

N O V E M B E R 2 0 1 7

# Vashon Presbyterian Church

Vashon Island, Washington 98070

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

## November 2017 Newsletter

### **As You Gather For the Holidays**

Here's an idea as our families gather for Thanksgiving: try recording conversations with your family members, especially the elders. StoryCorps (from NPR) is providing a free app which can be easily downloaded and used for interviews with family members. "The Great Thanksgiving Listen" program has been designed primarily for school age students, but welcomes personal use as well. Go to [StoryCorps.me](http://StoryCorps.me) and scroll down to the instructions for all the details. Preserve and share your very special family stories!

### **Curious about the Faith of Islam?**

A week from now, on Sunday, November 12th, we have a chance to hear more about this faith practiced by almost 25% of the world's population. The speaker will explain the tenets of Islam and provide translations of the prayers into English. Our congregation, along with several other Vashon churches and the Vashon Resettlement Committee, is sponsoring this opportunity. The program begins at 2 pm in our sanctuary and will be followed by light refreshments. Further information is on posters around town or ask Nancy van Roessel or Beverly Skeffington.

### Save the Date!

Bible Study  
November 4, 18

Adult Education Class  
November 5, 12, 19, 26

VPC Book Club  
November 17

Eagles Thanksgiving Meal  
November 23



God is always coming to you in the Sacrament of the Present Moment.  
Meet and receive Him there with gratitude in that sacrament.  
-Evelyn Underhill

Dear Ones of Vashon,

As the air gets cooler and the leaves begin to fall, I am enjoying this All Saints' Day (Nov. 1) looking out my office window just thinking how very blessed I feel and how very grateful. Just down the hall is our beautiful door that we nailed things to this past Sunday. What amazing words! I hear in your words that you want to be even more welcoming than you already are. I hear you saying you want to be in conversation with one another, that you are excited for the future and that you care deeply about this community. And I am truly in awe of your kindness and generous spirits!

One of my dearest mentors said to me once, "Pastors don't bring God to a church, good pastors pay attention to where God is already at work and then they join in." How true that is of my experience with you. God is at work in this congregation, in your lives, in our community and it brings tears to my eyes to watch it all. Just last night I watched hundreds of little ones, along with their parents, come to our open door for trick or treating (and a bathroom break). And I watched members of this church lovingly welcome them, delight in their costumes, wish them well and meet them just where they were. And the whole time we were at the front door, our sisters and brothers experiencing food scarcity on the island were having a warm meal in the social hall.

This morning I worked with our liturgy group in the chapel, while three Syrian women learned English in the library next door, while parents from Carpe Diem met in the outer room and kids down the hall filled the church with the joy of learning. And AA was meeting upstairs. This is a very busy and life filling building and God is at work and our collective call is to join in.

As you gather with friends and family or just pause in your own life this Thanksgiving season, I hope you will find your own gratitude for this thriving, amazing, vibrant place. I hope you will remember that God is at work here and that you will take the time to pay attention and feel gratitude for that.

I also hope you find time for Sabbath rest, to renew and re-energize for the future together. Blessings upon you and blessings upon your ministry. We are a priesthood of all believers and we are individually and collectively called to this good and holy work that God started. This Thanksgiving, I am so grateful for you, so grateful for the ability to see God at work here and to know that God is already at work and our collective pastoral job is to join in. Will you join me??

Grace for our journey together!  
Leigh



## Faith Exploration Team News

### Area of Responsibility

Bible study, Christian formation (all ages)

**Faith Exploration Report** We will continue the discussion of The Reason for God by Timothy Keller. The book addresses the frequent doubts that skeptics and even ardent believers have about religion. Keller 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 and start reading. I think you will find it thought provoking and deeply rewarding.

*Elder Diana Lilje*

### **Life Story Journaling Group**

Pastor Leigh will be starting a Life Story Journaling Group in January. This will be a group that will write begin writing each one's own spiritual autobiography. Through writing prompts and sharing what we write, we will learn more about one another, more about ourselves and more about the Spirit's work within us. If you are interested in this kind of group or have more questions, please contact Leigh at [PastorLeigh@comcast.net](mailto:PastorLeigh@comcast.net) or 425.221.1142 or see her in person. She has led this type of group previously and found it deeply impactful. Perhaps this is something God has in mind for you. Pray about it and be in touch with her. Day and time will be determined based on availability of those interested. Group will meet twice monthly.

## Worship Team News

### Area of Responsibility

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

**November 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Service** Tom Fox, from John Knox Presbyterian Church, will be our guest pastor on November 5th. Pastor Leigh will be in North Carolina conducting her niece's wedding.

**Liturgy Group** Meets every Wednesday at 10 am. The group is growing! It continues to provide interesting discussion and valuable time of reflection on the passages selected for the weeks worship. If you are free that time of day, join in!

*Elder Brownie Carver*

### Shirley Blake's Lupine Seeds

If you have a little bag of Delphinium/Lupine seeds from Shirley's memorial service, you could try to plant some of them now before the soil gets any cooler. These seeds require moisture but well draining soil to germinate and should not be buried too deeply. If you want to establish them in your garden, choose a site that has rich soil and some shade. They would need careful attention over the winter. It's really better to wait until early spring although that will delay the resulting tall colorful flowers we're all wanting to enjoy. Any questions? Ask Nancy van Roessel or Claudia Ross-Weston.

## Mission Resource Team News

### Area of Responsibility Financials, Building and Grounds

**Financial Report** Our expected monthly income year-to-date is slightly below our budgeted amount but our expenses continue to be below what was budgeted so that we should end the year on a positive note

*Elder Diana Lilje*

**Buildings and Grounds** As I write this on Halloween, the front porch is decorated and candy basket full awaiting Islanders young and old, trick or treating uptown. Our doors will be open as we extend an invitation to the community to come inside, warm up, use the bathrooms and maybe sit quietly for a moment or two.

Thanks to all who attended the work party on Saturday, October 14th. Since it was raining, we repainted one side of the hallway leading to the kitchen. Have you noticed which side? Again, keep an eye on the eNews for updates.

The Chamber of Commerce is planning to light the Christmas Tree in front of VPC again this year. I hope all of us will attend the tree lighting event, sing some carols and extend hospitality to all our brothers and sisters.

Blessings,  
*Jacq Skeffington*

## Purposeful Service Team News

### Area of Responsibility Scholarship, Mary Magdalene weekend, IFCH dinners, mission partner relations

**IFCH Dinners** The IFCH will not have a Thanksgiving meal but instead have invited all who are interested to the community meal hosted by the Eagles. There will be more information about the time and other details of the Eagles Thanksgiving in the weekly enews.

**Mary's Place Giving Tree** Again this year we will hang gift tags to take home and fulfill a gift wish from Mary's Place. Each tag is a personalized wish from a child for a toy or a gift a child would love to give his mom this holiday season. There will also be multiple tags asking for a \$15 donation for a pair of new shoes for a woman or child. The tree will be placed in the reception area on November 26<sup>th</sup> and tags/gifts will be collected December 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Purposeful Service Meeting** Purposeful Service Team will meet November 5, after worship. We will be discussing the Mary's Place giving tree and assign the donations from Christmas Eve offering. Traditionally this is designated as a one time gift to an area of greatest need. We encourage new members!

*Elder Al Ross Weston*



## Invitation and Outreach Team News

### Area of Responsibility

New Members and Discipleship,  
Evangelism and Invitation

### One picture is worth a Thousand Words.



Can you guess who's in this picture?  
A clue: There are 3 generations represented!



## Hospitality/Fellowship Team News

### Area of Responsibility: Hospitality, Fellowship

VPC Book Club Book Club will meet the evening of November 17, 6:30 PM for a potluck at the home of Elizabeth Loveness. The book selection is Caleb's Crossing by Geraldine Brooks.

*Elder Al Ross Weston*

**SAVE the DATE!** December 3rd will be the Hanging of the Greens. On this first Sunday in Advent, we will decorate the church for the Holiday. The congregation can also bring goodies to set the mood!

**Six Months** It's been six months since Leigh started as our installed pastor. If you haven't had coffee or dinner with her, she'd like to have the chance to get to know you better in that kind of setting. **Meet and Greet** dinners and gatherings are still on her mind...if you are interested in either hosting or attending one, let the church office know.

**You are invited to sign up for coffee hours!**

*Elder Brownie Carver*





## Calendar for November 2017

Nov

- 4 Bible Study 10 AM
- 5 Prayer Service 8:30 AM
- 5 Adult Education Class 9 AM
- 5 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM
- 5 Purposeful Service Team Meeting After Worship
- 7 Deacons 4:30 PM
- 8 Session 6:30 PM
- 12 Prayer Service 8:30 AM
- 12 Adult Education Class 9 AM
- 12 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM
- 17 Book Club at Loveness's 6:30 PM
- 18 Bible Study 10 AM
- 19 Prayer Service 8:30 AM
- 19 Adult Education Class 9 AM
- 19 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM
- 23 Thanksgiving Community Meal at the Eagles
- 26 Prayer Service 8:30 AM
- 26 Adult Education Class 9 AM
- 26 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM

### ONGOING ACTIVITIES

*Fellowship Breakfast 9 am on Tuesdays.*

*Liturgy Group meets 10 AM Wednesdays*

*Life Changing Prayer group meets Wednesdays  
at 1:30 PM at the Vashon Community Care Center.*

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