



The Value of Lingering Relationships

I received a Thanksgiving card recently with an address I immediately recognized, Brunswick United Methodist Church, Crystal, MN, the congregation in Minneapolis I left nearly a year ago in our move to Virginia. I opened the card and was pleasantly surprised to see multiple signatures with the broad appellation, "Your Caring Ministry Team."

Near several of the individuals' signatures were greetings and questions ("How are you and your family?"). I smiled to myself, grateful for the relationships I have been blessed to cultivate in my years of pastoral ministry, and blessed to know that those I had most recently said goodbye to still consider themselves "my caring ministry team."

I've been thinking about the value of lingering relationships and how congregational life gives us the opportunity to know and be known across the months and years, and sometimes across the generations. Where else in our culture can you access on a regular basis such interesting, gifted, caring companions in the journey of life?

We enhance those possibilities for relationship with weekly worship and with other special opportunities,

especially during the Advent and Christmas season. I hope you are planning to be part of some of these moments together ...

- Sunday, December 11 (one service only at 11 A.M.) is Lessons and Carols
- Wednesday, December 14, is Children's Christmas Pageant (Wednesday night program) at 6:45 P.M.
- Sunday, December 18, worship with "God Will Give You a Sign!" as our theme – at regular service times
- Saturday, December 24, is Christmas Eve worship at 5:30 P.M. with special emphasis for families and children
- Sunday, December 25, is Christmas Day worship (one service at 10 A.M.)
- Sunday, January 1, is New Year's Day worship at regular service times

In the hustle and bustle of the season, let's remember that these are all great opportunities to invite someone to join us at church. What a perfect time to create and renew relationships that will continue to linger into 2017 and beyond!

Joy to you,
Pastor Bart

Brunswick Stew

Saturday, December 10

\$5.50/quart

Pick up at 11 A.M. in the church parking lot.

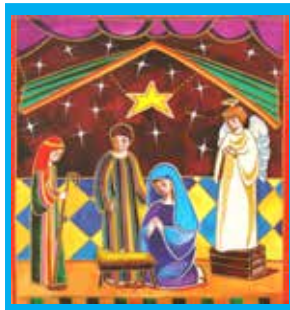
Proceeds benefit our Project Crossroads summer youth mission trip in July 2017.

Children's Christmas Pageant

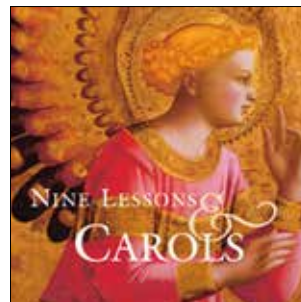
Wednesday, December 14

6:45 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Our children have been preparing for several months to share the story of the first Christmas. Through narration, drama, and song, they will tell how Jesus came, over 2,000 years ago, to be the ...



Light of the World



December 11
Service of
Nine Lessons
and Carols

11 A.M.
(No 8:30 service)

Christmas
Eve
Candlelight
Communion
Service

5:30 P.M.



Traditions in Worship: Nine Lessons and Carols

One of Mount Vernon's most-valued traditions is a worship service of Nine Lessons and Carols during Advent. Through time this service has continued to carry a powerful message about the meaning of the Christmas season to the people of Mount Vernon and the world.

The roots of this service can be traced to 1880 when the Anglican Bishop of Truro (England), E. W. Benson, composed a Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, based on ancient sources, for Christmas Eve. The service was then adapted in 1918 by Eric Milner-White, Dean of King's College in Cambridge. Lessons and Carols services are now typically associated with King's College.

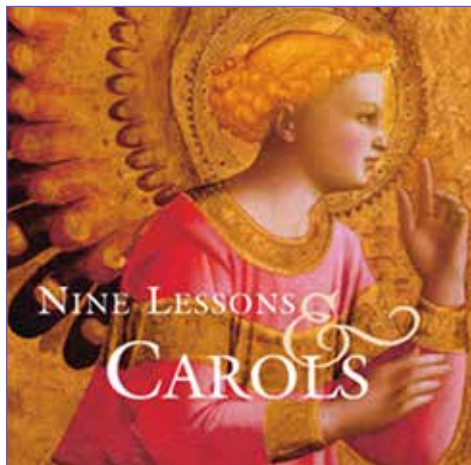
Many revisions have occurred as changes were made to accommodate different beliefs or worship practices. Even today's contemporary worship style has versions of Lessons and Carols. At Mount Vernon we have traditionally molded our Lessons and Carols service around the Anglican King's College version.

This year, Mount Vernon's service of Nine Lessons and Carols will come out of our United Methodist *Book of Worship*. The service will resemble those of recent years, but will offer new experiences to meet the need for consistent reminders of the meaning of the season and reflect Methodist practice, giving us a chance to be filled with something new.

We hope you will find deep meaning in this service and will take to heart the message of the season it brings.

— Tim Navis

December 11
at the
11 A.M. service



Children's Note Cards for Sale

Note cards designed by our children are being sold to benefit the Children's House Scholarship Fund. Cost is \$10.00 for a package of 12 cards. They make great stocking stuffers!

GODLY PLAY

Sundays, 9:45 – 10:45 a.m.

Lessons Coming Up...

CLASS 1: AGE 4 – GRADE 2

Dec. 11 – Advent III: The Shepherds

Dec. 18 – Advent IV:
The Wise Men
and Christmas

Jan. 8 – Holy Baptism

Jan. 15 – Response

Jan. 22 – The Exile and Return

Jan. 29 – Jonah, the Backward
Prophet

CLASS 2: GRADES 3 – 6

Massacre of the Innocent

Flight into Egypt

Baptism of the Lord

Response

The Story of Samuel

The Story of King David

Godly Play and preschool Sunday school classes will not meet on Christmas Day or New Year's Day. We will not have a nursery on Christmas Day or New Year's Day; children are welcome in the services.

UMWomen News

The General Meeting of the United Methodist Women will be **Monday, December 12**. Circle #1 will host a coffee at 10 A.M. in the fellowship hall, followed by a Christmas program presented by the children of Mount Vernon's Children's House. A business meeting will be held to approve the 2017 budget, to review our mission accomplishments, and to recognize our UMW officers. Please join us for this special time of fellowship.

— Rosalind Morton, President, UMWomen



DECEMBER 25
ONE WORSHIP SERVICE
AT 10 A.M.





She will give birth to a son, and you will call him

JESUS –*Matthew 1:21*

December 6, 2016

Dear Members of Mount Vernon Church:

Greetings to you and your family in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

The Advent season has begun, and as we ready ourselves for the joyful holidays, we write so that we may pause to reflect upon our blessings and our Christian calling to help and care for others.

This year, as is our tradition, our Advent/Christmas Offering will go to assist with a local mission need here in Danville.

Our Mount Vernon Children's House is celebrating 40 years of ministry to children. It has recently expanded to offer full-time day care in addition to our preschool program. As research is consistently showing the importance of quality preschool education, a scholarship to attend our program will be a transformative experience for a needy child.

At the recent Children's Sabbath worship service, our children introduced our 2016 Advent/Christmas Offering for a Children's House Scholarship. Our goal is \$7,000.00, and we have already received \$2,000.00 from the Mount Vernon Foundation toward this goal. The children distributed offering collection boxes they made themselves. Extra collection boxes are available if you did not receive one. Or you may wish to use an Advent/Christmas Offering envelope, found outside the church office.

On Sunday, December 18, we invite you to bring your Advent/Christmas Offering in the collection box or envelope to worship. We will dedicate the Offering during the service, and our children will see the fruits of their labor.

Of course, you may also mail your offering to the church office, which we will gladly receive through the end of this year (107 West Main Street, Danville, VA 24541).

May you and yours enjoy a safe and blessed Christmas season rich in love for others.

The Mount Vernon Mission Committe

Daniel Waters, Chair

**Children's House:
Celebrating 40 Years of Care
for the Youngest in Our Community!**

Currently Children's House serves 38 children ranging from 4 months old to four years old, and it's open five days a week, 7:00 A.M. till 5:30 P.M.

It has come a long way from the "Mother's Day Out" program that was its beginning, back in 1976!

Mount Vernon started that program to give stay-at-home moms a break, and so to attract and serve young couples with children. Church members including Ely Foster gave help and guidance. Eventually a preschool evolved, with Rebecca Yow, Mount Vernon's Director of Ministries, as its first director.



Rebecca Yow

Among the children in that early program were Elizabeth Leggett and Jason Payne, who are active members of Mount Vernon today. Now Jason's youngest child, Cutler, attends Children's House, as did Cutler's older siblings.

Today Children's House employs two lead teachers (Erin Orlowski and Sabrina Starling), two assistant teachers, 9 caregivers, and the director, Leslie Navis, a Mount Vernon member.



Erin Orlowski

The children have weekly music time with "Mr. Tim," Mount Vernon's music director. They learn songs related to classroom topics, and the older children use color-coded handbells to learn about the music alphabet and note reading. They even play simple pieces of music.



Sabrina Starling

At the recent Chili Cook-Off and Dessert Auction at Mount Vernon, \$1,136.35 was raised for the Children's House Scholarship Fund, which enables a child from a low-income family to enroll in this program. The 2016 Advent Offering at Mount Vernon will also be used for this fund.



Leslie Navis

Music with Mr. Tim: Kids use color-coded handbells to learn about "notes."



The Chrismon Tree in the Sanctuary

Thank you to all who helped transport this huge, beautiful tree, unload it, and decorate it with the Chrismons made over the years by Mount Vernon members.

A Tip for Year-End Giving

Gifts of appreciated assets – such as stocks, bonds, or mutual funds that have gained in value – provide an excellent tax-wise way to make gifts to the church. Such securities can be donated directly to the church. Donating appreciated assets usually allows the donor to avoid or defer the capital gains tax. These taxes would be owed if such assets were sold while still providing the maximum tax deduction allowed by law. In terms of tax benefits, it is often better to give appreciated assets rather than cash.

– Budge Kent, Treasurer, Mount Vernon Church

Our records of the early days of Children's House are sketchy, and we would like to gather more information for a permanent file. Do you have facts, memories, or photos concerning Children's House you could share?

If so, please contact the church office, 793-6824, or mtvernonumc@comcast.net.

(Photos will be scanned and returned.)



Our High School Youth Sunday school class is currently meeting in a storage/supply room! They are looking forward to moving into the current Young Adult classroom when the basement renovation is completed. Many thanks to Sam Newell, Derek Mitchell, Jason Payne, Dan Newell, Tom Underwood, Gary Benefield, Chuck Sampson, Tony Fletcher, Margaret Wooding, Bill Smith, and others who have been helping with the new classroom for the Young Adults; an improved meeting space for the Boy Scouts and AA chapter; an improved restroom; and a storage room for Children's House. Stop by to take a look, and be on the lookout for upcoming workdays as the project continues.

Remember: Use Amazon Smile

Amazon online shoppers, please remember that you can support Mount Vernon UMC Foundation by shopping through smile.amazon.com.

Log in through smile.amazon.com, and .5 percent of eligible purchases will be donated to your selected charity. You will have the same selection of products at the same prices as Amazon.com. If you are already an Amazon.com shopper, you will use your same login and password.



Mobile Giving App Available

With the free app for your cell phone you can now make your donations/pledges to Mount Vernon Church directly from your phone – any time, anywhere – using your credit or debit card, without going through the church website. Normal card fees apply.

The app is available for Apple or Android (at Google Play store) phones: search “Vanco payments.”



The General Council on Finance and Administration (GCFA) of the United Methodist Church has vetted and approved Vanco for online giving, and Vanco has served UM churches since 2002.

Supplies for Henry Fork Service Center

Henry Fork is in need of copy paper, colored pencils, construction paper, 1/2-inch clear tape, classroom clocks, and all sizes of Band-aids.

The **mitten tree** in Mount Vernon's hallway is loaded with mittens, gloves, scarves, and hats – many of them hand-made by our knitting group. People also bring supplies for Henry Fork and place them in the boxes under the mitten tree.

The deadline for bringing in mitten tree and Henry Fork items is **Thursday, December 15.**



Thank you to Jerry Franks, who repaired the three pairs of front doors to the sanctuary – just in time for the Advent wreaths



December 3:
Young Adult
families
decorate the
fellowship
hall.



Church Office Hours During the Christmas and New Year's Holidays

OFFICE CLOSED

Monday and Tuesday, Dec. 26 and Dec. 27

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

OFFICE OPEN

Wednesday and Thursday,

Dec. 28 and Dec. 29

9 A.M. - noon

OFFICE CLOSED

Friday, Dec. 28 (as usual)

OFFICE CLOSED

Monday, January 2

NEW YEAR'S HOLIDAY



Sunday, November 20: Mount Vernon's third-graders receive their Bibles.



At the **LiveArt Workshop** on November 6, our children created a large mural for the Children's Sabbath service. They made offering boxes and note cards for the Advent offering to benefit the Children's House Scholarship Fund. Many thanks to the youth who assisted: Slade Potts, Wilson Fletcher, and Hannah and Sarah Hawkins.



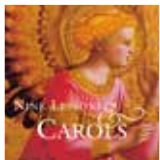
Thank you to Mount Vernon's children, who did an outstanding job of leading our worship on November 20, **Children's Sabbath**. They read scriptures, sang, and led prayers. One of the highlights was the anthem they sang with the adult choir. Mount Vernon is blessed to have each one of them in our church family.

December & Early January Worship Services

All sermons by the Rev. Bart A. Fletcher

December 11, 2016

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT
FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS & CAROLS
11:00 A.M. (ONE SERVICE)



December 18, 2016

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT
8:30 & 11:00 A.M.

Scripture: Isaiah 7: 10 – 17
Sermon: "God Will Give You a Sign!"



December 24, 2016

CHRISTMAS EVE
5:30 P.M.

Scripture: Titus 2: 11–14
Sermon: "Grace Has Appeared"

December 25, 2016

CHRISTMAS DAY
10:00 A.M. (ONE SERVICE)

Scripture: John 1: 1 – 18
Sermon: "The Light Shines!"



January 1, 2016

EPIPHANY SUNDAY
8:30 & 11:00 A.M.

Scripture: Isaiah 60: 1 – 9
Sermon:
"Your Heart Shall Thrill and Rejoice!"



At the Veteran's Day program in the fellowship hall on November 9, Mount Vernon's veterans were honored.

Front row, from left: Andy Farley, Budge Kent, Bill Smith, Guy Cooter, Lewis Williamson. Second row: Earle Garrett, Harry Milam, John Stoneburner, Pierce Turbiville, Joe Miller, Jim Moyer. Third row: Frank Davis, Eddie Mitchell, Gary Benefield, Tom Leggett.

Wednesday Dinners & Programs

Serving for dinners begins at 5:45 p.m.

Cost is \$6 for adults. Children under 13, free.
Families of 4 or more, \$18.

No charge for covered-dish dinners.

Programs begin at 6:30.

TWO PROGRAM OPTIONS:

- (1) Women's Bible Study, in the parlor. Women of all ages are invited to join at any time.
- (2) A variety of programs each week in the fellowship hall (see programs listed below).

	<u>MEALS</u>	<u>PROGRAMS</u>
Dec. 14	Pork loin, scalloped potatoes, broccoli, fruit cobbler	Children's Christmas Pageant: "Light of the World" (6:45 p.m. in sanctuary)
Jan. 11	Covered-dish: Bring something to share	Dr. Ralph Hawkins: "The Bedouin of Jordan Valley"
Jan. 18	Santa Fe Soup and salad	Rev. Tobias Lutz, speaker
Jan. 25	Orange chicken, green beans, rice & gravy, rolls, dessert	Joe Newell (Dan's brother), speaker: Mission trip to Africa

SCAN FOR ONLINE GIVING



December Birthdays

- | | |
|--|----------------|
| 1 Emma Tatum Rich | 29 Neil Allen |
| 2 Betty Ann Berry
Bill Fuller | Thomas Booker |
| 3 Brad Hodges | Mark Milam |
| 5 Kate Newell | Ann Stuart Ray |
| 6 June Thomas | |
| 8 Suzanne Fisher
Al Hill | |
| Tom Leggett | |
| Sam Swanson, Jr. | |
| 13 Robin Crews
Kathy Fowler
Jim Moyer | |
| 14 Eric Bucklew
Christine Ethington
Clinton Wickers
Joe Cornett | |
| 16 Jan Sutherland | |
| 17 Michael Chandler
Emily Hylton | |
| 20 Margaret Scott | |
| 21 May Carter Bergman | |
| 22 Christian Clifton | |
| 23 Marilyn East | |
| 24 Sue Lea
Ashley Marley
Ann Williamson | |
| 25 Mary Hawkins
Catharine Meador
Whit Williamson | |
| 27 John Cornett | |
| 28 Fran Ashby | |



January Birthdays

- | |
|--|
| 1 Bernard Thomas |
| 2 Catherine Adkins |
| 4 Paige Johnson |
| 5 Lee Searcey |
| 6 Kathryn Baer
Remmus Milligan
Cheryl Sule
Amy Echols |
| 7 Bonnie Griffith
Andrew Long |
| 8 Karen Miller |
| 9 Betty Leggett |
| 10 Ann Hurt |
| 12 Sue Wickers |
| 13 Leah Cooter |
| 14 Patsi Compton
Joyce Fuquay
Stephanie Keck |
| 15 Terry Deane Harris |
| 16 Anna Blackmon
Baer
Joanne Bucklew
John Hiltzheimer |



At Roman Eagle: **Zula Callahan**
At home: **Bill Hardy**
At Stratford House: **Lois Love**
At home: **John Hiltzheimer**

Gifts in memory of

Greg Read

have been received from

Tom & Betty Leggett, Thomas & Martha Jo Hodges, the Flemings (Bobby, Patricia, Susan, Danny & Billy), Jesse & Verla Wall, Mary Lou Dunn, Bill & Betty Yates, Lucius & Jane Jacob, Darrell & Ann Williamson, the Landis Sunday School Class, James Daniel, Dan & Tammy Waters, Linwood & Peggy Wright, Frances McMillan, Harry & Margaret Milam, Neal & Dana Obstler, Budge & Carolyn Kent, John & Gayle Morris, and Sue Myers.

Our Worship Assistants

USHERS

December 11 8:30: Darrell Williamson

11:00: J.G. Hurt,* Budge Kent, Gene Saunders, Coleman Hylton, Bill Smith. Alt.: Sam Newell, Derek Mitchell

December 18: 8:30: Bill Booker, Tom Booker

11:00: Tom Leggett,* Derek Mitchell, David Fuquay, Tommy Hodges, Bill Smith. Alt.: Coleman Hylton, Dan Newell

December 25: 8:30: Darrell Williamson

11:00: Dan Waters,* J.G. Hurt, Charles Sampson, Tom Underwood, Frank Davis. Alt.: Dan Newell, Derek Mitchell

January 1: 8:30: Bill Booker

11:00: Tom Leggett,* David Fuquay, Tommy Hodges, Frank Davis, Tom Underwood. Alt.: Sam Newell

January 8: 8:30: Darrell Williamson

11:00: J.G. Hurt,* Budge Kent, Gene Saunders, Bill Smith, Coleman Hylton. Alt.: Derek Mitchell, Sam Newell

ALTAR GUILD

December: Libby Spainhour,* Jan Sutherland, Linda Sampson
February: Jan Sutherland,* Joyce Underwood, Leah Cooter

Attendance

	8:30	11:00	Total
Nov. 6	27	126	153
Nov. 13	27	123	150
Nov. 20	25	185	210
Nov. 27	30	99	129
Dec. 4	33	127	160

Gluten-free communion bread

is available at Mount Vernon. Please contact the pastor at 793-6824 before Communion Sunday if you would like gluten-free wafers.

