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Vashon Presbyterian Church

Vashon Island, Washington 98070

Listening to God, embracing all, living in joy

Newsletter May 2018

Save These May Dates!

Food Bank Sunday
May 6th

VPC Book Club Meeting
May 18th

Pentecost Sunday
May 20th

IFCH Meals
May 24th



In This Issue

Pentecost Sunday May 20th Wear Red and practice up on your language skills. See Worship News p 5.

VPC Book Club Selections See the selections through the end of 2018 so you can read one or all at your leisure in the coming months! See p 7.

Pastor Leigh's One-Year Anniversary at VPC See p 2.

New Faith Formation Class We started a new faith formation class on social justice. See Faith Exploration News p 5.

A New Round of "Greet and Meets" That's right "Greet and Meets" not the other way around! Lots of good times planned for this summer. See Deacon's News p 6.

Holy Smokes - A Fundraiser! See Mission Resource Building and Grounds News p 4.

Learn About Qualified Charitable Deductions See Mission Resource Financials News p 4.

VYFS's Family Place See what VPC volunteers are doing to help out in the community. See Outreach News p 5.

Painting the "Joyful Noise" Room You can help! See Mission Resource Building and Grounds News p 4.

Dear Ones of Vashon...

It kind of snuck up on me...this May 1st. Last year on this day, I came over on the morning ferry, picked up my keys, unlocked my office door and sat down at my desk. Over the next month, I would get to know more and more of you and you would get to know me. My office underwent a bit of a transformation and I adapted to what is absolutely the world's BEST commute onto an island with a congregation I have grown to dearly love in the last year.

It kind of snuck up on me...how much I would grow to love you, laugh with you, cry with you, hear your stories and share some of my own. You've hosted me in your homes, you've embraced my new ideas and shared many of your own. You've opened your doors more and more and welcomed in all who seek safe space...to learn, to share, to worship, to grow...and in so many ways.

It kind of snuck up on me...the new leaves on the tree we planted together, the tree planted in the dirt from your homes and lives. I walked into the front yard earlier this week and tender young leaves with the promise of new life and new growth were filling the branches of our little tree. I wonder where you see the growth, where you see the life and I wonder about the seasons that will come and go in which we will find our life together in this good and holy work of being church.

It kind of snuck up on me and perhaps that's as it should be. It snuck up on me because I am so deeply grateful and so busy with this work that we do together that I just didn't watch the calendar very much. We seem to have slipped more into Kairos (God's timing) and less in our own and the daily bread came every day just as God promised.

I wonder what is sneaking up on you...where is the Spirit tapping on your shoulder and saying "Behold, I am at work in you."

I see that in you, the Spirit at work. I see in you the open hearts and open minds and open doors of being Christ's Body. I see you poised to celebrate and receive Pentecost in just a few weeks, to let the Spirit fill us deeply and send us forth into the future. I see you with tender new leaves reaching sunward. And I am so very grateful to come alongside you and dream and reach and grasp.

There are no words to express the depth of my honor to be called to be your pastor. My prayer for us is that we continue to trust in the One who calls us together, the One who made us Brothers and Sisters and the One who keeps the promise of daily bread.

Grace for our journey!
Leigh

I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. Philippians 1:6

Hospitality/Fellowship Team News

Area of Responsibility Hospitality, Fellowship

Hospitality Team Meeting June 6 after worship. This will be a planning meeting to develop the Hospitality schedule through the summer. We will appoint someone at the upcoming meeting to be liaison to Deacons to help ensure the success of the “Greet and Meets”. Another idea that is being discussed as a stand-alone Hospitality event is an all church supper served by the **Syrian caterers** in the Social Hall after Carpe Diem has ended their school year....perhaps with entertainment. Another fellowship idea that will be decided at the meeting **VCA Garden Tour Small Groups**. We can do signups and organizing rides for congregation members who want to go with other congregation members. If you like either of these ideas and would like to help let me know.

Coffee Hours/Flowers/Ushers We are working to get sign ups completed through May. Hardest is to get ushers to sign up . We are not used to signing up for this but it is very helpful for those leading the service to know who is ushering in advance.

End of School We would like to have some sort of appreciation event/gift for both schools. We may coordinate this with outreach.

Would like Feedback on how the Hospitality Team is doing. You can direct your comments to me using the VPC email address.

Elizabeth Loveness, Hospitality Elder

VPC Book Club The book selection this month is The Charm by Judith Boardman a former member of VPC. Jude will attend the discussion. May 18th, 6:30 Location TBD.

Al Ross Weston, Faith Formation Elder

Purposeful Service Team News

Area of Responsibility

Scholarship, Mary/s Place Partnership, IFCH dinners, Mission Partner Relations.

One Great Hour of Sharing We raised a total of \$882.00

Heidsmann Endowment Scholarship Two candidates have applied. Claudia Ross Weston heads the interview committee consisting of Al Ross Weston, Sue Weston, Ben Tucker and Claudia. They will be interviewing the two candidates the second week of May. The winner will be announced third week in May. The recipient(s) will be introduced to the congregation in June.

Strawberry Festival Parking and Chairs Beverly Skeffington will start publicity and signups soon.

Mary’s Place Tentative date for Mary’s Place Picnic: August 12th (no conflict with yard sale, August 3rd) Questions? Contact Beverly Skeffington.

Food Bank We will be housing the food prep for the summer lunch program again this year. We are still trying to give the food bank \$50 a month from the Thriftway receipts but the receipts don’t quite keep up. Sue Weston is our lead person for the food bank.

IFCH VPC has a new representative to the IFCH council. Brownie Carver agreed to be our rep. Browning attended the monthly meeting April 10. She reports that the IFCH has \$39,000 balance most of which will be used to pay rent for those in need. There is another low-income housing project being built. It will only rent and cater to seniors and low income families. Brownie also mentioned we will have to reschedule one of the Tuesday meals in July when Presbytery is here.

Elizabeth Loveness, Purposeful Service Elder

Mission Resource Team News

Area of Responsibility

Financials, Building and Grounds.

Financials

There were 5 Sundays in April and so we have not closed out the month yet. Based on the 4 Sundays we do have information for, it looks like we will meet our giving goals for the month we will probably have a small operating surplus for the month.

Qualified Charitable Distributions

The new tax law has increased the standard deduction for most people and removed some expenses that were included in itemized deductions. This means that many people who itemized in the past will now just take the standard deduction instead. If you don't itemize, you cannot use your contributions to VPC to lower your taxes.

However, certain retirees can make "qualified charitable contributions" directly from their IRA's and not have the withdrawal count as taxable income. The withdrawal can also be used to meet any "Required Minimum Distribution" amounts required for those over 70 ½.

The Details:

- You must be 70½ or older.
- You may transfer up to \$100,000 from your IRA directly to Vashon Presbyterian Church
- If you have not yet taken your required minimum distribution for 2018, your gift can satisfy all or part of that requirement.
- You pay no income tax on the gift. The transfer generates neither taxable income nor a tax deduction, so you benefit even if you do not itemize your tax deductions.

If you think you might want to set this up, I will be glad to help.

Jim Lilje, Mission Resource Elder

Mission Resource Team News

Area of Responsibility

Financials, Building and Grounds.

Building and Grounds

Have you taken a look at the **church grounds** on a sunny afternoon lately? The flowering dogwood tree we planted in the front yard last year at Pastor Leigh's installation has started to sprout new growth. The yards and yards of compost Kathy O'Laughlin added to the flower beds under the Good Shepard window have nurtured all the beautiful ground cover, shrubs and bulbs. The Rhododendrons and other plants Here and Sheryl planted and maintain around the north side of the building are bursting with color and the vegetable gardens planted by Creative pre-school and Carpe Diem students on the south side are showing promise of a good harvest. It's a wonderful time of year to witness all this new life. Come a little early and stay a little late after worshipping together to enjoy the beauty we have been called to steward. If you'd like to get more involved by "adopting" a flower bed or area which you can maintain whenever the Spirit moves you, please see me after worship or in the office any Tuesday and we can explore possibilities together. We're moving along preparing to **repaint the bathroom by the sanctuary and the "joyful noise room"**. Join the "Toolbelts" this Tuesday between 10 and 12 to help out.

We've had one bid so far to replace the **sanctuary furnaces** and I'm expecting another contractor's bid soon. It will be expensive and although Session has set aside money for major repairs and grant money from the Presbytery may be available we've decided to start a "Feed the Furnace" fundraiser to help pay for the necessary replacement. Keep watch in the eNews, Facebook page and bulletin boards for details. Blessings,

Jacq Skeffington, Mission Resource Elder

Worship Team News

Area of Responsibility

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

PENTECOST!!! Sunday, May 20th!! Do you speak another language? Did you learn one in college or high school that you could brush up on enough to read it again? Acts 2:1-7 is how we will begin worship that Sunday...reading in as many languages as possible. Larry Commeree is brushing up on his Russian already. Let's pool our gifts together and hear this beautiful text in as many tongues as there are gifts among us.

Email Leigh at pastorLeigh@comcast.net and let her know if you would like to help with your gift of language.

Pastor Leigh Weber

Faith Exploration Team News

Areas of Responsibility

Bible study, Christian formation (all ages)

Faith Formation Class. A new class on peace and justice started in April. The book, Interrupting Silence – God's Command to speak Out by Walter Brueggemann is being used as a resource. There is still time to attend as each chapter is a separate topic. Books are \$10 at the office. Please come! **9 am each Sunday morning.** Contact Al or Leigh.

Al Ross-Weston, Faith Formation Elder.

Invitation and Outreach Team News

Area of Responsibility

New Members and Discipleship,
Evangelism and Invitation.

Belated thank-yous for all who:

- brought pies on 3/14 for celebrating Pi Day, stayed to help with the setup, greeted visitors with smiles and served them a piece of pie throughout the day. Guests appreciated your warm generosity. And a special **Thank you!** to Liz for having street-sized signs made at Costco inviting the community to come in and enjoy a treat (which will be used next year, too);
- participated in VPC's March 10 Fun and Game Night, bringing goodies to share and enthusiastically joining in the merriment. And a special **Thank you!** to Barb for leading the group in some hilarious getting-to-know-you antics.

VYFS' Family Place

VPC members are off to a good start, just now in their second week as Childcare Volunteers at VYFS's Family Place. Their presence supports programs such as 'Chat and Play' where parents of young families interact with other parents and staff while their children (ages 6 months to 5 years) play with other kids.

Current VPC volunteers:

Thomas Abraham
Brownie Carver
The Commerees
Nancy Johnson
Laura Jean Walls Fisher
Myrtle Walls
Sue Weston

Seek them out when you get a chance and see if it's something you'd like to do, too.

Larry Commeree, Invitation and Outreach Elder

Deacon's News

"Greet and Meets"

Summer time at Vashon Presbyterian Church means that it is time for everyone to join together in relaxed settings to get to know each other and our pastor better. Part of that includes sharing a meal in a friendly home setting. Would you like to be a host? We are looking for hosts to invite groups of people into their homes for potluck lunch or dinner and want to give everyone a chance to participate. The food, time and date (check with Rev. Leigh for her availability) and number of people will be decided by the host. **You**, the congregation, can then sign up for a time and location that works for you. Think great food, relaxed conversations, laughing together and just hanging out. Is there someone who sits across the church from you that you would like to get to know better? This is so much more fun than having to rush off to the next Sunday afternoon activity after a quick "How are you doing?" in coffee hour.

For more information, or to volunteer as a host or helper please talk to one of your deacons, Lindsay Hofman(206- 463-5356), Sue Weston, Myrtle Walls or Sheryl Lehman.

Clerk's Corner

Session met on April 5 with one member absent. Session approved a Letter of Transfer of Linda Ford's membership to Covenant Presbyterian Church, Gresham, OR. Session also approved an expenditure of up to \$10,000 to replace the two failing furnaces, and a fundraiser to increase the amount in VPC's maintenance reserve fund. There was a discussion about the Palm Sunday Town Hall, with recommendations for future events, and discussion of the need for teams to identify two focus areas for 2018 and report regularly on progress. Another discussion item was the draft of a session covenant, which will be adopted in May and presented to the congregation. The discussion of whether to increase the use of audio visual equipment in the sanctuary was continued from prior meetings, but no changes will occur without input from the congregation. All teams and the pastor submitted written reports; as part of her report Pastor Leigh stated that she was invited to officiate at an off-site wedding, and session approved.

Bob Spangler, Clerk of Session

Ramadan Break for Language Classes

Hi everyone - as of this weekend, our Syrian families have decided to ask for a break from ESL studies during Ramadan. That means the regular classes will stop after Monday, May 14th. Not yet sure if the Tuesday conversation gatherings will be held on Tuesday, May 15 though. Ramadan starts that night at sunset. Since Ramadan continues until mid June this is effectively the end of regular lessons/gatherings for this school year. We are all working on plans for some more casual gatherings at Ober Park playground during the summer though.

All of us who were involved (and continue to be) in supporting the Syrian families, and the Moms in particular, are very grateful for the church's generosity in allowing us to use the library. The Moms felt safe and welcomed with us. Thank you so much for all the hospitality. There are ongoing conversations these days about continuing the language support gatherings in the fall - possibly with some of the Hispanic Mothers on the island who are also interested in joining the group. We'll have to keep ourselves open to future opportunities, and I will certainly let you all know about any potential room use requests then.

Nancy Van Roessel

Greetings from the Sea of Galilee!

Brownie and Skip Carver on their recent trip to Israel.



Book Club Selections

May	<u>The Charm</u> * Jude Boardman
June	<u>Learning to Walk in the Dark</u> Barbara B. Taylor
July	<u>Deep River</u> Shusako Endo
Aug.	<u>Collected Poems of Wilfred Owens</u> Wilfred Owens
Sept	<u>Turtles All the Way Down</u> John Green
Oct.	<u>Bobby Kennedy</u> Chris Matthews
Nov	<u>Souls in the Hands of a Tender God</u> Craig Rennebohm
Dec.	<u>Small Great Things</u> Jodi Picoult
Jan.	<u>The Home Going</u> Yaa Gyasi

* Author will be at The Charm

Calendar for May 2018

(all events at VPC unless otherwise stated)



May

- 3 Session Meeting 3 PM
- 5 Bible Study 10 AM
- 6 Morning Prayer Service 8:30 AM
- 6 Faith Formation Class 9 AM
- 6 Sunday Worship Service Communion Service 10 AM
- 6 Food Bank Sunday
- 13 Morning Prayer Service 8:30 AM
- 13 Faith Formation Class 9:00 AM
- 13 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM
- 18 Book Club at 6:30 PM Location TBD
- 19 Bible Study 10 AM
- 20 Morning Prayer Service 8:30 AM
- 20 Faith Formation Class 9:00 AM
- 20 Pentecost Sunday Worship Service 10 AM
- 27 Morning Prayer Service 8:30 AM
- 27 Faith Formation Class 9:00 AM
- 27 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

Liturgy Group meets Mondays at noon.

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

Prayer Group: meets Wednesdays at 1:30 PM at VCCC.

Bible Study: meets the 1st and 3rd Saturdays 10 AM.

Tool Belts: Meets Tuesdays 10-noon.

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