



# Vashon Presbyterian Church

## News and Concerns

### July 2022

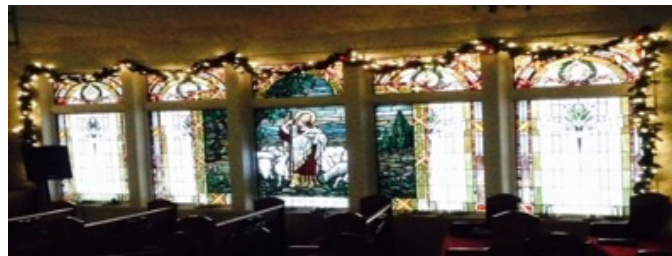
Sermons posted on church website:

[vashonpreschurch.org](http://vashonpreschurch.org)

Zoom Link: <https://zoom.us/j/442169680>

Love One Another

Whoever you are and wherever your life's journey has taken you, you are welcome here. We hope that you will find VPC to be a people of warmth, acceptance, and commitment to the calling of Jesus Christ. We are honored to have you worship with us.



#### Upcoming Events

- Dennis O'Block Memorial Service July 9
- Strawberry Festival July 16 & 17
- VPC Book Club July 22
- Potluck Dinner at Lindsay's July 24
- Yard Sale August 6

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## A Message from Pastor Leigh

Dear Ones of VPC,

A couple of years into our marriage, my husband and I lived in the town of Burlington, NC. It's a charming little southern town with sidewalks and older, restored homes that feel a bit like Mayberry. We rented one side of a duplex in a 1940's craftsman home that was short on square footage but big on charm. The thing I loved the most was the front porch, wide swept with a porch swing and wide concrete steps that invited folks to "sit for a spell."

Of all the places we lived in those first few years of being married it was there that we got to know our neighbors the best. We waved and chatted on warm summer evenings, talked about the humidity, and engaged in just being with others in a way that our other traditional apartments didn't allow.

The front porch was much like the one at VPC, older concrete steps inviting folks to "sit for a spell." It's why I believe our "Front Porch Outreach" is at the heart of what we do. After a wet and rainy winter and spring, sweeping off the porch and putting out some chairs feels like welcome relief.

In the same way that Jesus and his disciples would sit around a fire at night engaging in stories, deep listening and just sitting together, we can do the same. From First Fridays to Strawberry Festival Weekend, to the Yard Sale, we are sweeping off the porch and making space to sit with one another.

I'm encouraging you to find ways and times when you can be on the porch, waving at the neighbors, talking about the weather, welcoming friends and just being together this summer. Barb Huff, your Outreach Elder, and I would welcome the conversation, the support, and the friendship of this time. It's time to dust off the lawn games, buy the marshmallows, make some lemonade, and enjoy the summer on the porch. This is ministry!

Grace and Peace,

Leigh



## Worship

The sermon series on the Ten Commandments has been well received by our congregation and members of the United Methodist congregation who joined us Sunday, June 12<sup>th</sup>. "You shall love your Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the second is like it, you shall love your neighbor as yourself". Leigh has stretched our concepts of each of the 10 commandments and skillfully and lovingly nurtured us in understanding the relationship God has given humankind to live productively and happily with God and in community. The worship committee has been encouraging members to tune into Text Study and After Talk to deepen and solidify our understanding of the Bible text and Leigh's sermons based on them.

The committee has been writing expectations and responsibilities for the various lay members who participate in the service. We have written one for the **lay leader** for the service and the **ushers** for the day. This process should make the services more consistent with each other and in the tone of the particular service itself. A copy will be handed to the worship helper as they need them. We also have talked about having a brief training for these roles.

Our attention to music is slowly producing some results. We have had several duets and are looking forward to a small group who will sing for us in the near future. It's good to hear the piano talent of Jan van Roessel and more reflection music from Thomas Abraham. They are giving some of our regulars a summer break. As the year progresses, we will continue to give high priority to music in the worship service.

We are all lamenting the disappearance of the beautiful, hand quilted banner from the church sometime in April or May. If anyone has information leading to finding the banner, please let Pastor Leigh or Brownie Carver know ASAP.

This summer either during Theology Pub or by a digital survey, the worship community will be asking the congregation about different ways to worship, such as a wilderness service, retreats, vigils, etc. We will also be asking for requests for hymns and other music heard during the service and the topics we are interested in for the sermons. If you are interested in helping with this information gathering project, contact me, [Elizabeth.loveness@gmail.com](mailto:Elizabeth.loveness@gmail.com).

*Elizabeth Loveness, Worship Elder*



### Memorial Service and Reception for Dennis O'Block

A memorial service and reception for Dennis O'Block will be held on Saturday, July 9 at 1:30 PM. The service will be held at the gravesite at Vashon Cemetery, with the reception, hosted by the Deacons, immediately following in the Social Hall.

## Faith Formation

The group discussing One Year Through the Bible will continue through the summer, meeting every other Monday evening at 7:00. The discussion of Following the Call will continue its break until September.

I am interested in any ideas people may have both as to how we continue with Following the Call and what other studies we might want to undertake. I found it very interesting when Liz shared so much information about Thomas Merton. There are a lot of interesting authors in the next section of the book. I am planning to browse through the early sections and see whom I would particularly like to learn more about and about the source of the excerpt. If others would like to do the same or already know a lot about someone and the situation they were in when they wrote this, I would be happy to send out a notice to the group that this person is taken.

When we start in September all are welcome. I still have an extra book and we can order more. Please text or call me on my cell phone at 206-434-5439

*Lindsay Hofmann*  
*Faith Formation Elder*



## Building and Grounds

The Second Saturday work party on June 11<sup>th</sup> included another cleanup of the parking lot. Larry Commeree cleared much of the underbrush around the northeast border of the parking lot, and we used string trimmers to trim around the curbs giving the lot a fresh look for the summer.

Carpe Diem finished the school year on June 16<sup>th</sup> and restored the Social Hall to an open space suitable for community events and coffee hours following Worship. In fact, the Vashon Healthcare District has scheduled to resume in-person community meetings there on the first and third Wednesdays of each month from 6:00-8:00 PM. We will also resume holding coffee hours and congregational events there also.

Walls and the ceiling in the youth room are ready for painting. Painting is planned to include youth and parent volunteers. Co-op Preschool volunteers have painted the nursery and moved infant and toddler toys and educational equipment into the space. The church is welcome to use the space and equipment when not in use by the preschool.

I'll be on vacation in early July so we will probably not have a work party on the second Saturday. But watch the e-News in case someone else will organize the event.

*Jacq Skeffington*

## Purposeful Service Team Areas of Responsibility

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

- Purposeful Service Committee, with Outreach, has begun planning for the parking and seats fundraiser during Festival. The Committee has recommended to Session that donations be equally distributed to Youth and Family Services and DOVE. We need volunteers to help with this effort – people to set up chairs, mark off parking area, collect donations, etc. Please contact Bob Spangler or Barb Huff if you can help.
- We will not be collecting plastic bags and styrofoam items for the July 3 island-wide event. Please save this material for our next collection in the VPC parking lot on August 6.
- In July we will send \$1,000 to the Presbyterian Church of Vietnam to help their congregations offer Christian ministry in a country where full religious freedom is not allowed. This donation comes from our budgeted general offering, thanks to the generosity of our congregation.
- After delays due to COVID restrictions, VPC will be hosting a community-wide Mental Health forum this year on September 24. Details will be provided in later newsletters and e-news. The NAMI monthly meetings continue on the first Thursday at 7 pm, both at VPC and on Zoom.

*Bob Spangler, Purposeful Service Elder*



### Strawberry Festival – July 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> Help Out While Joining the Fun!

This year we will have a big presence at the annual Strawberry Festival. In addition to providing parking and seats, we'll also host a VPC Play/Rest area for all ages. On the front lawn we will set up chairs and lawn games – corn hole, giant Jenga, bocce ball and anything else folks can provide. We'll have sidewalk chalk, bubbles, sticker tattoos and fun for the kids.

The church will be open for restroom use, and the playground will be accessible. We'll have a water station set up as well.

We need volunteers in two-hour shifts to staff the water station, clean the restrooms and keep them stocked. We'll be set up Saturday morning after the parade until 6:30 PM and Sunday after church until 4:00 PM.

Please contact me if you can lend a hand. [Barb.huff@comcast.net](mailto:Barb.huff@comcast.net) or 206-713-6232

*Barb Huff, Outreach Elder*

## Hospitality

### Spring Tea

On June 4, Liz Loveness hosted a Spring Tea. Everyone was invited and many attended. Myrtle Walls's birthday is also June 4, and the tea was dedicated to celebrating her presence and friendship.



### Pot Luck on July 24

Lindsay Hofman is hosting a pot luck dinner at her home on July 24 at 6:00. Everyone is invited! Bring food and beverages that you enjoy, with maybe a little extra to share. Her address is 21107 Westside Highway Southwest. Please RSVP to Lindsay either through text or a call at 206-434-5439.

### Coffee at Sporty's

We continue to meet at Sporty's on Tuesdays at 9:00 AM for coffee and conversation. Please join us!

### After Worship Coffee Hour

Throughout the summer, we will hold our Sunday coffee fellowship in the Social Hall.

Thank you to these volunteer coffee hour hosts:

#### July

3	Nancy van Roessel	10	Claudia Ross-Weston
17	Sue Weston	24	Lindsay Hofman
31	Susan Commeree		

#### August

7	Debbie Finch/Nancy Tucker (honoring Mary Jacobs)	14	Nancy Tucker
21	Beverly Skeffington	28	Debbie Finch

### Would You Like to Host a Small Gathering?

With a taste of summer in the air, now's the perfect time to take advantage of the warm weather while socializing with your VPC friends. If you'd like to host a gathering—large or small, please don't hesitate. Hospitality can help you coordinate and can help supply tables and chairs from the church if needed. Contact me at 818-259-1770 if you're interested, please.

*Nancy Tucker, Hospitality Elder*

## Clerk's Corner

Due to a conflict with the June Stated Meeting of the Presbytery, session has not yet met in June.

Their meeting was rescheduled for June 28 at 4:30 PM via Zoom.

*Jacq Skeffington, Clerk of Session*

## Presbytery Report

Barb Huff, Pastor Leigh and I attended the June 21 Presbytery meeting via Zoom. The first order of business was the reading of the following Land Acknowledgement:

The Presbytery of Seattle recognizes that we are on stolen land. As an organization with dozens of properties, we occupy the traditional territories of the Coast Salish people. This includes the Duwamish People, past, present and future, whom we recognize as the original stewards of the land.

Chief Si'ahl and Native leaders reluctantly signed the Treaty of Point Elliott on January 22, 1855. All Tribes represented at the signing were guaranteed services, hunting and fishing rights, and reservations in exchange for over 54,000 acres of the Duwamish Tribe's homeland. To this day, Treaty promises made by the U.S. government to the Duwamish have not been honored.

As we acknowledge the city of Seattle's true history, it is our responsibility to continue to:

- Understand our position in relation to the lands we occupy
- Disrupt Indigenous erasure, colonization, and oppression
- And honor the cultural heritages of Indigenous community members

In remembering and truth telling, we are committed to honoring Indigenous peoples and their stories across the US and seek ways to engage in authentic relationship building and community collaboration as part of our witness to the Gospel.

Following prayer and welcoming of new commissioners and members we were joined via Zoom with delegates from Seattle Presbytery who are attending the 225<sup>th</sup> General Assembly which is meeting in Louisville, Kentucky and hybrid via Zoom. Each of the delegates updated us about the work being done in the committees to which they have been assigned.

Reverend Tali Hairston next led a period of Holy Conversation. The focus of the discussion was a podcast provided prior to the meeting by the Colombia Mission Partnership about how our relationship has grown since inception in 2014. Breakout rooms allowed five or six attendees to discuss aspects of the podcast in small groups and then bring ideas generated back to the larger meeting. A link to the podcast is provided on the presbytery website [www.seattlepresbytery.org](http://www.seattlepresbytery.org).

Following the Holy Conversation, reports were received from the Co-Executive Presbyters, the Executive Board, Thriving Congregations, the Stated Clerk, the First Presbyterian Church of Seattle (FPCS) Administrative Commission (AC)/Session, the Commission on Ministry (COM), and finally from the Commission on Preparation for Ministry (CPM) presented by Pastor Leigh Weber.

I encourage all of you to visit the Seapres website listed above for detailed reports and to stay informed of all the good work going on in this presbytery and the General Assembly. The next Stated Meeting of Presbytery will be October 18<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM

*Jacq Skeffington*

## Deacon's Message

"It is not right that we should neglect the word of God in order to wait on tables."

I don't remember the occasion, but the pastor in whose home a group of us were meeting half a lifetime ago said "I think the apostles were wrong about that." For him, "waiting on tables" was no less important than "prayer" and "serving the word," which the apostles understood as their priorities.

What led to the apostles' view, Acts 6 says, was a complaint about unequal distribution of food to people in need in the early church. A group of seven was chosen to ensure a more equitable sharing of resources. The role of the seven seems to have developed into the group of people in many churches today known as deacons. "Deacon" comes from the Greek word for servant.

I meet on Zoom every week with a group of men. We're currently reading and discussing the early chapters of Acts. Here are some observations and questions by members of the group that speak to waiting on tables versus (not) neglecting the word of God:

-- Stephen, one of the seven, is a powerful speaker as well as a "wonder / miracle" worker, "full of the Spirit and of wisdom . . . of faith . . . of grace and power". We learn nothing about his "waiting on tables." When he is dragged by Hellenist Jews before the Jewish religious authorities, his speech displays a grasp of Jewish Scriptures, the formative history of Israel, and the covenant, most of which his accusers and listeners probably agree with. Instead of defending himself, he abruptly accuses his listeners. Their rage turns murderous when he shares his vision of Jesus.

Is this deacon material?

-- Philip, another of the seven, is also proclaiming the word in a / the city of Samaria. His words are accompanied by "signs" and "great miracles." He goes on to proclaim the good news about Jesus to the Ethiopian queen's treasurer, who is "reading the prophet Isaiah" in his chariot on his way home from Jerusalem. Philip baptizes the new believers in both locations and then makes his way to Caesarea, a city on the Mediterranean.

We meet Philip again, when Paul (present, as Saul, at Stephen's death) and others to whom Luke refers as "we" stop at Caesarea on their way to Jerusalem. Is it because this deacon too did not "neglect the word" that he is identified there as Philip the evangelist?

"What deacons aren't," panelists at the September 2021 PCUSA Year of Leadership Formation webinar on deacon ministries agreed, "is a single thing. Deacons serve inside and outside their congregations, in ways that respond to the different contexts of their communities."

Is "waiting on tables" also a service of the word? Or does the service of the word preclude waiting on tables? I see a model in our pastor, Leigh. While worship, preaching and teaching--often associated with the service of the word-- are clearly among her key responsibilities, she does not neglect "waiting on tables."

*Deacon Thomas Abraham*



## Mark Your Calendars for the Yard Sale!

Plan to be part of our annual Summer Yard Sale, scheduled for **Saturday, August 6<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM**. The items you contribute will find a new home while supporting church ministries.

### *Please Contribute:*

- Kitchen and household goods
- Books
- Games and toys
- Tools and gardening items
- Holiday items

### *We Do Not Accept:*

- Clothing
- Electronics
- Computers
- Printers

If you have furniture, we will coordinate delivery the day of the sale.

We'll begin storing Yard Sale items at the church beginning the week of July 24<sup>th</sup>. Come by on Tuesdays from 10:00 – Noon to drop off your donations or contact Barb Huff at (206) 713-6232 for an appointment.

In addition to donations, there is ample opportunity to participate prior to and during the Sale:

- Advance promotion
- Sorting and pricing
- Setup
- Providing snacks
- Cashiers
- Table oversight
- Takedown, cleanup, and taking what's left to Granny's



Contact Barb  
Huff and  
volunteer your  
help!

Working together we create a great yard sale for the community, while also meeting and greeting our neighbors. Join the fun! Please contact me at [Barb.huff@comcast.net](mailto:Barb.huff@comcast.net) or 206-713-6232 if you can help.

*Barb Huff, Outreach Elder*

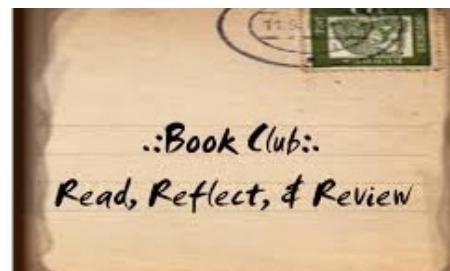
## VPC Book Club

The Book Club selection for July is Jesus and the Disinherited by Howard Thurman. According to Amazon, **"Famously known as the text that Martin Luther King Jr. sought inspiration from in the days leading up to the Montgomery bus boycott, Howard Thurman's *Jesus and the Disinherited* helped shape the civil rights movement and changed our nation's history forever.**

In this classic theological treatise, the acclaimed theologian and religious leader Howard Thurman (1900-1981) demonstrates how the gospel may be read as a manual of resistance for the poor and disenfranchised. Jesus is a partner in the pain of the oppressed and the example of His life offers a solution to ending the descent into moral nihilism. Hatred does not empower--it decays. Only through self-love and love of one another can God's justice prevail."

This book is available from the library in the e-book format. Also, a few people have a copy we will be circulating.

The Book Club will meet at the home of Jacq and Beverly Skeffington on July 22 and 7:00 PM.



## July Birthdays

Join us in wishing a happy July birthday this month to:

- 1 Ben Tucker
- 5 Lindsay Hofman
- 8 Chris Coldeen
- 13 Bonnie Nelson
- 25 Nancy Tucker
- 27 Jan van Roessel



## Watch Us Grow!



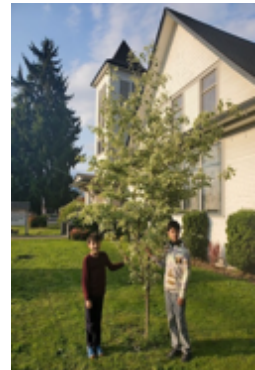
**2017**



**2018**



**2020**



**2022**

This flowering dogwood tree was planted during Leigh's installation celebration in June 2017. Members of the congregation brought bags of dirt from their yards or gardens to add to the soil and nurture the tree's roots during the planting, which was done by Weston and Garrett Dorr as the congregation and installation commission looked on.

Each year we commemorate "Leigh's Tree" with a photo including the Dorr boys. In doing so we are reminded of the various ways in which we grow as a church, as a community, and especially spiritually as God's unique creation.

## Food Bank Sunday July 3

It's the first of a new month - time for Communion and Food Bank donations. Increasing food prices are affecting everyone. The Food Bank is challenged by their commitment to provide support for over 250 Vashon families every week - as well as about 200 daily lunches in the park during the summer.

They've offered us some ideas for donations: peanut butter, pasta, rices, ramen noodles, and soups (especially chicken noodle) are always useful. Tuna, canned stews and chili are always welcome, too. Think of condiments: salt, pepper, mustard, olives, pickles, salsa, ketchup and fun foods for summer meals. Ingredients for baking are always in short supply too: cooking oil, sugar, cake mixes etc. For the foods that are limited, special donations are offered to the clients on Wednesdays when they set up a marketplace.

In addition to food, there is a need for other necessities such as toilet paper, feminine hygiene products, and diapers.

Please consider bringing a donation to church next Sunday or leave your donations any time in the blue storage cupboard at the Food Bank. It's outside across the parking lot (to the south) from the main office at Sunrise Ridge.

## Children Do Say the Darndest Things!

- ♥ Never trust a dog to watch your food. Patrick, 10
- ♥ When your dad is mad and asks you, "Do I look stupid?", don't answer him. Michael, 14
- ♥ Stay away from prunes. Randy, 9
- ♥ Never pee on an electric fence. Robert, 13
- ♥ Don't squat with your spurs on. Noronha, 13
- ♥ Never tell your mom her diet's not working. Michael, 14
- ♥ Don't pull Dad's finger when he tells you to. Emily, 10
- ♥ When your mom is mad at your dad, don't let her brush your hair. Tayka, 11
- ♥ Never allow your 3-year-old brother in the same room as your school assignment. Traci, 14
- ♥ Don't sneeze in front of mom when you're eating crackers. Mitchell, 12
- ♥ Puppies still have bad breath even after eating a tic tac. Andrew, 9
- ♥ Never hold a dust buster and a cat at the same time. Kyoyo, 9
- ♥ You can't hide a piece of broccoli in a glass of milk. Armir, 9
- ♥ Don't wear polka-dot underwear under white shorts. Kellie, 11
- ♥ If you want a kitten, start out by asking for a horse. Naomi, 15
- ♥ Felt markers are not good to use as lipstick. Lauren, 9
- ♥ Don't pick on your sister when she's holding a baseball bat. Joel, 10
- ♥ When you get a bad grade in school, show it to your mom when she's on the phone. Alyesha, 13
- ♥ Never try to baptize a cat. Edleen, 8

### Church Leadership

<b>Pastor</b>	Leigh Weber
<b>Clerk of Session</b>	Jacq Skeffington
<b>Session Members</b>	Lindsay Hofman, Barb Huff, Jim Lilje, Elizabeth Loveness, Bob Spangler, Nancy Tucker
<b>Deacons</b>	Claudia Ross-Weston (Moderator), Thomas Abraham, Chris Coldeen, Susan Commeree, Nancy Johnson, Sheryl Lehman

## Calendar

### July 2022

- 3 Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM Communion
- 8 Game Night 7:00 PM
- 9 Second Saturday Work Party 10:00 – Noon  
Memorial Service and Reception for Dennis O’Block 1:30 PM
- 10 Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM
- 11 Faith Formation 7:00 PM - The One Year Through the Bible Devotional
- 16 Strawberry Festival Immediately following parade – 6:30 PM
- 17 Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM  
Strawberry Festival 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM
- 22 VPC Book Club 7:00 PM
- 24 Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM  
Potluck Dinner at Lindsay Hofman’s home 6:00 PM
- 25 Faith Formation 7:00 PM - The One Year Through the Bible Devotional
- 28 Theology Pub 5:00 PM
- 29 Game Night 7:00 PM Zoom
- 31 Sunday Worship 10:00 AM Communion

#### Please Note:

Dates, times, and events might change after the time of this publication. Refer to the church bulletin and the weekly E-News for up-to-date information.

### Ongoing Activities

- Mondays** Sermon After Talk Noon – 1 PM  
Free for All discussion 6:30 PM
- Tuesdays** Sporty’s In-Person Coffee Hour 9:00 AM  
Text Study Noon
- Wednesdays** Body Prayer 8:00 AM
- First Thursdays** Mental Health Advocates 7:00 PM
- Fridays** Grief Group 11:00 AM (Call Leigh for details)  
Game Night 7:00 PM