

MOUNT VERNON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

7801 Church Lane, Toano, 23168-9110

<http://mtvernontoano.org>



The Flame

November—December Newsletter

VOLUME VI

November—December 2014

Dates to Remember

Sunday School at 9:00 am

Wednesday Bible Study—
1:30 pm

Scams that Target Seniors: Thursday, Nov 13
from 10:00 am—Noon

Thanksgiving Luncheon:
Sun., Nov. 23 @ 11:30am

Charge Conference: Sun.,
Nov. 23 at 1:30 pm

UM Student Day: Sun-
day, November 30

Christmas Eve Service:
Wed., Dec. 24 @ 7pm.

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Pastor's Page

Dear Saint's and Sinners,

Grace and Peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. How wonderful is this time of year? The crisp fall morning that warm to sunny afternoons, with the fall color of the leaves beginning to change. God has again painted his splendor color in the changing of the seasons.

Just as God has seasons in creation, which reminds us that God is never still, but always creating and recreating the world. God shows us that change is good. God embraces change.

In September a core group of six attended a two day workshop given by the York River District on **How to Reach New People**. The workshop was produced by Griffith Coaching Network. Their approach to evangelism comes from over twenty years of church planting and ten years of working with declining churches. What they found was churches today tend to be isolated from the community around them. They have become inward focused and just wait for new people to find them to join their church.

As Dr. Phil would say, *How's that working for you?* Not very well if we are honest about it. The studies and research from the church planters is they first focus on relations! **You have to go into the community to build a relationship first!** The model they have shared with the Reaching New People Team is to first establish a relationship with a person outside the church. An event they call "a elbow event" is where a team member and one or two other church members invites a non-church member to a normal, doable event, like lunch, garden club, going shopping,

(Continued on page 2)

that they can get to know the new person, and they can get to know the church members. After several “elbow event” where they have been introduced to several church member, they can be invited to a “handoff event” where they can come to the church in an activity outside of Sunday morning to meet more people. As the new person get to know more people it will be easier to invite them to Sunday morning workshop by saying, *Let me come by and pick you up on Sunday and come to church with me. You all ready know several people.* The expectation is because we have taken time to build the relationship the new person will feel welcome and will come and join in worship and membership.

The administrative council has approved a year long coaching program with the Griffith Coaching Network. The coaching sessions take place each month. One month the pastors in the District have a video session with Steve James, the coach. The next month the churches team member have a telephone coaching session. We have had our first sessions and it was very helpful.

Our task is for the six team members, Gene and Shirley Turner, Jim and Barbara Jones, Betty Smith and myself, to have the elbow events. We will be asking members to help us. If you feel lead to help us and would like to join the team please talk with me. The program starts with this small group, as we build the team, we will grow in how many people will be doing the elbow events. Of course, the whole church will be helping with the handoff events. The church Holiday Bazaar is our first handoff event.

This program of establishing relations and inviting people to church is our response to our church goal. *Goal 4: “The Administrative Council will model an ‘invitation to discipleship outreach’ for the congregation to follow by offering an invitation to a non-member to attend worship. The expected outcome is to have each church family have one new visitor per month.”*

The expected outcome of the Reaching New People program is not new visitor, but new members! The team is excited about our possibilities and look forward to reaching new people.

That is the team part of the program. As your pastor, I’m going to be out in the community. I need to be in community eight hours an week, which means I may not be in the office as much. As they suggest, I have made connections in two restaurants, New York Deli, and Fox’s Ordinary. I have met with Bobby the owner of New York Deli and Kurt the manager of Fox’s Ordinary to be in their establishment to establish a chaplain type relationship with staff and to as time goes by, to be able to establish a relationship with the regular customers. It is in building these relationship that I, as your pastor become the face of Mount Vernon in the community.

The entry point into our church will move from the front door of the church to the front door of a restaurant. People will find their way to Jesus and the church who would otherwise never, ever, even know our church existed. This is mission field work of the kingdom. To go into the world to share the Good News of the Gospel one person at a time. I invite you to pray each day for the team and myself as we reach out to offer Christ to the community.

"Dear God, your will. Nothing more, nothing less and nothing else. Amen."

Blessing and Prayers

CHARGE CONFERENCE

Mt. Vernon is hosting the Charge Conference on Sunday, November 23rd at 1:30 pm. We hope many of you will be able to attend to show your support for Mt. Vernon.



UMW NEWS



Susanna Wesley Circle

The Susanna Wesley Circle meets on the Second Monday of every month at 7:00 pm. The meetings are at one of the circle members home. For more information regarding the Susanna Wesley Circle please contact Carol Kendall at 565-2195.

Susan Richards Circle

The Susan Richards Circle will meet on November 3 in the Wesley Room at 1:00 p.m. Betty Brantley will be the hostess.

The Circle will have their Christmas Party in December at Betty Smith's home. Date and time to be announced later.

Mary and Martha Circle

Mary & Martha Circle are pleased to welcome two new members: Helen Palmer and Yve Grundy. Helen joined Mt. Vernon along with her husband, Alan in September, 2008. Yve is a constituent of Mt. Vernon.

The Circle will hold the traditional Thanksgiving dinner for the Agricultural Society on Monday, November 17 at 6:30 pm in Fellowship Hall, with approximately 40 attending.

The November Circle meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 4, in the Wesley Room of the church at 7 pm. Hostess will be Barbara Jones with Sue Warman in charge of the program.

The December meeting of the Mary & Martha Circle will also be held in the Wesley Room with June Kasparek as hostess. In lieu of a program, we will be giving monies to our favorite charities to complete our mission work for the year.

Holiday Bazaar 2014

Thank you to all who gave their time and talent making crafts, baked goods and Brunswick stew for the Holiday Bazaar. The Bazaar is not only a fundraiser for the church but also fellowship among members and most importantly a way for the members to interact with the community. While events such as a yard sale or bazaar may not bring new people to attend Mt. Vernon it is a way to reach the community. It is important that the people who come to our events leave with a positive, upbeat attitude about Mt. Vernon and the people. Thank you for being sure they do!

UNITED METHODIST MEN

The United Methodist Men and the men of the church who have volunteered to mow the grass are to be congratulated and thanked for their work. We have managed to keep the weeds at bay and the grass looking good. But, those pesky weeds keep winning the battle in the parking lot. It's getting to the point that we need to mow the parking lot. Those weeds think Pound Up is an appetizer.

Upcoming events will be:

- * Making sausage biscuits in the morning and hotdogs later in the day for the Holiday Bazaar on November 1st.
- * Planning to help with the Salvation Army with the bell ringing
- * Plans for the Sweetheart Dinner in February. (Feb 11th at Red Lobster)

The UMM meet the 2nd Monday evening at 6:30pm for a covered dish dinner. We have good fun and fellowship and all men of the church are invited to attend.



Flower News



"How silently they tumble down
And come to rest upon the ground
To lay a carpet, rich and rare,
Beneath the trees without a care,
Content to sleep, their work well done,
Colors gleaming in the sun.

At other times, they wildly fly
Until they nearly reach the sky.
Twisting, turning through the air
Till all the trees stand stark and bare.
Exhausted, drop to earth below
To wait, like children, for the snow."

- Elsie N. Brady, *Leaves* (Internet)

Once again Poinsettias will decorate the sanctuary during the Christmas season. More information will be available in December on the Poinsettia orders.

There are sign up sheets on the bulletin board for 2014. If you wish to place flowers in church for a special occasion, please sign up on the requested date. You may also contact Sue Warman at 566-0688 (home) or 570-0803 (cell) or via email at Warmanslea@aol.com.



Thank You For...Caring, Sharing & Giving Hope



Thank you for all the cards, letters, food, and emotional support with Mark's passing. And, a big thank you to Pastor David, Janet and especially to Kim Romberg for the board posted in the fellowship hall and all the editing she did on our memorials for Mark. Thank you Carol Kendall for the music and the solo it was beautiful.

Richard and Nora

St. Olaf Food Pantry Ministry would like to thank you and your congregation for their generosity and well wishes.

With the grace of God and your continued support St. Olaf will continue to provide food for those in need.

God Bless,

St. Olaf

Dear Mt. Vernon United Methodist,

On behalf of the staff and students at Norge Elementary, I would like to thank you for the generous donation of Kleenex. As the cold season approaches, I am sure we will put it to good use. Thank you for thinking of us!

Sincerely,

Dr. Kim Pickles, Principal
And staff.

Dear Rev. Craig:

Please convey the heartfelt thanks of the members of Stone House Presbyterian Church to the congregation of Mt. Vernon Church for their generous contributions of food for the "leave behind" bags of nutritious snack foods that our members distribute to guests of Motel 6. The donations from your church are of great assistance to our Outreach Team for the success of this ministry, and they make a significant difference in the lives of our working homeless neighbors living at Motel 6.

As you are aware, From His Hands ministry to feed hungry people is growing in the Williamsburg, James City County community, thanks to the cooperation of many local churches and businesses. We appreciate this opportunity to work with your congregation in this important mission.

Barry Phillips, Interim Pastor, SHPC

Thank you to Pastor David

David:

No one but you knows how much time and effort it has taken you to develop the church web site into a user-friendly and informative place to learn about our church...and its cemetery. The end result of that work is difficult to put your finger on. The accomplishment is typically rewarded only within yourself by knowing that you did a good job...an important job that needed to be done.

I just wanted to share with you an hour-long telephone conversation I had with a lady yesterday who was singing your praises. She had called the church and Kim gave her my number. It was a most enjoyable conversation.

She is a member of St. Luke's United Methodist Church in Fall Church, VA. Her church has inherited the responsibility for a cemetery, Pleasant Grove Cemetery that is about five miles from the church. Her past experience on the Board of Trustees marked her as the perfect candidate to oversee the cemetery. Her actions, so far, speak louder than words. I could tell that she is a go-getter, and will get the job done.

The cemetery and the church that owned it, Pleasant Grove Church, dates to 1895. It was an African-American Methodist denomination. Perhaps it was A.M.E. When the Pleasant Grove Church closed, St. Luke's was the closest Methodist Church to the cemetery, hence the District Office gave them responsibility for the cemetery.

She said that St. Luke's is a small church (maximum of 50 in attendance per Sunday). They now have a new pastor who is making a difference and they are optimistic about their future.

The Pleasant Grove Church building has been designated as a Historical Site and sits on the property. The church was founded by descendants of freed slaves beginning in 1882. They finally saved enough money to build the church in 1895. It is now a museum run by a volunteer organization named "Friends of Pleasant Grove", so Doris must work with that group in handling the cemetery affairs.

The lady from St. Luke's is retiree and must be pretty sharp on the computer. She had already made contact with the state and local agencies asking questions about rules governing cemeteries. She then went on the "hunt" to find church websites for churches that also had cemeteries. When she hit Mount Vernon's web site she said that "she struck gold". Thanks to the work of the cemetery committee on producing the rules and regulations, and thanks to your work making all of that information available on the web site, she had most of what she needed to move forward. She is already cutting and pasting our R & R's to suit the needs of her church and the cemetery. I emailed her anything I thought she could use.

David, if she was a school teacher, she would have given you an A+.

Thanks for your hard work on the web site.

Bob Dishman

Staff/Pastor/Parish/Relations Committee

The Staff Pastor Parrish Relations Committee has completed the church profile for 2015. The report summarizes the churches desires for a new minister and the possibility for future growth. I would like to thank the congregation for their input by answering the questions presented to them by the SPPR committee.

If you read the report, you would probably be able to identify some of your answers incorporated into the report. I would also like to give a very big thank you to Bob Dishman, Gene Turner and especially Betty Smith. Betty was able to take our ideas/ramblings and put them down on paper in a coherent manner.

James City Chapel Cemetery

For Anyone Interested in Being Buried in James City Chapel Cemetery

The new cemetery rules and regulations adopted by the administrative council in June included a price increase for the burial privileges in the cemetery. The current price of \$200.00 for burial in a 4' X 8' plot will continue to be in effect until June 30, 2015. After that, the price will increase to \$500.00, plus a perpetual care fee of \$250.00. The continuation of the existing price was made in order to allow church members to have time to take advantage of the current price before the increase takes effect.

Burial in the cemetery is restricted to members of Mount Vernon UMC and their immediate family members (spouse, children and parents). Others are at the discretion of, and with the approval of the Cemetery Committee. Church members include those listed in the Official Church Roll of the Charge Conference, including full members and constituent members. (See Section B, Paragraphs 4.0 and 4.1 of the Rules and Regulations.)



*In Remembrance of members, family and friends
of Mt. Vernon who have gone to Church Eternal in 2014*



Stewart Howard, Bert Minick, Roxie Sheldon, Mark Cole and Stella Earman

May the family and friends know the love and prayers that surrounded them and God's everlasting Grace. Each person holds a place in our hearts and will be remembered with fondness and love.

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life..

John 3:16

Mount Vernon United Methodist Church to Host Free Community Seminar “Scams that Target Seniors”

It is probably safe to say that everyone who reads this article has been the potential victim of a scam recently. You may have been fortunate enough to recognize the scam for what it was and avoided being taken in by the attempt to relieve you of your money or identity. Today, we are faced with more sophisticated scamming attacks than ever before. Technology is a wonderful benefit that helps to improve our daily lives by keeping us healthy, informing us on local and world events as they happen, and helping us to easily communicate with our friends and loved ones.

But technology also works against us by providing scam artists with tools that help them to commit scam operations on many people instantaneously with little fear of being tracked and caught in their efforts.

The seminar, “**Scams that Target Seniors**”, which will be held at Mount Vernon United Methodist Church on Thursday, November 13th, will help you become more fully aware of the scams that have targeted the seniors of our community. During the seminar Master Police Officer Alan McDowell, Jr. of the James City County Police Department will provide professional law enforcement advice on what to do to protect yourself from becoming a victim of a scam, and how to report suspicious calls, emails, door-to-door solicitations, and ads received in your mailbox.

Please plan to attend, and help get the word out to your friends, neighbors and relatives about the seminar.

Bob Dishman
Senior Ministries Steering Committee

Finance Corner

The Stewardship letters and the Confidential Estimate of Giving cards were distributed the week of October 26th along with the budget. If you have any questions on the budget please contact Alan Palmer, chair of the Finance Committee.

From January – October, 2014 \$5957.19 was taken out of the reserve fund to meet the expenses of Mt. Vernon. There is much work that needs to be done at the church and the parsonage that are “large ticketed” items that are not in the budget. The budget does allow for routine maintenance and upkeep for the church and the parsonage. Thank you to all who give faithfully for the mission of the church and to honor our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

November and December Calendar

CHOIR	Every Thursday	7:00 PM
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DINNERS		
VFW 8046 Meeting	Monday, Nov. 10 & Dec. 8	6:30 PM
JCC Board of Agriculture	Monday, Nov. 17	6:30 PM

MEETINGS		
Finance Meeting	Wednesday, Nov. 5 & Dec. 3	6:30 PM
Administrative Board	Wednesday, Nov. 5 & Dec. 3	7:00 PM
Reaching New People	Fri. Nov. 21 @ Fox's Ordinary	2:00 PM

UNITED METHODIST MEN		
UMM Meeting	Monday, Nov. 10 & Dec. 8	6:30 PM
5th Sunday Breakfast	Sunday, November 30	9:15 AM

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN CIRCLES		
Susan Richards	Monday, Nov. 3	1:00 PM
Mary & Martha	Tues., Nov. 4 & Dec. 2	7:00 PM
Susanna Wesley	Mon., Nov. 10 & Dec. 8	7:00 PM

FELLOWSHIP GROUPS			
We Care #1	Sun. Nov. 30	We Care #5	Sun. Nov. 2 & Dec. 28
We Care #2	Sun. Dec. 7	We Care #6	Sun. Nov. 9
We Care #3	Sun. Dec. 14	We Care #7	Sun. Nov. 16
We Care #4	Sun. Dec. 21	We Care #8	Sun. Nov. 23

DATES TO REMEMBER		
Charge Conference Reports Due	Monday, November 3	
Scams That Target Seniors Seminar—Open to Community	Wed. November 13	10:00—Noon
Thanksgiving Luncheon	Sunday, November 23	11:30 AM
Charge Conference at Mt. Vernon	Sunday, November 23	1:30 PM
Choir Christmas Program	TBA	10:15 AM
Christmas Eve Service	Wednesday, Dec. 24	7:00 PM
Office Closed	December 22—January 1	

Special Sundays		
UM Student Day	Sunday, November 30	Pamphlets on Information Table

November—December Birthdays and Anniversaries

November Birthdays

4	Gene Turner
5	Mary Jo Weldon
12	Karen Hobgood
18	Alan Palmer
27	Christopher Latimer

December Birthdays

3	Freddie Schmid
6	Winnie Curley
22	Carole Dishman
	Eddie Howard
25	Suzanne Latimer
28	Jim Jones



November Anniversaries

1	Michael & Suzanne Latimer
22	Gordon & Kim Ivey

December Anniversaries

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

The deadline for the January-February Flame is Wednesday, December 4th. Please email your articles to the office at Office.mtvernon@verizon.net

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

Words to Live By...

**Let Us Love
In Deed and Trust
And Not Merely Talk About It.**

**Do to others whatever you would like them to do to you.
This is the essence of all that is taught in the law and prophets.
Matthew 7:12**

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.**