

J U N E 2 0 1 6

Vashon Presbyterian Church

Vashon Island, Washington 98070

June 2016 Newsletter

Summer Events

“Sundae” Sunday 6/12

Strawberry Parking 7/16

Mary’s Place Picnic 8/14



**Don't Miss the Fun!
Sundae Sunday!**

Summer's Here!

VPC will kick off summer with something special for all kids. The Sundae Sunday proves to be an annual delight of ice cream and toppings with more than enough to go around. Join family and friends on June 12th for this fun event. (See p 4 /Hospitality and Fellowship) The strawberry festival will again provide the opportunity to come together and raise funds for a worthy mission. Reserve your seat and parking place to view the parade July 16th. (See p 4/Purposeful Service) In August the Mary’s Place ladies will visit the island for the wonderful service and picnic in the park. (See P 4/Purposeful Service) Throw in the VPC yard sale in August and it looks to be a fun and fulfilling schedule of events for summer.

Additions to the Newsletter

There was a good response to the newsletter survey. New "subscribers", corrections to addresses, and a revised mailing list of those who want a copy in the mail rather than digital copies are some of the positive results.

In addition, new sections will be included in the newsletter by reader request. They are as follows: (1) more articles of interest not just mission team reports, such as reprints from Presbyterian Today, blogs, and other current topics (2) a seen and heard section titled What’s Happening at VPC? will feature events in the life of the church such as pictures of recent ladies luncheon (see p 7) (3) and "What's on Your Mind", a letters to editor section. It is our hope the reader will find the “new” newsletter more interesting and enjoyable. Keep the good ideas coming!

An Undivided Heart

On Memorial Day, and Newsletter Deadline Day, Psalm 86: 11 was listed as the “Scripture for the Day” in an email I get every morning. No commentary included, just a verse for contemplation.

Teach me your way, O Lord,
that I may walk in your truth;
give me an *undivided* heart to
revere your name.



An undivided heart. I’ve always been drawn to that concept, and struggled with it. Should I retire or not? Should I go to General Assembly or stay home and celebrate my birthday with family? Should I urge my mom to move out of the house she has lived in for 60 years, or support her decision to stay in her own home? Should we as a congregation choose this course of action or that course of action during this time of transition? And when people differ in what they think, how do we avoid conflict? It seems my heart is often pulled in *at least* two different directions. Can we avoid such ambivalence, such divisions in this life? Is there something God teaches us that would prevent such struggles?

As I thought about this verse I came to the conclusion that it cannot be talking about having no ambivalence about one course of action or the other. We can never avoid that, can we? It probably does not even mean that God always prefers one course over the other, though God definitely has preferences in some circumstances. Ambivalence and divisions seem inevitable even within each individual, let alone in community decision making.

In reality, Psalm 86: 11 is about having no ambivalence of purpose. It is about having a heart that is clear about whom it serves. It is a heart giving full devotion to God above all else. It is about David calling out to God as his enemies seek to harm him. In verse 2-4 he pleads “Guard my life, for I am devoted to you. You are my God; save your servant who trusts in you. Gladden the soul of your servant, for you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.”

An undivided heart, which seeks first and always to be true to God, is what we need as a congregation as we move into the future. Join me in praying for such a heart over the next several months, that at the end of the day, no matter what course we take together, we might be as One – heart, mind and soul. Being united in such a prayer will make all the difference as we seek to revere and serve God alone.

Blessings in Christ,
Lynn

We weren't able to print the whole article as it is quite long but hopefully there is enough here that piques your interest. Click on (or type in) the following link...or there are printed copies on the hostess table after worship.

www.christianweek.org/10-predictions-future-church-shifting-attendance-patterns/

10 predictions about the future Church and shifting attendance patterns

By [Carey Nieuwhof](#) ChristianWeek Columnist | January 25, 2016

Every generation experiences change.

But sometimes you sense you're in the midst of truly radical change, the kind that happens only every few centuries. Increasingly, I think we're in such a moment now.

Those of us in Western culture who are over age 30 were born into a culture that could conceivably still be called Christian. Now, as David Kinnaman at the Barna Group has shown, even in America, people who are churchless (having no church affiliation) will soon eclipse the church.

In addition, 48% of Millennials (born between 1984-2002) can be called post-Christian in their beliefs, thinking and worldview.

I think the change we're seeing around us might one day be viewed on the same level as what happened to the church after Constantine's conversion or after the invention of the printing press. Whatever the change looks like when it's done, it will register as a seismic shift from what we've known.

So what will the future church be like? And how should you and I respond?

www.christianweek.org/10-predictions-future-church-shifting-attendance-patterns/

Hospitality/Fellowship Team News

Area of Responsibility
Hospitality, Fellowship

Sundae Sunday June 12th is the date of a special treat for all the kids and their friends. To celebrate the beginning of summer and the end of the school year we invite all to Sundae Sunday!! A 30 foot long extravaganza of ice cream, toppings, gummy worms, and other delights await the young after worship. Bring your friends and neighbors!

Elder Kate Smith



Book Club

The book club will meet in June at Elizabeth Loveness’s home: The book selection will be The Storied Life of A. J. Firkey by Gabrielle Zevin

July’s Selection: A Sudden Light by Garth Stein

August Selection: The Wives of Los Alamos by Tara Shea Nesbit.

Purposeful Service Team News

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

The Heindsman Scholarship Committee has interviewed two candidates and will announce the recipient in June.

It's also time to start planning for our **Strawberry Festival Fundraising** event. Each year we provide parking and chairs for viewing the Parade – this year on July 16th. The 2016 proceeds will go to the Haiti Mission of Mark Hare and Jenny Brent.

We are getting excited about worshipping with our sisters from **Mary’s Place** (the Church of Mary Magdalene) again on August 14th. Our combined service with other churches on the island is something we look forward to all year.. If you are interested in helping or planning please contact Beverly Skeffington at 354-8921.

Elder Al Ross Weston

Start Setting Aside Yard Sale Items

Time to start cleaning out the garage, storages, and “the back room”. All those items you don’t need anymore will be essential components for our yard sale in August.

Mission Resource Team News

Area of Responsibility

Financials, Building and Grounds.

Financials The financial update given at the conversational meeting gave incorrect information regarding the regular offering. The budget calls for \$2125/week and the average through April has been \$2042/ week. Year to date the offering is running behind by \$1,410. Your elder, Barb Huff, apologizes for the error in reporting. For a copy of the full update check in the office or talk to Barb.

Elder Barb Huff

Building and Grounds Maintenance:

Thanks to everyone who attended our weed and feed BBQs. We're getting the shrubs back into manageable shape. We'll continue the weeding parties through June. Even if you can't make the Wednesday evening parties, 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 May 24th. That Tuesday we filled them without buying and gravel. We just knocked down the high spots around the low spots and filled them with the gravel we had loosened. We plan to keep up with these on a monthly basis.

We have signed a new contract with Carpe Diem 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.

Blessings,

Jacq Skeffington

Journey/Invitation Team News

Areas of Responsibility

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

The spring Adult Education class that meets on Sunday mornings at 9 AM has three more sessions. We are finishing the book Soul Feast by Marjorie Thompson.

Elder Diana Lilje

Worship Team News

Area of Responsibility

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

Thanks to the toolbelt workers for putting together **the new church sign**. It looks great!

June 12th is "Invite a Friend to Church Sunday". They will enjoy the service and the fun of watching the kids consume the 30 foot long sundae during the social hour.

Elder Brownie Carver

Deacons News

The deacons will be focusing more time on outreach and hospitality in the months ahead. As a team we hope to be able to more efficiently contact visitors and friends we miss as well as providing support for all our church family members. Everyone can help with this goal by sharing any concerns and names of those we can help with one of the deacons. By working together we can better extend caring and a warm welcome in our fellowship.

Deacons - *Christine Browning, Susan Commeree, Lindsay Hofman, Beverly Skeffington, Nancy van Roessel, Sue Weston*

Ecumenical Brainstorming

On June 6th at 11am, Vashon Presbyterian Church will be hosting a meeting of several lay people from the Methodist and Lutheran Churches to talk about how we can move into the future in areas of cooperation.

If you would like to attend this very informal idea gathering session, please talk with Beverly Skeffington. Or if you have ideas that you would like to be shared, please contact Brownie Carver, Barb Huff, Jacq Skeffington, Kathy Olsen or Elizabeth Loveness.

Clerk's Corner

Session held its monthly meeting on May 11, with all in attendance but the clerk. Jacq Skeffington acted as clerk pro tem. Committee and other written reports were submitted prior to the meeting. Session approved Pastor' Lynn's request to baptize her two granddaughters during the worship service on August 7. Session also authorized a congregational conversation to be held on May 22 following worship, and elected a committee to audit the 2015 financial results. Session discussed the matters to be addressed at the upcoming officers retreat, a communication from a member about the food bank collection, and reviewed the process for working with Presbytery as to the pastor search process. Jacq reported on the matters considered at the April Seattle Presbytery meeting held in Poulsbo. Finally, session discussed whether to establish a reserve fund to cover expenses in the event of a drop in income; this issue will be considered when the 2017 budget is prepared.

Bob Spangler, Clerk of Session

What's Happening At VPC?

The Ladies Luncheon in May was a great success. Good food, fellowship, and fun for all who attended. A highlight seen below was the opening of the “shower gifts” for the kitchen and nursery.



What's in the box?



A second dessert?

What's on Your Mind ?

This will be the space reserved for your comments and ideas. The Congregational Conversation was well attended and many shared their ideas. This section will be devoted to the same sharing of your thoughts about "anything that's on your mind". Just email the office and it will be forwarded to the newsletter "staff" or email elizabeth.loveness@gmail.com directly. Below is our first contribution from Beverly Skeffington. Enjoy!

Mary's Place Housing

I had the grand pleasure to go to the Open House at the former Travelodge in Seattle, which was purchased and remodeled by Amazon and donated to Mary's Place. It is located at 2213 8th Avenue.

There are 200 beds available in this three story building. Many of the rooms are designed to house a 3 person family unit and beds can be put together or apart as fits the needs of that family. These families are allowed to have pets and each room has it's own bathroom with shower. This system allows for multi generational living as well. The rooms are clean and freshly painted and are decorated with bright linens.

There are a few public spaces on the first floor: one for dining (usually the donated meals are set up buffet style and there is another room adjacent for seating for dining.), There is a large laundry room and storage room for grocery items (diapers, cereal and other food). They have a room they call "Bon Mary" (Their version of the Bon Marche), where they can purchase items (new or gently used clothing, diapers, snacks, etc) with points they have earned by doing work around the facility. Each person is encouraged to do at least 3 hours/week of work.

When people move into this facility, they begin a plan for future goals for leaving it (this is not permanent housing, but transitional) and they must show evidence of moving toward those goals in concrete ways.

I met a woman who is an interpreter for Amazon and part of her participation in this facility is to volunteer her translation services to the residents. She speaks 7 languages!

Currently they have 125 beds (out of the 200) occupied, after only having been open for one week.

What a great feeling to be there and to meet these residents; to experience their joy and sense of dignity.

Beverly



Calendar for June 2016

(all events at VPC unless otherwise stated)

June

- 2 Mission Resource Meeting 1:30 PM
- 2 Purposeful Service Meeting 7:00 PM
- 4 Bible Study 9 AM
- 5 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM (Communion Service/Food Bank)
- 5 Session Meeting After Worship
- 8 Session Meeting 7:00 PM
- 9 Carpe Diem Spring Program and Graduation 7:00 PM
- 12 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM Sundae Sunday
- 15 Deacon's Meeting 5:30 PM
- 15 Hospitality Meeting 7:00 PM
- 17 Book Club at Loveness's 6:30 PM
- 18 Bible Study 9 AM
- 19 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM
- 26 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

- Life Changing Prayer* group meets 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.
- Tool Belts* meet/work Tuesdays 10-noon

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