

J U L Y 2 0 1 6

# Vashon Presbyterian Church

Vashon Island, Washington 98070

## JULY 2016 Newsletter



### VPC Summer Event Schedule

July 16<sup>th</sup> Strawberry Festival  
Parking/Chairs Fundraiser

July 24<sup>th</sup> Hymn Sing Potluck

July 30<sup>th</sup> VPC Yard Sale

August 14<sup>th</sup> Mary's Place  
Worship and Picnic



### What's in This Issue

#### **The General Assembly**

Pastor Lynn gives an overview and some thoughts on the 2016 PC(USA) General Assembly held this last weekend in Portland, Oregon. **See her article p 2.** She also provides a link for a much more detailed report on the Assembly.

#### **Strawberry Festival Parking**

Our Festival fundraiser will support the Haiti mission of Mark Hare and Jenny Brent. If you want to reserve parking/chairs, please contact [beverlyskeffington@gmail.com](mailto:beverlyskeffington@gmail.com) or call 206/354-8921. **See article in Purposeful Service p 3 for more details.**

#### **The VPC Yard Sale is in July this Year!**

It will happen sooner than you think! Usually an August event, the sale will be on Saturday, July 30<sup>th</sup> this year. Classroom A has been reserved for storing items before July 30<sup>th</sup>. Start sorting and bringing your "treasures" in for the sale. **More info p 4.**

#### **Pastor Nominating Committee**

The nominating committee headed by Elder Kate Smith will be receiving names of those who are called to serve on the Pastor Nominating Committee to begin the search for our next permanent pastor. **See p 6 and the summary of the June 26<sup>th</sup> Congregational Conversation** for the progress so far and how you can remain informed and participate.

## General Assembly - Transformative, Discerning and Full of Hope for the Future

The 222<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly gathered in Portland, Oregon last week was the 14<sup>th</sup> GA I have attended. I have seen just about everything a G.A. has to offer - from demonstrations, to floor fights, to stories of inspiring mission, to moments of profound spiritual depth. In recent years, not all such gatherings were edifying. After I retired from Olympia Presbytery I determined I would not go again. But close proximity, a desire to reconnect with friends from across the nation, and the changing nature of the denomination drew me back this one last time. I am so glad I decided to go.

I experienced, thanks be to God:

- Expressions of deep faith in Christ as the center of all we are and do
- Unified commitment to mission and hope for the future
- Repeated evidence of a deepening and growing inclusion of all people
- The setting aside of contention and animosity in favor of deep listening, lively discussion, and discerning decision making
- Joyful worship full of terrific music, stellar preaching and moving prayer
- The election of gifted Co-Moderators, Denise Anderson and Jan Edmiston, and the brilliant J. Herbert Nelson, the PC(USA)'s first African-American Stated Clerk.



**Attending General Assembly is a great way to spend a birthday!**

I could go over each of the decisions made by the Assembly but you will acquire a clearer idea of actions taken by logging on to [.http://oga.pcusa.org/section/ga/222nd-general-assembly-2016/ganews/](http://oga.pcusa.org/section/ga/222nd-general-assembly-2016/ganews/). Scroll down to find articles on each major decision made. There you will read about an amendment recommending the reclaiming of the title, "Minister of Word and Sacrament" for pastors; re-affirmation of a two-state solution for Israel-Palestine; the phased divestment of fossil-fuel companies through PC(USA)'s Mission Responsibility Through Investment committee; a unanimously passed comprehensive policy to protect children, youth and vulnerable adults; an expression of regret for the harm to LGBTQ/Q members and sorrow to those who have left our now more inclusive church; a new directory of worship; affirmation of the centrality of peacemaking; the inclusion of the Belhar Confession in our Book of Confessions; and a recommitment to work diligently on the eradication of racism and all divisions that keep us from working together for justice.

Please feel free to come by the office any Wednesday or call or e-mail me with any questions you might have.

*"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven."* Ecclesiastes 3. Now is the time to come together as sisters and brothers of faith and joyfully step into the future God has for the PC(USA). I'm all in!

Christ's Blessings,  
Lynn

## Purposeful Service Team News

### Area of Responsibility

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

**Strawberry Festival Parking and Chairs** It's getting to be that time of year again. We are taking reservations for parking spaces and chairs to view the parade during festival. We need help labeling chairs (Friday afternoon 7/15).. We can always use help with the parking of the cars, setting up the chairs and watching over them on Saturday morning. Our Festival fundraiser will support the Haiti mission of Mark Hare and Jenny Brent. If you want to reserve parking/chairs, or to help with the opportunities mentioned above, please contact [beverlyskeffington@gmail.com](mailto:beverlyskeffington@gmail.com) or call 206/354-8921. **Reserved spaces will only be held until 10:45am on the day of the parade.**

**Heidsmann Scholarship** The Purposeful Service selection committee for the Heidsmann Endowment Scholarship has chosen two recipients for 2016. They are (1) Emily Kruly who is attending Yavapai College in Prescott AZ studying to become an equine practitioner and (2) Sophie Uhending who will be attending Western Washington University to continue her studies in marketing. The recipients received a letter confirming that \$1000.00 will be sent to the college they are attending in the fall. Sophie was introduced to the congregation June 26th. (see photo in Seen and Heard) Emily is currently living in Arizona and was not here in person but her letter of gratitude was read to the congregation the 26<sup>th</sup>. Both young women were very grateful for the financial help and fully expressed their appreciation to the church for providing the scholarship through this endowment. The committee will see that the Heidsmann Scholarship plaque will be engraved with the recipient's names for 2016.

**Picnic and Worship with the women of Mary's Place** On Sunday, August 14<sup>th</sup> at Ober Park, we will be hosting (along with the Methodist and Lutheran churches) a group of women from Mary's Place (a women's center/shelter in Seattle). We will need financial contributions for ferry tickets and fried chicken and people to transport dishes, silverware, other kitchen equipment, tables, chairs, and sound system the morning of the 14<sup>th</sup>. We have the park reserved from 9am until 2pm with worship being at 10am. This time of worshiping with other faiths on the island and these precious women is always the highlight of the summer.

*Elder Al Ross Weston  
Beverly Skeffington*

## Journey/Invitation Team News

### Area of Responsibility

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

**Christianity and Islam** The spring Adult Education class concluded in early June. There will be a two month break with the next class starting the Sunday after Labor Day. The intention is to begin a study course on Christianity and Islam by Ronn Kerr. This is a unique study that compares and contrasts the world's two largest religions. The intent is to bring a greater understanding of each. The course is for those who have little knowledge of Islam other than what has been reported in the news and aims at providing a general understanding of the difference and similarities between these two great religions. Please let Diana Lilje or Bob Spangler know if you are interested in attending so books may be ordered for you.

*Elder Diana Lilje*

## Mission Resource Team News

### Area of Responsibility

Financial Stewardship  
Building and Grounds

**VPC Yard Sale** The annual yard sale will be held Saturday, July 30 from 9-2. Hope you have been saving up kitchen items, household goods, collectibles, arts & crafts, books, toys, puzzles, games, sports equipment, holiday items, linens, tools, building supplies, and furniture. **We request no clothing or computers.** We need help with sorting and pricing; help carrying out tables and boxes Saturday morning; cashiers the day of sale; persons to oversee tables on Saturday; help to take remaining items to Granny's; and help at end of sale to carry tables back in. Barb Huff will be coordinating the yard sale – please contact her or office staff with questions or availability to help – 206-713-6232.

*Elder Barb Huff*



**Thanks to everyone who's been tending our plants, shrubs and lawn.** We're getting the shrubs back into manageable shape and the grounds really look inviting. Beverly and I will be away until Festival so we'll discontinue the weed and feed BBQs until after we return but please keep up the good work and watering!

The temporary fence blocking off a portion of the parking lot as a playground for Carpe Diem students has been removed to allow more parking area. Be sure to remind your friends about the convenient parking we provide during Festival.

We are pleased that both **Carpe Diem and the Creative Preschool** will be resuming classes in the fall. We're planning to finish roofing the area above the classrooms and offices this summer and are soliciting bids to paint the church.

*Elder Jacq Skeffington*

## Worship Team News

### Area of Responsibility

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

**Hymn Sing Sunday** July 24<sup>th</sup> will be Hymn Sing Sunday. We will sing some of our favorite hymns and join together for a potluck after worship. Sign up your favorite hymns on the next two Sundays during worship or call the office to get your favorites on the list. Join together for good "old fashioned" song and fellowship!

*Elder Brownie Carver*

## Hospitality/Fellowship Team News

### Areas of Responsibility

Hospitality, Fellowship

**Book Club** VPC Book club will not meet in July. The next meeting will be in August. The book to be discussed will be **A Sudden Light** by Garth Stein. Look for updated times and location in August Newsletter and weekly eNews.

## Deacon's News

The deacons are anxious to share their enthusiasm and the rewards that they experience during the gatherings at Vashon Community Care. For several years, deacons from our congregation have helped to provide worship services on 4th Sundays for the residents, alternating monthly with the Lutherans. Lindsay Hofman and Christine Browning are the current leaders for these joyous moments. The short service starts at 9:15AM and lasts about 30 minutes.

With the encouraging leadership of Olde John Croan, and generous support from Pastor Lynn and Lindsay Hofman, we are also involved with a weekly 10AM Wednesday morning meeting of song and prayer with residents. Old John is there every Wednesday, Pastor Lynn is there every 1st, 3rd and 5th Wednesday and Lindsay every 2nd and 4th Wednesday; nevertheless there is a welcoming opportunity for more participation on any Wednesday morning. Those who have joined the VCC residents during these times have had truly special and very happy experiences.

Consider joining these folks at one of their gatherings and know the heartwarming rewards of your involvement immediately. You can talk with deacons Lindsay Hofman and Christine Browning, or Sue Weston and Susan Commeree who also are familiar with VCC activities.

*Deacons: Christine Browning, Susan Commeree, Lindsay Hofman, Beverly Skeffington, Nancy VanRoessel and Sue Weston.*

## Clerk's Corner

The VPC session met after worship on June 5 for the monthly business meeting. Although brief consideration was given to team reports, the primary matter to be decided was adoption of a mission statement and narrative, taking into consideration the comments presented at the prior congregational conversation. Session adopted a statement and narrative, but decided to revisit a shortened statement at the July session meeting. Session also approved a yard sale to be held on July 30, with proceeds to go into the general fund. Finally, session discussed questions to be asked of Presbytery staff at a forthcoming special meeting (see below), and scheduled a further congregational conversation for June 26 to inform the congregation of the status of the pastor search process.

The special session meeting held on June 15 was limited to discussion with Revs. Kevin Nollette and Eliana Maxim from Seattle Presbytery as to the pastor search process. The discussion focused on the process of electing a Pastor Nominating Committee, the PNC's size and composition, how best to review and select candidates for the position, and the costs associated with calling a pastor. Information gathered from the special session meeting was shared with the congregation at the June 26 conversation.

*Bob Spangler, Clerk of Session*

### Congregational Conversation

This Conversation was scheduled for the June 26<sup>th</sup> by members of the Session for the purpose of discussing first steps in forming the **Pastor Nominating Committee**. Between 25- 30 people attended. The conversation went well and highlighted the need to have frequent opportunities of this kind.

The gathering began with a couple of questions on the large whiteboard for conversations around the tables as we had our first cups of coffee and snacks. Where did you find joy this week? When did you feel God's presence? After a brief exchange of responses around each table, the larger conversation was opened with prayer. Kevin Nollette was included in our prayer after explaining a bit about his concussion.

Information received from Kevin and COM\* on next steps in forming a PNC\* was read. The need to keep two way communication with members of the congregation will be essential. Some members present at the meeting expressed surprise at hearing a halftime pastor was a real possibility going forward. At least the way it was presented which seemed to indicate it had already been decided to consider a part time pastor came as a surprise. There was a question of whether or not we really could only afford a part time pastor and how that would limit the pool of candidates.

After many questions and suggestions someone asked whether we should vote. We were reminded that this was not a publicized business meeting of the congregation so we could not conduct business of the congregation or have a binding vote but could and did put forth a few "polling" questions to see how those present felt about proceeding.

There seemed to be consensus that we should form a PNC of 5-7 people and that it should consist of at least one elder and others with no limit on how many elders but should not be a committee of only elders.

Another question arose whether members of the PNC need be members of the congregation? Presbytery will be consulted for an answer to this question. The reasoning behind including non members would be that we would get fresh eyes and ideas from someone outside the congregation.

Another question was about the quality of candidates to choose from if COM provides a short list. A suggestion was to request a longer list of about 20 names. An elder responded that we were not limited to the short list the COM provided and could always go back for more if we did not feel any of the candidates were acceptable.

The conversation was closed with prayer and there seemed to be a good feeling among all who attended that there was a real attempt to improve communication going into this phase together.

As a result of the conversation the Session will need to act on the following:

1. Determine if members of the PNC must be members of the congregation.
2. Determine the size of the PNC.
3. Determine the size of the list of candidates from COM.
4. Request a copy of the Mission Information Form from COM.
5. Direct Kate and the nominating committee to nominate a slate of candidates for the PNC to present at a congregational meeting (to be scheduled and announced as necessary when they are ready).

There was a general consensus that if people believed they knew of someone called to serve on the PNC that it would be good if that person would be interviewed prior to the congregational meeting - although nominees from the floor will also be accepted.

\*PNC – VPC Pastor Nominating Committee

\* COM - Presbytery Committee on Ministry

# What's on Your Mind?

## ECUMENICAL BRAINSTORMING MEETING 6/6/2016

The idea for this meeting came out of a discussion at VPC about the question: Where do you see our congregation in 5-10 years? A suggestion arose that it would be a good idea to share the question with our brothers and sisters in Christ worshipping in other mainline reformed congregations who may be facing similar common interests and challenges. Lay leaders and members of the Methodist and Lutheran congregations on Vashon were invited to join Presbyterians for this initial meeting, held in the VPC library.

### **WHAT CHALLENGES ARE WE FACING?**

1) At a denominational level, we are all facing a changing society where going to church is not the norm for many young adults. 2) All three churches have had pastoral transitions in the past year. The Lutherans and Methodists expect to have new pastors arriving this summer. Presbyterians elect their pastors, and VPC will begin the process of recruiting and calling a new pastor within the year to take the place of our present interim. 3) Mainline churches are experiencing an ageing, shrinking congregation where a few are carrying the burden of all the leadership and hands-on tasks, which has resulted in a degree of burnout as well as concern for who will take their place as they age out of their active years. 4) There are few youth programs.

**NEW WAYS OF THINKING:** How do we reach those for whom traditional worship does not appeal and/or is inconvenient to busy work and activity schedules? Going back to the old ways is not an option. What is God calling us to do? One suggestion was a commuter ferry ministry.

**JOINT PROJECTS:** The Methodists and Presbyterians will again host the Mary's Place picnic celebration at Ober Park this summer. The

ecumenical Vacation Bible School plan is on hold for this year but there is a strong commitment to resume next summer.

**FUTURE OF ECUMENICAL GROUP:** It was agreed that future meetings would be productive. The next meeting will be in August or September and the church pastors will be invited. By that time, the new ministers at VUMC and Vashon Lutheran will have had some time to settle in.

*This article is a brief summary from notes taken by Kathy Olson. If you are interested in learning more about future meetings or have comments, contact Beverly or Jacq Skeffington or Kathy Olson.*

## Seen and Heard



**One of the 2016 Heindsmann Endowment Scholarship winners, Sophie Uhending. Sophie receives \$1,000 toward her continuing education at Western Washington University.**



## Calendar for July 2016

(all events at VPC unless otherwise stated)

### July

- 2 Bible Study 10 AM
- 3 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM (Communion Service and Food Bank)
- 10 Sunday Worship Service
- 13 Session Meeting 7:00 PM
- 16 Strawberry Festival Fundraiser
- 17 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM
- 20 Deacon's Meeting 5:00 PM
- 24 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM Hymn Sing and Potluck
- 31 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM

### ONGOING ACTIVITIES

***Life Changing Prayer*** 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 10 am the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays.

***Weed and Feed Barbecues*** Wednesday evenings 5:30-7:30 pm

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