

S E P T E M B E R 2 0 1 7

# Vashon Presbyterian Church

Vashon Island, Washington 98070

**Listening to God, embracing all, living in joy**

## September 2017 Newsletter

### The Annual Vashon Vintage Motorcycle Ride

Motorcycle Sunday is scheduled for Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup>. Hundreds of motorcycles of all kinds line the streets of Vashon as we arrive for Sunday worship. VPC has a history of welcoming all to stop by, have a cup of coffee, enjoy a tasty homemade treat as well as use our facility to get warm and freshen up. Our hospitality table opens at 8:30 AM. Stop by before you go in for the Service and help greet our off-island guests. You never know how God may use you this day! (more in Outreach and Invitation News p 5)



Motorcyclists from all over the Northwest gather on Vashon

### Upcoming Dates!

**Motorcycle Sunday  
September 10<sup>th</sup>**

**Meditative Service  
Begins  
September 17<sup>th</sup>**

**VPC Book Club  
September 29<sup>th</sup>**

**Advanced Decisions  
Workshop  
September 30<sup>th</sup>**

**The Reason for God  
Class Begins  
October 1<sup>st</sup>**

**Combined Service  
With UMC  
October 1<sup>st</sup>**

**Thoughts from Leigh....**

Dear Ones of Vashon,

*"I smell chili and cornbread. Must mean football."* Those are words that my family have all said on Saturdays for most of their lives. In our house, Saturdays in the fall mean homemade chili on the stove, cornbread in the oven and football on the television. The combination of these things also says home to them, and means mom is home.

Ritual is an important part of how we do life together as human beings. Individuals have rituals, families have rituals, churches and many other organizations all make meaning together through ritual. A good friend of mine shared that he always sweeps the porch when he first gets to what was once his parents' home. In this way, he is not only caring for this home but honoring something that has been passed to him in his family, something entrusted to him to be a steward.

I've been thinking about the rituals of church, ones that are common from church to church and ones that are part of individual congregations. I've been here just long enough to see them at work in the life of this church too. Jacq ringing the bell on Sunday mornings, a faithful group of ladies gathering for breakfast each week, volunteers who faithfully get the mail and answer the phone, the all church yard sale, and many other things.

We engage in ritual each Sunday as part of our worship, we gather and prayer and sing, we drink coffee and catch up, we exchange conversation that is unique to us while paying attention to who might be new. We honor ritual but we aren't confined by it, there is always room for new ideas and new people.

Rituals, at their best, tether us to one another and to those that have gone before us. Just like my friend who sweeps his porch, they bring a sense of oneness with those we hold dear. Rituals, at their worst, become exclusive. Holding up our rituals and asking, "Does this give us life?" is an important question for all people, churches included.

I see life giving ritual taking place in our congregation. I cherish the ways in which you make meaning of this life we share together, this family we create with one another. And I am grateful for how beautifully you make space for others who join us.

The greatest ritual we observe as a church is to love. We are tethered to Jesus when we love like he taught us to love. People who know my family closely know that on Saturdays in the fall, we have chili, for us and anyone who stops by. And in the same way, let the people in our community know that we are a church who loves and we always have more than enough for anyone who stops by.

Grace for your journey,

Leigh



## Worship Team News

### Areas of Responsibility

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

**Liturgy Group** The liturgy group has been meeting Wednesdays at 10 am. It is a very rewarding, thought provoking time. If you're free Wednesday mornings you should come and give it a try!



Liturgy group meets in the new Chapel

### **New Early Morning Service Begins this Month**

Pastor Leigh met with those interested in having an early meditative service on Sundays. It will not be meant as a second full service but rather a meditative time for those who wish to participate. It will be 20 to 30 minutes long beginning at 8:30 AM. Plans are still being developed. If interested talk to Pastor Leigh. The early service will be in the new Chapel.

## Mission Resource Team News

### Area of Responsibility

Financials, Building and Grounds

**Building and Grounds** Thanks to all who helped with our **Annual Yard Sale** August 5<sup>th</sup> and especially to Barb Huff for coordinating volunteers again this year. Not only did we receive donations of \$1,271, we enjoyed a wonderful day of sharing thoughts and stories with islanders and visitors. Many also stopped in to admire the sanctuary and the rest of the building.

The building is once again abuzz with activity as teachers, future students and parents prepare classrooms, play fields and gardens for **Carpe Diem Primary** and **Creative Preschool**. Special thanks to **Chris Coldeen** for **repairs to the steps** on the south side of the building leading up to the social hall in the blazing heat of August. Both porches were then also repainted.

Special thanks also go to **Brownie and Skip Carver** for bringing in a crew to **trim the shrubbery and trees** in the flowerbed separating the north parking lot from the street and to **Here Theime, Sheryl Lehman and Kathy O'Laughlin** for the hours they put in over the summer tending and watering the grounds.

We have begun to reclaim **Classroom "C"** as the **Chapel** in preparation for small meditative services which will start up mid-September. Stop in, check it out, and let us know what you think.

Blessings,

*Elder Jacq Skeffington*

## Faith Exploration Team News

### Area of Responsibility

Bible study, Christian formation (all ages)

**Bible Study Resumes this Month** The bible study group meets the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays at 10. This month it is Saturday the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Vacation Bible School** ( shown below) for all island kids was hosted by St John Vianney Church this year. The weeklong school had over 60 kids from several different churches. Helpers from different congregations supported the effort. It was a very successful week for the kids and for the ecumenical spirit here on the island.



**Weston Dorr joins in the fun. His mom, Alice, was one of the teachers.**

**The Fall Adult Education** class will start Sunday, October 1 (before our worship at the Methodist Church). We will begin discussing a book titled The Reason for God by Timothy Keller. This book addresses the frequent doubts that skeptics and even ardent believers have about religion. Reverend Keller provides a challenging and compelling argument for believing in God. The subtitle of the book is *Belief in an Age of Skepticism*. Whether you are interested in attending the class or not, I hope you will take the opportunity to purchase the book now and start reading. I think you will find it very thought-provoking and deeply rewarding. It may be purchased new for about \$12 new or a used copy may be available for \$2 on up at various websites

We are currently planning to have a class next winter dealing with social justice/white privilege and are reviewing a couple of books for that class.

*Elder Diana Lilje*

**Advanced Care Workshop** Pastor Leigh, Carol Spangler and I are planning a workshop on Advanced Care Planning on Saturday, September 30<sup>th</sup>, specifically designed around planning memorial services for members and friends of Vashon Presbyterian Church. Discussing last wishes is never an easy topic for conversation but to do so with loved ones while we're young and healthy, before we reach a point of not being able to voice our desires, has been shown to tremendously benefit loved ones who otherwise would be planning and grieving at the same time. Please plan to join us from 9-11, Saturday, September 30<sup>th</sup> and bring a friend or family member to start the conversation with the help of trained facilitators. There will be no charge and coffee and muffins will be provided.

*Elder Jacq Skeffington*

## Purposeful Service Team News

### Area of Responsibility

Scholarship, Mary's Place Worship,  
IFCH Dinners, Mission Partner Relations

### Mary's Place

Thanks to ALL who made the Mary's Place Picnic a truly unique event once again. Your delicious food, transport to and from ferry, setting up, cleaning up, providing music, etc etc. We couldn't have done it without you. It means so very much to the women who come to the picnic. I hope we can continue providing these women such a great time on Vashon and look forward to this event next year.



**Mary's Place Choir!**

## Invitation and Outreach Team News

### Area of Responsibility

New Members and Discipleship,  
Evangelism and Invitation

### Motorcycle Sunday

The annual **Vashon Vintage Motorcycle ride** is upon us. It's scheduled for Sunday, Sept. 10. VPC has a history of welcoming all to stop by, have a cup of coffee, enjoy a tasty treat as well as use our bathrooms. Making this happen requires a lot of help. The old adage "Many hands make light work" certainly applies here. So, the call is out for everyone to bring something to share. And then be available to greet the many, many visitors to the island.

Let's plan on being ready to go by 8:30 am. Volunteers are needed to set up tables, make coffee, etc. beforehand and to clean up afterward. With everyone's help, we can do it again! Please contact Larry (206-579-1122) if you have questions, suggestions, advice. Thank you!

*Elder Larry Commeree*

### New Member Class

Plans are shaping up for a New Members Class for September. If you are a "friend" of VPC and interested in joining or just interested in discussing the development of the PC(USA) and VPC in particular, please let Pastor Leigh, Bob Spangler or I know. We plan to have classes Sunday mornings at 9.

*Elder Jacq Skeffington*

## Clerk's Corner

Session held its monthly meeting on August 7, with all members attending. Jacq reported that the annual audit was conducted on July 17, and he provided a written report with the audit team's findings and recommendations. The financial records were found to be in order. In view of a large donation in memory of Shirley Blake, session discussed the status of the Memorial Fund and committee. Diana agreed to revive the committee and bring to session recommendations for use of the funds.

Session adopted a policy for dealing with deaths of members and friends, and how to coordinate with the funeral home. Session also discussed the need for people to prepare documents concerning their last wishes. Jacq noted that he is a trained facilitator of the workshops sponsored by Honoring Choices Vashon, which educates people as to the need to prepare documents relating to death and discuss their wishes with their families. Jacq offered to conduct a workshop at VPC on September 30. Leigh and Brownie led a discussion as to the content and format of the worship service. Session agreed upon several changes, in light of expressed preferences. Session voted to approve a joint worship service with the Methodist Church on World Communion Sunday, October 1; Leigh will preach. Finally, Jacq reported on the July Presbytery meeting, which he and other members attended.

*Bob Spangler, Clerk of Session*

## News from the Deacons

Now available in the East Room is a folded sheet that is the updated Community Resources for Vashon-Maury Island. This is a list of services that includes health care, transportation, food and housing as well as other services available. It is produced by the Vashon Social Service Network.

If you are able to give rides to those who need them on Sunday morning talk to Susan Commeree.

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

## Hospitality/Fellowship Team News

### Area of Responsibility

Hospitality, Fellowship

**Meet and Greets** have been going on all summer. We are getting to know Leigh better because of them but, additionally, we are getting to know one another better too! The pictures below are of the gathering for the "west side" families. We fell into telling what we were doing in the late 1960s. As we went around the table we all learned a great deal about each one's "early- often pre-Vashon" years.



**Book Club** Book club meets on the 29<sup>th</sup> this month. It will be a potluck starting at 6:30 at Claudia and Al Ross Weston's. We will be discussing the book Mink River by Brian Doyle.

## What's on Your Mind?

### Are you being called to be a Deacon at VPC?

Just for a moment, will you think of a time when you agreed to try something a bit challenging or new? You may have been apprehensive at first but didn't you have a positive feeling when you realized it brought new good experiences or friends and was probably interesting? At the very least you learned more about yourself and the world around you - and that's helpful.

Becoming a deacon involves a similar adventure. We are led and always supported by practicing our faith in the real world. That's such tremendous reassurance! What can be any better?

Yes, there are some unexpected moments of real concerns and unplanned experiences, but you'd also have grand moments. You can see the support you'd offer as a deacon really helping someone else. So many moments to know your caring and efforts really do make a difference! There's such an abundance of gratitude and appreciation for the actions the team of deacons provides.

Our individual journeys of faith involve growing and a willingness to trust and experience new situations. Our VPC deacons team needs more members and we want to encourage you to consider joining this ministry. In a few weeks, the nominating committee will be thoughtfully seeking new deacon candidates. The need is rather urgent now. We would like to bring the total number of deacons back up to six, as we had at the beginning of 2016. Opportunities await those who can share their love, energy, and imagination with the congregation and our Vashon community. Can you speak up and consider this "challenge" that will provide you with so many special moments in return?

*The Deacons Team - Susan Commeree, Lindsay Hofman, Bev Skeffington and Nancy van Roessel*

### Rides to Church

It seems that there are some residents at the Care Center on Vashon that would like to attend services, but do not have the means to get there.

Currently, the Presbyterian church is bringing folks to worship who want to do so at the Presbyterian Church.

It is hoped the other faith communities will offer this service to the residents there. I know the Episcopal Church already has arranged for several people to attend their church.

If you feel there is something you can do to help please contact the Care Center to arrange rides for the residents who would like to attend other faith communities.

Enjoy these glorious summer days.....  
Beverly



# Calendar for September 2017

(all events at VPC unless otherwise stated)

## Sept

- 2 Bible Study 10 AM**
- 3 Sunday Worship Service at 10 AM Communion Service**
- 10 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM "Motorcycle Sunday"**
- 13 Session Meeting 6:30 PM**
- 16 Bible Study 10 AM**
- 17 Sunday Early Service 8:30 AM**
- 17 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM**
- 21 Deacon's Meeting 4 PM**
- 24 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM**
- 26 Deacon's Meeting 4 PM**
- 28 IFCH Meal supplied by VPC 5:30 PM**
- 29 VPC Book Club 6:30 PM at Ross Weston's**

## Oct

- 1 Adult Education Class Begins 9 AM**
- 1 Combined Service with UMC for World Communion Day 10 AM**

## ONGOING ACTIVITIES

- Prayer Group meets on Wednesdays 1:30 at VCCC.**
- Fellowship Breakfast at Sporty's on Wednesdays 8 AM.**
- Bible Study meets the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays 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.