

## Pastor's Report

Dear Ones of VPC,

At the time of this writing, just two weeks into 2020, VPC has hosted the January First Friday, installed new elders and deacons, hosted a Mental Health support group monthly meeting, hosted (at no cost to the community) a Mental Health Companionship Training and worked with IFCH to start a Severe Weather Shelter in our building. And that is just in the first two weeks of 2020!

The energy around this year's start was born by and through the outstanding efforts of this congregation in the year 2019! As you read through the reports of your Session Elders, you will notice that each area of ministry has grown significantly in the past year. New committees were formed, which many of you joined, to allow for greater participation in the ministry of the church. The result of more voices being heard has been a greater number of ideas being shared and implemented.

We started 2019 with this commitment of embracing new ideas, seeing what worked for us and the community around us. And you showed up, you showed up and pitched in and embraced new ideas and new ways of doing old ideas. You showed up with energy, intelligence, creativity and enthusiasm for everything.

We continued some of what we had previously started, like Pi Day, Halloween and the Tree Lighting but we didn't stop there. We've burned a permanent ring in the front yard where the fire pit goes for First Friday Smores around the campfire. Improvements were made in how we participate in the other "front porch" events and we continued to learn by doing. The sanctuary was filled with quilts during Strawberry Festival and families found places to change diapers and rest all weekend long.

It was also a busy year for the physical building at VPC, with the installation of solar panels, a healthy first step toward our overall decision to make creation care a priority. And we began the initial talks to make space for both the Severe Weather Shelter (now in place) and an overall Emergency Shelter for the island.

Sadly, 2019 was also a year of significant loss for us and for families in our congregation. And you lovingly surrounded them, hosting large memorial services, graciously and with great attention to details. You wrapped your arms around both them and the community supporting them. And, once again, you demonstrated just what the church CAN be when it lives as the Body of Christ together.

What I continue to learn and see at VPC is the depth to which you love, in sad times and happy times, in meetings, in worship, around a fire pit while toasting marshmallows, in the office, interacting with the schools, with AA, opening the doors,

again and again and again. You love. You love deeply. You love deeply and you hold hope.

Sisters and brothers, I do not know what 2020 will hold for us but I do know that you will meet it lovingly. And I also know that we will be met with and by Love. We worship a faithful God who will provide all that we need, every step of the way. So, as we begin this new year, let us trust in the One who calls us and let us love, let us love deeply.

*“For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.”* Jeremiah 29:11 NRSV

Grace and Peace,

*Leigh*

## **Clerk of Session’s Report**

### **The Session**

The 2019 session of Vashon Presbyterian Church consisted of Rev. Leigh Weber (Moderator) and ruling elders Jim Lilje, Liz Loveness, Barbara Huff, Al Ross-Weston, Brownie Carver and Jacq Skeffington. The session is divided into two classes, and each member is elected to a three-year term. Jacq, Al and Barb serve in the Class of 2019. Jim, Brownie and Liz serve in the Class of 2020. At a congregational meeting in December 2019 Barb Huff, Al Ross-Weston, and Bob Spangler were elected to the Class of 2022. The active ruling elders also serve as the congregation’s corporate trustees. Each ruling elder has oversight of one of the congregation’s core teams or committees that provide leadership in the life of the congregation. Their individual reports are set forth on the following pages, as are other reports from committee leaders.

The session met monthly, usually on the second Thursday. There were also two special session meetings to deal with matters that required action prior to the next scheduled meeting. There were three congregational meetings in 2019: the January Annual Meeting, a July meeting to amend the pastor’s terms of call, and a congregational meeting in December to elect elders and deacons. The minutes of those congregational meetings are included in this Annual Report in the Appendix. Also included in the Appendix are statements of VPC’s 2019 financial position, the 2019 and 2020 budgets and the annual statistical report for 2018 that is submitted to our parent denomination. The statistical report for 2019 will be available in February.

### **Board of Deacons**

Deacons are elected to two-year terms, with maximum service of six continuous years. The members of the Board of Deacons in 2019 were Sue Weston, Lindsay

Hofman, Claudia Ross-Weston, Myrtle Walls, Sheryl Lehman and Nancy Tucker. At the December special congregational meeting, Susan Commeree, Sheryl Lehman, and Sue Weston were elected to serve as a deacon, Class of 2021. The Board of Deacons met monthly. A report from the deacons appears below.

### **Commissioners to Presbytery**

At the January 2019 session meeting, Jacq and Beverly Skeffington were appointed as VPC's commissioner to Seattle Presbytery. Other session members were designated as alternates. Jacq provided written reports summarizing Presbytery meeting actions.

### **Membership**

At the start of 2019 there were 47 people on the VPC membership roll. Two new members were received; one member returned to active membership, and one member died. Thus, VPC's membership as of December 31, 2019 was 49. The VPC family also includes a number of worshippers who are not members but who contribute in many ways to the life of the church.

There were no baptisms in 2019. Sunday morning attendance at worship averaged 35, including children.

### **Leadership Activities**

A leadership retreat for elders was held on January 11, 2019.

*Diana Lilje, Clerk of Session*

### **Worship Team Report**

The mission of the worship team is to lead the congregation toward a renewal of exciting experiences in worship, prayer, singing, seeking God in our lives through corporate activities, and in finding creative ways to worship.

Our worship experiences are truly the work of God and the helping hands of our congregation. I am very grateful to our congregates who have served as lay leaders. A special thank you to Pastor Leigh Weber whose ministry led our services with thoughtful and passionate sermons. Our music was led by our gifted pianist Beth Bekkevold. Marsha Morse furnished organ music for special services; singing was provided by generous volunteers. A big thank you goes to Beverly Skeffington for the lovely harp music during communion and special services. Kathy O'Laughlin with the help of our deacons prepped the communion elements which were served by the deacons and elders. Kathy was also in charge of the sanctuary plants and liturgical colors. The bulletin, reader board, e-news, and newsletter would not have been possible without our fabulous office staff.

During the year, we held special services during Lent, Holy Week, Advent, and Christmas Eve. We looked forward to the fifth Sundays during the year when we worshipped with VUMC.

The worship team each month to evaluate and to set new goals. We welcome suggestions and new members.

*Brownie Carver, Worship Team Elder*

## **Faith Exploration Team Report**

### Adult Formation

The Sunday Morning adult class examined a wide variety of topics. We discussed the spirituality in the writings of Brian Doyle, AI (Artificial Intelligence), the book The Agile Church, Enneagrams and Isaiah texts for Advent. A special thanks to Bruce Baker and Leigh Weber for their leadership and others who filled in as needed.

### Theology Pub

Topics that were discussed included carrying the cross during Good Friday, What I believe in 2 or 3 minutes, "Immigration" led by Bob and Carol Spangler and the value of Community.

### Book Club

Book club continues to grow and thrive. Approximately twenty people belong. We shared a good mix of fiction and nonfiction. Examples include Small Great Things by Jodi Picoult, Broken for You by Stephanie Kallos, Ordinary Grace by William Krueger and A Gentleman in Moscow by Amor Towles

### Vacation Bible School

VPC and several churches came together to put on a weeklong experience for approximately 75 kids of various ages. It was hosted by St. John Vianney. The theme was the Gospel of Luke. Each child's family was given the book The Diary of a Disciple. A shout out for all who helped with organization, snacks and the VPC point person Alice Dorr.

### Lectio Divina

This ancient practice happened during Advent and focused on Isaiah texts.

*Al Ross-Weston, Faith Exploration Team Elder*

## Financial Report

We finished 2019 with an operating surplus of \$9744.74. This is an outstanding result for a congregation of our size. This was distorted somewhat by the sale of our shares of OMAX stock. The stock sale alone nearly doubled our year's income and also allowed us to make several expenditures which we would not have been able to do otherwise. Even after deducting the OMAX income and its related expenditures we had a surplus for the year of \$4301.68 just on our normal income and expenses.

The sale of the OMAX stock allowed us to do several things that would have been out of our reach otherwise.

- We donated 10% of the OMAX income to some of our mission partners
- We paid off the mortgage. That freed up enough cash flow to bring our Pastor on full time. This has been a long-term goal of ours and we were able to accomplish it at least a couple of years early.
- We brought the Capital Repair Fund up to a \$30,000 balance — another long-term goal.
- We were able to install solar panels on the church building. This will radically reduce our electrical bill in coming years.

Included with this report is a summary of 2019 financial activity. I have listed the OMAX income and related expenses separately.

Last month Session approved a budget for the year 2020. It is conservative in both its income and expense projections. If we complete the year exactly on budget, we will have a surplus of less than \$100 for the year. Changes from previous budgets include:

- No more mortgage payments
- Lower utility bills due to the installation of solar panels
- An increased emphasis on donations to mission partners.

Included in this report is a summary of the 2020 budget. We have a few income sources which are earmarked for specific missions. These have been listed separately.

*Jim Lilje, Mission Resource Team Elder (Finance)*

## **Building and Grounds Team Report**

*The mission of the Mission Resources Group is to act as good stewards of the physical assets God has entrusted to this congregation through conscientious routine repairs as well as carefully planned and funded capital improvements.*

My primary goal as coordinator of Building and Grounds maintenance and repair this year was to get more people, members and friends of the church, involved in the planning and execution of maintenance and repairs. To that end, the Mission Resources Facilities team began meeting on the first Tuesday of each month at Colvos Creek pub. We've had lively discussions filling people in about the work done and planning future projects. As I reviewed monthly reports, I realized that I saw a few names repeatedly listed with tasks performed but I also noticed that many times those people stepped up to a new level of responsibility when I could not be present to greet vendors or repair personnel or perform the required repairs.

During the heavy snowstorm of Feb 9<sup>th</sup>, the sidewalks, ramp and handicapped parking areas were shoveled thanks to Phil Yunker, John Williams and a couple of people arriving early for an AA meeting. Phil and Jim Huff also moved furniture in late February so that Robin Lewis could clean the carpets. They then restored the classrooms when he was done. Brownie Carver let Robin in, gave him the check provided by Jim Lilje and locked up after he was finished. Jim, Phil and Pastor Leigh also painted her office. All while I was enjoying a few days of Mariner's Spring Training in Arizona.

In March Doug Johnson and Liz Loveness hauled gravel which a work party spread around the parking lot with the help of a few local gardeners and a couple of members of one of the AA groups meeting in the upper room. Then Nancy and Jan van Roessell removed a shrub near the north entrance which was detrimentally affecting Leigh's allergies and just before Palm Sunday Here and George Thieme and Sheryl Lehman planted a beautiful arrangement of flowers in the bed.

Paul Blake constructed an inspirational cross for our cross walk and prepared the sight on our front lawn to display it. He removed the cross following Easter Sunday, restored the lawn and is storing the cross in his shop for future use. He has also been instrumental in setting up and providing wood for our First Friday campfires on the front lawn.

At the Deacons request, hasps and locks were installed on the cabinets in the library by Phil Yunker. The handicapped parking area at the north entrance was power washed and repainted by the Toolbelts group. The dispersal trench at the north end of the parking lot was also cleaned and restored by them. Paul Blake cleaned out large rocks from the south end containment pond and installed fencing to block access through the spillway as requested by King County Surface Water Management. A housekeeping

Team performed a deep cleaning of the kitchen in October and have committed to Quarterly deep cleanings of the kitchen.

I could go on about other examples of how we came together to accomplish a lot of repairs and improvements together but I'll just list a few of the projects and wish list items accomplished.

- All 3 toilets in the new addition restrooms were found to have recalled flushing mechanisms 4/13/19. The manufacturer sent replacements and arranged installation 4/25/19 at no cost.
- 12 new round tables were purchased in July to replace the tables used for IFCH meals and other functions.
- A dimmer switch was installed for the sanctuary lighting in August by Vashon Electric. 60watt equivalent LED bulbs were also purchased and installed.
- A 6 ft tall chain link fence was installed along the west side of the south parking area by Aldo Flores and 4 workers in early September greatly reducing vandalism and debris in the parking lot and Carpe Diem play area.
- Solar panels were installed and approved in December and will be connected to the PSE grid as soon as a net meter is installed by PSE.
- A lightly used sink and vanity donated by Larry and Susan Commeree was installed in the nursery bathroom and the discharge hose from the crawlspace beneath the Social Hall was temporarily rerouted to the parking lot, greatly reducing the standing water in the preschool play yard.

Not all the goals, projects and wish lists items were accomplished but I feel very grateful for the participation of so many helping hands this year. There is always much work to do simply maintaining our historic building and beautiful grounds.

Blessings and Grace,

*Jacq Skeffington, Mission Resources Elder*

### **Purposeful Service Team Report**

*“Help those in need”. That is the inspiration driving our Purposeful Service efforts.*

It can be seen in simply helping individuals in our community or as a church helping people around the world through our missions abroad. Until this year commitment to mission both locally and worldwide had to be met above and beyond our Budget and general giving. The proceeds of each fundraiser were assigned to a particular recipient. We supported several local groups that included Mary's Place in Seattle, IFCH here on Vashon Island, VYFS Play Space and our local Food Bank. Globally we supported One

Great Hour of Sharing, the Presbyterian Disaster Relief Fund, Viet Nam Ministries and a Presbyterian mission in Cartagena, Colombia. In addition, we manage the proceeds from the Heindsmann Endowment for an annual scholarship awarded to someone returning to education beyond high school.

- This year's One Great Hour of Sharing collection of \$673.09 was dispersed through the Presbyterian Disaster Relief Agency to aid communities hit by natural disasters.
- The Heindsmann Scholarship was awarded to Xavier Ajeto. He received a \$2,000 scholarship. Xavier attends Western Washington University and is the nephew of Alice and Russ Dorr. Sue Weston headed the interview committee that also included Kathy O'Laughlin and Thomas Abraham.
- The Strawberry Festival Parking and Chairs fundraiser provided \$2,064 for the VYFS Play Space this year. Thanks to Beverly Skeffington for coordinating this event and thanks to all the volunteers who moved chairs and monitored the parking area.
- We held our annual picnic for the women of Mary's Place at Ober Park in August. Thanks to Beverly Skeffington and a group of dedicated volunteers who made the day so special. We further support Mary's Place with the "giving tree" in December. Gifts of grocery gift certificates were delivered in time for Christmas.
- Our church continues to support IFCH by hosting dinners on the fourth Thursday of each month as well as housing them on every Tuesday and Thursday evening. This year IFCH, in conjunction with VPC, developed plans for an Extreme Weather Shelter to be housed here at VPC. Our Christmas Eve offering is committed to training supervision and supplying the Shelter. Brownie Carver is our representative to IFCH and has been instrumental in establishing the Shelter.
- We support the Vashon Food Bank with regular monthly giving. Thanks to Sue Weston who has faithfully coordinated our Food Bank contributions over the years. The funds generated by the Thriftway and IGA receipts are also donated to the food bank.

As we developed the Budget for 2020, we saw that due to money saved by having paid off the mortgage on the church building there could be dedicated funds for mission. Purposeful Service requested and Session approved a line item in the 2020 Budget for support in the amount of \$1,000 each for IFCH, the Vashon Food Bank, the Presbyterian Disaster Relief Fund, Advocates for Immigration Detainees and Viet Nam Ministries. In addition, we will continue to fundraise for other specific needs.

Last fall we embarked on a Purposeful Service goal for 2020 to develop Creation Care guidelines for VPC. The solar panels are a giant step forward. We hope to develop

“green” procedures in our daily routine to complement our transition to solar. Be looking for recycling bins to replace the “garbage” bins soon!

Respectfully submitted,

*Elizabeth Loveness, Purposeful Service Team Elder*

### **Hospitality Team Report**

*The Hospitality Team plans and provides activities where our church family can enjoy spending time to together in fellowship.*

Once-a-month Hospitality activities are “Lunch Bunch” and VPC Book Club. Many thanks to Kate Smith for organizing these special lunches and thanks to Al Ross Weston for faithfully organizing the book club over the years. Easter Brunch and Egg Hunt, the Christmas Luncheon and an evening Harvest Supper are events that grace the VPC seasonal social calendar. “Summer Suppers” are also scheduled throughout the summer. These small gatherings, hosted by members of our congregation, allow us to enjoy the informality of summer, have fun and get to know each other a little bit better. Summer Suppers took place July through September. Thanks to Barbara Zue, Nancy and Ben Tucker, Elizabeth Loveness, Bob and Carol Spangler, Nancy and Jan van Roessel, Lindsay and Dana Hofman, Susan and Larry Commeree, Claudia and Al Ross Weston, and Thomas Abraham for opening their homes for these gatherings. Thanks also to Nancy and Ben Tucker for taking the lead on the Harvest Supper.

Hospitality supports other mission team efforts. We supported Outreach Team’s Pi(e) Day, Halloween Treats and the Community Tree Lighting and Parade with pies, candy, cider, and hot chocolate. Special Worship times also receive Hospitality’s helping hand. Just a few of these last year were the Christmas Eve hospitality table, special coffee hours such as when we have combined services with VUMC and “listening circle”. We were especially grateful to the Hospitality committee for the help and organization that went into greeting, providing outings and supper for the Presbytery meeting held here in July.

Our weekly coffee hours are an important part of what Hospitality does. Each week hosts provide something delicious to munch on while visiting after the service. This gives everyone time to meet visitors, catch up on the week’s happenings and share our thoughts and concerns. Special Tailgate and Holiday coffee hours hosted by Kate Smith were enjoyed by all. We have most of the congregation to thank here, however. Each week someone faithfully sets up, provides treats and cleans up. It’s constant, ongoing and everyone has pitched in. Thanks to all who have helped with coffee hour, ushered and/or provided the beautiful flowers placed on the altar each week.

A special goal this year was to initiate some hospitality activities that aren't centered on food. Organizing group outings to community events show promise in this regard. A group was formed to attend the Chorale's Winter Concert. We provided rides and sat together at the concert. A group went on the VIVA Studio Tour this December. These two outings are just a beginning. We could form walking groups, outings off island as well as to additional upcoming Vashon events. Let us know if you have an idea. There are many rewarding possibilities!

Respectfully submitted,

*Elizabeth Loveness, Hospitality and Fellowship Elder*

### **Outreach Team Report**

*Jesus was all about outreach ministry. Sharing the love of Christ is a vital part of our spiritual life. We have a commitment to focus outwardly instead of internally. The address of our church is not an accident. It was located there to love and serve our community.*

This past year we continued some programs and tried new ones. We've utilized Facebook to spread news to the community.

The following is a list throughout the calendar year.

March	Pi Day
April	Easter Egg Hunt
June	End of school year treats for Preschool & Carpe Diem
July	Quilt Show for Festival
August	Yard Sale First Friday S'mores
September	First Friday S'mores, homemade ice cream Motorcycle Sunday Bike Drive Event
October	Halloween Treats on front lawn
November	First Friday S'mores
December	First Friday S'mores Winterfest Open house – quilt show; cocoa & cookies on front lawn Christmas pageant

Sincere thanks to the many people who have helped make these events happen throughout the year. Special thanks to Myrtle for help with the quilt show; Paul Blake &

Jacq Skeffington with the First Friday S'mores, and Nancy Tucker for heading up Halloween and Christmas open house.

*Committee Members: Barb Huff, Larry Commeree*

### **Memorial Committee Report**

A recommendation was made to the Memorial Committee that the church purchase a loveseat, table (or two small ones) and two standing lamps for the nursery that could be used when inviting parents from Creative Preschool to coffee upstairs. The committee has reviewed the request and approved the purchase.

The committee also received a request to purchase a memorial plaque for the sculpture in the sanctuary that was donated by John Olsen. This also was approved.

In addition, it became apparent that there was a need for an LCD projector that could be used for adult Christian education, worship services on occasion, and for the Mental Health Advocacy. This was purchased in November.

Thank you to the committee members who helped with making these decisions: Beth Bekkevold, Susan Commeree, and Jacq Skeffington. The committee is open to all members of the congregation. Please let me know if you are interested in being part of the team.

*Respectfully submitted, Diana Lilje, chairperson*

### **Deacons Annual Report**

The ministry of the deacons as set forth in scripture is one of compassion, witness and service.

Book of Order 2013/2015 G2,0201

Vashon Presbyterian Deacons work on this ministry in many different ways. One is through prayer. Each week a list of prayer requests from the Sunday morning service is sent to all the deacons for continuing prayer support during the week. Cards, phone calls and visits are made to members and friends of the church family reminding them we are continuing to pray for and remember them during times of illness and other problems. If there are transportation or other special needs, we provide information and support. In addition, baskets of fruit, cookies, flowers and other treats were made and delivered to those of our church family home bound or in need during the holidays of Easter and Christmas.

We have continued to provide services at Vashon Community Care every other first and fifth Sunday. (members of the Lutheran church alternate with us.) Chris Coldeen leads the singing with his guitar and deacons have led the prayers and given a brief message.

Articles were written monthly for the church newsletter. Believing that by letting the love of God flow through us to each other in a troubled world, the deacons encourage others in the monthly articles to reach out and show love in our community in a variety of different ways.

The deacons have helped with many church tasks this past year with the church, sometimes joining with other committees. Deacons have contributed to ushering and the setting up and serving communion on a regular schedule. Also, many of the deacons have been active in the hospitality committee opening the church to the community at various Vashon events and serving refreshments and a place to rest and warm up and cool down.

I wish to thank all the deacons who have worked hard this year in our ministry of love and service: Sheryl Lehman, Claudia Ross Weston, Nancy Tucker, Sue *Weston*, Myrtle Walls

*Lindsay Hofman, Deacons Moderator*

## **Personnel Committee Report**

*The Personnel Committee is a committee of the session serving on its behalf and reports to session.*

In loving support of our Pastor, the congregation recognizes our promises to provide for the welfare and security of the Pastor's personal and professional needs. Committee members help fulfill these promises by providing encouragement for the Pastor, maintaining strict confidentiality, and prayerfully working to nurture an environment that protects the Pastor from spiritual burnout, isolation, physical exhaustion, or vocational stagnation.

This advocacy includes annual performance and compensation reviews as well as oversight of vacation, continuing education and other personnel policies.

The committee has been charged with the development and implementation of VPC's Sale Conduct Policy.

### **2019 Activity**

The Personnel Committee met monthly with the Pastor to share in a friendly, private and nurturing manner.

Background checks are a function of the committee and were completed on serving elders and deacons.

The committee presented and recommended the terms of call during 2019 and 2020.

An annual Pastor evaluation is being conducted in January 2020 to review the prior year.

*Committee Members; Active Elder Barb Huff and Larry Commeree.*

### **Mental Health Advocacy**

As a result of a mental health forum that was held at Vashon Presbyterian Church in 2018, a NAMI Friends and Family Support Group has been meeting at the church on the first Thursday of the month in the Pastor's Office. There have been as few as one person attending but as many as seven.

In addition, a film called Angst was shown and another forum was held with speakers, the keynote speaker being a therapist from Seattle.

Beverly Skeffington attended several workshops throughout the year as well as the annual meeting for NAMI Washington held in Yakima and the NAMI national meeting, which was held in Seattle last summer.

*Beverly Skeffington, Mental Health Coordinator*