

N O V E M B E R 2 0 1 5

Vashon Presbyterian Church

Vashon Island, Washington 98070

To Worship God in all we do, centered in Jesus Christ,
moved by the Holy Spirit

November 2015 Newsletter

Stewardship Month

During the month of November we take time to count our blessings and give thanks. The session would like to encourage us to take some time this month to reflect on the gifts we've received, how we've answered God's call to use our time and talents and how we feel called to do so in 2016. We hope members will share their testimonies during Worship and help the session budget for next year by prayerfully filling out pledge cards and returning them on the last Sunday of the month, November 29th.

As You Gather For the Holidays

Deacons want to suggest an idea as our families gather for Thanksgiving: try recording conversations with your family members, especially the elders. StoryCorps (from NPR) is providing a free app which can be easily downloaded and used for interviews with family members. "The Great Thanksgiving Listen" program has been designed primarily for school age students, but welcomes personal use as well. Go to StoryCorps.me and scroll down to the instructions for all the details. Preserve and share your very special family stories!

Save the Date!

Bible Study
November 7th

Tailgate Coffee Hour
November 8th

VPC Book Club
November 20th

Bible Study
November 21st

Community
Thanksgiving
Celebration
November 24th

Thanksgiving Meal
November 26th

Hanging of the Greens
December 6th

Message from Pastor Lynn

I receive a daily e-devotional that always includes a quote from a poet, theologian or author. My favorite this past week included these words of wisdom from Walt Whitman:

This is what you shall do: Love the earth and the sun and the animals, despise riches, give alms to everyone that asks, stand up for the stupid and crazy, devote your income and labor to others, hate tyranny, and argue not concerning God. Source: [Leaves of Grass](#)

Aside from his obvious lack of modern sensitivity in his use of descriptive adjectives for people, Mr. Whitman captured wonderfully the radical nature of the Gospel and how it calls us to live our lives. As we enter the month of November and experience the inevitable marketing that goes with the upcoming holiday season, I plan to put this little quote on my bathroom mirror as just one more reminder that **Love** is the first word. If I remember that, I just might:

** awaken to each day with a deep sense of gratitude for the earth and all that is in it. See Psalm 24.

** go to bed each night remembering that acquiring riches and things and status are not worthy pursuits. Far better to use my resources this holiday season to share with those in need. I hear the words of Jesus in Matthew 6: 19-21, "*Do not store up for yourselves treasure on earth where moth and rust destroy and thieves break in and steal, but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust cannot destroy and thieves cannot break in and steal, for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*"

** remember in all the rush of the coming days, that there are those who are easily overlooked or denigrated or discounted as the rest of the world celebrates with feasts and festivities, and that it is these very ones that Christ would have us walk with. As much as we care for the least of these, we care for Christ. (Matthew 25: 31-46)

** use the resources I have for the sake of others, which is the very strongest evidence that I have learned the true meaning of the Great Commandment -- which is to *love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength, and your neighbor as yourself.* (Luke 10:27)

** keep my eyes open to the harsh tyrannies of the world, whether abroad, in my own community, and even in myself -- that take advantage of the weak, fleece the unsuspecting, control by violence, shut out minorities from prosperity, assign blame to the innocent. New Life in Christ demands that we make love our aim and hold fast to what is good. (Check out Romans 12!)

** welcome, respect, and appreciate all who seek God, regardless of whether or not I agree with them. Fabulous author and theologian Frederick Buechner once said that *Theology is the study of God and his ways. For all we know, dung beetles may study man and his ways and call it humanology. If so, we would probably be more touched and amused than irritated. One hopes God feels likewise.*

This holiday season, join me in seeking to follow the wisdom of the Gospel (and Mr. Whitman), making Love the first and last word in all you do.

Blessings, Pastor Lynn

Thank you!

Thank you, VPC, for your wonderful welcome on October 25th. You made me feel right at home as you welcomed me and introduced yourselves with warmth and good humor. Worship was lively (you can sure sing!), the potluck delicious (you can sure cook!), and I was amazed and heartened by how everyone seemed to pitch in to help (you can really organize!). I am honored to serve as your pastor and look forward to many months of good ministry together in the name of Christ.

Peace and Joy,
Pastor Lynn

Journey/Invitation Team News

Area of Responsibility:

Bible study, Christian formation (all ages), new members and discipleship, evangelism and invitation.

Adult Education The fall adult education class on ethics concluded in mid October. Because the holidays are approaching and people tend to come and go on weekends, there are no plans for another class until after the New Year. However, I have a wonderful way to fill your seeking and growing time. I recently read *Encounters with Jesus* by Timothy Keller. It is a book to savor and let your hearts be stirred. Its subtitle is “Unexpected Answers to Life’s Biggest Questions”. And that is so true! I found myself pondering and surprised by new ways of looking at some of the most common of the New Testament accounts of event in Jesus’ life. Timothy Keller is the pastor at Redeemer Presbyterian Church in New York City and his series on The Reason for God was viewed in our spring Adult Ed. class. I encourage you to find the book (I have one copy to loan). It can be obtained on-line at Amazon in paperback for \$12.34, used for \$8.64, and on the Kindle for \$11.99.

Elder Diana Lilje



Worship Team News

Area of Responsibility:

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

As part of **November Stewardship Month**, it would be great for the VPC family to know each other better. Congregates can have the opportunity to share some of their life experiences during worship. These can be meaningful milestones that have shaped your life, or spiritual experiences. Some may want to share how the church has helped their life. If you would like to participate please call Brownie at 206-795-6488.

Worship Music The worship team is looking for people who would like to share their music during worship. Please contact Brownie at 206-795-6488.

Elder Brownie Carver

Purposeful Service Team News

Area of Responsibility:

Scholarship, Mary Magdalene weekend, IFCH dinners, mission partner relations

IFCH Dinners A group of islanders lead by Sooze and Benjamin Grossman are providing the IFCH Thanksgiving meal here at VPC — Thursday, November 26th from 3-7 PM. The VPC congregation is invited to contribute food and attend this meal along with our friends in need. This was truly a joyous occasion last year. They expect as many as 60 people so anything you can do to help will be

Community Thanksgiving Celebration

The Methodist Church is hosting a Community Thanksgiving Celebration Tuesday, November 24th at 7 PM in their sanctuary. The evening will feature the Free Range Folk Choir, poetry, stories and art, and sharing with Island Faith Communities.

Mission Resource Team News

Area of Responsibility:
Financials, Building and Grounds

Building and Grounds

1. Autumn and the rain arrived more quickly than I anticipated so we never got around to that October grounds workparty but we can always use more help tending the grounds so if you'd like to "adopt" an area please call the church. Leave a message if the office is closed and we'll contact you. You can also contact Kerri Grace who is coordinating volunteers from Carpe Diem to clean up landscaping around the play area at (206)321-6695. They have already cleared a lot of the blackberries and trimmed more lower limbs on trees.

2. Our "Toolbelts" group continues to meet on Tuesday mornings 10:00am-noon. We have some interior painting, window and carpet cleaning projects in mind for November. Call me at 354-8917 if interested.

3. We are still seeking another "Office Volunteer" to answer phones and direct concerns to appropriate Mission Team Leaders. Volunteers staff the church office Monday through Thursday from 10-2. If you are interested in helping, drop by the church during office hours and talk to the volunteer on duty. It's a great way to find out about the life of VPC beyond Sunday mornings.

4. Have you visited the church website lately? We have made a couple of changes and hope to update it more frequently in the future.

Blessings,

Elder Jacq Skeffington



Financial Report

Stewardship Month During the month of November we take time to count our blessings and give thanks. The session would like to encourage us to take some time this month to reflect on the gifts we've received, how we've answered God's call to use our time and talents and how we feel called to do so in 2016. We hope members will share their testimonies during Worship and help the session budget for next year by prayerfully filling out pledge cards and returning them on the last Sunday of the month, November 29th.

Elder Barb Huff

Hospitality/Fellowship Team News

Area of Responsibility:
Hospitality, Fellowship

Special Coffee Hour Come join VPC tailgating fun on 11/8 during coffee hour. I will bring tailgating food for all to enjoy. I invite you to bring your go-to game day dish. To add to the fun please wear your college sweatshirt and/or t-shirt. If you do not have a college shirt you can wear a pro-football shirt (maybe even a Sounders FC shirt?) If you do not follow sports wear a fun shirt that day. Bring your appetite to coffee hour on Sunday 11/8 for some tailgating fun.

Elder Kate Smith

Book Club Book Club will meet the evening of November 20st, 6:30 PM for a potluck at the Skeffington's. The book selection is The Art Forger by B. A. Shapiro. December's book will be A Still and Quiet Conscience: The Life of Raymond G. Hunthausen written by islander John McCoy.

Al Ross Weston

Message from the Deacons

Transportation The deacons' team wants to remind all the seniors in our church family that there are several special transportation services available for them. Rides both on island and off island are easy to arrange through the Senior Center and any costs are minimal. The recent grant establishing the Blue Bird service is especially helpful for those needing to get to a medical appointment in Seattle.

It's important to demonstrate the real need for these services, so don't hesitate to call and arrange for this help. If you'd like some assistance or have any questions about these options, deacons are glad to respond too. All the pamphlets and details for the various programs are in the great hallway near the bulletin board.

Family Stories Deacons want to suggest an idea as our families gather for Thanksgiving: try recording conversations with your family members, especially the elders. StoryCorps (from NPR) is providing a free app which can be easily downloaded and used for interviews with family members. "The Great Thanksgiving Listen" program has been designed primarily for school age students, but welcomes personal use as well. Go to StoryCorps.me and scroll down to the instructions for all the details. Preserve and share your very special family stories!

Deacons Susan Commeree, Lindsay Hofman, Sue Weston and Nancy van Roessel

Clerk's Corner

Session met briefly on October 18, with Rev. Arleigh Champ-Gibson moderating. Following the receipt of reports, both verbal and written, session authorized Rev. Houston to officiate at the memorial service for Marie Schlick later that day. Session also agreed to meet on the second Wednesday of the month, although the November meeting will be on the 18th because the second Wednesday is a holiday and not all are able to attend. Bob explained the process for the annual review of the membership roll, to be conducted later this year. Session decommissioned the Transition Team, with appreciation for its work in recommending an interim pastor. Finally, session designated Barb Huff and Bob Spangler as commissioners to the October 20 Seattle Presbytery meeting, due to the unavailability of Jacq and Bev Skeffington.

Bob Spangler, Clerk of Session





Calendar for November 2015

(all events at VPC unless otherwise stated)

Nov

- 1 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM Communion Service
- 7 Bible Study 10 AM
- 8 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM
- 8 Tailgate Coffee Hour after worship
- 15 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM
- 15 Deacons Meeting at Noon
- 18 Session Meeting 7 PM
- 20 Book Club at the Skeffington's 6:30 PM
- 21 Bible Study 10 AM
- 22 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM
- 24 Community Thanksgiving Celebration 7 PM at VMC
- 26 Thanksgiving Day - IFCH Thanksgiving Meal 3-7 PM at VPC
- 29 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

Life Changing Prayer group meets on the second and fourth Wednesdays at 10:00 am at VPC, and on the first, third and fifth Wednesdays at 10:00 am at the Vashon Community Care Center.

Women's informal breakfast meets at Sporty's at 8:00 am on Wednesdays.

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