

J A N U A R Y 2 0 1 6

Vashon Presbyterian Church

Vashon Island, Washington 98070

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



January 2016

Epiphany

Wednesday, January 6th is Epiphany, which is celebrated by the world-wide Church to commemorate coming of **Magi**, the Three Wise Ones, who followed Christ's natal star and brought precious gifts to honor his birth. According to Webster, an *Epiphany* is an usually sudden manifestation or perception of the **essential** nature or meaning of something; an intuitive grasp of reality through something (such as an event) usually simple and striking; an illuminating discovery, realization, or disclosure; a revealing scene or moment.

The simple birth of a baby boy to a young girl in a lowly stable became the simple event that illuminated the nature of God and God's plan of salvation for the world.

The day is now observed as a time of focusing on the mission of the church in reaching others by "showing" Jesus as the Savior of all people. It is also a time of focusing on Christian community and fellowship, especially in healing the divisions of prejudice and bigotry that we all too often create between God's children.

An Epiphany Prayer

O God, Lord of all that exists, you revealed your only-begotten Son to every nation by the guidance of a star. Bless this house and all who inhabit it. Fill each of us with the light of Christ, that our concern for others may reflect your love. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Light a candle or burn a bright light on Wednesday as a way to remember that Jesus is the light of the world!

Congregational Meeting

Plan now to attend our congregational meeting, scheduled for January 17th immediately following worship. We will:

- Review the Session approved budget for 2016
- Elect new officers
- Share our hopes for our interim period as we look toward our future

Building on the good work done through our Appreciative Inquiry process of a year ago, we will begin envisioning next steps.

"For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon me, and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, I will let you find me, says the Lord, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, says the Lord, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile." Jeremiah 29: 11-14

Purposeful Service

Team News

Area of Responsibility

Scholarship, Mary Magdalene weekend/partnership, IFCH dinners, mission partner relations.

Christmas Eve Offering \$417 was collected during the service Christmas Eve. This was donated to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

Mary's Place Giving Tree We extend our gratitude for the generosity of members and friends of the congregation who supported Mary's Place through the Giving Tree. Through your generous gifts \$235 was donated towards shoes for homeless men and women, filled the wishes of 10 children's toy tags, and 5 gifts for moms and dads.

Elder Jacq Skeffington

Hospitality/Fellowship

Team News

Area of Responsibility

Hospitality, Fellowship

January Book Club Book club meets at the Huff's on January 22nd at 6:30. The book selection is The Life and Times of the Thunderbolt Kid by Bill Bryson. There will be a potluck dinner before the discussion.

Journey/Invitation

Team News

Area of Responsibility

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

New Members Class Plans are being made to hold a new members class early in 2016. These class will provide an opportunity to learn about Presbyterian Church history, Presbyterian beliefs and worship, church organization, social justice, evangelism, stewardship, vocation, mission, the sacraments, and much more. If you are interested in attending the class, please let Pastor Longfield or Diana Lilje know. More information about the classes will be coming out soon.

Elder Diana Lilje

Worship

Team News

Areas of Responsibility

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

Thank You A thank you to the readers, candle lighters, musicians, and many volunteers who helped to make Advent and Christmas very special.

The children's message will return in January for the second, third, and fourth Sundays each month. Please call Brownie at 795-6488, if you have a message that you would like to share.

Elder Brownie Carver

Mission Resource

Team News

Area of Responsibility

Financials

Building and Grounds

The Personnel Committee, under session's direction, is launching a review of VPC's Safe Conduct Policy after the first of the new year. With a year and half's experience since the policy's adoption, it is time to see what clarifications, corrections, omissions and/or revisions are needed. A process for gathering input from all who have input will be announced.

Larry Commeree

Thank You

Thank you, VPC, for the thoughtful, generous and very special Christmas gift of Vashon items I received on Sunday the 22nd. When I pick up my seafoam blue-green mug to prepare coffee or cocoa I am reminded of your caring. The artisan soap graces my bathroom sink. The beautiful glass ornament from a local artists still hangs on my Christmas tree, reflecting bright light throughout my living room. The hand-made caramels were consumed almost immediately! The generous cash gift is and will always be a testament to your generosity. I am humbled and so appreciative. And thank you also, Al Ross-Weston for the stunning photos of sunsets. They are intriguing and gorgeous and a lovely reminder of the wonder of God's creation. I am so blessed to minister among you!

Christ's Peace,
Lynn

Deacon's News

Area of Responsibility

Caregiving

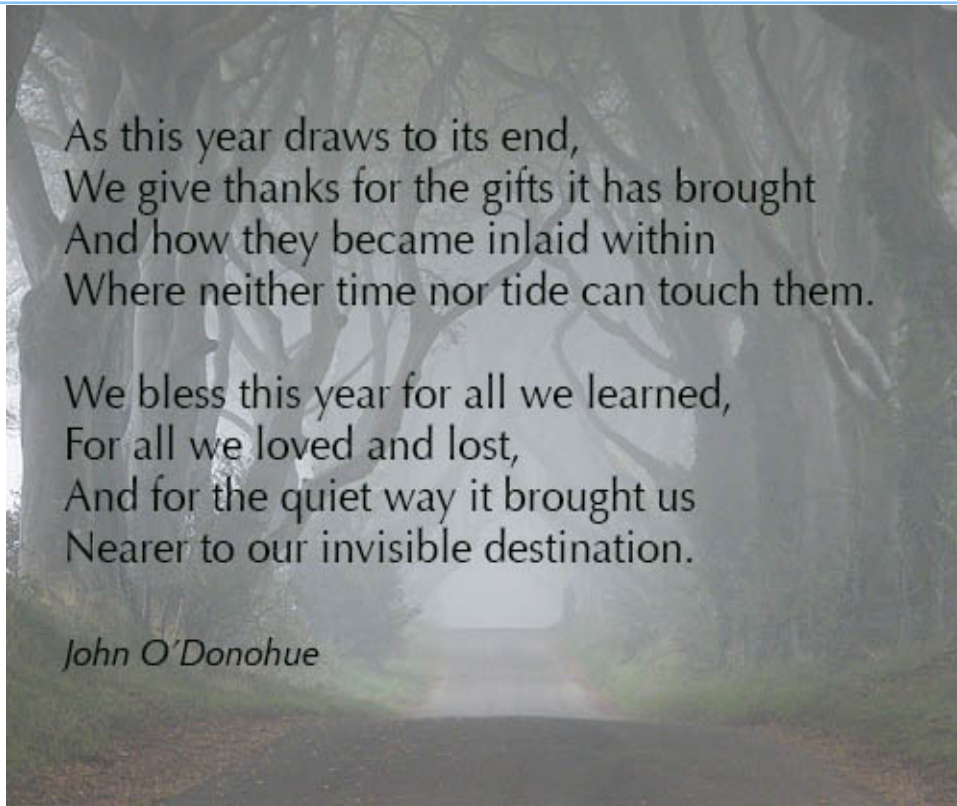
The deacons have assembled **information about currently active support groups on the island**. There are groups for both Parkinson's and Alzheimer's diseases, as well as for low vision, and grief loss and support. If you or someone you know would benefit from these resources, please ask one of the deacons for all the details.

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

Clerk's Corner

The monthly session meeting was held on December 16, with all in attendance. Session reviewed the draft 2016 budget, and made several changes (primarily the addition of \$10,000 for Pastor Nominating Committee expenses) before adopting it. Session also agreed to contribute the Christmas Eve offering to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. Barb noted that the audit of 2014 financial records had been completed, with no deficiencies noted. Personnel Committee will review the Safe Conduct Policy to recommend any appropriate updates. Larry Commeree has resigned from that committee after years of service. Session also discussed planning for the annual congregational meeting, a session retreat and a new members class. Finally, session reviewed the membership roll to determine whether any deletions are appropriate in view of a member's inactivity in congregational life. That matter will be addresses again at the January meeting.

Bob Spangler, Clerk of Session



Presentation of Kathryn Jean Whyland and Charlotte Elizabeth Whyland
January 27, 2015

Calendar

January 2016

(all events at VPC unless otherwise stated)



Jan

- 2 Bible Study 10 am
- 3 Sunday Worship Service 10 am (Communion Service)
- 10 Sunday Worship Service 10 am
- 10 Deacon's Meeting after worship at noon
- 13 Session Meeting 7:15 pm
- 16 Bible Study 10 am
- 17 Sunday Worship Service 10 am
- 17 Annual Congregational Meeting after worship
- 22 VPC Book Club, 6:30 PM at the Huff's
- 24 Sunday Worship Service 10 am
- 31 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.

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.