

# Vashon Presbyterian Church

Vashon Island, Washington 98070

Listening to God, embracing all, living in joy



## April 2018 Newsletter

He is Risen!



He is Risen Indeed!

### Holy Week Services Inspire

Services during Holy Week were well attended and provided study, prayer, guidance and the opportunity to draw closer to God. The early evening Taize services at VPC provided a quiet time to pause and be still to listen for where the Lord was leading. The Maundy Thursday service at VUMC church brought together members of both congregations to receive communion in observation of the first time Jesus shared the New Covenant with his disciples. The Good Friday Tenebrae Service at VPC was a simple, solemn service with readings and harp-accompanied song. Many rugged souls ventured out at 6:45 AM on Easter morning for the sunrise service at Camp Burton followed by the 10 AM traditional Easter Morning Service. **The joy of Easter was shared by all!** Most of our church family contributed in some way during this time, either by leading Lenten classes, preparing food, providing music or flowers and just being present worshipping and praying together. We look forward to the upcoming 'living out' of the Easter season.

### April Dates

<u>Bible Study</u>	4/7, 4/21
<u>Book Club</u>	4/27
<u>IFCH Meal</u>	4/26
<u>Heindsmann Scholarship Due</u>	4/26



**Daffodills Planted by the Cub Scouts  
Beautify the Church Grounds!**

Dear Ones of Vashon,

Now what? What's next? We have journeyed through Lent and Holy Week and now Easter Sunday is also behind us so now what? What does it mean to be an Easter people in this day and time and in this place? These are the questions I have been wrestling with on this morning after Easter. As we talked about on Sunday, the women who went to the tomb that morning left the tomb in terror and amazement, initially silent. But as we also discussed, they didn't stay silent forever because you and I are here today, beneficiaries of their eventual ability to go and tell.

Over the next few weeks leading to Pentecost, we remain in the liturgical season of Easter and we'll be talking about and looking for ways in which we are each called to go and tell. It's part of the work that we are called into as we wrestle with the art of being church together.

We'll be working through the lectionary texts for the Easter season, coming alongside of the disciples and allowing them to come alongside us. We will talk about and remember that flawed, failed human beings leaned into love and through their eventual ability to go and tell, this incredible love story spread throughout the world.

So, now what? What's next? What DOES it mean to be an Easter people? Let's keep talking with one another about that, working through scripture and working through this common life together. Let's figure it out in community and continue to live into it in community. Being in community with one another, being honest about who we are and where we struggle is a critical part of being sisters and brothers in Christ. I continue to be so grateful to be in this journey with you and growing together as God's very own. And, having just experienced my first Easter as your pastor, I'm very sure of one thing...you will lean into and live into love and grace in tangible ways. And through that love, you will go and tell that The Lord Is Risen and love really does win. Alleluia!

Grace and Peace,  
Leigh



# Mission Resource Team News

## Area of Responsibility

Financial stewardship,  
Building and Grounds.

### Finance

Once again we met our income goals for the month in March and are about \$940 ahead of our budget for the year to date. It is your continued generosity that allows us to continue our mission in this community.

The contribution to One Great Hour of Sharing came in last Sunday but I don't have a total yet. We received \$325 in checks and so much coinage that it took two strong men to carry the donation basket to the counting room. It will take a few more days to count and wrap all the coins.

I've included a graphic in this report that summarizes our actual financial activity against the budget for the first quarter of the year

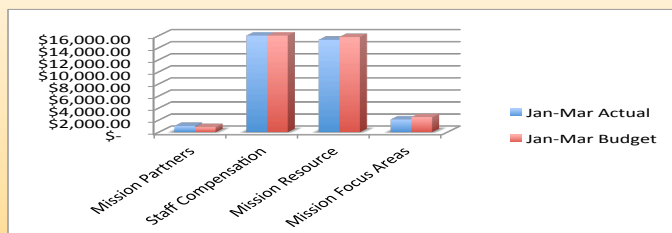
*Jim Lilje, Mission Resource Elder*

Income	Jan-Mar Actual	Jan-Mar Budget	Over/(Under) Budget
Unrestricted	\$ 36,985.85	\$ 36,045.78	\$ 940.07
Restricted	\$ 1,982.16	\$ 980.00	\$ 1,002.16
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 38,968.01</b>	<b>\$ 37,025.78</b>	<b>\$ 1,942.23</b>



**First Quarter Income (Budget vs Actual)**

Expenses	Jan-Mar Actual	Jan-Mar Budget	Over/(Under) Budget
Mission Partners	\$ 1,006.68	\$ 827.00	\$ 179.68
Staff Compensation	\$ 15,996.74	\$ 16,000.00	\$ (3.26)
Mission Resource	\$ 15,291.11	\$ 15,749.46	\$ (458.35)
Mission Focus Areas	\$ 2,095.91	\$ 2,477.00	\$ (381.09)
	\$ 34,390.44	\$ 35,053.46	\$ (663.02)
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$ 4,577.57</b>	<b>\$ 1,972.32</b>	<b>\$ 2,605.25</b>



**First Quarter Expenses (Budget vs Actual)**

## Mission Resource Team News

### Area of Responsibility

Financial stewardship,  
Building and Grounds.

### Building and Grounds

The Mission: to be good stewards of the physical assets God has entrusted to this congregation through conscientious routine repairs and maintenance as well as carefully planned (& funded) major capital expenditures.

Thanks to all who attended the work party Saturday, March 24<sup>th</sup>. The entrances to the church look great. Now with the return of sunlight and warmer weather we'll have to continue trimming the shrubbery and weeding those flower beds. If you'd like to get more involved by "adopting" a flower bed or area which you can maintain whenever the Spirit moves you, please see me after worship or in the office any Tuesday and we can explore possibilities together. I can also use some help inside repainting bathrooms and the "joyful noise room".

As some of you know, we found the furnace dedicated to heating the sanctuary not working during that work party. YIKES, the day before Palm Sunday!!!! Thanks for your flexibility in moving our Palm Sunday worship service to the Social Hall. A very special "thank you" also goes to PSE. Repair technicians from PSE spent ½ a day Monday and another ½ a day Tuesday diagnosing and repairing the problem. The good news is heat was restored in time for the Taize service and Chorale rehearsal Tuesday evening. The bad news is that the repair is only temporary due to the age of the furnaces. I'll seek Session approval to replace both furnaces this summer. As pointed out in our "Town Hall" discussion, Session has set aside money for major facilities repairs which will allow us to start replacement as soon as possible. Additionally some members of the congregation have already approached me to organize a fundraising campaign to replace the heating system and restore the facilities repair fund in preparation for the next major repair. That truly seems to resonate with good stewardship from the whole congregation and friends.

*Blessings, Jacq Skeffington, Mission Resource Elder*

## Worship Team News

### Area of Responsibility

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

**The worship team** works with the pastor and musicians to help create an inspiring service each week. We oversee the sanctuary and decor. We would like your opinion on the services.

What do you think about the use of technology in worship services?

Interactive services, Church Brunch, or do you prefer traditional worship services?

Do you have other suggestions? You may email the office or drop off your ideas at the church office.

*Brownie Carver, Worship Elder*

## Faith Formation Team News

### Area of Responsibility

Bible study, Christian formation (all ages).

**Faith Formation Class** A new class will be starting on Sunday April 15<sup>th</sup> at 9am. We will be focusing on peace and justice. We will be using the book Interrupting Silence - God's Command to Speak Out by Walter Brueggemann as a resource. Books are available at the church and cost \$10. Please contact Al or Leigh.

*Al Ross-Weston Faith Formation Elder*

## Purposeful Service Team News

### Area of Responsibility

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

**We are looking for IFCH hosts for the Tuesday and Thursday night dinners at our church.** The hosts would represent the church and report back any problems. The hosts would also oversee the volunteers and paid staff on cleanup. This should not be a difficult or time consuming job. Our church needs a representative at the meals. For more information or to volunteer call Brownie at 206-795-6488. Thank you!

*Elder Brownie Carver, VPC's IFCH Rep.*

**One Great Hour of Sharing** The One Great Hour of Sharing was such a success we are still not finished counting the coins as of the printing of this newsletter! We will post the total on the bulletin board and in the enews when we are done. Thank you for your overwhelming support!!

### **Heindsmann Scholarship Application Deadline**

Only two people have picked up the Heindsmann scholarship application from the office. If you are interested in applying or know of someone who would qualify – note the **deadline of 2 PM Thursday, April 26**. This scholarship is open to those individuals who are currently enrolled in a program of higher learning or are returning after an absence. It is not open to high school seniors.

There will be no Purposeful Service Team meeting in April.

*Elizabeth Loveness, Purposeful Service Elder*

## Hospitality/Fellowship Team News

### Area of Responsibility

Hospitality, Fellowship

**Thank you!** It has been a very busy time for the Hospitality/Fellowship Team! I have an enormous amount of gratitude for the enthusiastic and faithful members of our team. **Brownie Carver, Susan Commeree, Jo Goforth, Barb Huff, Nancy Johnson, Sheryl Lehman, Diana Lilje, Bev Skeffingotn, Kate Smith, Here Thieme, Myrtle Walls, Laura Jean Walls-Fisher, and Sue Weston** have baked pies, contributed to seminar and church brunches, and worked to make Easter brunch and the Egg Hunt fun for everyone. Thanks to these ladies and also to our ad-hoc members **Paul Blake, Thomas Abraham, Jim Huff, Jacq Skeffington and George Thieme** who helped greatly when it was time for “clean up”. We also welcome our newest member Nancy Tucker when she returns from their travels.

**Coming Up** Going forward we will be planning more delicious coffee hours and prioritizing some the activities from our earlier brainstorming list. Some of the ideas are: fellowship dinners, movie nights, dinner by our island Syrian family caterers, outings to Chorale, Garden Tour, Drama Dock, or nature walks. These are among the ideas so far. We are just considering these and others, so let me know your preferences soon. New suggestions are welcome too.

**VPC Book Club** Book Club meets on the 4<sup>th</sup> Friday this month, April 27<sup>th</sup>. The gathering will be at 6:30 PM at the Spangler's. The book selection is The Bad-Ass Librarians at Timbuktu by Joshua Hammer.

*Elizabeth Loveness, Hospitality Elder*

## Deacon's Letter

### “Lord, show us how to show your love to each other”

One way to let God's love flow through you to others is by showing love thru intent, attention and interest in what is being said. Have you ever tried to talk to someone who is fiddling with a cell phone while you are trying to talk to them? Do you feel like they are really listening to you with interest or attention? Does it feel like their own interest and attention is wandering back and forth between the cell phone and what you have to say to them? They may even glance up at you from the phone once in a while. If you have you ever tried to follow a TV program or movie but constantly been interrupted you know how hard it is to keep track of the plot or details of the program.

If, when you are talking to someone, especially if what they are trying to say to you is important to them, then look at them and show that you are listening with both your heart and head. By being encouraging and patient in manner you give them time to express thoughts and ideas that bring them closer to you and to the love of God. Two heads are indeed “better than one”. Actually three heads because God is with both of you in this conversation. You may be able to do no more than just listen but that can often comfort and encourage them.

At our recent Pie Day celebration I was talking to 6 children from the downstairs preschool. Watch children when they are really listening. We were talking about age and counting. One child proclaimed that she could count very high, even to 50. I focused, as did the other children on her, as she started to count. She made it proudly all the way to 25 before she stutter to a stop. We all applauded and it was clear that she felt appreciated and happy because we had focused and listened to her. Our listening was important to her but it was also important to the other children because then shared in the warmth of her success.

Our days are busy but my prayer is “Lord, show me how to show your love by really listening to others.”

*Sue Weston- Deacon*

## Memorial Planning

During the four-week session on end of life planning, Pastor Leigh distributed a form for participants to use to identify their desires for a memorial service. Planning ahead for a memorial service will ensure that, during a stressful time, family and friends know what their loved ones desired for a public gathering in their honor. These forms are available to all in the VPC community, and completed forms will be treated as confidential and kept in a locked cabinet. The form can be obtained from an office volunteer during office hours (Monday through Thursday, 10 am to 2 pm).

# Seen and Heard

## “Fun was Had by All”



## Calendar for April 2018

(all events at VPC unless otherwise stated)



### April

- 1 Sunrise Easter Worship 6:45 AM Camp Burton
- 1 Easter Sunday Worship Service 10 AM (communion service)
- 5 Session Meeting 6:30 PM
- 7 Bible Study 9 AM
- 8 Morning Prayer Service 8:30 AM
- 8 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM
- 10 Deacon's Meeting 3:30 PM
- 15 Morning Prayer Service 8:30 AM
- 15 Faith Formation Class 9:00 AM
- 15 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM
- 21 Bible Study 10 AM
- 22 Morning Prayer Service 8:30 AM
- 22 Faith Formation Class 9:00 AM
- 22 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM
- 26 Heindsmann Scholarship Applications Due 2 PM
- 27 Book Club at 6:30 PM at the Spangler's
- 29 Morning Prayer Service 8:30 AM
- 29 Faith Formation Class 9:00 AM
- 29 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM

### ONGOING ACTIVITIES

*The Prayer Group Wednesdays at  
1:30 pm at the Vashon Community Care Center*  
*Fellowship Breakfast at Sporty's at 9:00 am on Tuesdays.*  
*Bible Study meets the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday 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.