



Friends, we are beginning to see the light at the end of the tunnel known as Covid-19. The pandemic is still with us, but it would appear that the worst of it is behind us. We now are resuming life in ways that we have not known for over two years.

The pandemic has challenged all of us in many ways and that holds true for our church as well. Mount Vernon, like most houses of worship, has had to make adjustments to everything we do. We have expanded our use of technology and, thereby, may have expanded the reach of our ministries as well.

Still, as we have returned to in-person worship and resumed multiple operations much as they were prior to the pandemic, our Church Council recognizes that this is an opportune time to step back and discern where God is leading us. To that end, we are undertaking a visioning process wherein we, together, will prayerfully determine how to focus our ministries in the months and years ahead. The Church Council appointed a steering committee for this process. We have engaged

the services of The Reverend Dr. Paul Baker to assist us. He is a retired elder with extensive experience in organizational visioning and planning.

Over the next couple of months, the steering committee will be gathering data to inform this process, and that will include reaching out to each of you to get your thoughts. This process will succeed only if we, together, come to a consensus about God's direction for Mount Vernon. Thus, we will endeavor to keep you informed as the process unfolds. The entire process should take approximately six months.

Prayer ultimately is the foundation upon which the vision will be built. Over these coming months, we hope you will join us in using prayer as our most important guide for following God's will in this visioning process.

— Steering Committee: *Jae Cho, Beth Bauman, Jan Sutherland, Ann Hurt, Gary Benefield, Ann Williamson, Carolyn Smith, Steven Gould, Lindsay Payne, Nikki Parish, Dent Holden, Wendy Sampson, Caroline Hylton*

Vacation Bible School

June 26-28

6:00–8:00 p.m.

At Wildwood Lake, 422 Lake Road, Pelham, NC

June 29

6:00–7:30 p.m.

At God's Storehouse Urban Garden



For children age 4 through rising 5th graders

We will learn about being followers of Jesus through dramatic Bible stories, beautiful art projects, music, recreation, and more!

Plan to bring a friend!!!!

Please register by emailing Beth Bauman, bbauman@comcast.net so we will be sure to have enough art and other supplies.

Our Easter Offering goal of \$5,000.00 for New Hope Hospital in Plaine-du-Nord, Haiti, has been met and exceeded: \$5,404.40 was donated. In addition, \$3,675.00 was given for Ukraine. Both of these are worthy causes and deserving of our help. Many thanks for your donations.



– The Missions Committee



On May 26, the Galileo High School varsity soccer team won the region playoff game against Cumberland by a score of 4-3.

Congratulations to Brendan DeAristizabal for being selected the Galileo Soccer Player of the Game!

On May 31 Galileo defeated Franklin High. We wish Galileo well as they play Riverheads High School in Staunton in the Regional Tournament on June 3.



Our group of youth and adults will travel to Lafayette County, West Virginia, to assist low-income homeowners with home repairs July 24–30. The team has been preparing for several months with sessions on sensitivity to the needs of those whom we will be serving, stewardship of resources, and safety.

Please keep our Appalachia Service Project team in your prayers as they prepare to serve.

You many pick up a copy of Virginia Conference Bishop Sharma G. Lewis’s suggested scripture readings for each day in June on the table outside the church office.



**Please note:
Contact information for our newest members**

John Hungerland
160 Hawthorne Dr.
Danville, VA 24541
404.906.1444

Susie Mitchell
302 Stony Mill School Rd.
Danville, VA 24541
434.251.9791
xrnas525@comcast.net

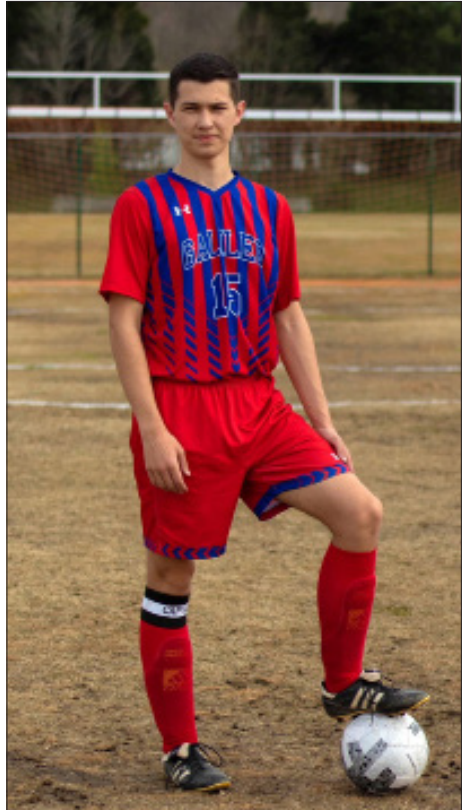
Our warmest welcome to John and to Susie!

Summertime Godly Play

Godly Play classes will continue through July 10. We will take a short break and resume in August. Many, many thanks to our teachers: Kathryn Waters, Sandra Morales, and Beth Bauman.



*Congratulations to Brendan deAristizabal,
2022 Graduate of Galileo High School*



Mount Vernon Evangelism Committee Survey

**Please complete and return this survey by Wednesday June 22 – either by mail
or by placing it in the offering plate.**

___ I feel comfortable attending Wednesday night suppers in the fall.

___ I do not feel comfortable attending Wednesday night suppers in the fall.

For the Wednesday night suppers, I am willing to help:

___ cook a meal

___ be on a serve and/or clean-up team

Suggestions for programs for Wednesday nights: _____



**The Evangelism Committee is organizing a trip to The Prizery in South Boston
on Sunday, July 10, at 3:00 p.m. to see “A Chorus Line.”**

___ I am interested in attending the play (\$34 per adult ticket). Each person is
responsible for purchasing his/her own ticket.

___ I am interested in going to dinner at Molasses Grill after the play.

****Contact Joyce Underwood at uwood517@comcast.net for more details.****

Let Joyce know by Wednesday, June 22, if you plan to attend.

Name(s) _____

Education Week reports that so far this year, there have been 27 school shootings [in the U.S.] with injuries or deaths.

In the wake of last week's massacre, United Methodist Council of Bishops President Thomas J. Bickerton is calling clergy and laity to "go on the offense" to stop mass shootings.

– *UM News, May 25.* <https://www.umnews.org/en/news/grieving-praying-after-attack-on-school>

"If you are a church body, don't settle for just active shooter training," he said in a press statement. "Determine that you will actively work to transform lives from violence to peace, elect officials that will not settle for inaction, and inject communities with the grace and love of Christ that will alter the course of our current behaviors."

From the United Methodist Church 2016 Book of Resolutions, #3428: "Our Call to End Gun Violence"

"... we call upon United Methodists to prayerfully address gun violence in their local context. Some of the ways in which to prevent gun violence include the following":

- For congregations to make preventing gun violence a regular part of our conversations and prayer times. Gun violence must be worshipfully and theologically reflected on, and we encourage United Methodist churches to frame conversations theologically by utilizing resources such as "Kingdom Dreams, Violent Realities: Reflections on Gun Violence from Micah 4:1-4" produced by the General Board of Church and Society.
- For congregations to assist those affected by gun violence through prayer, pastoral care, creating space, and encouraging survivors to share their stories; through financial assistance, and through identifying other resources in their communities as victims of gun violence and their families walk through the process of grieving and healing.
- For individual United Methodists who own guns as hunters or collectors to safely and securely store their guns and to teach the importance of practicing gun safety.
- For United Methodist congregations that have not experienced gun violence to form ecumenical and interfaith partnerships with faith communities that have experienced gun violence in order to support them and learn from their experiences.
- For United Methodist congregations to lead or join in ecumenical or interfaith gatherings for public prayer at sites where gun violence has occurred and partner with law enforcement to help prevent gun violence.

- For United Methodist congregations to partner with local law-enforcement agencies and community groups to identify gun retailers that engage in retail practices designed to circumvent laws on gun sales and ownership, encourage full legal compliance, and to work with groups that organize faith-based campaigns to encourage gun retailers to gain full legal compliance with appropriate standards and laws.
- For United Methodist congregations to advocate at the local and national level for laws that prevent or reduce gun violence. Some of those measures include:
 - **Universal background checks on all gun purchases**
 - **Ratification of the Arms Trade Treaty**
 - **Ensuring all guns are sold through licensed gun retailers**
 - **Prohibiting all individuals convicted of violent crimes from purchasing a gun for a fixed time period**
 - **Prohibiting all individuals under restraining order due to threat of violence from purchasing a gun**
 - **Prohibiting persons with serious mental illness, who pose a danger to themselves and their communities, from purchasing a gun**
 - **Ensuring greater access to services for those suffering from mental illness**
 - **Establishing a minimum age of 21 years for a gun purchase or possession**
 - **Banning large-capacity ammunition magazines and weapons designed to fire multiple rounds each time the trigger is pulled**
 - **Promoting new technologies to aid law-enforcement agencies to trace crime guns and promote public safety.**



*Our thoughts and prayers
are with you.*

Philip Blackmon, Pat Giles, Bill Hardy,
Dorothy Stephens, The Rev. Joyce Johnson,
Mary Ellen Dean, Betty Yates,
Peggy Handy (Piney Forest Rehab, Room 30)
Donald Turner (Piney Forest Rehab, Room 27)

*A memorial service for
Eleanor Cuthrell
will be held at Mount Vernon
on Saturday, June 25, at 11 a.m.*

*A gift in memory of Eleanor Cuthrell
has been received from Gary & Karen Miller.*

*A gift in memory of Ken Miller
has been received from Mr. & Mrs. Charles Majors.*

*A gift in memory of Landon Wyatt
has been received from Mr. & Mrs. Charles Majors.*

*A gift in memory of Shirley Duncan
has been received from John & Gayle Morris.*

Birthdays

June:

- 1 Carol Majors
- 4 Max Brande
- 5 Adam Lester
- 6 Jeanne Marie Belanger
- 8 Berkley Furgurson
Max Glass, Sr.
- 9 Ellen Beville
Newton Ray, III
- 10 Alan Adkins
Catherine Bauman
Bruggeman
- 11 Coraline Lutz
- 12 Rusty Moore
Karen Blachura
- 13 Brook McFarland
- 14 Pattie Cairns
- 17 Cami Rudder
- 18 Richard Dunn
Pat Giles
- 19 Andrew Fitch
Emma Trent
- 21 Melissa Herke
Rebecca Lutz
- 22 Donald Turner
- 24 Asher Bennett
Sawyer Bennett
- 25 Cooper Charles
Michelle Francis
- 27 Isaiah Woodson
Noah Woodson
- 28 Robert Sule
Miles Knox
Milligan
- 30 Alex Larking

Early July:

- 3 Earle Garrett, III
- 4 John Ranson
Edgar Love
- 5 Jenna Rudder
- 6 Tommie Blackmon
Beth deAristizabal
Dana Glass
David Parrish
- 7 Thomas Farley
Nick Fowler
- 9 Jim Daniel
- 10 Amy Eller
- 11 Jerrye Mayhew
Mary Wilkes
- 13 Libby Spainhour
- 14 Jae Cho
Beth Daniels

*Our deepest sympathy
To the family of Shirley Duncan,
who died on May 17.*



Shirley Anne Grogan Duncan of Lebanon, Ohio, passed away on May 17, 2022, at the age of 92. Born in Danville, she was the daughter of the late Frank Thomas Grogan, Sr. and Eva Mae Travis Grogan.

A George Washington High School graduate, Shirley received an associate degree from Averett College, a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from Longwood College, and a master's degree in Elementary Education from the University of Virginia. She retired from the Danville City Public School System in 1988 with 35 years of service.

A devoted member of Mount Vernon United Methodist Church since 1937, Shirley served in many capacities. Before moving to Ohio in 2013, she was also a member of the Wednesday Club, Epsilon Chap. of Delta Kappa Gamma, H, S, & Co. Rug Hooking Guild, and Brookside and Forest Hills Garden Clubs. Along with her husband, Fred, she made and sold painted folk art and hand-woven baskets as Country Accents. In Ohio, Shirley was a member of Miami Valley Rug Hooking Guild, TWIG 10 (a benevolent group for Dayton Children's Hospital), UM Women of Faith, and Knit Wits. In March 2022, she was the featured artist at Otterbein's Creative Arts Department where 37 of her hand-hooked rugs were on display.

Survivors include her daughter, Robin Duncan Hasty (Andy) of 8575 Oregonia Rd, Waynesville, OH 45068; grandsons Taylor Duncan Hasty (Rachael) of Lexington, SC, and Brian Andrew Hasty (Eryn) of Fredericksburg, VA; one great-grandson (Landen), three great-granddaughters (Blakeney, Raleigh, Harper). Also, her nephews Richard Green Grogan (Marcia) and Frank Thomas Grogan, III (Cathy).

In addition to her parents, Shirley was predeceased by her high school sweetheart and beloved husband of 70 years, Frederick (Fred) Henry Duncan, Jr.; two brothers, Travis Linwood Grogan and Frank Thomas Grogan, Jr., and a sister, Dorothy Grogan King.

A memorial service will be held at Mount Vernon United Methodist Church on June 11, 2022, at 2 p.m. with Jae Cho officiating. The family will receive friends in the church parlor from 12:30 to 2 p.m. and would greatly appreciate the wearing of masks.

A private interment will be held at Mountain View Cemetery following the service. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Mount Vernon UMC or Danville Area Humane Society, P.O. Box 3352, Danville, VA 24543.

Pastor: Rev. Jae W. Cho

Church Office: 434.793.6824, Monday–Thursday, 9 a.m.–1 p.m.

Website: mtvernonumc.org

