

J U N E 2 0 1 8

Vashon Presbyterian Church

Vashon Island, Washington 98070

Listening to God, embracing all, living in joy

June 2018 Newsletter

Summer Events

**Presentation of Heindsmann
Scholarship Winners 6/24**

**Ecumenical Brainstormers
At VPC 7/15**

**Seattle Presbytery Meeting
At VPC 7/17**

**Strawberry Festival
Parking Fundraiser 7/21**

**Summer "Thanksgiving"
Supper 7/29**

**VPC Yard Sale
8/4**

**Mary's Place Picnic
8/12**

Save the Date!

Greet and Meets Begin in June

A fun way to enjoy the days of summer is to host or attend one of the many "greet and meets" that VPC is sponsoring. The host decides on the venue, number of guests and date. Then they post the sign-up sheets on the info table in the greeting room. Guests sign up and show up! It's a great way to gather in smaller groups and get to know one another better. Hope to see you at several of these gatherings this summer!

VPC Will Host the Seattle Presbytery in July

On July 17th our church will be hosting the Seattle Presbytery. People will be arriving in the afternoon. We may have as many as 100 guests! There will be a dinner that evening catered by the Presbytery and served by us. Because it will be on a Tuesday, the IFCH regular dinner guests will be asked to join in. This is our chance to see how the Presbytery conducts business that affects us on a daily basis.

"Summer Supper"

The Hospitality/Fellowship group is hosting an evening of fun, food and fellowship July 29th. This is a time for thanking all in our church and their friends who have so freely given of themselves and their resources over the past year. Come, bring a friend, and enjoy a seasonal dinner and light entertainment while we celebrate our many blessings here at VPC.

It's Time to Start Signing Up for Parking and Chairs for the Strawberry Festival Parade!

Dear Ones of Vashon,

Have you noticed the leaves on the tree we planted last June? Seasons came and went and now spring is in its last days ready to yield to summer. Our little tree is now covered with beautiful green leaves drinking in the sunshine.

Where are you drinking in sunshine? Where is God showing up for you these days? What season are you in in your life? I've been reading through the Psalms in my devotional time lately. The psalmist says, "How long, O God" and then shouts praise and adoration. It's caught my attention that the psalmist records the seasons of the people of Israel, waxing and waning through good and hard, through feast and fallow, crying out and drinking in sunshine. This is the good and honest work of faith, staying in the conversation with the One through each season. And this is the good and honest work of being church together, holding space for one another, allowing each season its time and embracing the next.

As spring yields itself to summer, my prayer for each of us is that we lean in to the seasons, that we pay attention to the signs of each one and rest in the knowledge that all are good and holy and purposeful. What season are you in? What season are we in together? And what season is yet to come?

In her poem, *Sometimes*, Mary Oliver writes:

Instructions for living a life:

Pay attention.

Be astonished.

Tell about it.

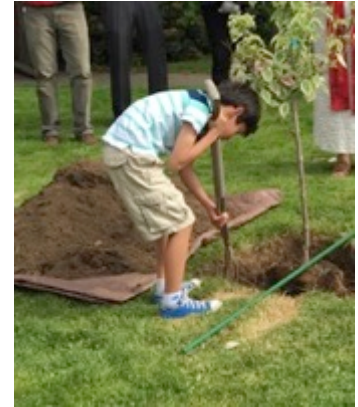
Paying attention with you!
Grace and Peace,

Leigh

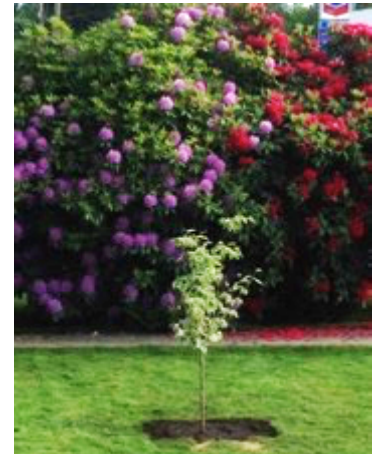


A Year Full of Blessings

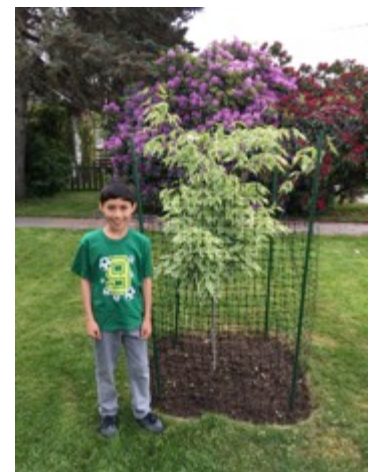
It has been a year of spiritual growth for VPC. Our tree's beauty reflects the love shared by our congregation and God's love nourishing our journey here on Vashon.



June 2017



June 2017



June 2018

Our tree is flourishing and so is Weston!! This picture, taken on June 1st, was Weston's 9th birthday!! A year after he helped plant our variegated dogwood you can see both are flourishing! This Thursday Weston will be graduating from Carpe Diem School held here at VPC and venturing on to the Harbor School next year. (He's leaving Garrett in charge here at Carpe Diem!)

Invitation and Outreach Team News

Area of Responsibility

New Members and Discipleship,
Evangelism and Invitation.

VYFS Family Place

May marks VPC's first full month of providing support of Vashon Youth and Family Services' Family Place programs. Monday through Friday from 10:00 to noon, parents of preschoolers 12 mos. to 5 years old, stop in to connect with other parents while children play in a clean, bright space full of toys, books, play structures and table and chairs. While parents chat and build friendships, VPC volunteers hang out with the kids reading them stories, helping them explore and play with one another.

Since VYFS is a social service agency providing islanders with a range of services regardless of one's ability to pay, the fees for Family Place program participants are on a sliding scale. All island families are welcome at Family Place. And having caring volunteers helps out keeps their costs down.

Moreover, Program Manager Christine Woods told us recently how much she appreciates VPC volunteers' presence, having an older generation with the young families.

Many thanks to our volunteers:

Laura Jean Walls Fisher
Myrtle Walls
Brownie Carver
Nancy Johnson
Sue Weston
Thomas Abraham
Larry and Susan Commeree

Talk to Larry if you'd like to learn more about volunteering.

Larry Commeree, Outreach Elder

Purposeful Service Team News

Area of Responsibility

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

The Heindsmann Scholarship Committee has selected two recipients. They will be introduced to the congregation at the June 24th Sunday service.

Heads Up: VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR SUMMER EVENTS

Strawberry Festival - July 21.

Festival will be here before you know it. Be sure to reserve a parking space and chairs for parade watching. We always need help setting up and taking down all those chairs. Also need folks to help with parking the cars and selling unreserved chairs.

Mary's Place Picnic - August 12.

Worship and potluck lunch will be held at Ober Park. We will need help moving audio equipment, kitchenware, chairs and tables from VPC (and back again!), drivers to pick up and drop off our Mary's Place guests, clean up, servers. We also need food to be provided for our guests.

Beverly Skeffington will be heading up these two events, so please, if you can help, let her know as soon as possible. Sign up sheets will be coming probably in early July.

Bev Skeffington

Remember to sign up for an IFCH dinner!

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Purposeful Service Team will meet via the internet in the month of June. If interested in being on the team contact Liz (206) 409-5741 or elizabeth.loveness@gmail.com.

Elizabeth Loveness, Purposeful Service Elder

Mission Resource Team News

Area of Responsibility
Financials, Building and Grounds.

Building and Grounds

I just spent a wonderful morning walking around the church and talking with Here, Sheryl and Kathy who were weeding, pruning and admiring the **flower beds**. The dogwood tree is covered with new growth! It's a wonderful time of year to witness all this new life. 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.

The **"Toolbelts"** repainted the bathroom and "joyful noise room" by the sanctuary over the last 2 weeks thanks to the help of Chris Coldeen and Phil Yunker. We've got a list of other repairs and improvements we'd like to accomplish this summer so join the "Toolbelts" any Tuesday between 10 and 12 to help out with minor maintenance projects.

I spoke with Jim Marsh of the Chamber of Commerce about removing the **Christmas tree lights which were damaged** during the last winter's windstorms. The focus of the Chamber is all about Strawberry Festival at the moment but we plan to remove the faulty lights in August. Then they plan to string new lights again in December.

We've only had one bid so far to **replace the sanctuary furnaces**. Another contractor chose not to bid the project so I'm seeking other bids. I'm also seeking bids on carpeting the Sanctuary. The Presbytery of Seattle has helped other churches with major capital improvements and expressed willingness to assist us so we are planning to package both renovations into one grant request. The **Presbytery grants** typically cover 50% of costs. Our Session has set aside funds for capital improvements over the last two years so we have the resources to complete the projects this summer. We're very grateful that our "Feed the Furnace" fundraising campaign has received \$679.00 to date.

...Continued next column

The less we have to draw from the capital improvements funds, the better we'll be able to cope with future repairs or appliance replacements that Presbyterian Church, P.O. Box 435, Vashon, Wa. 98070. Checks should be earmarked FURNACE FUND.

Blessings,

Jacq Skeffington, Mission Resource Elder

Worship Team News

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

Special Music If you would like to furnish special music or if you know of someone who would be interested in providing music for one of our services please contact Brownie at bc2vashon@centurytel.net.

Seattle Presbytery On July 17th our church will be hosting the Seattle Presbytery. People will be arriving in the afternoon. We will also be furnishing food for the IFCH. The Presbytery will furnish the main course. It will be a big day for our church!

Brownie Carver, Worship Elder



Hospitality/Fellowship Team News

Area of Responsibility
Hospitality, Fellowship.

Summer “Thanksgiving” Supper Freely you have given; Freely you shall receive....

The Hospitality/Fellowship group is hosting an evening of fun, food and fellowship July 29th. This is a time for thanking all in our church and their friends who have so freely given of themselves and their resources over the past year. Come, bring a friend, and enjoy a seasonal dinner and light entertainment while we celebrate our many blessings here at VPC and on Vashon Island. Our most precious blessing is YOU!

Greet and Meets We will start having sign ups out for Greet and Meets in June. Join in and make your summer more rewarding and fun. See p1 for more details.

Elizabeth Loveness, Hospitality Elder

VPC Book Club will be meeting at Skeffingtons on Friday June 8th at 6:30. The book is Learning to Walk in the Dark by Barbara Brown Taylor. Books for the rest of the year are given below:

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

Al Ross Weston

Faith Exploration Team News

Areas of Responsibility
Bible study, Christian formation (all ages)

Faith Exploration Class

We completed an 8 week discussion of the book Interrupting Silence by Walter Bruggemann on June 3rd. It was well attended. We plan to break for the summer and plan for the fall.

Al Ross Weston, Faith Exploration Elder

All-Island Ecumenical Vacation Bible School for kids entering Kindergarten through 5th grade.

Your kids won't want to miss this adventure! Secure their place on the team by responding to this email and letting us know the names and ages of children who wish to attend!

Date: August 13-17

Place: Bethel Church

14736 Bethel Lane SW

Vashon, WA 98070

Time: 9:30am – 1:00pm

Cost: \$25 per child, or \$50 per family

Contact: Kimi Healey 206-200-2857 (cell)

kimidell@gmail.com

Alice Dorr 206-463-4743

(home) aliceandruss@hotmail.com

**Bible Study every 1st and 3rd
Saturday at 10 AM**

Deacon's News

What is a Deacon?

Have you ever wondered what a deacon is in the Presbyterian Church? What kind of jobs or responsibilities or jobs are a deacon's responsibility? Over the years here at the Presbyterian Church, as a member of the Deacons, I have spent time trying to define what for me is a Deacon. The job description from the PCUSA constitution is as follows.

“It is the duty of deacons, *first of all*, to minister to those who are in need, to the sick, to the friendless, and to any who may be in distress both within and beyond the community of faith. They shall assume such other duties as may be delegated to them from time to time by the session, such as leading the people in worship through prayers of intercession, reading the scriptures, presenting the gifts of the people and assisting with the Lord's supper.”

For me, all of the above boils down to one word. It is an action not a duty and that action is love. As a Deacon, Jesus calls me to let his love flow through me to all of you. My job as a Deacon is to love and care for people and help them to love and care for each other. The more we practice loving and caring for each other, the stronger we will be as a church, nation and world. In John 13:34-35 Jesus taught “*A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.*” Looking at being a Christian in that way means that we are all called to be deacons to each other and to the world around us.

Deacon Sue Weston

Clerk's Corner

Session held its monthly meeting on May 3. After discussion needed capital improvements, it was agreed to seek a grant from Presbytery to partially cover costs of carpeting and furnace replacement. The VPC yard sale will be held on August 4, with proceeds to the general fund. Leigh summarized her meetings with Vashon Youth and Family Services as to partnering with them on projects. One activity is creating a support group for families dealing with mental illness of a member. VYFS would provide necessary resources. VYFS also would like to co-sponsor with VPC a fall community forum on mental illness. In addition to these, VYFS plans to use the church facilities four times a year to hold a wellness clinic. It was agreed that VPC will be a co-sponsor of a fall forum on mental illness and will be a co-sponsor of a support group for families dealing with a member's mental illness. Session discussed what mission project to support with funds received at the July Presbytery meeting, and decided that they will first go to the Vashon Resettlement Committee to buy books, with the balance to the Interfaith Council to Prevent Homelessness. It was also agreed that VPC will host a youth art exhibit during Strawberry Festival. Finally, Jacq summarized the proceedings of the Seattle Presbytery meeting, and session discussed logistics for hosting the July meeting.

Bob Spangler, Clerk of Session

Seen and Heard



Two weeks ago I attended my 50th high school reunion. I reconnected with schoolmates and my church youth group. We decided to attend worship at Cloverdale Baptist, where we grew up. This is a picture of a few members of our youth group. *Brownie Carver*



One Year Ago - A Spirit Filled Occasion!

Calendar for June 2018

(all events at VPC unless otherwise stated)



June

- 2 Bible Study 10 AM
- 3 Morning Prayer Service 8:30 AM
- 3 Faith Formation Class 9 AM
- 3 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM Communion Service
- 3 Food Bank Sunday
- 7 Session Meeting 3 PM
- 8 Book Club 6:30 PM at Skeffington's
- 10 Morning Prayer Service 8:30 AM
- 10 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM
- 12 Deacon's Meeting 3:30 PM
- 16 Bible Study 10 AM
- 17 Morning Prayer Service 8:30 AM
- 17 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM
- 24 Morning Prayer Service 8:30 AM
- 24 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM
- 24 Presentation of the Heindsmann Scholarship during Worship

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

Liturgy Group Meets at noon on Mondays.

Fellowship Breakfast meets at Sporty's at 9:00 am on Tuesdays.

Tool Belts meet/work Tuesdays 10-noon

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.