

Vashon Presbyterian Church

Vashon Island, Washington 98070

Listening to God, embracing all, living in joy



April 2017 Newsletter

PNC UPDATE

Pastor Nominee to Give Sermon April 9th

The PNC finished their visits to hear the candidates on March 19th. A meeting was held March 20th and the candidates were reviewed. After prayerful consideration a nominee for our pastor was selected. The nominee has expressed interest in the Vashon position and the Session is working with her to arrive at the terms of call. Upon success in arriving at an agreement on the terms of call, the congregation will meet and hear the nominee preach on Palm Sunday, April 9th. A Congregational Meeting has been called for April 9th following the worship service. All members will vote on the PNC's recommendation. If the congregation approves, the nominee will become our new Pastor and the PNC will be dissolved.

Some comments given by the PNC members will help to inform the congregation as to why they made their choice. "Her interests in mission, community, and interfaith activities are similar to what we have been involved with. She is excited to be a part of our church and to reach out to the Vashon community." "Warm personality, thoughtful, good listener, (with a) continuing education commitment (spiritual director, doctor of ministry program)." ".. I might add to the remarks of others that I think she has a soft touch and **she most importantly has vision**". These are just a few of the descriptors that have been expressed. Be sure to attend the April 9th Palm Sunday service to be a part of this vital decision- making process. It will be a rewarding experience for all.

Holy Week Schedule



Palm Sunday Service April 9th
10:00 AM

Maundy Thursday Service April 13th
Methodist Church
7:00 PM

Good Friday Service April 14th
Lutheran Church
7:00 PM

Seder Dinner for Passover – April 15th
HAVURAT
4:00 PM

Easter Sunrise Service Sunday Morning
Camp Burton
Time TBD

Easter Service April 16th
10:00 AM

Easter Egg Hunt at VPC
After Worship

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now.

Philippians 1: 3-4



In just a matter of three short weeks our paths will part - I to explore the joys and challenges of retirement, and you to take a journey into God's future in partnership with your new pastor.

I have cherished our time together so far and will treasure the coming days as we continue to make our way toward Holy Week, Easter and a farewell celebration on April 23rd.

One of the many things I have appreciated about VPC has been your openness to change. With grace and humor you have been flexible in worship, accepting of changes in Session agendas, willing to experiment with brunch worship, creative in outreach, eager for ecumenical adventures, and accommodating to my schedule needs. I could not

have asked for a more welcoming and open community of faith in which to live out my last pastorate. I trust you will continue to learn and grow and change and thrive in partnership with your new pastor as well.

As is always the case when a pastor leaves a congregation, I will need to stay away from VPC for at least a year, allowing you to focus completely on building a strong relationship with your new pastor. I will not be available for special events, preaching, weddings, funerals, etc. Though friendship continues, any and all pastoral relationships cease. Please know that such policies do not mean I hold you any less in my heart or in my prayers.

We all enter a future unknown. I ask that you pray for discernment for me as I will pray for you. As I let go of my 30 year vocation of pastoral ministry, I know that God has something prepared for me which will fill my heart and toward which I can channel my energy. I just don't yet know what it is! But I do know that we all travel with God in Christ. We are blessed.

With Deep Affection, **Lynn**



Mission Resource Team News

Area of Responsibility

Financial stewardship,
Building and Grounds.

Yikes! Another unusually wet month!! Not much got done outside in March, but the days are getting longer and the promise of spring and new growth is in the air. **Our March 18th work party got rained out so we planned another one for Saturday, April 1st.** Hopefully we were able to trim shrubbery, clean up flower beds and give the grounds a general sprucing up for Easter. We also planned to paint the French Doors leading to the Great Hall that day.

The parents of Carpe Diem and Creative Preschool students are also helping out with the grounds. They are expanding the small vegetable garden planted behind the church last year and sharing a fence to grow beans on! Check it out. We'll resume painting the railing around the wheelchair ramp as soon as possible but will still have to wait some time for the yard to dry out to finish the front of the church and bell tower. Blessings,
Jacq

Interfaith Brainstormers

Interfaith brainstormers will meet in the library at our church on Tuesday, April 25th at noon. Please come check out this amazing group.

Worship Team News

Area of Responsibility

Sacraments celebration, music program, readers, bulletin, ecumenical worship, church décor.

Palm Sunday is April 9th!

The Maundy Thursday service will be held at the Methodist Church at 7:00 PM and the **Good Friday** service will be held at the Lutheran Church, also at 7:00 PM. Both of these services are interfaith. Then we will have **Easter Service** here at VPC Sunday April 16th at 10:00 AM.

There will also be an ecumenical sunrise service at Camp Burton. The time will be announced in an upcoming Enews.

Elder Brownie Carver

Hospitality/Fellowship Team News

Area of Responsibility

Hospitality, Fellowship

Easter Sunday on April 16th Congregants are invited to bring Easter treats for coffee hour and spring flowers for the sanctuary.

An Easter egg hunt will follow the Worship service. All children are invited. If you would like to help with wrapped candy, please leave contributions in the office before Palm Sunday.

Lynn's Farewell on April 23rd We are planning a light brunch potluck following worship.

April Book Club The book club will meet April 28th at the home of Al and Claudia Ross Weston. Arrive at 6:30 for a potluck followed by a discussion of The Red Garden by Alice Hoffman.

Elder Brownie Carver

Purposeful Service Team News

Area of Responsibility

Scholarship, Mary Magdalene weekend/partnership, IFCH dinners, mission partner relations.

One Great Hour of Sharing There will be a short Minute for Mission April 2nd on the missions the Great of Hour of Sharing supports. Keep collecting your spare change and bring your “overflowing” fish banks in on Palm Sunday, April 9th.

Heidsmann Scholarship Application Deadline

Only one person has picked up the Heidsmann scholarship application from the office. If you are interested in applying or know of someone who would qualify – note the **deadline of 2 PM Thursday, April 27th**. This scholarship is open to those individuals who are currently enrolled in a program of higher learning or are returning after an absence. It is not open to high school seniors.

There will be no Purposeful Service Team meeting in April.

Elder Al Ross Weston

Journey/Invitation Team News

Area of Responsibility

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

Our Spring adult education class will continue into May. We are reading and discussing a book entitled The Very Good Gospel, written by Lisa Sharon Harper. Grounded in the story of God and all creation, The Very Good Gospel journeys from Genesis to Revelation, exploring God’s original intent for a thriving world in light of today’s headlines.

Elder Diana Lilje



Growing through Grief Support Offered on Vashon

Providence Hospice of Seattle Grief Support Services is offering a six-week support group for those who have experienced the death of a loved one in the last two years. The experience will create a safe environment for growth and can help provide guidance with life adjustments following the death of a significant person. The group will meet on Vashon, on Thursdays beginning April 20 through May 25 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

This is a closed group and registration is required. Please contact Jane Fleming, Grief Support Counselor at 206.749.7704 for more information and to register. Space is limited.

Clerk's Corner

Session held its scheduled monthly meeting on March 8. Teams and committees submitted written reports prior to the meeting, and members briefly reviewed those reports. Session changed the date of the April meeting to April 19 to avoid conflicts during Holy Week. Lynn stated that the Lutheran Church has invited VPC to join in a Good Friday service, and the Methodist Church has suggested a joint Maundy Thursday service. It was agreed that VPC would join with both churches, and that communion would be served at VPC on April 2 and 23. Barb Huff was appointed Safe Conduct Administrator, and a committee was named to conduct a financial review of 2016 operations. Session agreed that VPC would participate in the One Great Hour of Sharing offering. Larry Commeree presented information about the Pastor Nominating Committee progress. Session voted to hold a special session meeting on March 26 to hear the PNC's recommendation, and to hold a congregational meeting on April 30 for a vote on that recommendation. Jacq reported on the results of a special Presbytery meeting, and Lynn discussed details of her final month at VPC. She also was authorized to preside at a wedding. Session held a special meeting on March 26 to receive the PNC's report on its nominee for pastor. Session also changed the date for the congregational meeting from April 30 to April 9, at which time the congregation will vote on the PNC's nominee and, if the nominee is called, set the terms of call and dissolve the PNC. Finally, session discussed and agreed upon steps that need to be taken regarding an individual who has been disrupting the support groups meeting at VPC.

Bob Spangler, Clerk of Session

Deacon's News

The deacons would really love to have more friends join them in some very rewarding activities. We welcome you to come and experience the special moments we have at Vashon Care Center for an hour every Wednesday. The new relationships with the residents are really heart-warming! Think about adding your voice to all the singing and prayers we share there.

Deacons would also like to encourage you to be part of the team that prepares for the Communion services every month. Anyone can come and help get everything ready or work with the clean-up tasks. It only takes about a half hour, and you should always have a partner. Please consider being part of this very significant aspect of our worship - even occasionally -since it's very straightforward to learn the process.

And last but not least - we look forward to a bright future and opportunities to create new relationships and experiences with our new pastor. For a moment, consider your friends who are no longer with us regularly, and share the exciting news with an invitation for them to join us on a new journey together.

VPC Deacons Team - Susan Commeree, Lindsay Hofman, Beverly Skeffington and Nancy van Roessel



What's on Your Mind

Notes from the 3/21/2017 Interfaith Brainstormers group....

Emma Amiad reported on the fear within our Spanish speaking community that has prompted legal documents prepared by organizations such as the ACLU in which parents fearing deportation authorize specific individuals to care for their children born in the USA who are left behind.

There will be several interdenominational services during Holy Week. Janette Smith will be contacted about the **Easter sunrise service at Camp Burton. Passover will be celebrated on the day before Easter** this year. **Methodist and Presbyterian Churches on April 13th will have a combined Maundy Thursday service at Vashon Methodist church at 7pm. Episcopal church will have a soup dinner at 5:30 followed by service with foot washing. Vashon Lutheran Church is providing Good Friday service at 7pm on Friday, April 14th as is Episcopal church. Episcopal Church will also have Easter Vigil Saturday April 15th at 7pm and Vashon Havurat will have Passover seder on Saturday, April 15th at 4pm.**

A special coffee hour will honor Pastor Lynn Longfield after her final service at Vashon Presbyterian on Sunday, April 23 at about 11:15am. All are invited and prayers are requested during this transition time for both the Presbyterian and the Episcopal churches.

Emma Amiad asked for help in recruiting a part-time assistant for IFCH meal coordinator John Datin. This is a paid position for 10 to 15 hours per week. There is growing need for housing, not just for persons now homeless, but also for elderly persons, particularly single women, who have outlived their resources. A donor has offered \$30,000 to purchase a Park Model Mobile Home/RV if one of the churches on the Island is willing to allow the building/RV to be located on its property and hook into its utilities systems. IFCH distributed \$80,000 in rental assistance, transportation assistance, medical costs and utilities costs last year. In some cases they have facilitated a program where a benefactor pays some support toward a specific person's expenses. Neither donor nor recipient knows the other, although there are periodic reports to the donor on the welfare of the recipient.

Odie Hendershot has painted a beautiful poster in response to hearing that deportees are being separated from their children. Beverly will ask for a grant from the Presbyterian Deacon's Fund to print the posters and will discuss with Odie how they may be used to raise funds for the immigrant families in crisis.

Erin reported on the Vashon Resettlement Committee progress: **Muslim Women Speak, a panel discussion, will be held at the Presbyterian Church on Sunday, April 2 from 3 to 5 PM.** The panelists include Syrian refugees and other immigrant Muslim women. Refreshments will be served. A Syrian refugee family may be moving to the Island in June; the committee is looking into housing possibilities. Terry Kylo, a former Lutheran/Episcopalian priest who works with a group that fosters good relations between Muslims and Christians would like to meet with our brainstorming group and, perhaps, there could be a public event later on. Erin, will you see if he can come to our next meeting? 4/25

Paul Mitchell, a Food Bank board member, distributed a letter from the Food Bank to the faith community about possibilities for more engagement with the Food Bank. Please contact Eric Pryne to arrange a presentation about the food bank to your faith community.

Next Meeting April 25th at Noon

Calendar for April 2017

(all events at VPC unless otherwise stated)



April

- 1 Bible Study 9 AM
- 2 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM (communion service)
- 9 Palm Sunday Worship Service 10 AM
- 13 Maundy Thursday Service at Vashon Methodist 7 PM
- 14 Good Friday Service at Vashon Lutheran 7 PM
- 15 Bible Study 9 AM
- 16 Sunrise Easter Service at Camp Burton
- 16 Easter Sunday Worship Service 10 AM
- 16 Easter Egg Hunt and Special Coffee Hour after worship
- 19 Session Meeting 6 PM
- 23 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM
- 23 Reverend Lynn's Farewell Coffee Hour after worship
- 28 Book Club at 6:30 PM at the Ross Weston's

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

*The Prayer Group meets Wednesdays at
1:30 pm 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.

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