

D E C E M B E R 2 0 1 9

Vashon Presbyterian Church

Vashon Island, Washington 98070

Listening to God, embracing all, living in joy



December 2019 Newsletter

Advent and Christmas

1st Friday Fire Pit and S'Mores

Friday, December 6th, 6-9 PM

Vashon Christmas Open House

Saturday, December 7th 4-8 PM

Advent Lectio Divina

Tuesdays, 7 PM

Congregation Christmas Photo

December 8th after worship

Congregational Meeting

Sunday, December 15th after Worship

Mary's Place Giving Tree

Deadline is Friday, December 13th

Book Club Christmas Gathering

Supper, Gift Book Exchange
Saturday, December 21st 6:00 PM

Holiday Luncheon

Sunday, December 22nd after Worship

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Tuesday, Dec 24th 6 PM

Christmas Eve "Lessons and Carols"

Tuesday, Dec 24th 11 PM

Congregational Meeting
to Elect Elders and Deacons,
December 15, 2019 after worship

Advent Faith Formation Class

On Sunday morning, December 1, the adult faith formation class began its new advent series. The texts for the class are passages from the Book of Isaiah. This class runs through the 22nd of December.

A Warm Bed for Winter's Coldest Nights

When you give your donation on Christmas Eve you will be helping someone who lives primarily outside a warm place to sleep and something to eat when temperatures drop below freezing here on Vashon. The Christmas Eve collection is being dedicated to the IFCH Emergency Shelter here at home. The Shelter will be housed at VPC. An organizational meeting lead by a representative from the Union Gospel Mission in Seattle produced a number of people qualified and interested in supervision for the shelter. There were over 50 people from various churches and groups on the island interested in helping in some role. Blankets, cots and other much needed supplies are being gathered. The group is determined to have properly trained supervision and the structure to assure success. Taking advantage of experience from shelters in Seattle and around the Puget Sound the group plans to open when needed starting in December.

Advent Lectio Divina

Please join us for our **Advent Lectio Divina** Tuesday evenings at 7 PM. The text for the lectio will be verses from Isaiah covered in the previous week's sermon.

Dear Ones of VPC,

I remember when we were expecting our first baby, our daughter Emily. It was in the day of the book, What to Expect When You Are Expecting. Month by month, week by week, it detailed what was going on in our baby's development and what I might be feeling as well. And it gave us a checklist of all of these things we might want to start thinking about, like a crib and LOTS of diapers.

I suspect Emily would have arrived just fine had we not read the book. I suspect she'd have slept just fine in a simple box with a blanket. I'm sure she didn't NEED the decorations, or her name embroidered on everything or even that cute mobile that hung over her crib and played soft music. But in the process of preparing for her birth, of doing all those things, we made space for her to enter our lives, really enter them. We prepared ourselves for the new names we would each have, Mom and Dad, and the new role of parenting. As we lovingly assembled the crib, washed all of the little clothes and filled the dresser drawers with them, our hearts were being prepared for this little girl, now grown woman, who would be the first to make us parents.

Advent, for me, is a lot like that. It's a time set aside to prepare to be changed, to be transformed. It's a time to make space for the One who is coming. The whole time Emily was growing inside of my body, we were changing and growing as well. Birth is like that, it changes us.

And Advent also invites us to think about what God is birthing in each of us and how we prepare our hearts and our lives to receive it. What are the ways in which you prepare yourself for this birth once again? What space do you need to make in your heart and home for this Holy One to enter your life in a new way this year? What role might you be being prepared for and what new name might be yours?

Advent is that time between now and not yet, the liminal space of formation, when space is made to receive what is coming. I am grateful to be waiting with you, lighting candles, decorating our space together, reading together, and anticipating the moment when, once again, we proclaim, Joy to the World, the Lord has COME!

Grace and Peace,

Leigh



Worship Team News

Area of Responsibility

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

Slow Down and Wait

We hope that your Holiday celebrations will include our weekly Sunday Advent services.

Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

Our Candlelight Christmas Eve Service is scheduled for 6:00 PM.

Lessons and Carols

Christmas lessons and carols is currently scheduled for 11:00 PM on the 24th.

Fifth Sunday with VUMC

The fifth Sunday service will be at VPC. The Methodist will join us for this service.

Elder Brownie Carver

Purposeful Service Team News

Area of Responsibility

Scholarships, Mary's Place partnership, IFCH, Mission Partner Relations.

Mary's Place Giving Tree The tree is ready with gift tags for Mary's Place recipients. Rather than shoes this year the tags are \$20 for grocery gift cards. Take a tag and return it with money or gift. Fulfilled tags should be turned in by December 13th.

Christmas Eve Offering The combined offering received from the Christmas Eve services will be donated to the IFCH Emergency Shelter.

December IFCH Dinner The VPC IFCH meal is December 26th. Please sign up at coffee hour. The dinner lasts from 4:30-6:30 PM. Let's make this meal a real holiday treat!

Sustainability Goal for 2020 In line with the installation of our solar panels, look for our 2020 suggestions for a greener VPC.

Elder Elizabeth Loveness

Hospitality/Fellowship Team News

Area of Responsibility

Hospitality, Fellowship.

Celebrate This Joyful Season!

Decorating the Tree

Join us on Saturday the 7th at 10 AM if decorating the Christmas tree is your kind of fun. Snacks and hot cider will be served.

Winter Small Group Outings

If you would like to join a small group from VPC that is going to one of the following events, signup during coffee hour: Vashon Chorale Winter Concert, Dec 8, 3 PM and/or VIVA Studio Tour, December 14, 10 AM.

Special Holiday Coffee Hours

Throughout the month of December coffee hours will feature Christmas cookies and breads, hot cider or cocoa and a lots of good cheer.

Christmas Luncheon

Sunday December 22nd will be the date of our special Christmas Luncheon. The social hall will have on its Christmas best. We'll have delicious Christmas cuisine from around the world and join together in singing our favorite carols.

Elder Elizabeth Loveness

VPC Book Club Christmas Gathering

Book club will meet at Spangler's home to discuss Faith by Jimmy Carter, Saturday, December 21st at 6:00 PM. Bring a wrapped up book for holiday gift exchange game if you'd like to. There will be a festive, holiday potluck.

Elder Al Ross Weston

Mission Resource Team News Area of Responsibility Financials, Building and Grounds

Buildings and Grounds Winter is upon us! Although the Chamber of Commerce decided not to string Christmas lights around the large spruce tree out front this year we plan to **celebrate the community wide Open House Dec 7th** anyway. We will have plenty of work to do that Saturday, stringing our own lights around the front of the church and maybe cleaning out the gutters while we're there! Join us early in the day (around 10:00) to string the lights and set up for other related events of the day.

Have you seen our new **solar panels**? We are very excited about this major commitment to Creation Care. Next time you're in the vicinity stop and take a look. They are on the new addition's roof easily seen from the parking lot or Creative Preschool courtyard.

While Carpe Diem and Creative Preschool were on Thanksgiving break, all **fire extinguishers, sprinklers and alarms were satisfactorily tested**. A great opportunity to interact with these wonderful students and families will be attending **Carpe Diem's "Winter Celebration" and Creative Preschool's Christmas programs. Each child will demonstrate their gifts**. Watch the eNews for dates of these events.

Our **toolbelts** group continues to meet every Tuesday from 10-12 for minor maintenance and repairs. We're presently working on installing a beautiful sink and vanity donated by the Commerees in the nursery bathroom. The **Mission Resources Facilities Team meets the first Tuesday of each month at the Colvos Creek Pub**. Please join us Tuesday, December 3rd at 6pm, to discuss future needs and activities.

Blessings,

Elder Jacq Skeffington

Financials I pleased to say that the November results continued our trend of being able to end the year with a surplus. The sale of OMAX stock was certainly a windfall but even without it we would have ended the year in the black.

We are very close to finalizing our budget for 2020. The Session will probably approve it at our December meeting. We have two big changes for the coming year. Electrical costs will be significantly lower due to the installation of solar panels and we will have no mortgage payments. As you probably know, the building itself provides a significant income. We have two schools paying rent year around and a number of groups making regular donations.

Because of our lower costs, the income from building use will be very close to the outflow for utilities, maintenance, taxes and other building expenses. In short, the building will pay its own costs or come very close to doing so. That means that when you donate to VPC all or almost all of that cash will go for missions of this congregation. We are very blessed to be in that situation.

Check out the progress of the solar panel installation going up above the social hall. The installers should be done in a week or so and we will be producing solar electrical power by the end of the month.

Jim Lilje, Financial Elder



Faith Exploration Team News

Area of Responsibility

Bible study, Christian formation (all ages)

Faith Formation

1. Adult Sunday 9 am morning class is studying Isaiah for advent.
2. Lectio Divina meets at 7pm on Tuesdays focusing on Isaiah.
3. Book club will discuss Faith by Jimmy Carter. We will meet at Spangler's for book exchange game and potluck. Saturday, December 21st.
4. Theology pub will discuss 'community' on Thursday December 11th at 5:30pm.

Elder Al Ross Weston



“Book Club Toast”

The November book selection was A Gentleman in Moscow. After delicious appetizers around the fireplace we had a lively discussion of the book. The sentiment seemed unanimous that it was an enjoyable and uplifting book. December's selection is Faith by Jimmy Carter. There will be a holiday potluck as well as wrapped book exchange - in addition to discussing the book.

Invitation and Outreach Team News

Area of Responsibility

New Members and Discipleship,
Evangelism and Invitation

First Friday S'mores

Join us for a warm fire and roasting marshmallows in front of the church on Friday, December 6th 6pm - 9pm.

Community Christmas Quilt Show

Saturday, December 7th open house 4-8pm
Bring your Christmas quilt, wall hanging, or other quilted item to display.

Attach your name and phone number.

Enter your quilt for a chance to win \$50 gift certificate at the Island Quilter

Pickup your quilt at 8pm; Drawing at 8pm

Invite your friends to participate or just come and enjoy the festive display

Vashon Winterfest

Vashon Winterfest is almost here, complete with its awe-inspiring Christmas tree lighting ceremony and the ever-lively Santa Parade. We anticipate quite a few visitors as they follow the parade route which begins at Vashon Theater. The parade will begin at 5:00 on Saturday, December 7, concluding around 7:00 pm. The Quilt Show will also draw visitors to our building. We need about 25 dozen cookies (and/or other Christmas treats) to serve, along with about 8 gallons of hot cocoa and 12 gallons of apple cider. If you can help with the cookie baking, provide cider or cocoa, assist with set up or cleanup, please contact Nancy Tucker at tuckernb@gmail.com; 818.259.1770.

Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 22nd. Join us in the pageant tradition to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Looking for children to be angels, shepherds, wise men, Mary & Joseph. We have the costumes, speaking and non-speaking parts. Contact Barb Huff barb.huff@comcast.net; 206-713-6232

Elder Barb Huff

Deacon's News

Love Equals Warmth

“If our love of the Savior translates to a love for family and neighbors then those around us will see that our God is real.” –Abbot Father Tryphon. He is absolutely right. Love equals warmth and people are drawn to warmth. Many people in the world see God as reflected by Christianity and Christians as cold, bitter and judgmental. Who would want anything to do with a God like that or Christians like that? I would run as fast as I could in the opposite direction. Christians who project doom, gloom and are judgmental actually push people away from God. But when we let God's love flow out and through us to others it is like the warmth of a good fire and that love and light will draw people near to us and God in a positive way. So if we would share our God with a lonely and cold world than we need to take time to be the best and most loving Christians possible. God will use us and do the rest in people's hearts.

Sue Weston, Deacon

Clerk's Corner

December 2019

Session held its monthly meeting November 19 with all elders present. Jim Lilje announced that the solar panels installation will probably begin the next day and will wrap up in early December. Brownie Carver reported on the plans for an IFCH Shelter and training will be given by Union Gospel Mission on November 24 at our church. Work continued on the 2020 budget with finalization to be done in December. There will be a congregational picture taken after worship on December 8. A Congregational Meeting will be held on December 15 to elect elders and deacons. Members submitted written reports for their teams' activities.

Diana Lilje, Clerk of Session



“Adorned for Christmas”

Calendar December 2019

(all events at VPC unless otherwise stated)



Dec

- 6 First Friday S'Mores! 6-9 PM
- 7 Vashon Holiday Open House and Parade 4-8 PM
- 7 VPC Quilt Show 4-8 PM
- 8 Morning Prayer Service 8:30 AM
- 8 Advent Christian Formation 9 AM
- 8 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM Communion
- 8 Congregation Christmas Photo after worship
- 10 Session Meeting 4:30 PM
- 10 Advent Lectio Divina 7 PM
- 15 Morning Prayer Service 8:30 AM
- 15 Advent Christian Formation 9 AM
- 15 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM
- 15 Congregational Meeting after worship
- 17 Advent Lectio Divina 7 PM
- 21 VPC Book Club Christmas Supper 6:00 PM at Spangler's
- 22 Morning Prayer Service 8:30 AM
- 22 Advent Christian Formation 9 AM
- 22 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM
- 22 Children's Christmas Pageant during worship
- 22 Christmas Luncheon after worship
- 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 6 PM
- 24 Christmas Eve "Lessons and Carols" 11 PM
- 29 Morning Prayer Service 8:30 AM
- 29 Combined Worship with VUMC at VPC 10 AM

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

Text Study Group meets at noon on Mondays

Fellowship breakfast meets at Sporty's at 9:00 AM on Tuesdays

Tool Belts 9-noon on Tuesdays

Leigh at Luna's 2 PM on Tuesdays

Theology Pub 4th Thursdays unless announced otherwise 5:30 PM

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