

J U L Y 2 0 1 7

Vashon Presbyterian Church

Vashon Island, Washington 98070

Listening to God, embracing all, living in joy

July 2017 Newsletter



VPC Summer Event Schedule

July 22nd

Strawberry Festival
Parking/Chairs Fundraiser

July 30th

Joint Service
with Vashon Methodist

August 5th

VPC Yard Sale

August 13th

Mary's Place
Worship and Picnic

August 14th -18th

VBS at St John Vianney

In This Issue

Strawberry Festival Parking

Our Festival fundraiser will support the Vashon Refugee Resettlement Committee. If you want to reserve parking/chairs, please contact beverlyskeffington@gmail.com or call 206/354-8921. **See article in Purposeful Service p 3 for more details.**

Joint Worship with Vashon Methodist Church

Join with both congregations to enjoy this ecumenical service July 30th. **More in Worship News p 3** and in upcoming issues of VPC eNews.

The VPC Yard Sale

It will happen sooner than you think! The sale will be on Saturday, August 5th this year. Classroom A has been reserved for storing items before August 5th. Start sorting and bringing your "treasures" in for the sale. **More on p 4 Mission Resource News** and upcoming issues of the VPC eNews.

Mary's Place Worship and Picnic

Each summer several island churches host the Mary's Place Worship and Picnic in Ober Park. It is usually one of the most rewarding events of the summer. This year it's on August 13th. **More in Purposeful Service News p 3.**

Thoughts from Leigh...

Dear Ones of Vashon,

As I am writing this, the sunshine is breaking through my office windows and I'm watching the folks from one of the AA groups leaving from their meeting. The grace with which you make this church open to the community is powerful and I am in awe of your kindness.

It's hard to believe it's already July and I have been with you as pastor for two months now. In some ways, it feels like yesterday that I met with the PNC and, in other ways, it feels like I've been here for a longer time. I suspect the latter feeling is because of the graciousness with which you have received me, how natural it feels to be among you and how very much I feel called to be here. What I know is that I am very at peace, very at home and very glad to be a part of this congregation.

We've had a first brunch, gone through an installation, including planting a tree, and started hearing each other's stories. You've leaned into worship with a new pastor, who naturally made subtle changes. I am told our hand holding at the end is reclaiming of one of your earlier traditions. You've welcomed me to meals, coffee and into your homes and you continue to do so. I've met with Deacons and the Session and learned that both groups are both sensitive to the ferry schedule and will send me off to make it on time. These are some of the many ways that you have said and continue to say welcome to me.

When I was a little girl, the church was a place where I knew I was safe, where I could run and play on Saturdays while work parties and meal preparation kept my parents busy. I knew that everyone there cared about me and that they were mindful of me. They were my family and I knew I mattered to them. This is a model I've held in my heart my whole life because of that time. Church should be safe. Church should be mindful and church should be a place where we can run and play and enjoy the fellowship of others. Church should be family and everyone should know that they matter. This is what I have found among you...the safe space you work to hold for one another, the welcoming spirit and the mindful care of paying attention and I'm grateful to see you be the church.

My prayer for us as we continue through this summer is that we continue to pay attention, to welcome, to hold safe space and to see the Image of God in one another. As we work through this sermon series on Ephesians, I hope we can allow ourselves to be made alive in Him once again. "...You are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone." Ephesians 2:19-20 (NRSV)

Grace and Peace in the journey,

Leigh



Purposeful Service News

Area of Responsibility

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

Heidsmann Scholarship The two recipients of the Heidsmann Scholarship were presented to the congregation on June 11th. Both received \$1,000. One will be continuing at Washington State University and the other at Tacoma Community College.

Thriftway Receipts People are encouraged to turn in receipts from Thriftway and IGA. Funds will support the Refugee Resettlement Program.

Strawberry Festival Festival parking and chairs will be offered again this year from our church to the community. We will be donating the funds to the Vashon Resettlement Committee for their work with the Syrian families that will be resettling on Vashon later this summer. It is by reservation only, so please be sure to reserve your parking space and chairs by contacting Beverly Skeffington at beverlyskeffington@gmail.com or 206/354-8921. We can use help getting the chairs moved on Friday, July 21, time TBD and setting them out very early in the morning of Saturday July 22. We can always use help with both the parking and the chairs prior to the parade as well.

Mary's Place Picnic This year, our worship and picnic with the women of Mary's place will take place on Sunday, August 13th. Worship will begin at about 10am with lunch following. As usual, lots of help is needed for this event: transporting the women from the ferry and back to the ferry, ferry tickets, potluck dishes, setting up (moving dishware, chairs, kitchen ware, etc. from the church and returning it) and cleaning up. We are partnering with the Methodist Church on this and hope the Church of the Holy Spirit will also be supporting this effort. More details to follow as we get closer to the date.

Beverly Skeffington
Elder Al Ross Weston

Hospitality/Fellowship

Team News

Area of Responsibility Hospitality, Fellowship

VPC Book Club Book club meets at the Spangler's on July 28th, 6:30 to discuss Fumblings by Kerry Egan. A potluck supper will be served before the discussion.

Elder Al Ross Weston

Worship Team News

Area of Responsibility

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

The memorial service for Shirley Blake will be on July 8th, 2 PM at the Bethel Free Evangelical Church on Vashon. Rev. Leigh Weber will lead the service.

We will have a **joint ecumenical service with the Methodist Church** on July 30th. More details will follow.

Elder Brownie Carver

Faith Exploration

Team News

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

Vacation Bible School There will be VBS August 14th through the 18th, 9-11:30, hosted by St. John Vianney Church. Kids, age 4-12, are invited to attend. The overall goal of this weeklong program is to engage kids into the Life of Christ with teachings on the Commandments, the Beatitudes and the Fruits of the Holy Spirit. This sports-themed VBS is packed with songs, games, crafts and interactive lessons that will motivate kids ages 4-12 to run the great race of faith.

VPC is providing help with the snacks. If interested contact Alice Dorr at alicedorr@hotmail.com

Alice Dorr

Mission Resource

Team News

Area of Responsibility

Financial Stewardship
Building and Grounds

Church Painting and Cleanup Praise the Lord, the exterior painting is finished! With fresh paint, freshened flower beds and a new dogwood tree in the front yard, the building and grounds look welcoming and cared for once again, hopefully inviting residents and visitors to come worship with us this summer.

Thanks to all who joined in on our work parties and brought dirt for Leigh's installation. The french doors to the great hall and wheelchair ramp handrails are also finished. We might have a work party in August to freshen up hallways before Carpe Diem classes resume but for now let's just celebrate and invite friends to join us.

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

Blessings,
Jacq Skeffington

Invitation and Outreach

Team News

Area of Responsibility

New Members and Discipleship,
Evangelism and Invitation.

Carpe Diem and Creative Preschool. On the last weeks of their school year, VPC hosted special events for Carpe Diem and Creative Preschool students. As parents arrived to pick up their kids, frozen treats were handed out to students (**see picture below**) as a way of thanking them for making VPC their home, telling them how much we enjoy hearing their voices and feeling their energy through the school year and how we look forward to their return in the fall. Parents appreciated our gesture. Several voiced their satisfaction with VPC as a shared site and complemented us on successfully making full, productive use of our facility by such diverse users.

Volunteers needed for Strawberry Festival, Saturday, July 22. As we have done in the past, VPC plans on opening our Nursery during the Saturday Parade and a bit after to young families looking for a quiet place to rock a baby, change a diaper or just get the kids out of the heat. We need volunteer hosts to welcome families and make them feel at home. If you could spend an hour or so hosting during the hours of 10:30 to 2:30, please contact Larry (call/text 206 579 1122). Thanks!

Elder Larry Commeree



Deacon's News

Every week we share our personal prayer concerns with each other in worship. Pastor Leigh and each one of the deacons are committed to continuing these prayers through the week, always in a confidential manner. Kathy O'Laughlin helps greatly by recording the requests, and they are shared with Olde John as well. While we're reminding you now that these needs are honored by the deacons' team (almost always with only the names of the recipients attached), perhaps you too could join the circle of support and caring. Can you consider continuing the prayers from those in our fellowship? This is frequently a ministry with joys as well as concerns, providing many blessings!

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

Clerk's Corner

Session met on June 14 with one member absent. Members submitted written reports prior to the meeting. Leigh presented a detailed listing of her current activities and commitments, and offered some suggestions for Sunday morning worship. Among actions taken at the meeting were a decision to hold a new members group in the fall, and members' commitment to help Leigh reach out to current and former worshippers who have not been active lately. Larry Commeree was appointed chair of the Personnel Committee, with Brownie Carver serving as a member. Session discussed the possibility of hosting a Presbytery meeting, and voted to seek Presbytery approval to host the July 2018 event. Discussion also took place as to the ecumenical Vacation Bible School and Strawberry Festival parking, with a vote to donate the proceeds of the parking to the Vashon Resettlement Committee. Finally, session decided on compensation for the organist, and after discussion agreed to continue the current meeting time and date.

Bob Spangler, Clerk of Session

Seen and Heard

We would like to have candid photos for this section. So have your camera handy at the "Meet and Greets" or other summer events. Just send a digital copy to the office or to elizabeth.loveness@gmail.com.



Garrett gets in on the fun!

What's on Your Mind?

Interfaith Brainstormers Meeting Notes 6/20/17

Present: Bob Ellis, Kathy Olsen, Koshin Chris Cain, Erin Durrett, Carol Spangler, Brownie Carver, Jacq Skeffington, Odie Hendershot, Paul Mitchell, Beverly Skeffington, Lorna Cunningham
Beverly opened with prayer.

Eric Pryne, Food Bank Director and Kevin Jones from Backbone have asked members of the faith communities to continue support of their projects over the summer months. Eric is making presentations at various services.

Jacq: VPC provides a Life-Changing Prayer service at Vashon Community Care Wednesday afternoons at 1:30. Anyone interested is invited to visit, join, and/or assist in the leadership of this weekly event. There was some discussion about whether this could become an interfaith project and it was noted that most of the participants, some of whom can't speak but can join in hymns through some hidden memory, have a Christian background. Koshin suggested that a meditation group might be appropriate at VCCC and Lorna, who coordinates the Wednesday afternoon teas at VCC, said that it could be included as a special activity.

An interdenominational Vacation Bible School will be hosted by St. John Vianney this year August 14-18 for children ages 4 to 12. Volunteers are needed to provide refreshments.

VPC will again this year offer Strawberry Festival parking and folding chairs for viewing the parade. Donations will be received to benefit the Vashon Resettlement Committee. Reservations are required and the parking slots/chairs sell out very quickly.

Carol: Followed up on the Kevin Jones (Backbone) call for social action from the faith community at the last Brainstormers meeting. Many of us are overwhelmed by the needs for action and involvement and **Carol suggested that the place of the faith community is provide support and a sanctuary of the spirit to give the individual the strength to pursue his or her call to action, or to be able to understand that he or she can't do it all.** She quoted from Parker Palmer's book, Healing the Heart of Democracy: The Courage to Create a Politics Worth of the Human Spirit: "You can only reach out as far as you are willing to reach in." Another recommended book is Karen Armstrong's Twelve Steps to A Compassionate Life.

Erin: The Methodist and Episcopalian churches are discussing the possibility of having community services for those who are feeling devastated and/or need strength to avoid burnout. Koshin suggested that more people would be drawn to this healing if there was outreach beyond the faith community as the search for social justice is both religious and secular. The "non-churched" might be more drawn to community spirituality as a whole if it were presented as more overtly inclusive. Odie reminded us that God is love and love is not confined. Erin reminded us that it is a spiritual undertaking to gather in ways that serve social justice.

Erin: Last Saturday, Erin was invested as a novice in the Order of Tiej Hien of the Lotus Institute and given the name "Joyful Dance of the Heart". On Sunday she was baptized in the Episcopal Church. She hopes that her dual commitment to both Buddhist and Christian practice will make her a more healing presence in the world—but, she commented, she can't do it all.

Lorna: As a visitor to Seattle Unity Church, Lorna was impressed by the fact that it included altars for all religions and suggested that an interfaith church be established on Vashon. Youth today are seekers of enlightenment and it is important that churches and other religious establishments are made relevant to the new generation. Jacq: with the present realities mainstream churches are facing, we need to be open to options. Erin: We are in a good space to be evolving spiritually, but it is important to come together not just for the cause, but for joy, which our children can observe and then build on it. Odie: Young people don't respond to traditional ways of worship; they need to praise God in a way that fills them with joy.

Bob: We reach into our community with a coded language. We need a different language that changes the way we talk about God.

Beverly closed the meeting with prayer. Next meeting is July 18.

Notes by Kathy Olsen



Calendar for July 2017

(all events at VPC unless otherwise stated)

July

- 1 Bible Study 10 AM
- 2 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM (Communion Service)
- 8 Memorial Service for Shirley Blake 2 PM Bethel Church
- 9 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM
- 12 Session Meeting 6:00 PM
- 15 Bible Study 10 AM
- 16 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM
- 19 Deacon's Meeting 4:30 PM
- 22 ~~Strawberry Festival Fundraiser~~
- 23 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM
- 28 VPC Book Club 6:30 at the Spangler's
- 30 **Joint** Sunday Worship Service with Vashon Methodist 10 AM

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

Women's informal breakfast meets at Sporty's at 8:00 am on Wednesdays
Prayer Group 1:30 pm at the Vashon Community Care Center on Wednesdays
Bible Study meets 10 am the 1st and 3rd on Saturdays.

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