

May 2017

# Vashon Presbyterian Church

Vashon Island, Washington 98070



## May 2017 Newsletter

### Welcome to Our New Pastor!

Welcome to Rev. Leigh Weber! We invite everyone to come on May 7<sup>th</sup> as Rev. Leigh will be leading the Sunday Service for the first time here at VPC. Everyone is also invited to her formal Installation on June 4<sup>th</sup> (see Worship News p 3). Pastor Leigh, born and raised in North Carolina, moved to Seattle area in 1993. She holds a Master of Divinity from the School of Theology and Ministry at Seattle University, with a post-master's certificate in Spiritual Direction. She is currently enrolled in a Doctor of Ministry program at Seattle U. She has served as Community Pastor to the Homeless in Renton through an ecumenical partnership of churches and most recently as Associate Pastor at John Knox Presbyterian in Normandy Park.

Our new Pastor has a strong desire for collaborative leadership in the church, a passion for ecumenical/interfaith ministry and community outreach. She enjoys a variety of worship styles, contemplative prayer and looks for ways to incorporate the gifts of others in the life of the church. Leigh enjoys visiting with the elderly and appreciates creating space for intergenerational ministry. She loves gardening, discussing theology and spirituality and listening to the story of others. She enjoys pastoral care and drinking tea, especially when they can be combined! She will be in her office on Mondays and Wednesdays. Plan to drop by and greet Leigh. Let us surround her with our prayers and support as we begin this journey together.

### Save the Date!

**Rev. Leigh Weber's First Sunday Service** 10:00 AM 5/7

**VPC Church Brunch** 10:00 AM 5/21

**Interfaith Brainstormers Meeting** Noon 5/23

**Pastor Weber's Installation** Afternoon 6/4

## Thank You!

Several days have passed since I walked out the door of VPC and ferried back across the water to Tacoma. Books and candles, stoles and files from my Vashon office are now tucked away at home. Even so, my heart will always feel a bit “at home” on Vashon. And I will always carry with me the lessons I learned and the joys I experienced while partnering with you to carry out Christ’s mission in your unique and wonderful community.

There are so many things for which to say “Thank You!” -- chief among them being for your faithfulness, support, friendship, kindness, and clear commitment to the cause of Christ. But also for your generosity shown in the form of a beautiful silver bell, which I will wear often (likely constantly); in a gorgeous fish which will never be hidden but rather will live in my living room in a place of honor; and a lovely mahogany framed tribute from Olde John which will always remind me of your commitment to ministry to those who cannot join you on a Sunday morning. I am grateful beyond measure.

Pastor Paul Mitchell gave me John O’Donohue’s *To Bless the Space Between Us, A Book of Blessings* as a farewell present. In it I found a blessing for new beginnings. This blessing is for you. Receive it as from the Spirit – because I believe it is. **Lynn**



### FOR NEW BEGINNINGS

In out-of-the-way places of the heart,  
Where your thoughts never think to wander,  
This beginning has been quietly forming,  
Waiting until you were ready to emerge.

For a long time it has watched your desire,  
Feeling the emptiness growing inside you,  
Noticing how you willed yourself on,  
Still unable to leave what you had outgrown.

It watched you play with the seduction of safety  
And the gray promises that sameness whispered,  
Heard the waves of turmoil rise and relent,  
Wondered would you always live like this.

Then the delight, when your courage kindled,  
And out you stepped onto new ground,  
Your eyes young again with energy and dream,  
A path of plentitude opening before you.

Though your destination is not yet clear  
You can trust the promise of this opening;  
Unfurl yourself into the grace of beginning  
That is at one with your life’s desire.

Awaken your spirit to adventure  
Hold nothing back, learn to find ease in risk;  
Soon you will be home in a new rhythm,  
For your soul senses the world that awaits you.

*John O’Donohue*

## Mission Resource Team News

### Area of Responsibility:

Financial stewardship,  
Building and Grounds.

**Buildings and Grounds** I feel like we've been riding around in this Arc for long enough! When will this rain stop? The front lawn has started to dry out a bit and with dryer weather forecast for the next couple of weeks, we may be able to **resume painting the front of the church** by the end of the month.

We had **work parties** Saturday, March 18th and Saturday April 1st. Both were poorly attended. Please set aside Saturday, **May 13<sup>th</sup> from 9-noon** for a morning of trimming shrubs, raking and weeding flower beds, sweeping sidewalks and picking up trash. If you've got a pickup truck, please bring it along. We've been supporting "Zero Waste Vashon" by hauling 3 truckloads (so far) of yard waste to the recycling center. If you'd prefer painting, we also need to resume priming and painting the handrails around the ramp. (BTW there will be plenty to do indoors if it's raining!) So please, mark your calendars and join us.

We're starting to plan our **Annual Yard Sale**. We will be having it August 5<sup>th</sup>. So, as spring cleaning urges find you going through your own houses and garages, please set aside some of your treasures for this fun, fundraising, outreaching activity.

Blessings,  
*Jacq Skeffington*

**Finance Report** Our weekly offering this year is falling a bit behind the amount predicted for our budget. March was the only month that we have met or exceeded the amount budgeted. However, our expenses have also been less than expected so that we are trending well.

*Elder Diana Lilje*

## Worship Team News

### Area of Responsibility:

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

**We are pleased and honored to welcome Rev. Leigh Weber to our congregation.** Leigh's first service will be on May 7th. Leigh is excited to get started with her ministry on Vashon and is eager to hear from you. She will be on island on Mondays and Wednesdays.

**Meet and Greet** In an effort to meet people, Leigh would like to have casual "Meet and Greet" at various homes. Let us know if you would like to host a small Cluster at your home. This would be a great opportunity for congregates to socialize and to become closer.

**A Church Brunch** will be held on May 21st. Be thinking about our mission statement: **Listening to God, embracing all, living in joy.** What does this mean to you? Also each week this is printed in our bulletin: **Whoever you are and wherever your life's journey has taken you, you are welcome here. We hope that you will find VPC to be a people of warmth, acceptance, and commitment to the calling of Jesus Christ. We are honored to have you worship with us.** What does this statement say to you and what does it say about our church?

**Rev. Weber's Installation** will be held on June 4th, Pentecost, in the afternoon. The exact time will be given to you later. This will be a big event for our church as we make a covenant with Leigh. We will have many visitors from Presbytery, as well as family and friends of Leigh. You will be hearing more about this special occasion.

*Elder Brownie Carver*

## Hospitality/Fellowship Team News

**Area of Responsibility:**  
Hospitality, Fellowship.

**Thank you** for all of the help we received during the month of April. Our events were big successes because of the participation of contributors and helpers. The church and social hall looked so pretty decorated in spring flowers.

Please check the sign up sheets for openings for the month of May.

*Elder Brownie Carver*

### **Book Club Selection**

**The book club** will meet at Barb and Jim Huff's on May 19<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 for a potluck followed by a discussion of The Light Between Oceans by M. L. Stedman.

## Purposeful Service Team News

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

**The Heidsman Scholarship** deadline was April 27. We have one candidate who submitted an application. The application will be reviewed and an interview will be completed in May. If qualified the recipient will be announced in June.

**The Mary's Place Worship and Picnic** is scheduled for August 13<sup>th</sup>. Save the date for this uplifting summer ecumenical event.

*Elder Al Ross Weston*

## Faith Exploration Team News

**Area of Responsibility:**  
Bible study, Christian formation (all ages)

**Our Spring adult education** class will be continuing into May. We are discussing a book entitled **The Very Good Gospel**, written by Lisa Sharon Harper. Grounded in the story of God and all creation, the book journeys from Genesis to Revelation, exploring God's original intent for a thriving world in light of today's headlines.

*Elder Diana Lilje*

## Invitation and Outreach

**Area of Responsibility:**  
New Members and Discipleship,  
Evangelism and Invitation.

**New Team Designation** The former team "Journey/Invitation" has been broken into two areas of responsibility. Faith Exploration will be lead by Elder Diana Lilje and will cover Bible study and Christian formation for all ages. (See above) Invitation and Outreach will be headed by Elder Larry Commeree. Larry has been meeting with Pastor Leigh and new ideas are forthcoming. If you have questions or suggestions about this area in the life of our church contact Larry. Or if you would like to help in this area Larry will welcome you on this team!

*Elder Larry Commeree*



## Clerk's Corner

Session held its scheduled monthly meeting on April 19, later than normal to avoid Holy Week conflicts. In addition to receiving team reports, several business matters were addressed. Bob stated that the church minutes and record were reviewed at the April Seattle Presbytery meeting, and no deficiencies were noted. Session discussed a structure for support of incoming pastor Rev. Leigh Weber. It was agreed that members of the former Pastor Nominating Committee should be this group, and that it should meet under the supervision of the Personnel Committee. Session also decided to consider joining in an Interfaith Vacation Bible School this summer, and will contact other churches about the service/picnic with the Church of Mary Magdalene. An audit committee was appointed to review the 2016 financial records. Session authorized a yard sale to be held on August 5. Brownie stated that she conducted an exit interview with Lynn, and summarized the information. Finally, Jacq summarized the proceedings of the Seattle Presbytery's April 18 meeting.

Session also held a special meeting on April 2 to vote on the recommended terms of call for the pastor. At the special congregational meeting held on April 9, the terms of call were approved, Rev. Leigh Weber was called as VPC pastor and the Pastor Nominating Committee was dissolved.

*Bob Spangler, Clerk of Session*

## Deacon's News

### Help the Deacons Help Others

The deacons are committed to helping members of our church family in all situations. Each week they quietly continue the prayers requested during worship in a confidential fashion. Please feel encouraged to reach out to our new Pastor Leigh or one of the deacons whenever you know of a need among our community members or have a personal concern. Supporting others through prayers and loving actions is the focus of all our service.

*VPC Deacons' Team - Susan Commeree, Lindsay Hofman, Beverly Skeffington and Nancy van Roessel*

### Food Bank Non Food Wish List

Toiletries shampoo/conditioner, toothpaste, toothbrushes, body wash/soap, toilet paper

Cleaning Supplies laundry detergent, dish soap, all-purpose cleaner

Diapers

Feminine Hygiene Products

Dog Cat Food

### **Active Bystander Training** **May 21 12:30pm-4:30pm Vashon Library**

Hosted by Vashon SURJ (Showing UP for Racial Justice) and the Vashon United Methodist church, this training will introduce participants to proactive ways to be a supportive presence in racially or socially difficult circumstances. Led by Rev. Terri Stewart, using the peace circle model, the training will enhance our understanding of how to intervene in ways that feel safe and doable, by providing skills to prevent and reduce harm.

Preregistration is required as space limited to 40 people. This event is filling fast:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/vashon-surj-and-vashon-united-methodist-church-active-bystander-training-tickets-33417729328?aff=es2>

## What's On Your Mind.....

### **Interfaith Brainstorming Meeting Notes 4-25-2017**

**Present:** Bev and Jacq Skeffington, Larry Commeree, Kathy Olsen, Odie Hendershot, Presbyterian; Mary Rose, Vashon Resettlement Committee; Nora Wingate, LDS and others; John Datin IFCH Coordinator; Robert Crawford, WA State Coalition Against Torture; Paul Mitchel, Bob Ellis, United Methodist; John McCoy, St. John Vianney; Beth White, Unitarian Fellowship.

**Joint Holy Week Services:** Feedback for the services has been positive. The Beachcomber published an article on the Interfaith Group that included the schedule for Holy Week services.

**VOV:** Eric Pryne will interview members of the IB on May 1, 7-8 PM.

**Mary's Place Picnic:** Traditionally, Lutheran, Methodist, Presbyterian and Episcopalian churches have sponsored this event, scheduled for August 13 at Ober Park this year. In the past few years, guests have been limited to about 40 including children, but with more help, more could be included. The women arrive at the ferry dock about 9:30, service begins at 10:00, followed by a picnic lunch.

**Refugee project:** Mary Rose reported on the Vashon Resettlement Committee challenges and progress. The Muslim Women Speak event was well attended and the Vashon community has been welcoming and supportive. The biggest challenge to settling one or two families on the Island is suitable and affordable housing. Faith communities are encouraged to join the project. The refugees have been through much turmoil and trauma and are very grateful that we offer welcome and help.

**Active Bystander Training:** Training hosted by Vashon Showing Up for Racial Justice and the Vashon United Methodist Church will be held at the Vashon Library on May 21, 12:30-4:30 PM. Led by Rev. Terri Stewart, the King County Juvenile Center chaplain, the training will introduce participants to proactive ways to be a supportive presence in racially or socially difficult circumstances.

**Indivisible/Backbone:** Paul Mitchell reported that our local Backbone organization is now partnering with the national Indivisible movement with the present focus on the NW Detention Center where persons incarcerated for purposes of deportation are on a hunger strike. Groups representing various organizations and faith communities gather at the center and offer assistance (food, backpacks, interpretive services, bus tickets, etc.) and other services to persons as they are released.

**Food Bank:** Director Eric Pryne is asking for assistance from the faith communities and would like to come speak at churches during worship (or as a special presentation) about the Food Bank. [Epryne@zipcon.com](mailto:Epryne@zipcon.com)

**Vashon Affordable Housing:** An ad hoc group consisting of Nancy Vanderpool, Emma Amiad, Jim Dam and Paul Mitchell have the funding to purchase a "park model" home that is mobile and is less than 400 sq. ft., too small to be considered an "accessory dwelling" and therefore not required to obtain County permits. The Methodist Church board is considering allowing the home to be placed on their property, so the community of Vashon will be able to view this options and eventually may be hooked into their utility systems, at least temporarily. The plan is to have IFCH provide the funding for utilities and manage the housing. If this project succeeds, it could be used as a model for additional low-cost housing units on the Island.

**Vacation Bible School:** St. John Vianney will have VBS for ages 4 thru 12 in August. Paul has participated in the Children's Peace Institute program in California and that might be a good fit for the Island, where many parents are turned off by the Biblical connotation of VBS.

**Buddhist Mindfulness:** There will be a discussion of the teachings of Thich Nhet Hanh at the Vashon Library May 23 at noon.

**Sanctuary Movement:** The Church Council of Greater Seattle will launch a sanctuary movement at St. Mark's Cathedral May 1 at 9:00 AM. Church of the Holy Spirit on Vashon will report on the sanctuary movement this Sunday. Information on sanctuary issues is available on WA AG Bob Ferguson's web site. A seminar on the legal ramifications of sanctuary on faith communities is available at

[https://www.anymeeting.com/WebConference/RecordingDefault.aspx?c\\_psrId=E955DB81884638](https://www.anymeeting.com/WebConference/RecordingDefault.aspx?c_psrId=E955DB81884638).

Notes by Kathy Olsen

**Interfaith Brainstormers meets Tuesday, May 23rd at noon in the VPC library.  
Feel free to bring your lunch.**

# Easter Egg Hunt 2017



## Calendar for May 2017

(all events at VPC unless otherwise stated)



### May

- 6 Bible Study 10 AM
- 7 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM (communion service)
- 14 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM
- 18 Deacons Meeting 4:30 PM
- 17 Session Meeting 7:00 PM
- 21 Church Brunch 10 AM
- 26 Book Club at 6:30 PM
- 28 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM

## ONGOING ACTIVITIES

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

*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 10 AM

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