

AUGUST 2016

# Vashon Presbyterian Church

Vashon Island, Washington 98070



## August 2016 Newsletter

### Mary's Place

#### VPC Summer Event Schedule

August 7<sup>th</sup>

Farnum Baptism

August 14<sup>th</sup>

Mary's Place Worship/Picnic

August 19<sup>th</sup>

VPC Book Club

**Note:** Updates on the Safe Conduct Code, New Mission Statement, and terms of the search for a permanent Pastor are included in the Clerk's Corner p 4. There will be more details on these important topics in the September Issue.

Once again the ladies from Mary's Place in Seattle will join with island churches in fellowship at the annual **Mary's Place Worship and Picnic at Ober Park August 14<sup>th</sup> 10 AM.** If you have wondered what Mary's Place is all about, here is information taken from their website.

#### Their Mission

Mary's Place is a leading voice for homeless women, children, and families in emergency situations. We empower women to reclaim their lives by offering community, acceptance, hope and dignity. Our work keeps struggling families together and provides practical tools and resources that help women find housing and employment. We inspire the community to support homeless women and families through advocacy, partnerships, volunteerism, and philanthropy.

#### Their Values

**Love** — Mary's Place offers love and a place of community and belonging.

**Respect** — We respect and honor the dignity of every woman and family in need of our services, in our employ, or giving of their time, regardless of race, ethnicity, class, sexual orientation, education, or life experience.

**Accessibility** — We offer services that are free, easily accessible, and responsive to women's needs.

**Hope** — We provide encouragement and believe that the women we serve are capable of achieving their goals.

**Stewardship** — We carefully steward our financial and human resources.

**Collaboration** — We collaborate with others to ensure quality services, leverage and expand service capacity across the region, and lift the voice of homeless women.

**Please join us in an ecumenical celebration of this special mission and these wonderful ladies.**

## Mission Resource

### Team News

#### Area of Responsibility

Financial stewardship  
Building and Grounds

**VPC Building Mortgage** We are celebrating the church mortgage balance falling below \$100,000 this month! We marked this milestone with a special “piggy bank” cake on Sunday the 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Yard Sale** The yard sale raised \$1,080.00!! Thanks to all who worked so hard pricing, sorting, carrying tables, and handling the sales on Saturday. Considering most of the items were priced below a dollar, we really did well. This money will go to the general fund.

*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. We’ll resume the Weed and Feed BBQs on August 3<sup>rd</sup> and continue them until early fall. Keep up the good work and watering!

We are pleased that both **Carpe Diem and The Creative Preschool** will be resuming classes in the fall. The Creative Preschool will have a new head teacher. This will mark the 31<sup>st</sup> year the preschool has been meeting in our building!

We’re planning to **finish roofing** the area above the classrooms and offices this summer and are soliciting bids to paint the church.

**The Mission Resource Team meets** on first Thursdays at 1 PM. The meeting for August will be the 4<sup>th</sup> at 1 PM.

*Elder Jacq Skeffington*

## Purposeful Service News

### Area of Responsibility

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

**Mary’s Place Picnic is Coming!** We will be hosting the women of **Mary's Place for worship and lunch on Sunday, August 14th at 10am at Ober Park.** (1) We will need help with getting chairs and dishes to Ober Park that morning from the church.. (2) We need drivers to pick up our guests at the North end dock and return them there (much easier I hope now that the dock is finished), and (3) We also need ferry tickets or donations for ferry tickets. (4) Lastly we are inviting everyone to provide a potluck dish. Please think about how you will use your gifts for this amazing time with these very special women. Contact the office or Beverly Skeffington if you can help.

**Festival Parking** Wow!!! What a great service we provided to 81 carloads of people and seated more than 150. More than one person commented that if it wasn't for our fundraiser, they wouldn't be able to come to enjoy the parade and festival. Everyone from kids in the parade and their folks, to musicians, to those who need to be within a short walking distance expressed their gratitude. (see “What’s on Your Mind” for some of the individual Thank You notes) **AND** Thank you to the many folks who helped out and who visited with our guests. They really appreciated the friendliness and generous spirit they encountered. To top it off, we are now able to send nearly \$1900 to help Jenny and Marc in their mission work in Haiti.

*Beverly Skeffington*

**IFCH meal** VPC will be responsible for the IFCH meal 8/25. There is a sign up sheet in the East Room.

**Purposeful Service Team** will meet this month on Thursday August 4<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM for an important meeting to finalize plans for the Mary’s Place Picnic.

*Elder Al Ross Weston*

## Journey/Invitation Team News

### Area of Responsibility

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

**Adult Education** Our next Adult Education class will start the Sunday after Labor Day. We will begin a study course on Christianity and Islam by Ronn Kerr. Members of the world's two largest religions remain surprisingly uninformed about one another. Even though we hear about Islam almost daily in the news media, most of what we read or hear are negative images about terrorist minorities. Muslim stereotypes of Western Christians are not much better. 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*

## Hospitality/Fellowship Team News

### Area of Responsibility

Hospitality, Fellowship

**August Book Club** The VPC Book Club will meet this month at the Spangler's on August 19<sup>th</sup>. There will be a potluck at 6:30 before the discussion of the book A Sudden Light by Garth Stein. Everyone is welcome!

*Elder Al Ross Weston*

## Worship Team News

### Area of Responsibility

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

**Communion** for August will be on the 7th.

**Baptism** Naomi Clara Farnum (5) and Natalie Athena Farnum (2 ½), daughters of Andrew and Alexandra Farnum and granddaughters of Pastor Lynn, will receive the sacrament of baptism during worship August 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Signup for Sunday Helpers** Sunday is a day in which everyone can play a meaningful part in the morning worship and fellowship. Ushers, flowers providers, and coffee hour hosts put that extra special touch on our time together. Please note the signup sheet in the East Room. Commit to making our Sunday mornings a "community" effort.

*Elder Brownie Carver*

## Clerk's Corner

Session held its monthly meeting on July 13. All committee reports were submitted prior to the meeting and required little discussion. Items of old business included revisiting the short mission statement and deciding to provide information about the statement and narrative to the congregation at the July 24 potluck. Guidelines for use of the statement and narrative were adopted. Session also approved word changes to the Safe Conduct Policy that reflect decisions made at an earlier meeting, and reviewed the training requirements and progress that the policy requires. After a discussion of what parameters should be established in connection with the pastor search process, it was decided that the position will be 2/3 time (26-28 hours per week) for an initial three year period, with possible renewal after review and consultation with Presbytery. The PNC will be composed of five to seven nonrelated members, including two session members. It was agreed that the PNC should solicit information from the congregation as to pastor priorities. Session authorized compensation for Pastor Lynn in lieu of vacation time that was previously authorized. Finally, after a discussion of the circumstances surrounding the display of the rainbow flag earlier in July, session decided to send an explanation to the congregation as to that action.

*Bob Spangler*  
Clerk of Session



## Deacon's News

### Weekly prayer gathering at Vashon Community Care

In July's newsletter, the deacons shared details of their current activities at the Vashon Care Center. This month, the deacons want to encourage others from our congregation to join them at VCC for the weekly prayer gathering on Wednesdays. The prayer time has changed to early afternoon and many more residents are able to participate.

Olde John and Pastor Lynn lead the brief service, with help from deacon Lindsay Hofman on alternate weeks. It would be really helpful to have another VPC member available to offer assistance, especially when the residents are gathering. A third person would only be responsible for helping under the guidance of the VCC staff; there's no expectation of leadership for the service. Joining the VCC community for this time of prayer and singing is definitely a happy experience. Please think about offering to participate once month or so - you'd feel well rewarded! Talk to Pastor Lynn or Olde John Croan or one of the deacons if you can consider supporting this activity.

### Prayers shared during Sunday worship

Every week those attending worship hear the prayer requests shared during the service. One helpful person has offered to make brief notes of these prayers. The list is then passed along to the deacons who are committed to continuing to support these requests with prayers during the week.

The deacons would like to invite others to join them in this special way to encourage and support all the members of our church family. Will you try to remember some of these shared concerns and pray for those during the week? It would be so easy also for each of us to look around at familiar people in the pews and at the visitors and think about praying for specific individuals during the week as well. What a special gift of caring we could offer each other with this discipline! Please consider trying it!

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

## What's on your mind?

Below are two of the heartfelt thank yous we received as a result of our car parking/chairs fundraiser for the Strawberry Festival.

Our family thanks you, Beverly, & the Presbyterian church for making it so easy to get to the parade with our elders. It's a win win situation where we get to help the people of Haiti and we have the ability to help our 90 year old parents remain a part of the community. We are minus one parent this year as we lost Carl Winge, Sr, this past March. Thanks, too, for the front row padded seats!

Sincerely,

Carl & Kathy Winge

Dear Beverly,

Thank you for your very nice e-mail. Both Harry (Kirschner) and I were very pleased with your communication.

It was our privilege to be able to be a part of your expert planning. We both commented on how nice it was - directions (e-mails and the special people there at the parking lot helping us), the parking spaces, chairs (with even our names on them!!!) and front row seats for the parade. Because of all of your very special efforts we had an extra good time on Saturday.

So we both say a huge **THANK YOU!** ...to arrange everything and for your very special cause - to make a difference for the lives in Haiti.

We were so impressed with your special church members, too. We might come some Sunday if we are on Vashon and join you in worship. I spoke with a couple outside the church after the parade and they said we'd both be welcome.

Vashon is a very nice community.

Thank you again.

Sincerely,

Marilynne Ross and for Harry Kirschner

## Seen and Heard

Mary's Place Picnic: "Song, good food, and soaking up the sun"





## Calendar for August 2016

### Aug

- 4 Mission Resource Meeting 1 PM
- 4 Purposeful Service Meeting 7 PM
- 6 Bible Study 9 AM
- 7 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM (Communion and Baptism)
- 10 Session Meeting 7 PM
- 14 Sunday Worship Service at OBER PARK 10 AM Mary's Place Picnic
- 17 Deacon's Meeting at 5 PM
- 19 VPC Book Club at 6:30 PM at Spangler's
- 20 Bible Study 9 AM
- 21 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM
- 28 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM

## ONGOING ACTIVITIES

*Life Changing Prayer* group meets Wednesdays at  
1:00 PM at the Vashon Community Care Center.

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

*Bible Study* meets the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays at 9 AM

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

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