

J A N U A R Y 2 0 1 8

Vashon Presbyterian Church

Vashon Island, Washington 98070

Listening to God, embracing all, living in joy

January 2018



Happy New Year!

The Flickering Light of Epiphany

Christmas proclaimed the presence of the light. Epiphany calls us to spread the light on the journey. Epiphany means "manifestation." We see the light of Christ as it is manifest from the crib of Jesus in Bethlehem to all the nations. "A light for revelation to the Gentiles" (Luke 2:32) is the Bible's shorthand way of saying that Christ's mission is to the whole world. Epiphany stories reach out to the world through the coming of the Magi, Jesus' baptism by John, the call of the first disciples, and the beginning of Jesus' ministry. What will be our epiphany story this year? Help us spread the light within our own community!



Important Dates!

Installation of Officers

Sunday January 7

Presbytery Meeting

Tuesday January 16th

VPC Book Club

Friday January 19th

Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday January 21st

VPC IFCH Meal

Thursday January 25th

Ash Wednesday

Wednesday February 14th

Dear Ones of Vashon,

Just eight months ago, in May of 2017, I began my work here with you. More precisely, I joined in the work you were already doing. And I am starting this new year so very grateful for you. You've demonstrated grace and concern for your brothers and sisters both in this congregation and on this island. You've lived Christ. And living Christ is hard work sometimes.

Having just worshipped with you through our first Advent and Christmas together, I am renewed in my energy for this good and holy work into which we are together called. I wonder where you are. Where is your energy? Where is your passion?

After a joyous White Christmas together, are you ready for the New Year of being church together or are you enduring the cold and wet of Seattle winters, hoping for an early spring? Where do you find yourself? Is your cup feeling full or do you long for it to be filled?

As we move into this new calendar year together, we're going to be talking more and more about where you are, what you might be feeling and how we can encourage and support one another better. We're going to be engaging in some collective soul tending and reminding ourselves and each other that we are sacredly made by God who wants to care for us.

We're going to be checking in in a variety of ways, starting with some new opportunities for work on prayer and journaling, a Lenten devotional guide that we'll be sharing in together and with an all church day retreat in the coming year. There will be opportunities for small group conversation and other kinds of fellowship. You'll be hearing from your Session and Board of Deacons sharing where they see God at work in both the church and their own lives.

When our cups are full, and we are tending to our relationship with God, something changes within us. And it radiates outward to others, it allows us the heart space to work with Christ to bring about God's kingdom. This is the work to which we are called together. So, this year, you will be hearing me ask you often, "How can I care for you? How can I support you better? Is your cup full or running low?" I will need you to ask these same questions of me as well. We will stumble at times, but God won't. We will be tired at times, but God will be steadfast. Are you ready for this new year together? I'm ready to be with you in it. The kingdom of God is within us, Jesus says. Together, I pray we will let it out and share it with the world around us. This work will be hard at times, but we will never be alone. That's the good news. □

Grace for the journey,
Leigh

From Our Congregation...

Where Do I Find God?

*Session has been reflecting on this question.
Each month a member of Session will be
responding to this question.*

I find God in the people that I volunteer with. Some are members of our congregation and some are unchurched. I am often amazed at the willingness and ability of neighbors helping neighbors. We are fortunate to live in a close community where helping others is a way of life for many.

As a congregation we pray each week for others and find ways to reach out to our community. I find God in each of you!

Brownie Carver

Lent Starts in Five Weeks...

Despite the wise men still working their way to the nativity scene at my house, Lent thoughts are drifting into my Epiphany ones. Ash Wednesday is early this year on February 14th and we will be hosting a service of ashes for our own congregation and other island churches as well.

Additionally, Pastor Paul from VUMC and I will be providing ashes starting early that morning at the ferry docks on both sides of the trip. If you are interested in helping, please let me know.

So, save the date for Ash Wednesday here at VPC at 7:00 pm!! And look for our VPC Lenten Devotional Guide that will be available electronically or in print on Sunday, February 11th.

Pastor Leigh

Thank you!!!

Words can't express how touched I was by your gracious gift to me at Christmas. It was so very thoughtful and amazingly generous and meant the world to me. The sentiments shared in the card were equally caring and meaningful. I can't possibly find the words to express the feelings in my heart aside from sharing with you that I feel deeply loved.

Thank you again!

Pastor Leigh

From Our Congregation.....

A HAPPY NEW YEAR AND LIFE

The warmth in your home reflects our Lord's love in your hearts. May you all gather in all His blessings this New Year. May this year cause you all to smile happily and with love, while you all experience an inspired family member, probably a young one, providing that knowing glance and that delightful smile. The small ones so completely reflect their love and joy from the little bitty daily miracles that make their life so amazing and we are given the opportunity to witness our Lord guiding these little spiritual beings.

Be it known, that you all are so respected and needed for being the servants, that you are capable of being, through the Love and Power of our Lord.

Olde John Croan



Purposeful Service

Team News

Area of Responsibility

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

IFCH Dinner VPC will be responsible for the IFCH meal on January 25th. Sign up sheet at coffee hour. Start the New Year by helping our neighbors in need.

Elder Al Ross Weston

Hospitality/Fellowship

Team News

Area of Responsibility

Hospitality, Fellowship

VPC Book Club Book club will meet on January 19th. The book selection is The Things They Carried by Tim O'Brien. Potluck supper 6:30 at the Skeffington's.

Elder Al Ross Weston

Invitation and Outreach

Team News

Area of Responsibility

New Members and Discipleship, Evangelism and Invitation

Welcome to the Tuckers! Welcome to Ben and Nancy Tucker who were received into membership by letter of transfer on December 17th. We look forward to getting to know the Tuckers better in the coming year. "So glad you're here, Ben and Nancy!"

Worship

Team News

Area of Responsibility

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

Taking down the Greens We will take down the greens on January 7th, following the worship service.

Elder Brownie Carver

Christian Formation

Team News

Area of Responsibility

Bible study, Christian formation (all ages)

Our discussion of The Reason for God by Timothy Keller will resume on January 7th at 9 am. Even if you haven't attended or missed some of the classes, please consider joining in our discussion.

Bible Study Members of the Bible study group will meet January 6th and 20st, 10 AM at VPC.

Elder Diana Lilje

Deacon's News

Deacons - next meeting will be on Tuesday, January 9th starting at 3:00 PM.

The VCC Wednesday prayer gatherings start at 1:30 each week (1:30 - 2:30).

Mission Resource

Team News

Area of Responsibility

Financials

Building and Grounds

Finance We ended the year in a strong financial position. Our expenses have been under the budgeted amount and our income has exceeded our expectations. Thanks to all of you for your help in making this happen.

Elder Diana Lilje

Building and Grounds The church looked really beautiful once again this Christmas season thanks to those who hung greens in the sanctuary and decorated our Christmas Trees. We had a number of complimentary comments from parents of the Carpe Diem students who attended their winter celebration on Dec 14th. Thanks also to the Vashon Chamber of Commerce which donated the lights, time and equipment to decorate the tree out front. The Chamber plans to leave their lights in the tree for use again next year but we will disconnect them in January.

Our “**Toolbelts**” group had to clean the gutters again between the windy and rainy weather of November and December but the good news is that modifications we made to the sump pump discharge piping seem to have greatly reduced the amount of water coming back into the basement. We meet on Tuesday mornings from 10-noon for minor maintenance and repairs if you would like to join us.

We’re also still looking for more **volunteers to greet visitors and answer phones during office hours**. This is a wonderful way to serve the congregation and community while enjoying all the activity that goes on in and around our building throughout the week. If you’re interested, call the office or speak to any of the present volunteers.

Blessings,

Jacq Skeffington

Clerk’s Corner

Session held its monthly business meeting on December 13, with all members attending. Members previously submitted written reports for their areas of responsibility. After meeting with Ben and Nancy Tucker, session received them as members. Session finished its review of the membership roll and decided that no further deletions were necessary. At the request of the Personnel Committee, Barb Huff was appointed a committee member and Safe Conduct Policy Administrator. Also at the committee’s request, session made two changes to the Safe Conduct Policy: a revision to include office volunteers as “Ministers to the Congregation” and reinstatement of the requirement that candidates for “Minister to the Congregation” provide three personal references. Session set two dates – the Annual Congregational Meeting for January 21 and installation of elders and deacons on January 7. Finally, session approved a request for use of the Sanctuary, and clarified the payments that will be made to musicians.

Session discussed the 2018 budget at the December 13 meeting, but decided that this matter required a special meeting. That meeting was held on December 27, at which time a budget was adopted (the congregation will vote on the pastor’s terms of call at the Annual Meeting).

Bob Spangler, Clerk of Session

Hymnals

Our new Glory to God hymnals dedicated to the memory of Shirley Blake are a welcome addition to our sanctuary. However, some of you have noted that sometimes it is hard for everyone to be able to see one of the hymnals if the pew is crowded. If you would like to help purchase more (they are \$20 each), you may offer to purchase one or more and a donation plate with your name will be placed in the hymnal. Simply place a check or cash in the offering plate with a notation that the money is to go toward hymnals. At the end of January we will order more.

Calendar

January 2018

(all events at VPC unless otherwise stated)



Jan

- 6 Bible Study 10 am
- 7 Prayer Service 8:30 am
- 7 Christian Formation Class 9 am
- 7 Sunday Worship Service 10 am (Communion Service)
- 9 Deacon's Meeting 3:00 pm
- 10 Session Meeting 6:30 pm
- 14 Prayer Service 8:30 am
- 14 Christian Formation Class 9 am
- 14 Sunday Worship Service 10 am
- 16 Presbytery 5:00 pm Mercer Island Presbytery
- 19 VPC Book Club 6:30 pm at Skeffington's
- 20 Bible Study 10 am
- 21 Prayer Service 8:30 am
- 21 Christian Formation Class 9 am
- 21 Sunday Worship Service 10 am
- 21 Annual Congregational Meeting after Worship
- 28 Prayer Service 8:30 am
- 28 Christian Formation Class 9 am
- 28 Sunday Worship Service 10 am

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

Prayer Group meets Wednesdays at

1:30 pm at the Vashon Community Care Center.

Fellowship Breakfast meets at Sporty's at 9 am on Tuesdays.

Bible Study meets the 1st and 3rd Saturdays.

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