

S E P T E M B E R 2 0 1 6

# Vashon Presbyterian Church

Vashon Island, Washington 98070

## September 2016 Newsletter

### Session Finalizes Mission Statement and Narrative

After much thought and sifting through congregational conversations and surveys the session has arrived at the wording of our mission statement and narrative that will serve to provide the vision for the new pastor search and the future of VPC here on Vashon. The session has spent many prayerful hours in the process. The results are printed below. Please contact any member of session if you have questions or comments.

#### **Mission Statement:**

Vashon Presbyterian Church's calling extends Christ's love and acceptance to all, wherever they might be on their life's journey, offers sacred sanctuary for all people yearning to draw close to God, and joins with people from all walks of life to work for justice and peace.

#### **Narrative:**

Vashon Presbyterian Church seeks to experience God's extraordinary presence in our everyday life together. Our church is ever grounded in prayer, worship and the holy scriptures where the congregation can grow in knowledge and service to the community and world. We are richly graced by God and seek ways to celebrate and live out the teachings of Jesus with compassion and humility.

VPC's mission has evolved as our church and community have changed since the church's inception in 1904. We joyfully celebrate recent changes in policy of our denomination allowing us to affirm full inclusion of people of every ethnicity, gender, and sexual identity.

We reflect our mission in service to the community. The Vashon-Maury Island Community Food Bank started in our church and grew to where it required its own larger facility. Our congregation still supports this mission partner with member participation as well as with monthly monetary and food donations. Continued on P 2

### September Dates!

**Bible Study**  
**September 3, 17**

**Fall Adult Education**  
**Class Begins**  
**September 11**

**VPC Book Club**  
**September 16**

**Potluck After**  
**Worship**  
**September 18**

**Congregational**  
**Meeting**  
**September 25**



**Narrative continued from P 1**

Our other mission partners include: the Presbytery of Seattle's Southeast Asian Ministry, Mary's Place (a women's homeless shelter in Seattle), Vashon Community Care, and the Interfaith Council to Prevent Homelessness.

Our doors are open, allowing meeting spaces for many support groups, community forums and gatherings. Rehearsals for the Vashon Chorale and Opera company are held here. We have a partnership in building usage with both the Creative Preschool and Harbor School's Carpe Diem Primary School. During Strawberry Festival, our church provides accessible parking and viewing chairs for the Grand Parade with funds forwarded to specified missions.

Historically VPC has purposefully served Vashon Island in a variety of ways. With God's help, we are committed to addressing our community's ever changing needs as we worship God and advocate for justice, equality, and respect for all people.

**Listening to God, embracing all, living in joy****Election of a Pastor Nominating Committee at  
Congregational Meeting September 25<sup>th</sup>.**

A formal request by our Session was sent to Presbytery for their approval to form a Pastor Nominating Committee as required by the guidelines for this process. The request read as follows:

“VPC requests permission from Seattle Presbytery to constitute a Pastor Nominating Committee and to elect a PNC at a congregational meeting to be held on September 25, 2016.”

Be sure and plan to attend this very important Congregational Meeting September 25<sup>th</sup>. You will want to be well informed and prepared to support the newly elected PNC with your time, ideas and prayers.

## Discovering Our Future Together Through Dialogue

After worship, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month, join us for a lively discussion on topics pertinent to VPC's future.



We have forged a wonderful vision and mission statement *for* our congregation, and a clear narrative *about* our church. We have moved forward in constituting a Pastor Nominating Committee, and worked with the Presbytery to do everything properly and in good order.

But those tasks are only the preliminaries. What will be absolutely critical to an effective and successful future will be involving everyone as we learn, experiment, generate creative ideas, and reach out in innovative ways to our community. One way to do that is to make sure everyone has an opportunity to listen to the Spirit, listen to each other, and their share their ideas about how our purpose an mission can be more closely aligned with God's will and direction in these changing times.

Articles on varying topics will be made available to the congregation via the e-news well before the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday discussions so that we will have a common starting point for each session. Some intriguing titles include: *Back to the Future; Faith Communities in a Post Institutional Age; God, Meaning and Purpose; 10 Ways to Revive a Dying Church; On Being Spiritual but not Religious; House Churches; 5 Things Church Leaders Must Know; Pastor, Churches and Politics; Not Dead Yet, On Sunday School.*

*Plan to be part of these lively sharing times. We need YOU!*

Jacq Skeffington and I will lead.

Blessings, Pastor Lynn

## Worship Team News

### Areas of Responsibility

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

A big thank you to the Worship Team and Deacons for creating the **new pew cards** and thanks to Elizabeth Loveness for getting them printed. We hope that these cards will be used by not only visitors, but by anyone who would like to make a request. These cards can be an important communication tool.

Also remember to **sign up for flowers and ushering for September.**

*Elder Brownie Carver*



**Last Phase of Re-roofing Project Complete**

## Mission Resource Team News

### Area of Responsibility

Financials, Building and Grounds

**Financial Stewardship** It was agreed by the Session that the pastor search committee will be looking for a person to fill a 2/3 time position. After carefully looking at a realistic future budget the session felt that we could only support the 2/3 time (26-28 hours a week) position. For more details talk to Barb Huff.

*Barb Huff*

**Building and Grounds Maintenance** There is a **new roof** over the north part of the new building. This includes part of the great hall, the classrooms, and the offices. The work was completed in August.

A painting contractor has been secured and **painting the exterior** of the old and new buildings at VPC will begin later in September. The decision whether to keep the current color scheme or choose a new one is under way. If you have thoughts or a suggestion talk to Jacq Skeffington. The color will be finalized in the next 2 weeks. Samples of the suggestions given so far are in the office.

Both **Carpe Diem and Creative Preschool** will be resuming classes in September. Please be watching for little ones arriving and going while you are entering the parking lot and surrounding areas.

## Purposeful Service News

### Area of Responsibility

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

A big thank you to the many folks who worked so hard to make our worship and picnic with the women of Mary's Place such a wonderful experience. Working with the other churches and worshipping as one in the spirit, as we did, really adds to the experience.

**IFCH Dinner** VPC's IFCH dinner night this month is September 22<sup>nd</sup>.



**“The Choir from Mary’s Place”  
We had another great service and picnic in  
Ober Park this August.**

## Journey/Invitation

### Team News

#### Area of Responsibility

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

**Fall Adult Education Class** The fall Adult Education class will start Sunday, September 11 at 9 am. We will begin a study course on Christianity and Islam by Ronn Kerr. This class will last approximately 14 weeks. The books for the course cost \$9 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.

*Elder Diana Lilje*

## Hospitality/Fellowship

### Team News

#### Area of Responsibility

Hospitality, Fellowship

VPC will have a **fall potluck on September 18** right after church. No need for sign ups just bring a dish to share with everyone. We will say goodbye to Summer & Hello to Fall.

*Elder Kate Smith*

**Book Club** The VPC book club will meet September 16. The book selection for this month is The Wives of Los Alamos by TaraShea Nesbit. Watch for enews announcements as to the location on the 16<sup>th</sup>.

The book selection for October is This Boy’s Life by Tobias Wolff.

## Clerk's Corner

The August session meeting was held on August 10, with all but one member present. Two old business matters were resolved: establishing the third Sunday as the time for congregational educational gatherings after worship, and splitting Mission Resource Committee into two committees – Finance, and Building & Grounds. Information also was provided about the Safe Conduct Policy training and the annual financial audit. Because Presbytery must approve the formation of a Pastor Nominating Committee, session adopted the following statement for forwarding to Presbytery: **VPC requests permission from Seattle Presbytery to constitute a Pastor Nominating Committee and to elect a PNC at a congregational meeting to be held on September 25, 2016.** Session also changed the date of the September session meeting to the third Wednesday (but the September meeting was subsequently cancelled due to numerous schedule conflicts). Teams and committees provided written reports, including financial data; Jacq noted that contracts have been signed with Carpe Diem and Creative Preschool for use of the building in the upcoming academic year.

*Bob Spangler, Clerk of Session*

## News from the Deacons

The deacons have committed themselves to supporting the prayer requests that are shared during Sunday worship. Each week the deacons receive a list of these requests and remember those needs and concerns in their prayers throughout the week. Deacons would like to encourage others to join them in making an intentional effort to think of these situations, and the members of our church family, in their prayers during the week.

And the deacons have another request for everyone. Our question is: what provides real spiritual nourishment for you as an individual? We'd really appreciate hearing ideas and experiences from everyone. Send your comments to the church office in an e mail and the ideas will be distributed to the various leadership teams for consideration and guidance as we develop activities. The church's e mail is [vashonpresbyterianchurch@yahoo.com](mailto:vashonpresbyterianchurch@yahoo.com)

*Thanks from your VPC deacons' team - Christine Browning, Susan Commeree, Lindsay Hofman, Beverly Skeffington, Sue Weston and Nancy van Roessel*



## What's on Your Mind?

We have begun the process of deciding how to paint the exterior of the church. There have been four suggestions so far and we welcome more. The suggestions include “keeping it the same” to “similar but with less pink in the color, and several with some version of white with a trim. See below for some possibilities. The decision has to be made in the next ten days. We have consulted a design professional to help us refine our choices but its up to us. You can start seeing samples in the office starting Monday Sept 5<sup>th</sup>.



White with dark green trim?



Leave the color the same?

### Seen and Heard

**Happy family following the Baptism of Pastor Lynn's granddaughters, Natalie and Naomi.**





## Calendar for September 2016

(all events at VPC unless otherwise stated)

### Sept

- 3 Bible Study 10 AM
- 4 Sunday Worship Service at 10 AM Communion Service
- 11 Adult Education Class Begins 9 AM
- 11 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM
- 16 VPC Book Club 6:30 PM location TBD
- 17 Bible Study 10 AM
- 18 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM
- 18 Fall Potluck after Worship
- 21 Deacon's Meeting 4 PM
- 25 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM
- 25 Congregational Meeting after Worship

### ONGOING ACTIVITIES

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

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

**Bible Study meets the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays.**

**Tool Belts work parties 10 am Tuesdays.**

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