

Vashon Presbyterian Church

Vashon Island, Washington 98070



April 2016 Newsletter

VPC Newsletter Survey

In an attempt to improve church communications we have been surveying members about the VPC newsletter delivery system and its place in the functioning of the church. The current goal of the newsletter is for the Pastor, Elders, the Clerk of Session, Committee chairs, and Deacons to communicate their ideas and plans to the congregation and friends of VPC. Attention is given to dates and times of upcoming events in the life of the church so everyone will know what's going on. **It is hoped that anyone who reads the newsletter and has questions or comments will know where to address them.** But this may not be the case. If you receive a digital copy of the newsletter, a good starting point is to "reply" to the newsletter email address. This will be received by an office volunteer and directed to the right person for a response. If you receive a copy of the newsletter by postal service you can call the church office and again you will be directed to the person with an answer. No question is too small or unimportant to ask. In some ways the newsletter communication has been conducted in a 'one way' direction. Getting participation of the congregation should be a future goal. Think about the following survey questions. A copy of these questions will be distributed with the bulletin during the first two Sundays in May.

_____ I receive and read the newsletter each month and find it useful.

_____ I receive the newsletter but don't really read it.

_____ I have never received a copy of the newsletter.

_____ I have had questions about ideas mentioned in the newsletter but don't know of an easy way to get answers to my questions.

_____ I would like to see additional sections or articles such as _____ to make the newsletter more useful to me.

In the meantime we would welcome your thoughts via email response or a call to the office or the church leadership would like to hear your ideas personally. Let us know what we can do to improve a "two way" communication stream.

On Seeking Sanctuary

The opening line of the new Mission Statement the officers of the church are formulating states:

“Vashon Presbyterian Church exists to offer sacred sanctuary for all people yearning to draw close to God”.

The emphasis on “sanctuary” came out of a process of scripture study and discernment the church undertook over the past 2-3 years.

Since I learned of this focus I have been thinking and praying about the concept of sanctuary and what it means to seek, be, and offer sanctuary in the midst of our ministry here at Vashon Presbyterian.

By the grace of God, in the process of preparing to lead a women’s retreat for my neighborhood church at the end of April, I came across a marvelous book entitled “Finding Sanctuary” by Abbot Christopher Jamison of the Worth Monastery in England. In his book the Benedictine Abbot explores the disciplines, attitudes, and behaviors that lead us to become a living sanctuary in the midst of a troubled world -- spiritual disciplines like contemplation, obedience, humility, and building a community of hope. *He speaks of experiencing sanctuary as not really about finding refuge from the world around us, but rather living the kind of focused and spiritually disciplined life that witnesses to the peace and power of God.* In experiencing the sanctuary of God ourselves, we become active advocates for God’s compassion and justice in a world of turmoil.

I look forward to us discovering more and more how to put “flesh” on our desire to offer *sacred sanctuary*.

Blessings in Christ,
Lynn



Mission Resource Team News

Area of Responsibility:

Financial stewardship,
Building and Grounds.

Thanks to everyone who attended our **work party Saturday March 19th**. We spruced up the grounds beautifully. Thanks also to the Carpe Diem parents who cleaned the carpet in the Social Hall and Great Hall after school on Good Friday! The church was surely looking inviting for the many visitors we had on Easter Morning. There is still plenty of trimming and pruning so contact me if you feel motivated to “adopt” a flowerbed. That way you can set your own schedule of dropping by and tending your bed.

The **parking lot “potholes”** were filled again on March 22nd. We hope to keep up with these on a more regular basis than we have in the past.

The Carpe Diem students and parents, with a lot of help from volunteers at the March 19th work party, have created a **small vegetable garden** beneath the windows on the south side of the social hall. Check it out next time you’re in the social hall. The shrubbery that was there was transplanted to the north of the classrooms.

We will meet with **Carpe Diem** teachers and interim Head of School again this week to continue discussing terms and expectations for them to rent one classroom as storage space for the summer and both classrooms and the social hall again for next year.

The VPC website is changing weekly. Do you like it? Please contact me if you have any suggestion for improving it.

The **Mission Resources Team** has decided to meet on the 1st Tuesday of each month in the VPC office at 1:30 so that we don’t have to rush out of coffee hour to get to a meeting. If you’re interested and available, please join us April 5th. Don’t forget the **“Toolbelts”** meet on Tuesdays at 10 for minor repairs and maintenance projects and are always grateful for helpers.

Blessings,

Jacq Skeffington

Worship Team News

Area of Responsibility:

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

Thank You! Thank you to everyone who participated in the Lenten and Easter services. The readings, music and testimonies were inspiring. A special thank you to Pastor Lynn for the wonderful Holy Week services. It was an amazing week! If you would like to participate in a worship service please contact Brownie at 463-5399 or the church office at 463-2010.

Reader Board The sign is almost complete. Thank you Jacq for putting it together. The cost of the restored reader board is \$870. It is not too late if you would like to help with the cost. If so please make out a check to VPC designated for the sign.

Elder Brownie Carver

Hospitality/Fellowship Team News

Area of Responsibility:

Hospitality, Fellowship

April Book Club The book club will meet April 15th at the home of Al and Claudia Ross Weston. Arrive at 6:30 for a potluck followed by a discussion of Longitude by Dava Sobel.

Elder Kate Smith

Purposeful Service Team News

Area of Responsibility:

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

Heindsmann Scholarship Application Deadline

Five people have picked up scholarship applications from the office but none have been turned back in. If you are one of the applicants or know of someone who would qualify – note the **deadline of 2 PM Thursday, April 28th**. This scholarship is open to those individuals who are currently enrolled in a program of higher learning or are returning after an absence. It is not open to high school seniors.

Guest Speakers Jenny and Mark Hare May 1st at VPC

We have the good fortune to host Jenny and Mark Hare on May 1st here at VPC. We have supported their mission efforts in Haiti in the past. The Purposeful Service Team will host a special coffee hour in the social hall after the worship service and Jenny and Mark will give us a report on their work in Haiti. From their base in the Dominican Republic, Mark and Jenny are committed to serving Haitian people. Mark, an agricultural technician commutes across the Haitian border to work with Mouvman Peyizan Papay (MPP), helping Haitians learn to grow lots of food on a small amount of land. Jenny, a community health consultant, works with the Evangelical Dominican Church in the bateys, company towns largely populated by Haitian sugar workers. In his work, Mark says he strives to follow Christ's example of being intimately involved in the lives of people.

Be sure and mark your calendar for this opportunity to meet this remarkable couple.

Elder Al Ross Weston

Journey/Invitation Team News

Area of Responsibility:

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

Our next adult education class starts April 3.

The class will be held at 9 AM Sunday mornings in the Library. We will be reading a book titled Soul Feast by Marjorie Thompson. Its subtitle is "An invitation to the Christian Spiritual Life". Please join us in exploring some of the basic disciplines and practices of the Christian life. Our first session will outline the course for the next two months and have books available to read.

Elder Diana Lilje

Deacons News

The deacons team has been busy making decisions to focus their activities this year. We are defining areas and choosing individuals to be the specific coordinators. In the meantime please continue to talk with any one of the deacons when you have any concerns or needs. We want to provide support and share our information resources. The 2016 deacons team includes:

*Christine Browning, Susan Commeree,
Lindsay Hofman, Beverly Skeffington,
Nancy van Roessel and Sue Weston.*

Clerk’s Corner

VPC session met on March 9, 2016 with two members absent. Teams and committees submitted written reports prior to the meeting; little discussion ensued although session approved steps underway for renewal of the Carpe Diem contract. Session continued discussion of a mission statement and narrative, and received the most recent draft for further discussion at a future retreat. Session also reviewed the Personnel Committee’s recommendations regarding changes to the Safe Conduct Policy, and deferred all but one change (regarding contact with the media) until the April meeting. Session approved hiring a nursery attendant for two hours on Sunday mornings; that person would work with a VPC volunteer. Discussion centered on what the expectations of the person are in the event that there are no children to watch. Finally, session reviewed with Lynn the log of hours that she spends on her VPC pastorate, and discussed ways to ensure that she does not have to work more hours than the contract specifies.

Bob Spangler, Clerk of Session

NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS/FAMILIES SERVED WITH IFCH FUNDS IN 2015

In a recent newsletter article, information was given about how many meals IFCH serves. Here is additional information about how IFCH distributes services/funds (not taken from IFCH budget, but other sources such as other agencies, volunteers, churches). In 2015 IFCH helped (other than the meals) 124 individuals and 52 families (ranging from 2-5 persons). Some of the funding was procured from other agencies you will note, but the work of procuring those funds is a tribute to the hard work of IFCH board members.

- Showers** 240
- Firewood** 14
- Temporary housing** 13 individuals and one family of 4 persons
- Salvation Army vouchers** 72 vouchers (1-4 people served) per voucher \$250 each month = \$3000 value for 2015
- Rent** 48 individuals and families
- Warm Home Fund** \$3000 annually to families and individuals by Salvation Army and Puget Sound Energy
- Ferry** 28
- Transportation/Moving** 7 (volunteers helped with moves)
- VIGA Coupons** 200 approximately
- Granny’s Coupons** multiple
- Dental** 207 adults, 8 children funded by grants and volunteers, 2 after van stopped being in use. 3 year total - 773 adults, 91 children
- Laundry** 2 (no facility on island until 2016)
Expect more in 2016



Calendar for April 2016

(all events at VPC unless otherwise stated)



April

- 2 Bible Study 9 AM
- 3 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM (communion service)
- 10 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM
- 13 Session Meeting 7 PM
- 15 Book Club at 6:30 PM at the Ross Weston's
- 16 Bible Study 10 AM
- 17 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM
- 17 Purposeful Service Team Meeting after worship
- 20 Deacon's Meeting 5 PM
- 24 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM

May

- 1 Guest Speakers: Missionaries Jenny and Mark Hare after Worship

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

Life Changing Prayer group meets 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.