

O C T O B E R 2 0 1 5

Vashon Presbyterian Church

Vashon Island, Washington 98070

To Worship God in all we do, Centered in Jesus Christ,
Moved by the Holy Spirit

October 2015 Newsletter

VPC Welcomes Interim Pastor

VPC welcomes Rev. Lynn Longfield of Tacoma who will serve as our Interim Pastor. Rev. Longfield will lead the worship service for the first time October 25th. See a biographical sketch of Lynn on page 2. Please join the congregation in welcoming her at a potluck luncheon after worship on the 25th.

Thank You From the Houstons

Dear VPC friends and family,

Thank-you for the truly wonderful sendoff September 6. Michele, Lydia, Lauren, James and I came home from the party with a deep sense of our being loved. The wonderful food, fellowship, flowers and personal words of appreciation gave us encouragement not just for our journey ahead, but for yours as well.

We still receive cards and letters and hugs and blessings from those who could not be there because of the holiday weekend. Our cup overflows. It has been an extraordinary privilege to be your pastor for nine years and to participate in the most sacred moments of your lives: big changes, losses, blessings, healings and redemptions and wonderful celebrations such as the one we recently shared. Again, thank-you.

May you search out more opportunities to celebrate together with a kind eye for neighbor and stranger alike. Because such is your gifting. But most of all because our Lord is good, all the time, and with Him we have so much to share! Out of the abundance of love which God in Christ has for you, may you love one another deeply (1 John 4:7-8), now and always. "Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday, today, and forever." (Hebrews 13:8).

Affectionately yours, Dan

October Dates!

Adult Education Class

Oct 4, 11, 18

VPC Book Club

Oct 16

Olde John's 90th Birthday

Oct 17

Welcome our Interim Pastor

Oct 25





An Armful of Love

The Rev. Lynn Longfield is stepping away from retirement (again) and the joy of being free to “grandparent” at will, in order to return temporarily to the other love of her life --- pastoral ministry. She will serve as our Interim Pastor while the Session and eventual Pastor Nominating Committee engage in the prayerful work of calling a new pastor.

Lynn is a Washington native, having grown up in Everett. Serving as a VISTA volunteer took her to Indiana. Pursuit of education took her to Madison, Wisconsin and later, to North Carolina’s Duke Divinity School. But the Northwest has always been home. She served as Interim Associate Pastor at Sumner Presbyterian, as Pastor of Trinity Presbyterian in Tacoma, as General Presbyter of the Presbytery of Olympia for nearly 16 years, and most recently as Interim Pastor of Packwood Presbyterian, up on the flanks of White Pass, where elk and independent souls flourish.

Although she loved Packwood, Lynn is most content near the waters of Puget Sound. She lives in the multi-cultural Hilltop neighborhood of Tacoma where she can engage in two of her other loves --- community service and gardening. She is an avid walker, a voracious reader, a practitioner of yoga, an enthusiastic cook and can think of nothing more enjoyable than spending time with friends.

Lynn is looking forward to her time with us and is grateful to God for the opportunity to serve.

Purposeful Service Team News

Area of Responsibility:

Scholarship, Mary Magdalene weekend, IFCH dinners, mission partner relations

Mary's Place Worship Worship with 28 women of Mary's Place and 75 from our island churches in Ober Park on Aug 16th was again incredibly inspiring. Joining us were members of the Methodist Church, the Lutheran Church, and the Church of the Holy Spirit. We used our chairs and sound system and tables provided by the VUMC. The pastor from Mary's Place gave the message and their choir sang. Beverly Skeffington coordinated drivers, food and additional needs in conjunction with Carol Butler of VUMC.

IFCH VPC provided the IFCH meal 9/24 and will be responsible for the meal 10/22. There is a sign up sheet in the Social Hall for 10/22. This is a great way to reach out to Islanders in need. Join with friends and plan a harvest time activity together, feeding those in hunger.

Refugee Crisis Some members of the church family have been talking about how we can help out with the Syrian refugee crisis. Please let me know your concerns and ideas for the team to consider and coordinate.

Elder Jacq Skeffington

Outstanding Guest Speakers

We have been blessed with several excellent guest speakers in September. Another month of inspirational speakers is lined up for October. On the 4th and 18th Rev. Arleigh Champ-Gibson will return. If you haven't heard him speak be sure to be here. Arleigh presently serves as a Spiritual Counselor / Chaplain with Group Health Cooperative. His sermon title this week, October 4th, is "**Calm in the Midst of Chaos**". We are also looking forward to hearing Rev. Dr. Monica Corsaro on October 11th. She is currently the pastor at the Church of Mary Magdalene in Seattle. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed hearing her speak at the worship with Mary's Place this summer.

Journey/Invitation Team News

Area of Responsibility:

Bible study, Christian formation (all ages), new members and discipleship, evangelism

Adult Education The fall adult education class is midway through its series on ethics in society today. This class is held at 9 AM Sunday mornings in the pastor's office. We are viewing DVD sessions entitled "*Do the Right Thing*" which explore the ethical and moral breakdown that is assaulting our culture from all sides. Three more classes remain. We will look at issues in the fields of medical ethics and biotechnology, ethics in the marketplace, and ethics in the public life (government). Please consider joining us as we view and then discuss the challenges we face.

Elder Diana Lilje

Worship Team News

Area of Responsibility:

Sacraments celebration, music program, readers, bulletin, ecumenical worship,

Guest Ministers for October: 4th -Rev. Arleigh Champ-Gibson, 11th - Rev. Dr. Monica Corsaro, 18th- Rev. Arleigh Champ-Gibson, and on Oct. 25th, we are welcoming our interim, Rev. Lynn Longfield. Come and share this new beginning for our church.

Music for Worship The congregation would enjoy hearing from our musical members who would like to share their talents at worship. Perhaps you know someone in the community who would like to furnish music. Please contact the church office or call Brownie at 463-5399.

Share your journey Members of the congregation are invited to share their spiritual journey with us at worship. These presentations only need to be less than five minutes and would be a part of the November services. We would love to hear from you. Again contact the church office or Brownie Carver.

Elder Brownie Carver

Mission Resource Team News

Area of Responsibility:

Financials

Area of Responsibility:

Building and Grounds

Building and Grounds Maintenance

Grounds Keepers Have you noticed the new grass seed taking hold on the front lawn? We can always use more help tending the grounds so if you'd like to "adopt" an area call me at 354-8917. The Carpe Diem teachers and parents are planning a work party to trim shrubs around the south parking area. I'll forward a date via eNews when decided. This will be a fun way to connect with some of these new children and their parents.

Toolbelts Our "Toolbelts" group continues to meet on Tuesday mornings 10:00am-noon. 3-4 men usually attend and we gladly invite anyone else to join us. We have converted the Nursery storage room into an office and storage space. We check sump pumps, put new filters in furnaces, change light bulb and other fun "home repair and maintenance" activities! Toolbelts next project will be cleaning the rain gutters next Tuesday morning. Bring your favorite ladder if you'd like to help out!

Carpe Diem Primary School began classes on Sept 9th. We monitored traffic in the parking lot at drop off and pick up times during the first three days with no incidents and lots of smiling faces. The children, parents and teachers are all extremely happy with the space and grateful for our partnership. The Harbor School's "big picture" of our partnership is that they hope to consolidate in one campus eventually and anticipates they will need our space for approximately 3 years while planning and fundraising. We were able to store Carpe Diem's tables and chairs in the classrooms allowing us to set up 10 tables for Dan Houston's reception and keep the Great Hall open for mingling prior to dinner. We're confident we can continue to do that as necessary to make the Social Hall available for large events. Many of the comments I've heard have been positive about brightening up the halls and classrooms. Please let me know of any concerns you have.

Building Use We were sorry to hear of the decision of the Quilters Guild to cease having their monthly meetings at VPC. The Guild held their regular monthly meeting Tuesday Sept 15th and Carpe Diem vacated the Social Hall about 9:30 allowing us to set up the usual 8 tables for their 10am-2pm meeting. We tried to reassure them that they were valued friends of VPC and how we and the school would be able to better accommodate them in the future. Many of the members commented on how much they liked the new life in artwork and children's voices in the hall but the board of directors decided that in the future they would meet at Bethel church.

Carpet Cleaning The IFCH covered the cost (\$397.25) of cleaning the carpet in the Social Hall and Great Hall Friday, August 14th. The cleaner, Robin Lewis, recommended we have the carpets cleaned every 6 months. I discussed sharing the cost of cleaning every 6 months with the Head of School at Carpe Diem and Emma Amiad of the IFCH and both groups are willing to share the cost again. The IFCH meal coordinator, Harmon Arroyo and some of those enjoying the meals put up 5 tables with 6 chairs at each table every Tuesday and Thursday evening and return them to the storage closet at the end of each meal. This is adequate for the number of meals presently served.

Office Staff We are seeking another "Office Volunteer" to answer phones and direct concerns to appropriate Mission Team Leaders. Volunteers staff the church office Monday through Thursday from 10-2. If you are interested in helping in this ministry once or twice a week, drop by the church during office hours and talk to the volunteer on duty. It's a great way to find out about the life of VPC beyond Sunday mornings.

Elder Jacq Skeffington

Financial Update

Our regular offering continues to run behind budget by \$16,000. Cash flow for paying bills has been very tight recently. With a part time interim pastor and the rent from Carpe Diem we have some relief, but we continue to delay repairs on the building for the roof replacement. Please continue to be faithful in your giving during this interim period.

Elder Barb Huff

Hospitality/Fellowship Team News

Area of Responsibility: Hospitality, Fellowship

Welcome Luncheon We will have a "Welcome to VPC" Potluck for our Interim Minister on Sunday October 25, 2015. The potluck will include hearty main dishes, wonderful side dishes, fall salads and decadent desserts. The potluck dinner will begin right after church is out. Please plan to attend and bring a dish to share. See you @ the potluck.

Olde John's Birthday Olde John Croan has invited his VPC family to attend his 90th Birthday party on Saturday 10/17/2015 from 1 to 4 pm at the church. Come one and come all to attend the birthday party of the century or at least the last 90 years!

Book Club Book Club meets October 16th at the Spangler's. Meet at 7:00 pm for desserts. The book selection this month is Being Mortal by Atul Gawande.

Deacons News

Transportation Services on Vashon

The deacons have recently assembled information about all the transportation services available to island residents. Look for the pamphlets on the bulletin board in the north entrance foyer. There are good resources for rides both on island and off island. If you have any questions about using these options, please talk with one of the deacons: Sue Weston, Susan Commeree, Lindsay Hofmann and Nancy van Roessel.

Clerk's Corner – October

Session held its monthly meeting on September 20, with Associate Executive Presbyter Eliana Maxim moderating. Most team reports were provided in written form before the meeting. Discussion as to worship focused on the need for pulpit supply in October, before the interim pastor starts, and the need to hold the October session meeting on the 18th. Jacq led a discussion about Carpe Diem's use of the building and the coordination that has taken place to assure a smooth transition. He also suggested that session review the approval process for outside use of the sanctuary, and it was agreed that use of the sanctuary by outside groups for a one-time use requires the informal unanimous agreement of session members. Session approved Creative Preschool's use of the basement for the forthcoming year at the same terms as for the previous year. Finally, session approved calling Rev. Lynn Longfield as interim pastor on the terms recommended by the Transition Team.

Bob Spangler, Clerk of Session

The Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee members for this year are Christine Browning, Jim Lilje, Carol Potter and Kate Smith. VPC needs one Deacon and one Elder. Both terms are for 1 year each. If they choose to sign up for a term on their own that option would be open. If after 1 year they are done, that would be ok too. Please pray for the Nominating Committee so that we may choose the right people for VPC. Also pray that maybe you are being called to fill our vacancies. We will respect our Presbyterian belief that people are called to be an Elder or Deacon. Those that are chosen will have to submit to a background check per our Safe Conduct Policy. If you want to be a part of planning the future of VPC please say yes when you are called. Thank you.



Calendar for October 2015

(all events at VPC unless otherwise stated)

Oct

- 3 Bible Study 10 AM
- 4 Adult Education Class 9 AM
- 4 Sunday Worship Service at 10 AM (Communion Service)
- 11 Adult Education Class 9 AM
- 11 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM
- 11 Deacon's Meeting after worship
- 16 VPC Book Club at Skeffington's 6:30 PM
- 17 Bible Study 10 AM
- 17 Olde John Croan's 90th Birthday Party 1-4 PM
- 18 Adult Education Class 9 AM
- 18 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM
- 18 Session Meeting after worship
- 25 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

Life Changing Prayer group meets on the second and fourth Wednesdays at 10:00 am at VPC, and on the first, third and fifth Wednesdays at 10:00 am at the Vashon Community Care Center.

Women's informal breakfast meets at Sporty's at 8:00 am on Wednesdays.

Bible Study meets the 1st and 3rd Saturdays.

Toolbelts work parties 10 am Tuesdays.

Please note: Dates, times and events may change after publication. Refer to the weekly e-News or Sunday bulletin for confirmation of details.