

O C T O B E R 2 0 1 7

# Vashon Presbyterian Church

Vashon Island, Washington 98070

Listening to God, embracing all, living in joy

## October 2017 Newsletter

### World Communion Sunday

World Communion Sunday was October 1<sup>st</sup>. VPC joined our United Methodist neighbors for a combined worship. The sun came out Sunday morning and members who were at earlier classes at VPC walked the few blocks down the street to join the 10 AM service at VUMC. The church was filled with the music of the combined choir and combined congregation's voices. It was a grace filled time of worship, fellowship and good will. Pastor Leigh gave the sermon and joined Pastor Paul in celebrating Communion along with millions of other Christians around the world. Those who have participated agree it has been energizing to join with other islanders to worship and share God's love. From the ecumenical Vacation Bible School this summer to combined Holy Week services, island churches are committed to furthering this ecumenical spirit.

### Prayers for Las Vegas

We will be hosting a service of prayer, lament and vigil for victims of Las Vegas this Friday evening at 6:00 pm in our sanctuary. Both Vashon UMC and Church of the Holy Spirit have expressed interest in helping with this service. It is truly our privilege to share our presence with others needing the gentle space to begin to process the depth of national pain we each feel. Please help us spread the word to the community at large.

### October Dates!

**Session Retreat**  
**October 7**

**New Members Class**  
**October 8**  
**(In the Chapel)**

**Adult Education Class**  
**"The Reason for God"**  
**October 8**  
**(In the Library)**

**Tailgate Coffee Hour**  
**October 15**

**VPC Book Club**  
**October 20**

**Church Brunch**  
**October 29**

**Halloween Hospitality**  
**October 31**



## Thoughts from Leigh...

Dear Ones of VPC,

*Reformed and always reforming...* that is who we are as Presbyterians. We are, like all of humankind, a work in progress. The kingdom of God is within us. This month we observe the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation, of Martin Luther nailing his theses to that door in Germany. Luther once said, “*Pray like everything depends on God and then work like everything depends on you.*”

We began this month in a combined worship with Vashon UMC for World Communion Sunday. We'll end this month with an all church brunch worship in celebration of Reformation Sunday. Be sure to put October 29<sup>th</sup> on your calendar and join us. We'll sit at tables together, share in a meal together, worship and pray together, have special music and create a shared visual art together to mark the anniversary of the Reformation.

We will also be in conversation about what it means to “Love Vashon Well” together. We're going to talk about the central location of our church in the downtown corridor and look at the ways we can be a sanctuary for the community around us. We'll look at some upcoming town hall forums that we will be hosting for the community at large too.

As the leaves on the tree we planted on Installation Sunday begin to turn brown and slowly drop off, I hope we can hold onto the imagery of its roots reaching deeper into the earth. And as we head into the cooler, rainier months in Western Washington, I want us to look at the ways we can reach for our own roots deeper into God's provision for us.

One of the ways in which we will begin to dig down deep is in the formation of new opportunities for prayer and conversation. We'll be beginning a new mid-week small group later this month, sharing in a Wednesday night Taize service during Advent and continuing to enrich our new morning Contemplative Prayer Service at 8:30 a.m. in the Chapel.

And just like the tree we planted, we will weather the seasons, draw from our roots and blossom and grow together. *Reformed and always reforming.*

Grace for the journey,  
Leigh



**Hospitality/Fellowship  
Team News**

**Area of Responsibility**  
Hospitality, Fellowship

**SeaHawks Tailgate Coffee Hour** The Sea Hawks Bye week this year is on **Sunday October 15<sup>th</sup>**. You are invited to wear your college sweatshirt or t-shirt or Pro-team shirt to church. Please bring your favorite tailgate treat for coffee hour. We can tailgate without worrying about getting home to watch the Hawks. See you there!

**VPC Book Club** Book Club meets October 20<sup>th</sup> at the home of Barb and Jim Huff. Meet at 6:30 PM for a potluck. The book selection this month is Hillbilly Elergy

*Elder Brorwnie Carver*  
*Elder Al Ross Weston (Book Club)*

**Worship  
Team News**

**Area of Responsibility**  
Sacraments Celebration, Music Program,  
Lay Leaders, Ecumenical Worship,  
Church Décor.

**Church Brunch** Church brunch will return on October 29th, Reformation Sunday. This service promises many surprises including a guest musician. We hope you will join us for worship, music, food, and fellowship.

*Elder Brownie Carver*

**Prayer Service Sundays 8:30 AM** Join us for this quiet time to prepare ourselves for the day's worship or the week ahead. Simple music, a lectio reading and prayers.

**Faith Exploration  
Team News**

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

**Adult Education**. Sunday, October 8, in the church library, will be the first fall adult education class. We will begin discussing a book entitled The Reason for God by Timothy Keller. This book addresses the frequent doubts that skeptics and even ardent believers have about religion. The author provides a 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 thought provoking and deeply rewarding. It may be purchased new for about \$12 or a used copy may be available for \$4 on up at various websites. I have ordered 3 used books that will hopefully be here by the time the class starts.

*Elder Diana Lilje*

**Purposeful Service  
Team News**

**Area of Responsibility**  
Scholarship, Mary Magdalene Weekend,  
IFCH Dinners, Mission Partner Relations

**IFCH** VPC will be responsible for the meal October 26<sup>th</sup>. Sign up to serve!

**Purposeful Service Team** Purposeful Service Team invites new members. Join us. We'd like new faces and fresh ideas! Talk to Al about upcoming projects and meetings.

*Elder Al Ross Weston*

**Mission Resource**  
**Team News**  
**Area of Responsibility**  
 Financials  
 Building and Grounds

**Financials**

We exceeded our expected monthly income for the month of September. Our expenses continue to be below what was budgeted so that we should end the year on a positive note.

*Elder Diana Lilje*

**Building and Grounds**

**Chapel** Have you visited the Chapel yet? We have reclaimed Classroom "C" as the Chapel and hold small meditative services there Sunday mornings at 8:30. Stop in, check it out, and let us know what you think. Or, just stop in there any time the church is open for some peaceful prayer.

**Work Party** Now that it's cooled off a bit I'd like to invite you to a work party to trim shrubbery around the parking lot and other outdoor chores Saturday, October 21<sup>st</sup>. If it should rain we can always have an indoor painting party to touch up hallways and baseboards.

**Halloween Hospitality** Last year I had a wonderful evening sitting on our front porch as Islanders young and old trick or treated uptown. Many parents were VERY grateful that we made our bathrooms available so I plan to be there again. Perhaps we can decorate a little this year? I've got a bunch of corn stalks! Let me know if you're interested either in decorating or attending.

Blessings,

*Jacq Skeffington*

**Invitation and Outreach**  
**Team News**  
**Area of Responsibility**  
 New Members and Discipleship  
 Evangelism and Invitation

**Schools Welcomed** We extended our invitation to Creative Preschool's parents to join Pastor Leigh for coffee in the Chapel after dropping off their children on the school's opening day. Leigh and Liz shared with several moms how much we've enjoyed their presence with us over the years. There was a warm, friendly exchange of ideas and plans. The offer to use the building for additional events was well received and the preschool's first Parent Evening has been planned for October 6<sup>th</sup> in the social hall. We're working with Carpe Diem teachers to schedule a similar "Welcome Meet and Greet" event for their parents. The staff was receptive to the idea at a time after they had gotten their regular school routine established. We are looking forward a year of support and sharing with the staff and families of these two very special VPC tenants.

**Motorcycle Sunday Thank You** A big "Thank You!" to all VPC members who responded with your usual outpouring of baked goods to welcome participants in Seattle's Vintage Motorcycle Enthusiasts' annual Vashon Ride. No formal count was taken but dozens were very appreciative of our hot coffee, sweet things to eat and clean restrooms. A special thank you to all who remained present out front through the morning greeting visitors with smiling faces - a key feature of genuine hospitality!

*Elder Larry Commeree*

**Clerk's Corner**

Session met on September 13, with Diana Lilje acting as clerk in Bob Spangler's absence. Session considered recommendations from the Memorial Committee for use of funds in the memorial account. Session also discussed plans for the October session retreat, at which the October session meeting will be held. Members distributed team reports prior to the meeting, including financial data that showed VPC to be in a strong cash position. Session approved renaming Classroom C as the chapel, and authorized Pastor Leigh to hold a commissioning ceremony after the next worship service. Jacq reported on the Nominating Committee's plans for filling elder and deacon positions. Finally, Pastor Leigh summarized her current professional activities and commitments, and her plans for further ecumenical dialogue.

*Bob Spangler, Clerk of Session*

**Deacons News**

Churches on Vashon provide a short worship service at Vashon Community Care (VCC) every Sunday morning. Vashon Presbyterian runs the service on alternate first Sundays. (The Lutheran church runs the in between Sundays.) Our services take place in the activity room at VCC at approximately 9:15 AM Sunday morning and last 30 to 40 minutes..

Recently Lindsay Hofman has been providing the call to worship, prayers and the message and Chris Coldeen leads the singing, accompanied by his guitar. Somewhere between 8 to 12 residents attend, many visually impaired so we try to sing hymns familiar to our congregation such as Jesus Loves Me, What a Friend We Have in Jesus, How Great Thou Art, In the Garden. We always include the Lord's Prayer and pass the Peace after the benediction.

If anyone would like to join us, please do. If you have a message you would like to share with the group, please contact Lindsay Hofman, [linfishof@aol.com](mailto:linfishof@aol.com) or (206) 463-5356

*Lindsay Hofman, Deacon*

**Church Officers**

**VPC Pastor** Reverend Leigh Weber

**VPC Elders**

Brownie Carver - Worship Team; Hospitality and Fellowship Team

Larry Commeree - Invitation and Outreach Team

Diana Lilje - Faith Exploration Team; Mission Resource Team, Financials

Al Ross Weston - Purposeful Service Team

Jacq Skeffington - Mission Resource Team, Building and Grounds

Bob Spangler - Clerk of Session

**VPC Deacons**

Susan Commeree

Lindsay Hofman

Beverly Skeffington

Nancy vanRoessel



# Calendar for October 2017

(all events at VPC unless otherwise stated)

## October

- 1 Prayer Service 8:30 AM
- 1 New Member's Class 9 AM
- 1 Combined Sunday Worship at VUMC 10 AM
- 7 Session Retreat
- 8 Prayer Service 8:30 AM
- 8 New Member's Class 9 AM
- 8 Adult Education Class 9 AM
- 8 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM
- 15 Prayer Service 8:30 AM
- 15 Adult Education Class 9 AM
- 15 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM
- 15 Tailgate Coffee Hour after worship
- 20 VPC Book Club at Huff's 6:30 PM
- 21 Work Party 9-Noon
- 22 Prayer Service 8:30 AM
- 22 Adult Education Class 9 AM
- 22 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM
- 26 VPC'S IFCH Meal 5:30 PM
- 29 Prayer Service 8:30 AM
- 29 Adult Education Class 9 AM
- 29 Sunday 'Church Brunch' Worship Service 10 AM
- 31 Halloween Hospitality Event 4-6 PM

## ONGOING ACTIVITIES

**Fellowship Breakfast** at Sporty's 8:00 am on Wednesdays.

**Liturgy Group** 10 am on Wednesdays.

**Prayer Group** 1:30 pm at the VCCC on Wednesdays.

**Bible Study** 10 am, 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.