

J U N E 2 0 1 7

Vashon Presbyterian Church

Vashon Island, Washington 98070

June 2017 Newsletter

Summer Events

Installation Sunday 6/4

**Presentation of Heindsmann
Scholarship Winners 6/11**

Strawberry Parking 7/22

VPC Yard Sale 8/5

Mary's Place Picnic 8/13

Installation Sunday

Last Sunday was a very special day in the life of VPC. Pastor Leigh Weber and our congregation came together to install Leigh as our permanent Pastor in a wonderful, spirit-filled service presided over by family, friends and mentors of Leigh from the Seattle Presbytery. Leigh's son, Eric, lead us in singing and her daughter, Emily, read the Scripture. One of Leigh's dearest friends and former Clerk of Session, Tom Fox, gave the sermon. Her former pastor, Dave Rohrer, gave the pastoral charge to Leigh. Leigh's former supervisor and other colleagues lead the Proclamation of Faith and our Confessions. Other friends from around the Presbytery including the former PNC chair and Session member, Larry Commeree helped in worship in other ways. Rev. Paul Mitchell of the Vashon United Methodist Church celebrated the Eucharist with us. Then everyone with "bags of dirt" in hand continued the service in the front yard with the planting of the beautiful dogwood tree. "We rejoice and are glad that God is in our midst and at work in our journey together!"



Thoughts from Leigh...

Dear Ones of Vashon,

I'm still savoring the gift of Installation Day with you! Your gifts of hospitality and welcoming were so apparent and I'm so very grateful. I don't have the words to tell you how glad I am to be your pastor and to have shared such an incredible moment with you. All the members of my commission shared with me how warm and friendly you were to them. And the reception was wonderful! I was tickled to see that our nicest plates have trees on them and the books and teapots on every table were so special to me. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Thank you for bringing your dirt to church, for bringing yourselves, just as you are. Paul Mitchell's blessing to me was, "May your roots sink in and your branches reach out!" That is my prayer for all of us, that our roots go deep and our branches reach out far, in ways that are inviting to others. I pray that we can breathe grace and God's abiding love into those around us, not because we're trying to grow a church but because that is our call, to share the love of Christ with our brothers and sisters.

The day was simply joyous! And I am struggling to share my heart because it is just so very full. I look forward to the journey ahead and years of us walking together.

Grace and Peace,

Leigh



Liturgy Writing 101

Do you have a heart for writing? Do you wonder how liturgy is created? Leigh would love to share this process with you and make the space for us to co-create liturgy for worship. On Sunday, June 18th, after coffee time, you are invited to meet with her in the library for a short time to discuss forming a liturgy writing group. No long-term commitment necessary. Come and join us.

Hospitality/Fellowship Team News

Area of Responsibility
Hospitality, Fellowship.

We will be serving treats to Carpe Diem and the Creative Preschool to celebrate the end of the school year.

Our Meet and Greets will begin in June. Let us know if you can host a "meet" for your area of the island.

Elder Brownie Carver

The VPC Book Club will meet on Friday June 16th at 6:30 at the Skeffington's. The book is East of Eden by John Steinbeck. There will be a potluck supper.

Elder Al Ross-Weston

Invitation and Outreach Team News

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

Elder Larry Commeree has been brainstorming with Pastor Leigh on how VPC can creatively meet, welcome and reach out to fellow islanders. For a modest start, frozen treats will be handed out to Carpe Diem and Creative Pre School children/families to celebrate the end of a successful school year and our continuing, important relationship.

If you have questions or suggestions about this aspect in the life of our church, please contact Larry. If you would like to help in this effort, Larry would welcome you to join this team!

Elder Larry Commeree

Purposeful Service Team News

Area of Responsibility
Scholarship, Mary Magdalene Partnership,
IFCH dinners, Mission Partner Relations.

The Heindsmann Scholarship Committee has selected two recipients. They will be introduced to the congregation at the June 11 Sunday service.

It's also time to start planning for our **Strawberry Festival Fundraising** event. Each year we provide parking and chairs for viewing the parade this year on July 22nd.

Save the Date : Mary's Place Picnic will be held Sunday, August 13th. This is one of the highlights of the year. You won't want to miss it!

Housesitting. Mary Hagle, a former member of this church, is hoping to visit the island this summer with a friend and is seeking a house-sitting situation in June or July. She and her friend would be here 2-4 days (her friend needs to get back to Kelso/Longview for work) but Mary would be happy to stay on longer to fulfill a house-sitting need. If you can help with this, please get in contact with Beverly Skeffington 354-8921 beverlyskeffington@gmail.com.

Purposeful Service Team will meet on Thursday June 8th at 7pm.

Elder Al Ross-Weston



Mission Resource Team News

Area of Responsibility

Financials, Building and Grounds.

Finance Our weekly offering this year is still falling a bit behind the amount predicted for our budget. However, our expenses are less that expected so that we continue to trend well.

Elder Diana Lilje

Buildings and Grounds With the return of sunlight, there are indications of new life all around. **The painters were finally able to resume** painting the front of the church last week. They primed and painted all they could reach with ladders and will begin on the bell tower and other peaks after Pastor Leigh's Installation Celebration. Jim's latest estimate is to be finished by June 15th.

Our work party May 13th made a big impact on the appearance of our flowerbeds and grounds. Thank you all for chipping in. Let's have another one June 17th from 9 til noon. We continue supporting "Zero Waste Vashon" by hauling truckloads of yard waste to the recycling center and combining our compostable food waste and coffee grounds with the United Methodist Church which they transport to the transfer station. A volunteer from one of the support groups meeting in the upper room has started painting the French doors and our "**Toolbelts**" group will soon resume painting the wheelchair ramp guardrails.

Don't forget our Annual Yard Sale August 5th. Barb Huff will coordinate volunteers again in July and August. As you go through your house and garage, please set aside some of your treasures for this fun, fundraising, outreaching activity.

Both Carpe Diem and Creative Preschool will be ending school sessions this month but both have contracted to return again in the fall. By the way, if you haven't seen the gardens their students and parents have planted on the south side of the social hall and sanctuary, please take a walk around the building and check it out.

Elder Jacq Skeffington

Faith Exploration Team News

Areas of Responsibility

Bible study, Christian formation (all ages)

Adult Education Our Spring adult education class concluded our discussion of The Very Good Gospel, written by Lisa Sharon Harper at the end of May. We will be taking a break for the summer and resume in the fall. If anyone has a particular topic that they wish to discuss please let Diana Lilje or Bob Spangler know.

Elder Diana Lilje

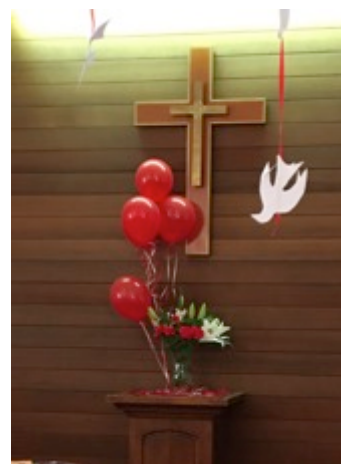
Worship Team News

Area of Responsibility

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

Thanks to everyone who helped make Pentecost Sunday, the Installation and the subsequent reception such a success. There was lots of red... beautiful . . .decorative touches. The food was delightful and our many guests were well served.

Elder Brownie Carver



Deacons News

Three years ago the deacons created neighborhood groups for all our members and friends on the island. Each group has a designated deacon who takes responsibility to keep in contact and help provide any needed support. Based on these clusters of residents, in the months ahead we look forward to the small gatherings planned to help us all become better acquainted with Pastor Leigh and for her to get to know each of us.

Summer is a good time to think about folks living near you who might be interested in these social gatherings, and neighbors whom we haven't seen at VPC for awhile. All are welcome to come and get more familiar as we look forward into new directions for our fellowship.

Watch for more details of these "Meet and Greet" opportunities in the weeks following Pastor Leigh's installation service on June 4. In the meantime, if you have questions, talk with Brownie Carver or any one of the deacons.

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

Clerk's Corner – June

Session met on May 17 with all but one member present. Among the items of business were confirmation of dates for the yard sale, Vacation Bible School and the Church of Mary Magdalene service/picnic. Leigh explained the process for installing her as pastor on June 4; session authorized communion during that service and approved the participation of Rev. Paul Mitchell. Session also approved purchase of a dogwood tree to be planted during the service. Leigh stated that she will be contacting members and friends who have not been regularly attending and inviting them to visit with her. Jacq reported that Creative Preschool has agreed to donate a higher amount for use of the basement facilities, and session approved a contract for the next academic year. Finally, session discussed reports from the various committees, including financial data, award of the Heindsmann scholarship on June 11, outreach at a local Park and Ride, and recommendations as to the manner in which communion is served.

Bob Spangler, Clerk of Session

Planting our Tree

Everyone joined in, adding "dirt" and prayers for our spiritual growth and journey together!





A Spirit Filled Occasion!

What's on Your Mind?

Notes from May 23, 2017 Meeting of Interfaith Brainstormers

Present: Nora Wingate, Odie Hendershot, Erin Durrett, John Datin, Beverly Skeffington, Jacq Skeffington, Paul Mitchell, Carol Spangler, Kit Bean and Kevin Jones.

Mary's Place picnic will be held 8/13 at Ober Park. Reservation is from 9am-2pm, allowing for set up and cleanup time. Event actually runs from about 10-1. We need reps from the faith groups to come on board with the planning of and participation in this event

Installation Service of Pastor Leigh Weber June 4, 2017 at 3pm. Following the service, a tree will be planted at the Presbyterian church to honor this occasion and all are invited to attend the installation service as well as bringing a small baggie of soil to backfill the tree's new home following the service. Refreshments will be served.

June 17th, 10am at Vashon Book Shop: Erin Durrett will receive acknowledgement of the 5 mindfulness trainings. Please join the event if you can. On the following day, June 18th, during the 10:15am worship, Erin will be confirmed into the Episcopalian faith, with the bishop presiding.

A flyer from Sally Carlson (former Vashon resident and deacon at St Luke's Episcopal in Renton) was passed out listing two events: 6/7 Ray Kingfisher will share the Message of the Water Protectors and Native Culture and Way of Life. On 6/14 The Traveling Day Society will provide an evening of Native music, chant and storytelling. Both events will be held at St Luke's Episcopal Church, 99 wells Ave S in Renton from 6:30pm-8:30pm. For more details, call 425/255-3323 or info@stlukesrenton.org

Also there was another flyer with a request for a volunteer to be a book reviewer and program developer on the topics of death, dying, grief and loss, continuing the activity of the recent weekend death and dying event. Please contact Carol Spangler 206/567-5302 (ckspang@centurytel.net) or Sally Carlson 206/390-9249 (sally.carlson@comcast.net) if you need more details or know someone who might like to do this.

If you would like a copy of either of these flyers for your interfaith group, please contact Carol Spangler (see above).

Kevin Jones, who is a member of Indivisible Backbone on Vashon would like to share information with the congregants of the faith groups on the island. There are many people who are currently experiencing a desire to take a stand on moral issues that are being challenged in the current climate of our country and don't know where they can plug in. He spoke of some members of congregations who are currently helping at the NW Center for Detention in Tacoma, (other issues, such as anti-hate, power company policies, environment, climate change are of concern to many people on the island) and his group is wanting to encourage other people to take on standing for justice where it is lacking. Kevin will be fairly busy with travels this summer, but has given us his contact information, so that we can schedule him to speak at our **services. 206/463-1766**

kevinjonvashon@gmail.com

Unfortunately, due to technical difficulties we were not able to view the TED talk with Chase Iron Eyes, but there was discussion of how we can, as united faithful people, make a statement, take a stand or otherwise show support for some of these issues of struggle. How do we partner with those who are already being active to make social justice changes? We can carry these opportunities to act to our congregations to encourage those in our midst who are passionate about issues to find a place to then act on their desire for change.

NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, JUNE 20, 2017 at Vashon Presbyterian Church Library at noon.

For further information about Chase Iron eyes and other issues, I am forwarding these links that Erin has provided.

Chase TEDx:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ldP23E1Y2yo>

Lakota People's Law Project:

<http://2ww.lakotalaw.org/our-children-are-sacred>

Calendar for June 2017

(all events at VPC unless otherwise stated)



June

- 3 Bible Study 10 AM
- 4 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM
- 4 Installation Service 3 PM (Communion Service)
- 8 Purposeful Service Team Meeting 7 PM
- 11 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM
- 11 Presentation of the Heindsmann Endowment Scholarship during Worship
- 14 Session Meeting 6:30 PM
- 16 Book Club 6:30 PM at Skeffington's
- 17 Work Party 9 AM to Noon
- 17 Bible Study 10 AM
- 18 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM
- 25 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

Prayer Group meets Wednesdays

1:30 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 1st and 3rd Saturdays.

Tool Belts meet/work Tuesdays 10-noon

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