Chaplain Tang, helping others spiritually is the greatest reward of all. And as a detachment Chaplain, she is able to serve the Soldiers wherever they go, from an Army post to different countries around the world. Alongside with pastoring churches and military obligation, she volunteers in hospital and prison ministries.

When asked what she would say to encourage fellow clergymen to join the military, she says simply, "Being a Chaplain is a calling, and the decision can be a difficult one. For me, the bottom line is this: If you don't have a country, you don't have a home."

Chaplain Tang is ending her active duty service and will be transferring to the Army Reserves. While Rev. Tang will again be appointed to serve a local church in the Virginia Conference, she will also have some reserve duties. Taking her personal vacation time, to fulfill these reserve obligations. The Staff/Pastor Parish Relationship committee has approved her use of vacation time to complete her last year and a half obligations. Rev. Tang's primary obligations will be to serve Mount Vernon in our efforts to lead people to the transforming love of God. Continue to lift her up in your prayers as she comes to partner with you in ministry.



UMW NEWS



Susanna Wesley Circle

The Susanna Wesley Circle meets on the second Monday of each month at 7:00 pm at a member's home. For more information on the Susanna Wesley Circle please contact Kay Rowe at 566-0136.

Susan Richards Circle

The Susan Richards Circle will meet on May 4th at 1:00 p.m. Sharron Ridpath will hostess and Carole Dishman will give the devotion. Anna Bryant will present the program entitled "Don't Judge a Book By It's Cover". In June, we will meet on June 1st at 11:30 am at the home of Betty Smith for our annual picnic. Betty and Scotty Beachum will hostess and Charlotte Schmid will give the devotion. All ladies are invited.

Mary and Martha Circle

The Mary and Martha Circle will meet on Tuesday, May 5th at 7:00 pm in the Wesley Room. Hostess is Sue Warman with Marika Garms in charge of the programs. We are pleased to welcome Helen Anderson who joined the circle in April. Please bring all kits, if completed, to get ready for conference. All ladies are invited!

United Methodist Women

Thank you to all who have bought in the Farm Fresh receipts, box top labels and stamps. The stamps are being sent to UMCOR while the Farm Fresh receipts and box top labels will be given to James River Elementary school and Norge Elementary school.

Save the date...The United Methodist Luncheon is scheduled for Saturday, September 12th from 11:30 am—1:30 pm. The guest speaker is a member of St. Olaf Food Pantry to explain how the food pantry works and how many people they serve.

Thank you to Mary and Martha Circle, Susanna Wesley Circle and the Susan Richards Circle for all their work towards local and world-wide missions. Each circle does a program and a devotion that strengthens their relationship with each other and God.



The United Methodist Men meet the second Monday of every month at 6:30 pm for dinner, fellowship and to discuss projects and missions they can help with. The UMM do not meet in July and August.

The UMM will have their 5th Sunday breakfast on May 31 at 9:00 am. This is a great time for fellowship before Worship. The UMM continue to volunteer at Proclaiming Grace and give a monthly donation to From His Hands. For the yard sale the UMM sold sausage biscuits in the morning and hot dogs in the afternoon. The proceeds from the sales go towards missions within the church and community.

Volunteers are need to help cut the grass at Mt. Vernon. If you are able to help please see the sign up sheet on the bulletin board in the Narthex or contact Richard Abbott at 759-1970.

Yard, Plant and Bake Sale

Thank you to all who bought items in, set – up, bought in items for the bake sale, worked the day off and help with putting the fellowship back into order after the yard sale.

The yard sale takes many hours of preparation and dedicated people to be here each day to accept items and price each item. While it is work it is also a time for fellowship. That was evident by the laughing that could be heard while people were working.

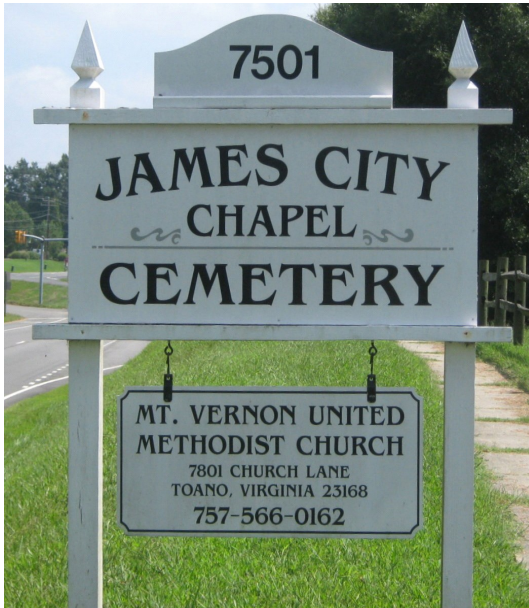
The committee of the yard sale would like to recommend to the finance committee and the administrative board that the proceeds from the sale go towards the general budget as well to community missions and Reaching New People Ministry.

Let's not keep Mt. Vernon a secret!

One of the issues Mt. Vernon has faced is while we have been in the community for years, many people do not know where Mt. Vernon is located.

The Reaching New People team suggested that an advertisement for Mt. Vernon be placed in the VA Gazette. Alan Palmer asked for donations and the people responded! Mt. Vernon is now in the VA Gazette every Saturday and we have had visitors as a result of the ad. On behalf of the Reaching New People Ministry and the Finance Committee **thank you** for your donation to help us advertise in the VA Gazette weekly.

One thing that catches a person's eye is **pictures**. Please submit jpg. pictures to Kim, when you have a meeting or event, so she can please them in the VA Gazette. As the saying goes a picture is worth a 1000 words.



LAST CHANCE TO SAVE ON BURIAL PRIVILEGES

Looking for a place for your eternal rest? Consider the James City Chapel Cemetery, owned by Mount Vernon UMC, and cared-for through a continuing ministry of the church.

Current rates of \$200.00 for a full-size (4' X 8') burial plot and \$100.00 for a 4' X 4' cremation burial plot will expire on June 30, 2015. A 4' X 8' plot will accommodate a casket for the traditional burial of one person, or the vault burial of the cremains of two people. The 4' X 4' plots accommodate vault burial of the cremains of one person. (Burial of cremains

requires a cremains burial vault.)

In June 2014, the Administrative Counsel of the church adopted rules and regulations governing the cemetery. As part of that action, the cost of burial privileges was set at \$500.00, plus \$250.00 Perpetual Care Fee for a full-size 4' X 8' burial plot, and \$250.00, plus \$125 Perpetual Care Fee for a 4' X 4' cremation burial plot.

The new costs become effective July 1, 2015, and are well below the cost of burial privileges in local commercial cemeteries, while providing the money needed to maintain the fund for continuing perpetual care of the cemetery.

Under the new rules, burial privileges are available to people on the full-membership roll and the constituent membership roll of Mount Vernon UMC, as submitted for the Annual Charge Conference records. Burial privileges for those members are extended to members of their immediate families (spouse, children and parents). Exceptions may be granted at the discretion of the Cemetery Committee.

If you have an interest in obtaining burial privileges for you or your loved ones in the James City Chapel Cemetery at the current rates please contact Bob Dishman (757-250-3365 or bobdishman@cox.net) for assistance with your needs.

Become a “Go To” Person



When you visit with one of our seniors and recognize a need that the person(s) has, do you wish that you could tell him/her about community resources that are available to help him/her with the problem that is being faced? Perhaps, you have heard of resources being available, but just don't quite know how to connect your friend(s) with the right organization or person.

Williamsburg Faith in Action (WFIA) and Mount Vernon UMC are partners in helping seniors remain living in their homes. WFIA has recently started a training program to help churches and other community organizations become more familiar with the helpful resources that are available to seniors in our church and the community.

The goal is to have several people in each church or organization become knowledgeable of the resources available. When a need is discovered by someone visiting one of our members, the volunteer “go to” person would be able to advise them about the resources available and help to connect the “need” with the “resource”.

Volunteers will receive 2-hours of training at the Williamsburg Faith in Action office.

Mount Vernon UMC would like to have two or more trained “go to” volunteers in our church. If you are interested, please contact Bob Dishman (757) 250-3365 or bobdishman@cox.net for more information about the program.



Finance Corner

You may have noticed some of the improvements around the church in the past months. The bathrooms have been painted, gravel placed in the parking lot, the sanctuary windows have been re-glazed. At the parsonage the front porch is near completion, the parsonage basement repaired and some painting in the parsonage. The funds to do the improvements were bequeathed to Mt. Vernon to be used for maintenance and upkeep of the church and parsonage.

The trustees are reviewing other items that are needed for the church and parsonage. While the list is long of things that need to be done at the church and parsonage the trustees are also keeping in mind the funds were entrusted to them. As good stewards of the funds they are meeting on a regular basis to discuss and prioritize the items that need to be done.

While those who have been attending Mt. Vernon for years and love the church it is important to do improvements as the first impression visitors have is when they walk through the doors of Mt. Vernon.

We are thankful for the persons who included Mt. Vernon in their estate. In talking with the families who handled the bequest, they would tell of the love their parents had for Mt. Vernon. Their memory and generosity will be remembered for many years for those who made the donation. We are also thankful to the trustees and all who volunteer their time and talents to Mt. Vernon. God has blessed Mt. Vernon for many years and His blessings continue to reign at Mt. Vernon.

Also, thank you to the Trustee's under the leadership of Jim Jones to ensure that Mt. Vernon and the parsonage is not only in working order but gives a good first impression for our members and visitors.

For March and April approximately \$1494.55.00 was transferred from the reserve account to the general checking account to pay the monthly expenses.

The 2015 budget is \$119,963.00 and \$9996.92 is needed each month to meet our expenses. The first quarter (January-March) in order to meet the expenses \$7642.13 was transferred from the reserve fund to general checking.

In many cases the first quarter (January-March) and the third quarter ((July-August) are challenging to churches with the high cost of heat and weather conditions in the first quarter and people on vacations in the third quarter.

If you are unable to attend a Sunday there are various options to be able to give. You may mail your check directly to Mt. Vernon, or on-line through your bank and through E-Giving.

The finance committee thanks you for your faithfulness in your giving.

We Give Thanks to....

Thank you to the cemetery chairman, Bob Dishman and the cemetery committee for working on preparing policy and procedures for the James City Chapel Cemetery. **A big thank you to Richard Abbott** for mounting a loose stone of one of the people who are buried there. Also, **thank you to Betty Smith** for the flowers she places at the entrance of the cemetery.

From Linda Denis & family: “On April 29th a memorial service was held for Bob Denis in the United States Naval Academy Chapel officiated by Chaplain Michael Gore, a Methodist minister. Immediately following the service, an inurnment with full Military Honors were conducted at the Academy Columbarium. Linda and her family would like to thank everyone for their kindness and prayers, especially Pastor David and Janet”.

Thank you to Payten Harcum for leveling and spreading the gravel in the parking lot with his tractor.

Thank you to all who volunteer in the nursery and teach Sunday school. The nursery is for age's newborn to 6 years. If you would like to volunteer for the nursery please contact Betty Brantley.

Thank you to all donate to the Pastor's Fellowship Fund that helps people who are having temporary hardships.

Thank you to the United Methodist Men and to those who give a monetary donations to From His Hands and donate non-perishable food. From His Hands averages approximately 200 meals a week serving the hungry and homeless who reside in 3 motels in the greater Williamsburg area and in the Grove Community of James City County.

Thank you to all who brings in Food each Sunday for St. Olaf pantry.

Thank you to those who volunteer to cut the lawn and do repairs and cosmetic jobs at Mt. Vernon and the parsonage.

Thank you to the circles: Mary and Martha, Susan Richards and Suzanna Wesley who donate to missions not only in the community but world-wide.

Thank you for reaching out in the community with various events. Bunco is one of the events for reaching out in the community and has been a big success.

There are many other things people do quietly behind the scenes not only for Mt. Vernon but within the community. Philippians 2:4-5 describes the people of Mt. Vernon beautifully.

*“Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others too.
You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had.”*

May Birthdays

- 4 Eileen Launtenslager
 7 Florence Cottrell
 9 Mel Bryant
 11 Jack Kendall
 12 Barbara Morse
 13 Brian Morris
 14 Lew Launtenslager
 15 Mary Sharp
 18 Betty Thorp
 23 Anthony Joines
 27 Leta Beck
 30 Leanna Short
 31 Allyson Short
 Robert Howard

June Birthdays

- 4 Paula Sumrall
 6 Bob Denis
 7 Adam Kendall
 10 Fran Delo
 17 June Kasparek
 18 Annette Ranger
 Kim Ivey
 19 Mark Shockley
 30 Helen Palmer



May Anniversaries

- 1 Ken & Scotty Beachum
 Jebadiah & Rebecca Boseck
 20 David & Mary Sharp
 Stuart & Allyson Short
 24 Gene & Shirley Turner
 25 Mike & April Guminsky

June Anniversaries

- 10 Jack & Carol Kendall
 19 George & Dora
 29 Bob & Fran Delo



Happy anniversary!

wedding-anniversarywishes.com

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

May and June Calendar

CHOIR	Every Thursday	7:00 PM (<i>Last Practice June 4</i>)
DINNERS		
JCC Board of Agriculture	Thursday, May 18 & No June Dinner	6:30 PM
BIBLE STUDY	Every Wednesday In May	10:00 AM
MEETINGS		
Finance Meeting	Wednesday, June 3	6:30 PM
Administrative Board	Wednesday, June 3	7:00 PM
UNITED METHODIST MEN		
UMM Meeting	Mon., May 11 & June 8	6:30 PM
5th Sunday Breakfast	Sunday, May 31	9:00 AM
UNITED METHODIST WOMEN CIRCLES		
Susan Richards	Mon., May 4 & *June 1	1:00 PM
Mary & Martha	Tues., May 5 & June 2	7:00 PM
Susanna Wesley	Mon., May 11 & June 8	7:00 PM
WE CARE GROUPS		
We Care #1	May 17	We Care #2 May 24
We Care #3	May 31	We Care #4 June 7
We Care #5	May 18	We Care #6 June 21
We Care #7	May 3 & June 28	We Care #8 May 10
DATES TO REMEMBER		
Piano Recital – Karen Queen	Tuesday, May 6	6:00 – 9:00 PM
Mother's Day	Sunday, May 10	
Bunco Group	Mon., May 11 & June 8	1:00 – 3:00 PM
Pastor David's Farewell Party	Saturday, May 13	1:00 PM
Memorial Day	Monday, May 25	Office Closed
Pastor David's Last Sunday	Sunday, June 14	
Annual Conference	June 19-21	

Notes: The Susan Richards Circle will have their annual picnic on Monday, June 1st at 11:30 am at Betty Smith's house.

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

*The deadline for
the July—August
Flame is Monday,
June 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

Articles may be sent to:

Kim Romberg
Office.mtvernon@verizon.net
Church Office:
757-566-0162
7801 Church Lane
Toano, VA 23168



Pastor David—Thank you!

For all the times you walked with us and guided us through the years,
The times you stopped and answered why helped us learn and understand
which kept your flock from going astray.

Knowing you were a phone call away
when we could not keep our sorrow at bay.

There were baptism, weddings, visits, sermons and funerals to plan.

You did all of that like it was part of God's plan that is so grand.

Your time you always shared with us, and didn't make a fuss.

We wish you and Janet the very best that comes your way,
and for you we will always pray.

SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, June 13th at 1:00 pm: Farewell/Retirement
Luncheon honoring Pastor David and Janet on the occasion of his retirement.
Please RSVP to Betty Smith at 566-2376.