

N O V E M B E R 2 0 1 6

Vashon Presbyterian Church

Vashon Island, Washington 98070

Listening to God, embracing all, living in joy

November 2016 Newsletter

Ecumenical and Inter-Faith Gatherings in November and December

There is an ever increasing number of ecumenical and inter-faith events on the island where we can come together with Christians of other denominations and members of other faiths to celebrate our many common interests and blessing here on Vashon Island. Listed below are just a few scheduled for this fall.

An Election Night "Ecumenical Eucharist" will be held at the Penny Farcy Memorial Training Center November 8th at 7:00 PM. The service will be led by Reverend Paul Mitchell of the Vashon Methodist Church. It will be an evening for communion and coming together after a divisive election season.

Inter-faith Evening of Gratitude This has become a Thanksgiving community-wide tradition which will include music, poetry, storytelling and more. Tuesday, November 22nd, 7pm (the Tuesday before Thanksgiving) at the Vashon Methodist Church. The Free-Range Folk Choir will sing. Children are especially welcome. Refreshments will be provided following the celebration. EVERYONE is invited. If you wish to participate, see more in the Worship Team section of this newsletter.

Advent Study In conjunction with the United Methodist Church, we will also be offering a Sunday morning Bible Study (at 8:30 AM beginning November 27th) based on Walter Brueggemann's *Names for the Messiah*. The first two Sundays will be held at VPC and the second two Sundays at the Methodist Church. Come explore the ways in which Jesus is *Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace*.

Save the Date!

Bible Study
November 5th

Adult Education Class
November 6th

Election Day
Ecumenical Eucharist
November 8th

Bible Study
November 19th

VPC Book Club
November 19th

Discovery Dialogues
November 20th

Community Thanksgiving
Celebration
November 22nd

Eagles Thanksgiving Meal
November 24th

Advent Bible Study Begins
November 27th

November is Stewardship Month!

Stewardship is Hilarious!



Stewardship emphasis usually known for their approach. In fact, some coming to church when will be addressed directly. speaks of the benefits

approach giving with joy. November 13th and 20th have been designated by the Worship Committee as the two Sundays we will explore giving not only our money, but our whole selves to God's service.

Sundays are not light-hearted people avoid even they know "giving" However, Scripture awaiting us when we

Don't skip church. If you do you will be sorry you did!

Sunday November 20th

On November 20th, we will celebrate stewardship month by bringing to worship examples of our gifts that we have received from God that we share with others. For example, photos, weaving, knitting, music, or canned goods from your garden are gifts that enrich your lives and gifts that you then share with other people. This year let's celebrate our stewardship!

Elder Brownie Carver

*Advent is Just Around the Corner!***PNC Update**

The 4 Sundays of Advent begin early this year because Christmas itself is on a Sunday. November 27th we will open ourselves to the coming of Jesus in two different ways. Rather than lighting an Advent candle and reading a prepared script in classic fashion, each Sunday we will hear a different person in our congregation light a candle and share how God has come to them in their life. In conjunction with the United Methodist Church, we will also be offering a Sunday morning Bible Study (at 8:30 AM) based on Walter Brueggemann's *Names for the Messiah*. The first two Sundays will be held at VPC and the second two Sundays at the Methodist Church. Come explore the ways in which Jesus is *Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace*.

October 17, 2016

This was our first organizational meeting. We received the paperwork to complete as part of the search process. We were advised to read through all forms and bring questions to the next meeting. The documents reviewed were the Ministry Information Form (MIF), the Instructions for the form, and two documents from the Committee on Ministry (COM). In order to prepare ourselves for the search and our ability to represent our congregation we decided to review the following summaries from surveys and discussions that have taken place at VPC over the last year. These included: Questions and Answers to the Session from June 15; Roles in the PNC Process; a document submitted to session by the Interim Pastor on the current use of pastor time, major learnings, and recommendations for consideration when calling a part-time pastor; and the Mission Statement and Narrative adopted by VPC this past summer.

Larry Commeree was elected to be chair of the committee and Diana Lilje volunteered to be scribe. The next meetings were set for Tuesday, Nov 1 and Monday, Nov 7. Both will be at 7 pm.

The members of the PNC invite your questions and ask for your prayers as they undertake this important mission.

Journey/Invitation Team News

Area of Responsibility

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

Adult Education Classes The fall Adult Education class will have completed a book titled Christianity and Islam by Ronn Kerr by the middle of November. We have had lively discussions and learned much more than we previously knew about Islam. Hopefully now we have a better understanding of the similarities and differences between the two religions. If you are interested in reading one of the small books, let Diana Lilje know and she'll find one of the books for you to read. See Pastor Lynn's article about an **Advent course** that will held jointly with the United Methodist Church starting November 27. (page 3 of this newsletter)

Elder Diana Lilje



Worship Team News

Area of Responsibility

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

Inter-faith Evening of Gratitude This Thanksgiving week tradition continues. It will be a community celebration which will include music, poetry, story-telling and more. The gathering will take place Tuesday, November 22nd, 7 PM (the Tuesday before Thanksgiving) at the Vashon Methodist Church. The Free-Range Folk Choir will sing. Children are especially welcome. Refreshments will be provided following the celebration. EVERYONE is invited. If anyone in the congregation would like to share a poem, a story, or a piece of artwork on the theme of *gratitude*, please let Lynn know.

Calling All Musicians. Let's form an advent choir that would rehearse on December 11th before worship, and perform on December 18th. Please contact Brownie at 795-6488; or just show up on the 11th. Your talents are always appreciated and enjoyed by all. Many thanks ahead of time!

Special Music November 13th We are going to have a guest musician for worship Sunday November 13th. Carl Kishline will play the organ. It's been a long time since we've had organ music during worship, so it will be a real treat. Don't miss it!

On November 20th, we will celebrate stewardship month by bringing to worship examples of our gifts that we have received from God that we share with others. For example, photos, weaving, knitting, music, or canned goods from your garden are gifts that enrich your lives and gifts that you then share with other people. This year let's celebrate our stewardship!

Elder Brownie Carver

Mission Resource Team News

Area of Responsibility

Financials, Building and Grounds

Exterior painting of the church is still underway although we're experiencing some delays due to rain and siding repairs. The students and teachers of Carpe Diem and Creative Preschool are to be commended for putting up with a couple of very noisy days during the siding repair. Please pray for the return of dry weather. When the weather allows, the painting could be finished in a couple of weeks. Our Toolbelts group (which meets Tuesdays from 10-2) are now sanding and prepping the railing around the ramp to the north entrance. We will paint that railing when weather allows as the amount of hand painting required would have added considerably to the paint contractor's cost.

Carpe Diem and Creative Preschool classes have resumed with no major problems. We met before school started to discuss our agreement with Carpe Diem's new Head of School, Mark McGough, and he was very amenable to our concerns and suggestions. We will continue to meet on a monthly basis for "checking-in". I hope you were able to attend their "Afternoon of the Poets" on Halloween. Last year it was a wonderful event and opportunity to interact with these young scholars and their families. We left the church open (with volunteer chaperones) during the town's Trick-or-Treat activities to provide a rest stop for kids and parents. We also look forward to sharing activities with these adorable preschoolers during the holidays.

Speaking of holidays! Session approved a request from the Vashon Chamber of Commerce to use the **large fir tree in front of VPC as this year's Christmas Tree**. The Chamber will provide lights (and people to decorate the tree) and have a celebratory lighting of the tree with caroling etc. Look for more details in the weekly eNews.

The VPC website www.vashonpreschurch.org is changing weekly. Do you like it? Do you have anything to add to it? Please contact me if you have any suggestion for improving it.

Blessings,

Jacq Skeffington

Purposeful Service Team News

Area of Responsibility

Scholarship, Mary Magdalene weekend, IFCH dinners, mission partner relations

IFCH Dinners It was decided at the last IFCH meeting to not have an IFCH Thanksgiving meal but instead invite all who are interested to the community meal hosted by the Eagles. There will be more information about the time and other details of the Eagles Thanksgiving dinner in upcoming enews announcements.

Purposeful Service Meeting Purposeful Service Team will meet Thursday November 3rd 7 PM. We encourage new members! We will be deciding what organization will be the recipient of the Christmas Eve offering. Traditionally this is designated as a one time gift to an area of greatest need.

Elder Al Ross Weston

Hospitality/Fellowship Team News

Area of Responsibility: Hospitality, Fellowship

VPC Book Club Book Club will meet the evening of November 19th, 6:30 PM for a potluck at the Ross Weston's. The book selection is The Oregon Trail by Rinker Buck.

Elder Al Ross Weston



VPC will host community Christmas tree 2016!

Message from the Deacons

On a recent Wednesday afternoon two of the deacons arrived at the Vashon Care Center expecting to help Olde John with the weekly prayer group gathering. After noting that Olde John was not yet in the room, they chatted for awhile. After ten minutes more passed and still there was no sign of Olde John, they became concerned and went out to check with a staff member. "Oh," said the staff person with confidence, "no cause to worry. He's been upstairs leading a sing along with another man who's playing the accordion with everyone. " Of course for us the news was a welcome relief - with big smiles all around! It doesn't take much to envision what a happy group must be there. Olde John is a most remarkable model of living out the loving and caring spirit of our Lord with everyone he's around. We deacons feel so blessed to be sharing these experiences with him and growing in our witness with his happy example!

With thanks from your VPC Deacons' Team - Christine Browning, Susan Commeree, Lindsay Hofman, Beverly Skeffington, Sue Weston and Nancy van Roessel

Clerk's Corner

Session held its monthly meeting on October 12, with one member absent. Session voted to accept an offer from OMAX Corp. to repurchase 1,200 shares of stock, at \$7.60 per share (leaving VPC owning 7,300 shares). Session considered, but denied, a request for use of the building by a religious study group because the group's theology was inconsistent with our reformed tradition, and confusion as to VPC's message might ensue. Several matters were discussed, but without formal action, including a winter leadership retreat, individual prayer assistance during communion and stewardship planning for November. A request by Carpe Diem for use of the sanctuary for two events this year was approved, as was the suggestion that the building be open on Halloween for the public to use restrooms or as a break from the town events. Two Christmas events were approved: the Mary's Place gift tree and the Vashon Chamber of Commerce request to decorate our tree (subject to payment of the electricity costs). Finally, session appointed three members to review the proposed salary and benefits package for a permanent pastor, and to report back to session for its approval.

A special session meeting was held on October 30 to approve a six month extension of Pastor Lynn's contract as interim pastor.

Bob Spangler, Clerk of Session



Scene and Heard

Carrying out our mission on the island....

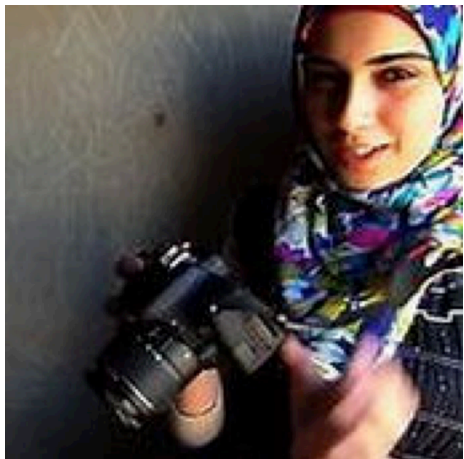
Help with the Resettlement of Syrian Refugees in our Area

Please join us for an evening focused on the refugee experience and resettlement process here in Washington. Meet resettlement program leaders and community members. Enjoy tasty foods from Middle Eastern chefs. Learn more about Vashon's readiness to welcome and support refugees. The food will be "heavy hors d'oeuvres" served buffet style. A Syrian family now living in the Seattle area will be catering. The event will be November 18, beginning 6 PM at the Vashon Presbyterian Church. Dinner will include a half hour of grazing the food and socializing. Then there will be a panel of speakers including the local rep for the International Refugee Committee, the DSHS person in charge of refugee resettlement in the state of Washington and a member of the Seattle area Moslem community

Salam Vashon! A Community Event

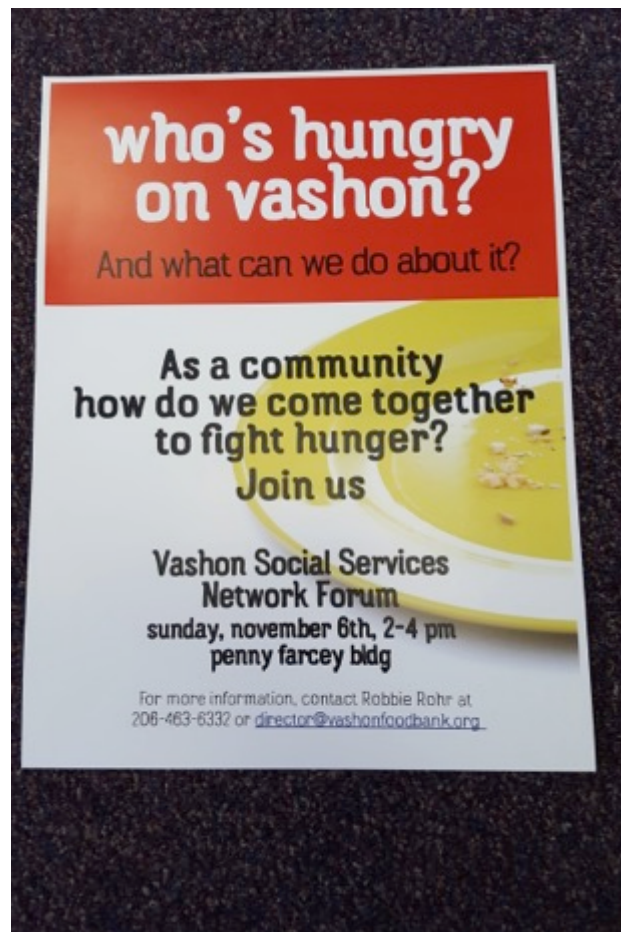
Friday, November 18, 6-8PM
Vashon Presbyterian Church

[Details & Tickets](#)



Join an Effort to Address Hunger Here on Vashon

The Vashon Social Services Network will provide invaluable information about the need and ways to fight hunger here on Vashon. The Forum will be November 8th from 2-4 PM at the Penny Farcey Memorial Training Center. (across from the fire station) For more information contact Robbie Rohr at 206 463-6332 or director@vashonfoodbank.org



What's on your mind?

Summary of the first Discovery Dialogue

Discovery Dialogues October 16, 2016.

We had our first monthly Discovery Dialogue after worship Oct 16th. A dozen members met in the library for about an hour after coffee to discuss Carey Nieuwhof's article, **10 predictions about the future Church and shifting attendance patterns**, published in Christian Week magazine on January 25, 2016. If you're reading this electronically you can find that article in an email sent Oct 11th to all recipients of the newsletter.

There were many ideas expressed. Some of the highlights were that Vashon is loaded with indifferent to church but religious people. As the author noted, "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." We wondered how to get an outsider's perception of VPC in a nonjudgmental way in order to improve our interaction. We discussed the value of interacting more with groups that use our facility all week long and connecting with the "churchless" of the community through our participation in and support of outside organizations rather than trying to draw people in.

A lot of discussion centered around the author's prediction that "Churches that love their model more than their mission will die." In a thread that "the future will not be the past" someone pointed out that VPC needs to express our grief and talk about our losses in order to move on. Another member, who couldn't attend but responded to the article wondered, "are we scaring people away by making them feel guilty for not participating?"

I'm very grateful to all who participated in this discussion and hope more people will join us for our next dialogue November 20th. The article to be discussed will be forwarded by email Nov 15th so that you can gather your thoughts before the discussion. Please call the office to receive a copy if you are not on our email list.

Blessings,

Jacq Skeffington





Calendar for November 2016

(all events at VPC unless otherwise stated)

Nov

- 3 Mission Resource Team Meeting 1 PM
- 3 Purposeful Service Team Meeting 7 PM
- 5 Bible Study 10 AM
- 6 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM (Communion Service)
- 8 Election Day Eucharist Service 7 PM at Penny Farcy Building
- 9 Deacons 4:30 PM
- 9 Session 7 PM
- 12 Val Seath Memorial 2 PM at Bethel Church
- 13 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM
- 18 Syrian Refugee Fundraiser Dinner 6 PM
- 19 Bible Study 10 AM
- 19 Book Club at Ross Weston's 6:30 PM
- 20 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM "Discovery Dialogues"
- 22 Community Thanksgiving Celebration 7 PM at VMC
- 24 Thanksgiving Community Meal at the Eagles
- 27 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM (Communion Service)

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.

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