

S E P T E M B E R 2 0 1 8

Vashon Presbyterian Church

Vashon Island, Washington 98070

Listening to God, embracing all, living in joy

September 2018 Newsletter

Upcoming Dates!

Greet and Meets

It has been a good summer for getting to know one another. Thanks to the following hosts for opening their homes so that these small groups could meet: Brownie Carver, Susan and Larry Commeree, Elizabeth Loveness, Kathy Olsen, Nancy and Ben Tucker, Nancy and Jan van Roessel, and Myrtle Walls. The gatherings were well attended and the consensus was that they were fun and allowed us to get to know one another a little better.

The New Carpet Is Installed

When you arrive for worship Sunday September 2nd, you'll find a new look to the sanctuary. The new carpet is installed and the pews were put back in their places. There will be a rededication service Sunday, September 23. There were a few delays so the sanctuary just got put back together Saturday the 1st!



We needed lots of helpers to put the pews back in the sanctuary

**Rededication of the
Sanctuary
September 23**

**VPC Book Club
September 28th**

**Combined Service
With VUMC
September 30**

**Gratitude Supper
October 20**



Dear Ones of VPC,

“Sabbath requires surrender. If we only stop when we are finished with all our work, we will never stop, because our work is never completely done. With every accomplishment there arises a new responsibility... Sabbath dissolves the artificial urgency of our days, because it liberates us from the need to be finished.”

— Wayne Muller, Sabbath

In our August Session meeting, we reflected on all that we have done and continue to do. It's been a busy summer. We/YOU hosted the Presbytery. We hosted Mary's Place again, we moved pews, we pulled up carpet, we hosted an art show, we provided parking for the festival, we fed people a LOT and we kept our doors open and welcomed countless groups. We worked a lot. And, in our Session meeting, we remembered what God modeled for us, to work and then to rest, to find sabbath.

For us, this doesn't mean that the work completely stops. We still have pews and a sanctuary to reassemble. We have little ones from Carpe Diem and Creative Preschool to welcome. And we'll be welcoming our Presbytery staff as we re-dedicate the sanctuary on September 23rd. But I do believe, as does your Session, that it is important to lean into some sabbath time and practice as well.

By the time you receive this newsletter, we will have just finished a long sermon series on Mark's gospel. And those pews will be in place. For the remainder of September and October, we will go through a shorter series on sabbath and gratitude. As we work through this series, each week there will be an invitation to a sabbath practice. This is just for you to receive however you need it. It will be included in the weekly e-news with the sermon text for you to read. My hope is that it gives you additional tools to simply rest.

Recently, while on a retreat, someone who attended made this comment, “I didn't think about what I should do, I thought about what I WANTED to do.” In addition to the gentle restfulness that sabbath creates, it gives us the stillness to listen to that which our hearts are wanting to do. This is something each of us needs individually and collectively as a body.

My prayer is that in this new season, we will listen individually and together, to what we hear in the moments of rest, in the moments of sabbath, in the moments with the One who says, “Be still...be still and know...be still and know that I am God.”

Grace and Peace,

Leigh

“He said to them, “Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while.” For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat.” Mark 6:31



Worship Team News

Areas of Responsibility

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

Our sanctuary will look a little different with new carpeting. It was fun worshipping in the Great Hall, but I am looking forward to being back in our lovely sanctuary. A very special thank you to Jacq Skeffington and his hard working crew.

Communion and Rededication Service We will not have communion Sunday September 2nd. Instead **we are planning a rededication of our sanctuary on September 23rd.** This special service will include communion, a message from our Executive Presbyter, Scott Lumsden, piano and organ music. I hope that you will be able to attend!

Brownie Carver, Worship Elder



Mission Resource Team News

Area of Responsibility

Financials, Building and Grounds

Thank you all for continuing to **weed, water, pick up trash and mow the lawn throughout the summer.** It's a great joy to leave the doors open while volunteering in the office and meet all the people who just wander in and want to have a look around because they sense a caring welcoming presence here.

Our **Annual yard sale August 4th** was once again, another great success monetarily and spiritually. A special thanks goes out to Barb Huff for coordinating the sale and to everyone else who pitched in sorting, pricing or greeting on the day of the sale. My greatest joy of the day was helping a young couple and their very young child move a piece of needed furniture into their house. The joy, excitement and gratitude expressed made all our efforts worthwhile.

This month the **“toolbelts”** group installed wooden baseboards in the new building's bathrooms and moved pews, a piano and furnishing around creating a temporary worship space in The Great Hall. We had to remove everything except the organ from sanctuary in preparation for removal of the old and installation of the new carpet. A special thank you to all who helped remove the old carpet and pad during our work party August 18th. We transported 1.07 tons of carpet and padding to the waste transfer station and must have pulled at least a thousand staples from the floor! My heart especially rejoiced the day of the work party to work with so many people who attend various support groups in the Upper Room, removing that carpet and pad! Installers are padding the sanctuary as I write this and have already installed the new pad and carpet in the Upper Room. Hopefully we'll be back worshipping in the Sanctuary Sunday, September 2nd. Some folks coming down from meetings upstairs have already stopped by the office to express great gratitude for the softer, quieter carpet.

Blessings, *Jacq Skeffington, Mission Resource Elder*

Faith Exploration Team News

Area of Responsibility

Bible study, Christian formation (all ages)

The adult education class The adult education class will begin in October. The book has not been determined.

Al Ross Weston, Faith Exploration Elder

Weston and Garrett Tell Us About Vacation Bible School 2018



For a week in August, Bethel Church hosted an all island Vacation Bible School. More than 80 kids from all over Vashon gathered together to have fun, to make new friends, be in community with one another and learn that God loves each and every one of them. Weston and Garrett Dorr attended from VPC and we interviewed them in the church office to hear about their experience.

What all did you guys learn about in VBS?

Weston: We made new friends and learned that God strengthens us, God loves us, God knows us and God hears us.

Garrett: We learned the song “God is with me wherever I go.” (Note: cd’s of the music went home with each child)

Continued next column

What were some of your favorite moments in the week?

Weston: Relay races with wet sponges that cooled you off and got you wet. Eating cookies for snack.
Garrett: Eating cookies. And there was a game where you dipped sponges in water and you squeezed them on your head while you ran, I liked that one.

What were the people like who helped with VBS?

Weston: Some were from California. I liked how nicely they treated us. At the end we would always pray, and most would hold up their hand about what they wanted to pray for and the lady would pray for everyone there.

What other kinds of games did you get to play?

Weston: Kickball

Garrett: Baseball

Did you make new friends?

Garrett – Our neighbors Jonas and Finley came and that was fun and we met new people too.

Weston – We met new kids and made some new friends.

Will you go back next summer?

Weston: YES! It was really fun.

Garrett: YES! I had a good time

At the end of the week there were a barbecue to celebrate another year of VBS on Vashon that both boys said was a lot of fun. It was clear that all of the effort that the island churches put in to this event was greatly appreciated. For those of you who helped with volunteering and snacks, thank you. Thanks, especially, to Alice Dorr who was the lead contact from VPC and instrumental in the week’s success. Look for details about next summer’s VBS in late spring!

Pastor Leigh Weber

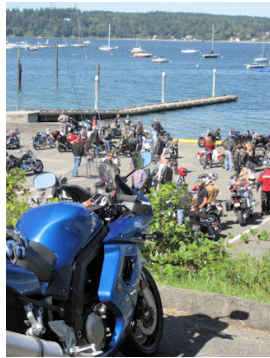
Invitation and Outreach Team News

Area of Responsibility

New Members and Discipleship,
Evangelism and Invitation

Biker Sunday!

Biker Sunday! Many thanks to all who brought delicious treats to share with Seattle Vintage Motorcycle Enthusiasts on their annual Vashon run. And also to those who handled the logistics of setting up and taking down tables, brewed the coffee, made sure the table remained well stocked and greeted visitors with warm smiles through the morning. This annual effort by VPC members is appreciated and remembered very much by VME members.



Elder Larry Commeree,

Hospitality/Fellowship Team News

Area of Responsibility

Hospitality, Fellowship

Book Club Book club meets on the 28th this month. It will be a potluck starting at 6:30 at Claudia and Al Ross Weston's. We will be discussing the book Turtles All the Way Down by John Green.

Rededication Luncheon There will be a re-dedication of the newly carpeted sanctuary September 23rd. We will be serving a light luncheon after worship in honor of the day.

Gratitude Supper in October Save the date, Saturday, October 20th. We will celebrate volunteers and the grace with which all of our members and friends of VPC have served our congregation and community throughout the past year.

Elizabeth Loveness, Hospitality Elder

Purposeful Service Team News

Area of Responsibility

Scholarship, Mary's Place Worship,
IFCH Dinners, Mission Partner Relations

Book Club Selections by Month

Sept	<u>Turtles All the Way Down</u>
Oct.	<u>Bobby Kennedy</u>
Nov	<u>Souls in the Hands of a Tender God</u>
Dec.	Maya Angelou (Books about or by her)
Jan.	<u>Small Great Things</u>
Feb.	<u>Homegoing</u>
Mar.	<u>The Other Alcott</u>
Apr.	<u>The Devil in the White City</u>

Mary's Place

Thanks to ALL who made the Mary's Place Picnic a truly unique event once again. Your delicious food, transport to and from ferry, setting up, cleaning up, providing music, etc etc. We couldn't have done it without you. It means so very much to the women who come to the picnic. I hope we can continue providing these women such a great time on Vashon and look forward to this event next year.

Beverly Skeffington

Clerk's Corner

Session held its monthly meeting on August 2, with all members present. The first order of business was a debriefing of the July Presbytery meeting at VPC, with reflections on what went well and what could be changed for next year (Leigh stated that Presbytery would like to again meet at VPC in 2019). Also discussed was the need to have a new members 'class. Session voted to include new carpeting in the upper room in the request for Presbytery funding, along with the sanctuary carpeting. The Nominating Committee stated that Claudia Ross-Weston has agreed to be nominated for the position of deacon. Members submitted written reports for their teams, including financial data and an explanation of the logistics of maintaining exhibits such as the one that George Thieme created for festival. Brief discussion followed those reports.

Session conducted a brief special meeting on August 12 to approve the application and supporting documents to be sent to Seattle Presbytery in connection with the carpeting and furnace grant.

Also, the congregation held a brief meeting after worship on August 5 to elect Claudia Ross-Weston as a deacon, class of 2018.

Bob Spangler, Clerk of Session

Thoughts from the Deacons

Use the Strength of the Spirit

Rest in the spirit and that spirit will give you strength. When you reach out to others using that strength and love to do so you are allowing others to experience that strength as well as yourself. If you don't reach out, but hug that strength of spirit and love to yourself it is like having a muscle that you don't exercise. Don't let that spirit's strength go to waste. You are wasting that strength when you block it from reaching others. Think of it like a blood clot, blocked, stopping and weakening both yourself and other people. A muscle will gradually waste away and so also may the strength of the spirit lessen if not used. By not sharing the love of God and strength of the spirit in your life you might someday turn away from it and block it. Remember, God's love and strength is endless and will never run out. So call on it and share it.

Deacons Lindsay Hofman, Sheryl, Claudia Ross Weston, Myrtle Walls, Sue Weston

Fall Offerings for YOU at Vashon United Methodist Church

This Fall, Vashon United Methodist Church will host an ambitious schedule of series and events that we hope will help both followers of Jesus and other members of our community live with greater integrity and grow more pleasing to God. We are in a difficult time in history and the role of the church in society could never be more critical than it is today. Our first event will be held on Sunday September 9 at 1:30 PM in the Vashon United Methodist Sanctuary. **Dr. Robert Crawford** – a human rights activist and a faculty affiliate of the UW Center for Human Rights, and **Dr. Merna Ann Hecht** – a nationally known storyteller, social justice educator, and published poet and essayist, will share a presentation on the policies and impact of the zero-tolerance immigration policy that has resulted in the separation and incarceration of migrant families. The event is free, non-religious, and open to the public.

Racial tensions have never been more elevated in the history of our nation, and we believe that the Gospel calls us to repentance and reconciliation regarding the evils of racism and racial privilege. We may never arrive in the perfect embrace of the diversity God has built into creation, but we can become more aware of our own complicity and grow closer to God's unconditional love and expectation of justice. To this end, on **seven Thursdays evenings from 6:30-8:30** (September 13 & 27, October 11 & 25, November 15 & 29, and December 13), Rev. Terri Stewart will lead us in **At the Table: Holy Mystery in Discussions of Race**. Being at the table together and sharing their stories leads to a new understanding. This study is designed to bring us together around the table and share our stories while learning about the wider world. The curriculum is designed especially for folks who are trying to understand the system of oppression that is racism by exploring topics such as biblical diversity, privilege, and intersectionality, systemic oppression and racism, human connection and color blindness, justice, and allyship. Each session will begin "at table" with a simple meal. After the first session, participants will participate in providing a simple shared meal. There is no fee for this series, but registration is required. Class size limit may apply. Email office@vashonmethodist.org to register. Rev. Stewart will also preach for the combined worship with Vashon Presbyterian at Vashon United Methodist on Sunday, September 30!

We have become increasingly aware of the interconnections between our highly convenient technological lifestyle and the desecration of our planet – especially the sacred lands of native peoples. On **Thursday September 20 at 7:00 PM** in our Fellowship Hall, **Dr. Patrick Christie** will facilitate a gathering to build solidarity and consider action against the desecration of sacred waters in northern Minnesota. People from all over the world have enjoyed the majesty of Lake Superior and the beauty of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area, an exquisite wilderness kingdom carved out by glaciers that's persisted for 10,000 years. But now that might change. Two proposed sulfide-ore copper mines threaten the sanctity of these places and may destroy them for future generations. Activist **Winona LaDuke** may be able to join us by Skype. The intent of this meeting is to build a coalition among existing interest and action groups to support the work of **Honor the Earth** – an environmental advocacy and action group.

As our national political discourse seethes and fragments, our one-on-one relationships with our neighbors and families suffer. How can we engage in meaningful and mutually respectful conversation with persons whose points of view are different than our own, but just as passionate? How can we listen and love without striving to change the other? On **Thursday October 4, November 1, and December 6 at 6:30 PM in the Community Room at the Vashon branch of the King County Library**, we will hold a panel discussion and workshop series on the causes of the current political chasms in our society that result in our inability to communicate well with our neighbors who hold opposing points of view. We plan to include diverse voices as well as practical exercises on how to listen without seeking to change the other. We plan to build from one session to the next, but you may attend one, two, or all three. The series is free and open to the public. Bring a friend with whom you disagree!

Finally, as we challenge ourselves to engage in stressful encounters, we also need times of refreshment and refocusing. On **Thursday October 18 and December 20 at 6:30 PM in our Sanctuary** we will hold a Vespers Worship Service for Peace. This service will be modeled in the Celtic tradition and will include song, silence, and prayer. All are welcome.

For further information about any of these opportunities, please email office@vashonmethodist.org.



Calendar for September 2018

(all events at VPC unless otherwise stated)

Sept

- 1 Bible Study 10 AM**
- 2 Morning Prayer Service 8:30 AM**
- 2 Sunday Worship Service at 10 AM**
- 6 Session Meeting 3:00 PM**
- 9 Morning Prayer Service 8:30 AM**
- 9 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM**
- 11 Deacon's Meeting 3 PM**
- 15 Bible Study 10 AM**
- 16 Morning Prayer Service 8:30 AM**
- 16 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM**
- 23 Morning Prayer Service 8:30 AM**
- 23 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM Rededication of Sanctuary**
- 23 Rededication Luncheon after Worship**
- 27 IFCH Meal supplied by VPC 5:30 PM**
- 28 VPC Book Club 6:30 PM at Ross Weston's**
- 30 Morning Prayer Service 8:30 AM**
- 30 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM with VUMC**

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

Text Study in VPC Chapel on Mondays Noon (except Labor Day)

Fellowship Breakfast at Sporty's on Tuesdays 9 AM.

Bible Study meets the 1st and 3rd 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.