

MARCH 2018

# Vashon Presbyterian Church

Vashon Island, Washington 98070

**Listening to God, embracing all, living in joy**

## March 2018 Newsletter



### VPC "Town Hall"

On Palm Sunday, we will be holding our first "Town Hall" meeting. One of the things we have been discussing as a Session is the importance of transparency and communication. We've been working on a covenant together about how we will do this work of leadership, listening for God and discerning together. And we need your thoughts, your ideas and your energy.

So how does this work, practically speaking, you may be asking. It will convene much like a congregational meeting, only we won't be voting on anything. Coffee and snacks will move to right outside of the sanctuary. We'll worship as usual and after the benediction, we'll grab our coffee and refreshments and head back in to the sanctuary and start the Town Hall. You'll hear from your session members, what's upcoming on the calendar, what opportunities there are for you to plug in, etc. You'll get a quarterly finance update, you'll hear about upcoming Faith Formation direction, community outreach ideas. You'll hear about our plans for an all church retreat this summer.

It's an encouraging, energizing and exciting time in the life of the congregation and we've got a brand-new year to plan. We need your input, your ideas, your calendars and your energy. We need your participation!

Our plan, as a Session, is to do these quarterly to check in and provide updates and longer-range planning and how you can help. The meeting shouldn't last for more than thirty minutes and on behalf of your Session, I invite to make this a priority and join us!

Leigh

### Lenten Taize Services

Join us in the sanctuary on Tuesday evenings at 5 pm for our Lenten Taize service. It's a time of prayer and silence, of singing, of reading, of listening. It lasts for around thirty minutes and is based on Evening Prayer in our new Glory to God hymnals.

### Holy Week Schedule

March 26<sup>th</sup> - April 1<sup>st</sup>

Taize Services on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, 5:00 pm.

Maundy Thursday Service at the Methodist Church, 7 pm.

Good Friday Service at the Presbyterian Church, 7 pm.

The Stations of the Cross will be set up in our church and will be available to everyone Monday thru Thursday from 10 am until 2 pm.



## Dear Ones of VPC,

It's hard to believe we have come to March of this year. What a year it has been for you. What a year it has been for me, as your pastor. A year ago, on March 5<sup>th</sup>, your PNC ventured off island for a neutral pulpit, trying to discern what and who God was calling for VPC. A year ago, on March 5<sup>th</sup>, I was nervously driving toward that neutral pulpit, praying for them and you.

And now here we are, a year later, learning about one another, discovering our mutual call together and discerning where, what and how God calls us to go forward as a congregation in this community of Vashon. You're an amazing congregation too, you've moved through and processed newness, a new pastor, changes in worship, an additional early morning prayer service, a liturgy group and now evening Taize. And you've not just moved through it all, but you've astonished me with your grace and openness and you've led by example of what it means to stretch and grow and live into God's call and it has ministered to me. You welcomed the UMC folks to worship and brunch and into your hearts and you've embraced our fifth Sunday combined worship services with openness and hospitality.

As we move toward Holy Week and Easter Sunday, we begin a new year together! What will God call out of us? Where will we see and how will we name our hope and love together and for this community and for this congregation? What are the ways in which God will be revealed to us this year? The questions are as plentiful as the abundance of hope we have been experiencing together. But these are the questions each of us needs to be asking and sharing what we hear and learn as answers come.

What we do know is that God WILL call us, and we will experience hope and hold hope for one another and we will experience and hold love. And God will be revealed in ways we expect and in astonishing ways that we can't begin to know yet.

There will be quiet and loud, tears of sorrow and tears of joy, laughter and sheer delight. And, as we approach Holy Week and Easter Sunday, we will find the same. So, let us begin the next chapter starting with Holy Week. I encourage you to immerse yourself in our shared time. We will start with our VPC Town Hall meeting immediately following worship on Palm Sunday. This will be a time of check in and update from your Session, giving you a glimpse of the calendar of events starting to shape up for this coming year. And there will be time for your questions and your ideas too! And then, we will move into the week with Taize services on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings followed by Maundy Thursday in the UMC sanctuary and Good Friday in our own.

On Ash Wednesday, as we started in Lent, we asked this question: *Did you not know what the Holy One can do with dust?*

Looking forward, let us remember that question and ask another one, *what can the Holy One then do with us?*

Grace, Peace and Astonishing Joy to you!  
Leigh

## Worship Team News

### Area of Responsibility

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

### Lenten Taize Services

Tuesdays at 5:00 pm

### Holy Week Services

- Taize Services on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday at VPC 5:00 pm.
- Maundy Thursday Service at the Methodist Church 7 pm.
- Good Friday Service at VPC 7 pm.
- The Stations of the Cross at VPC will be available to everyone Monday thru Thursday from 10 am until 2 pm.

*Elder Brownie Carver*

## Hospitality/Fellowship Team News

### Area of Responsibility

Hospitality, Fellowship

**Easter Brunch and Egg Hunt** We've been doing a lot of support refreshments for many mission team events but our first solo Hospitality event will be the Easter Brunch and Egg Hunt. Be sure and plan to stay after Easter worship for wonderful baked goods and the fun of watching the little ones hunt for eggs!

*Elder Liz Loveness*

### VPC Book Club Selections

- March** - The Bookshop at Water's End by Patti Callahan Henry  
**April** - The Bad-Ass Librarians at Timbuktu by Joshua Hammer  
**May** - The Other Alcott by Elsie Hooper  
**June** - The Charm by Jude Boardman  
**July** - Learning to Walk in the Dark, by Barbara Brown Taylor  
**August** - Deep River by Shusako Endo  
**September** - Collected Poems of Wilfred Owens  
**October** - Turtles All the Way Down by John Green  
**November** - Bobby Kennedy by Chris Mathew

## Purposeful Service News

### Area of Responsibility

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

**One Great Hour of Sharing** Through your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing you can serve people in your community and around the world by alleviating hunger, rebuilding after crises or catastrophe, and working with communities to overcome oppression.

**Heindsmann Family Endowment Scholarship** Application packets for the Heindsmann Scholarship 2018 are now ready. This scholarship is for someone who has already had some higher education and are continuing or returning after an absence. It is not for high school seniors. You can pick up application packets in the office M-Thurs 10-2. More information will be given in the enews and local newspapers. Deadline for the application is April 2.

**Purposeful Service Meeting** We will meet Thursday March 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM.

*Elder Liz Loveness*

## Faith Exploration Team News

### Area of Responsibility

Bible study, Christian formation (all ages)

**Faith Formation** The place to be on Sunday mornings at 9:00 am is in the Library for Faith Formation. We're using a Lenten Study by Donald McKim that is leading us through the Lord's Prayer and how it orients us in many different ways. I so appreciated the conversation last week because we had a variety of perspectives. I heard two really wonderful things in that. One is that we think, we each think and share and process and own our understanding and our lens. The other thing I heard is that we create safe space to share. And both are so vitally important to the life of the church and of each of us.

Come check it out, add your thoughts, widen our understanding through your lens. We need you!!

*Pastor Leigh*

**(See p 6 For Survey Results)**

## Invitation and Outreach Team News

**Area of Responsibility**  
New Members and Discipleship,  
Evangelism and Invitation

### **Celebrate Pi Day with a Piece of Pie!**

Bring a pie to share! VPC wants to celebrate Pi Day (March 14 – 3.14) by inviting all islanders to stop by for a piece of pie! Pi Day is an annual celebration of the mathematical constant Pi, the ratio of the circumference of a circle to its diameter. The earliest known official or large-scale celebration of Pi Day was organized by Larry Shaw in 1988 at the San Francisco Exploratorium, where Shaw worked as a physicist. While it has generated a lot of interest in the study of Mathematics, it has also become an excuse for eating a lot of pie! Please join in this informal outreach to the community by bringing a pie to share. It will be a fun time!



### **An Opportunity for VPC Volunteers to Reach Out to Island Families**

Just as they did when VPC hosted them a few years ago, Vashon Youth and Family Services is still offering parents of young children a place for parent and child to get out of the house and come to a welcoming space where children can play and parents can connect, with each other and/or VYFS professional staff. VYFS' Family Place, located on the Highway at Gorsuch Road, is just such a space. Christine Wood, VYFS' Family Place Program Manager has shown real interest in responding to VPC's offer to explore ways VPC volunteers could help them fulfill their mission. As an example, Christine said volunteers could play with children or read them stories while parents connected with each other or, when requested, get ideas/coaching/support from staff members. As Christine has said: "Parents with young children often need more support to be the parents they want to be." If you are interested in learning more or have questions, call/text Larry (206-579-1122).

*Elder Larry Commeree*

## Mission Resource Team News

**Area of Responsibility**  
Financial stewardship,  
Building and Grounds.

Let's plan a **work party Saturday, March 24<sup>th</sup>**, the Saturday before Palm Sunday to spruce up the grounds before Easter.

Tuesday Feb 6<sup>th</sup> a few of us got together and spread 4 yards of gravel **filling the potholes** in the church parking lot. I'm sure many of you are grateful for the improvement as you enter and park your cars. I'm most grateful for the memory of working side by side with those of you helping out, especially the volunteers from the upstairs support groups who surprised us. Thank you.

Prior to that we again picked up a load of trash throughout the shrubbery surrounding the lot. This is an ongoing difficulty we experience being located in the center of town. If you have any free time and would like to help out, you can always stop by the church and **pick up litter on your own**.

Recyclables and trash can be placed in the receptacles within the fenced collection area in the parking lot. Every litter bit helps.

We had the **carpets cleaned February 23rd** during the mid-winter break in the Carpe Diem schoolyear. The contractor, Robin Lewis, gives us a substantial discount as a church and does a number of private residences on Vashon. He also cleans upholstery and fine rugs. He can be reached at 206-380-5399. Blessings,

*Elder Jacq Skeffington*

### **Beat these Late-Winter Blahs!**

**All-Island Fun and Game Night**  
**Saturday, March 10, 6:30-9:00pm**

**Hosted by Vashon Presbyterian Church**  
**All ages invited**  
**Beverages provided, bring a treat to share**

## Clerk's Corner

Session met on February 1, with two members absent. Members' written reports were distributed prior to the meeting, including a report from, Jacq Skeffington summarizing the proceedings of the January Seattle Presbytery meeting. Session approved submission of the annual PCUSA statistical report. Jim Lilje was elected treasurer and authorized to sign checks, and the monthly meeting date was changed to the first Thursday at 3 pm. At the request of the Personnel Committee, the committee's composition was changed to specify that membership is "at least one active elder and one member at large". Also, the Safe Conduct Policy was revised to state that Susan Commeree is the Ombudsperson and Bob Spangler as Clerk is Media Spokesperson. Because the planned session retreat was cancelled, session voted to hold the retreat on February 23.

Bob Spangler  
Clerk of Session



## Deacons - March 2018

Words are not enough. In a world like ours they have little meaning. If you would share the love of God with others then, it must be expressed through actions. When you volunteer; you are showing God's love and caring for a troubled world. Last month I mentioned several easy ways that you can reach out and share God's love. Here are several additional ways that you can reflect God's love.

- (1) Every Tuesday, The Meals on Wheels program delivers frozen meals and canned nutrition. Chosen from a menu of suggestions, by the clients who are often elderly, ill, handicapped, or shut-ins, the week's meals are packaged and then delivered by volunteers to people who find it difficult to shop or cook their own food. One way to help is to be a substitute delivery driver. For more information about Meals on Wheels contact the Vashon Senior Center and someone from Meals on Wheels will contact you.
- (2) I would encourage you to visit the Vashon Food Bank Office at Sunrise Ridge. Lack of enough food or quality nutrition affects the ability of children to learn in school and the quality of life for everyone. It is easy to get involved in this very important way to support those islanders who otherwise would not get enough to eat. Volunteer to help with a food drive or help sort donations. Next time you shop pick up some extra food, and then on the first Sunday of the each month, bring it to the Sunday church service our monthly food drive.
- (3) Finally make a conscious effort to learn and gather information about the many groups of people and organizations that work to help meet the many needs of your fellow islanders and make a better world for all of us to live in. What do you know about Dove, or Oasis, or the many AA and NA groups that meet on the island and here at the church? What services are available because of the caring volunteers at IFCH and Vashon Youth and Family Service? How does the van operated by the Vashon Chamber of Commerce or the Senior Center Blue Bird Medical Transportation make life easier for island non-drivers to get where they need and want to go? If someone you know needs help, can you connect them with the help and services they need? The more you know about caring for others, the more your actions will reflect the love of God. Remember, we are God's hands in a world that needs all of us.

*Deacon Sue Weston*

# What's On Your Mind?

## The survey results for Faith Exploration (Adult Formation)

1. As far as time there was approximately an equal number of responses for 9:00 and 11:15. A couple for Saturday classes.
2. The same was true for subject matter. approximately 50% for 1) peace and Justice and 2) Relationship to God
3. There was a scattering of responses for other topics like Bible study, prayer etc.



### Church Leadership

**Pastor** Rev Leigh Weber

**Clerk of Session** Bob Spangler

**Session Members** Brownie Carver, Larry Commeree, Jim Lilje, Elizabeth Loveness, Jacq Skeffington, Al Ross Weston.

**Deacons** Lindsay Hofman, Sheryl Lehman, Myrtle Walls, Sue Weston,



# Calendar March 2018

## March

- 3 Bible Study 10 AM
- 4 Morning Prayer Service 8:30 AM
- 4 Lenten Study 9 AM
- 4 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM (Communion Service; Food Bank)
- 4 Session Meeting 11:15 AM
- 6 Hospitality Meeting 9 AM at Sporty's
- 6 Lenten Taize Service 5 PM
- 8 Purposeful Service Meeting 7 PM
- 10 VPC Game Night
- 11 Morning Prayer Service 8:30 AM
- 11 Lenten Study 9 AM
- 11 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM
- 11 Joint Conversation on End of Life Noon at VPC
- 13 Deacon's Meeting 3 PM
- 13 Lenten Taize Service 5 PM
- 14 Pi Day 10 AM -2 PM
- 17 Bible Study 10 AM
- 18 Morning Prayer Service 8:30 AM
- 18 Lenten Study 9 AM
- 18 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM
- 18 Joint Conversation on End of Life Noon at VUMC
- 20 Lenten Taize Service 5 PM
- 24 Spring Clean Up Work Party 9 – Noon
- 25 Morning Prayer Service 8:30 AM
- 25 Lenten Study 9 AM
- 25 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM
- 25 VPC Town Hall Meeting after Worship
- 26 Lenten Taize Service 5 PM
- 27 Lenten Taize Service 5 PM
- 28 Lenten Taize Service 5 PM
- 29 Maundy Thursday Service 7 PM at VUMC
- 30 Good Friday Service at VPC

## April

- 1 Easter Sunday Worship Service 10 AM**
- 1 Easter Egg Hunt after worship

## ONGOING ACTIVITIES

*Liturgy Group meets Mondays at noon.*

*Fellowship Breakfast meets at Sporty's at 9 AM on Tuesdays.*

*Prayer Group Wednesdays at 1:30 the Vashon Community Care Center.*

*Bible Study meets the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays 10 AM.*

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