

J U L Y 2 0 1 8

Vashon Presbyterian Church

Vashon Island, Washington 98070

Listening to God, embracing all, living in joy



July 2018 Newsletter

VPC Summer Event Schedule

July 17

Seattle Presbytery at VPC

July 21st

Strawberry Festival
Parking/Chairs Fundraiser
Art Exhibit

July 16 – August 28

Greet and Meets
At Various Homes

July 29

Joint Worship with VUMC

July 29

Summer Supper

August 4th

VPC Yard Sale

August 12th

Mary's Place
Worship and Picnic

August 13th -17th

VBS at Bethel Evangelical

Coming This Summer

VPC Hosts Seattle Presbytery

“Roll out the red carpet” to greet our visitors from the mainland! (That’s a pun for the carpet committee). We will be hosting around 100 guests on July 17th. Some will arrive early to explore the island. Then there will be a catered dinner before the regular meeting. Thanks to all who signed up to help host this important event. It will be a great evening. More details p 3.

Art Exhibit at VPC

Vary unique and wonderful wooden fish sculptures on display in our Great Hall Gallery. For more details see article p 8.

Strawberry Festival Parking

Our Festival fundraiser is July 21st. If you want to reserve parking/chairs, please contact beverlyskeffington@gmail.com or call 206/354-8921. See article in Purposeful Service News p 3.

Greet and Meets

Many members have opened their homes for casual fellowship this summer. Check out the “Greet and Meet” table in the entry hall. For more details see Hospitality News p 3.

Summer “Thanksgiving” Supper July 29

All church supper – a thank you to all of our church family and friends. See Hospitality News for details p 3.

Dear Ones of Vashon,

I keep a wall hanging in my office from Psalm 139, “I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.” I like keeping that verse close to me because it’s both such a beautiful truth and so very hard for me to keep in my heart. I suspect I’m not alone in this struggle and that most of us let the truth of being “wonderfully made” slip through our thoughts too easily. Yet, scripture tells us, time and again, that we are wonderfully made, made in God’s Image, that God is mindful of us and that we are wholly loved.

We live in turbulent times these days, in a world in desperate need of grace. Remembering that we are wonderfully made and that we share this planet with others who are also wonderfully made is important. This summer we are finishing up our sermon series on the Gospel of Mark and we’ve consistently seen how the disciples stumble along behind Jesus. There is nothing graceful about their walking this story, they stumbled and misunderstood, not once but often. I imagine they had a hard time knowing they were wonderfully made as well.

I believe our call as individuals and as the church is to share the grace of God with the world around us, to hold that all those in our world are wonderfully made. I see you doing this so consistently, welcoming so many groups through our doors and with your presence in our community. This month we will welcome the Seattle Presbytery for its July meeting. I have no doubt how gracious and kind they will find this congregation to be and I’m delighted to watch my colleagues experience your hospitality.

Where is God showing up for you? How do you hold onto the truth that you are wonderfully made? And where are you these days? As always, I’d love to connect with you and hear about what’s going on in your life. We’ll be working together as a congregation in morning worship during the month of August to be in deeper conversation with one another too.

As always, I am so very grateful to be in ministry with you...God is at work, as God always is.

Grace and Peace,
Leigh



Purposeful Service News

Area of Responsibility

Scholarship, Mary Magdalene partnership, IFCH dinners, mission partner relations

Heidsmann Scholarship The two recipients of the Heidsmann Scholarship were presented to the congregation on June 24th. They are Mai Lin Olmstead and Amanda Willing. Both received \$1,000. Amanda is the daughter of Laura Jean Walls Fisher and the granddaughter of Myrtle Walls.

Strawberry Festival July 21,22 Festival parking and chairs will be offered again this year from our church to the community. It is by reservation only, so please be sure to reserve your parking space and chairs by contacting Beverly Skeffington at beverlyskeffington@gmail.com or 206/354-8921. We can use help getting the chairs moved on Friday, July 20, time TBD and setting them out very early in the morning of Saturday July . We can always use help with both the parking and the chairs prior to the parade as well.

Mary's Place Picnic This year, our worship and picnic with the women of Mary's place will take place on Sunday, **August 12th**. Worship will begin at about 10am with lunch following. As usual, lots of help is needed for this event: transporting the women from the ferry and back to the ferry, ferry tickets, potluck dishes, setting up and cleaning up. We are partnering with the Methodist Church on this and hope the Church of the Holy Spirit will also be supporting this effort. More details to follow as we get closer to the date.

Purposeful Service Team will meet via the internet in the month of July. If interested in being on the team contact Liz (206) 409-5741 or elizabeth.loveness@gmail.com.

Elizabeth Loveness, Purposeful Service Elder

Hospitality/Fellowship Team News

Areas of Responsibility

Hospitality, Fellowship

VPC Hosting Seattle Presbytery Meeting July 17th
On July 17th our church will be hosting the Seattle Presbytery. People will be arriving in the afternoon. We may have as many as 100 guests! There will be a dinner that evening catered by the Presbytery and served by us. Because it will be on a Tuesday, the IFCH regular dinner guests will be asked to join in. See Liz if you'd like to help.

Summer "Thanksgiving" Supper July 29th
The Hospitality/Fellowship group is hosting an evening of fun, food and fellowship July 29th. This is a time for thanking all in our church and their friends who have so freely given of themselves and their resources over the past year. Indulge in a lighthearted evening of fellowship. Friends welcome! Bring a friend and enjoy a prepared seasonal supper, courtesy of the Hospitality Committee. Hors d'oeuvres and supper will be served in the Social Hall. During the event, we will play table games in (mostly) friendly competition. Your presence will help make this evening a success, so mark your calendar and join the fun.

Greet and Meets Greet and Meet sign-up sheets are on the info table in the greeting room. You can just sign up and show up! It's a great way to gather in smaller groups and get to know one another better. Hope to see you at several of these gatherings this summer!

Elizabeth Loveness, Hospitality Elder

VPC Book Club Book club meets at the home of Elizabeth Loveness on July 13, 6:30 to discuss Deep River by Shusaku Endo. A potluck supper will be served before the discussion. See the complete list of upcoming book selections on p. 5.

Elder Al Ross Weston

Mission Resource

Team News

Area of Responsibility

Financial Stewardship
Building and Grounds

Finance I'm pleased to report that the church finances are in good shape as we complete the first half of 2018. Donations have come in at higher rate than we budgeted, with regular offerings about \$1865 higher than projected and donations from building users about \$4250 ahead of projections. In addition, our expenses are slightly less than we budgeted. As a result, we are well in the black for the year to date. Thank you everyone for your generous support of VPC.

As the name implies, the Furnace Fund was set up to raise money for the replacement of the ancient and failing furnaces in the old church building. We set out to raise \$10,000 for this purpose. When we learned that matching funds were available from Presbytery for Capital repairs such as this, your Session decided to keep the \$10,000 fund raising goal and to use some of money to replace the 50 year old carpet in the sanctuary. As of this last Sunday we have raised \$6970! We are almost there! This was done without any noticeable decrease in general fund giving. Once more, thank you all for your generous support.

Jim Lilje, Mission Resource Elder (Finances)

Building and Grounds Summer is here. Our dogwood tree is covered with new growth and if you look closely, a few blossoms. I'm sure it will look wonderful at our annual yard-sale scheduled for August 4th. Don't forget to start putting aside your treasures for that! We'll start accepting donated treasures in the last week of July, after hosting the Presbytery. There will be more info about the yard-sale in the weekly eNews.

The "Toolbelts" continue to make minor repairs thanks to the help of Chris Coldeen and Phil Yunker. Recently we stained the front door and removed the rubber baseboard trim in the bathrooms in the new addition. We plan to paint and install wood trim which will stand up better in there. We've got a list of other repairs and improvements to

Continued from previous column...

accomplish this summer so join the "Toolbelts" any Tuesday between 10 and 12 to help out.

We've had additional bids to replace the sanctuary furnaces driving the cost down considerably. Session is extremely grateful that we've raised over \$6,000 so far and some others have told me they still intend to contribute. That's more than enough to cover the bid we received from Cummings Heating and Air Conditioning in University Place so we've contracted with them to begin installation July 18th.

Thanks to a very generous offer by Mike Donnelly to provide high quality carpet at cost and good prospects of a grant from the Presbytery of Seattle, we're also moving forward on replacing the carpet in the Sanctuary as a part of this expanded Sanctuary renovating project. Session will take the input we've received from you and decide on the color and style at our next meeting. We need to place our order as soon as possible with a hope to have it installed by early September. In order to keep cost down, we plan to remove the old carpet ourselves. If you'd like a piece of the old carpet as a memento, join us at the work party at a date TBD. I imagine it will be a day to remember!

As I said earlier, we are still accepting donations to this expanded Sanctuary renovating project.

Donations may be placed in the decorative "chimney pipe" on the table in the reception area, dropped off in the church office Monday through Thursday between 10-2, or mailed to Vashon Presbyterian Church, P.O. Box 435, Vashon, Wa. 98070. Checks should be earmarked FURNACE FUND.

Blessings,

Jacq Skeffington, Mission Resource Elder

**Time to start Putting items aside for
the
VPC yard sale August 4**



Invitation and Outreach Team News

Area of Responsibility

New Members and Discipleship,
Evangelism and Invitation.

VPC Art Exhibit

Volunteers Needed! VPC is putting together an Art Exhibit to be displayed in the Great Hall concurrent with Strawberry Festival, July 21-23 and needs your help. Many will recall an exhibit of Claire Green's works here a few years ago. This exhibit will follow the same approach as Claire's and build on its success. Larry, Thomas and Mica, a young island artist who has volunteered to help, are leading this effort. Mica has reached out to other young artists who do not have their works presently displayed in island galleries but show artistic promise. **Plus, George's creative expressions of fish will be displayed!**

Events like this take a group effort to bring off. Please sign up on the volunteer sign-up sheet in the East Room if you'd like to be on the team or let Larry or Thomas know you want to help. It will be fun! Also, contact Larry or Thomas if you know a candidate you'd like to be considered for the event. Thanks.

Larry Commeree, Invitation and Outreach Elder



Faith Exploration Team News

Area of Responsibility

Bible study, Christian formation (all ages)

Adult education will resume in the fall.

VBS August 13-17 Place: Bethel Church, 14736 Bethel Lane SW, Vashon, WA 98070
Time: 9:30am – 1:00pm
Cost: \$25 per child, or \$50 per family
Contact: Alice Dorr 206-463-4743
(home) aliceandruss@hotmail.com

Al Ross Weston, Faith Exploration Elder

Worship Team News

Area of Responsibility

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

We are pleased that **Bruce Baker** will preach on July 22nd while Leigh is on vacation.

The Methodist Church will join our service on July 29th.

August worship will look different!! Services will be held in the Great Hall while new carpet is being installed in our Sanctuary. Plans are being made to dress up the hall. Stay tuned!!!

Brownie Carver, Worship Elder

Deacon's News

Dear friends and family of VPC.

Even when we know that God loves and cares for us, life can sometimes be scary and discouraging. There are times when we wonder; "how can I cope, what do I do next or where do I go for help?"

Part of the role of the deacons is to help you in any way that we can. Not just with our prayers and encouragement, although that is vital but also in more tangible ways. We may have suggestions of possible organizations or services on the island that offer help for particular problems. Or we may know of a phone number where you can go for help? We can help you solve meal problems or transportation off island medical problems. There are many groups on the island that offer support emotionally as well as physically.

You are not alone. Reach out to us and we will be with you. Our church is a family that seeks to love and care for each other. Let us help you to connect with, and help each other. There is nothing we can't do as long as we depend on God and each other.

***VPC Deacons - Lindsay Hofman, Sheryl Lehman,
Sue Weston, Myrtle Walls***

Clerk's Corner

Session met on June 7 with all but one members present. Lindsay Hofman attended on behalf of the deacons to report on their activities, and to convey the need for additional deacons. Session discussed the proposals for replacing the furnaces and carpet, and also reviewed VPC's activities in connection with hosting the July Presbytery meeting. No formal actions were needed on those issues, or with respect to changing the July meeting date due to its proximity to the holiday. The final version of the session covenant was approved. During discussion of members' written team reports, session addressed plans for Strawberry Festival, Creative Preschool's proposal to build a deck and a proposed all-church dinner this summer.

Bob Spangler, Clerk of Session

VPC Book Selections for Rest of the Year

July	<u>Deep River</u> Shusako Endo
Aug	<u>Collected Poems of Wilfred Owens</u> Wilfred Owens
Sep	<u>Turtles All the Way Down</u> John Green
Oct	<u>Bobby Kennedy</u> Chris Matthews
Nov	<u>Souls in the Hands of a Tender God</u> Craig Rennebohm
Dec	<u>Small Great Things</u> Jodi Picoult
Jan	<u>The Home Going</u> Yaa Gyasi

Al Ross Weston

This covenant was written and committed to by the Session members:

COVENANT

As the session, elected by this congregation, we are called to love people and value them as unique beings of sacred worth. We covenant to observe biblical standards in the ways that we deal with each other and our faith and secular community at large. Specifically, we promise to:

- commit to transparency in our personal interactions and dealing directly with each other in times of disagreement
- provide safety and sanctuary for everyone
- be discrete as to what and how we disclose information, especially as to electronic publications
- value all with whom we deal, honoring diversity, change, and differing positions
- assume that each of us acts with the best of intentions to carry out the ministry of our church even though we may disagree as to particulars
- strive for synergy, the interaction of elements that when combined produce a total effect that is greater than the sum of the individuals

As children of a gracious and astonishing God, we dare to extend a hand, go out of our way, and give of ourselves generously to others.

Happy Anniversary Lindsay and Dana!



George's Fish in VPC Exhibit

You don't want to eat one of George Thieme's fish. They're made of wood, with flat glass or plastic beads for eyes. Some have spikes, and big, sharp teeth. Some look like they live in deep, dark water, dangling a bioluminescent lip or tongue in front of their mouths to lure their dinner.

If George built or fixed up your home, chances are one of his fish-- most likely unpainted, without beads and baubles-- is lurking behind the drywall, or fixed to a wall stud, in the bones of the building. They're just part of the walls and roofs he's worked on, a little extra he adds. He doesn't advertise his work.

A few of the fish-- 30 or so-- are visible. Like the pair looking out on the water from the beams holding up the roof on the porch of the home of friends and clients on Maury Island. As for the rest-- some 250 piscine objects-- you probably don't want to tear up your house to see if you got one.

"Sometimes people whose homes I'm working on will ask me: 'Are you going to hide a fish in it?' Often, I don't know. Sometimes I go back when the owner calls me for more work, and then I hide a fish, without them knowing. Sometimes they catch me hiding it. If it was my choice, I would always hide the fish, but it's not my call."

Next month, when Vashon holds its annual Strawberry Festival, some of George's fish will grace the hallway at Vashon Presbyterian Church. One or two will hang from high beams. In addition, the church wants young and hitherto unexhibited artists to show their work in this gallery.

In August, the church may hold its Sunday morning worship in this art space, according to VPC pastor, the Rev. Leigh Weber. More walls could be hung with work by Vashon artists, if this year's show goes well, enhancing the church's community connection while bringing art further into its life. And fish were featured in recent Scripture readings and reflections.

George is understandably apprehensive about the show. In his 30's, disturbed sleep patterns gave way to terrifying dreams. His mentor, VPC's former minister Dr. John Neal, advised him to pray for safe dreams, dreams in which he could hear God speaking to him, giving him healing direction.

"So I started having fish dreams," George said.

And not just fish. He also dreams beforehand about the buildings he's going to work on, and sees his own hands hiding a fish in it. This is one reason he believes his dreams are divine. Quite naturally, it's uncomfortable for him to say this to people.

"I dreamt about this library I built," he says, looking up at the ceiling of the wood-paneled room where we spoke. "God calls me to make everything I make, not just the fish. I honor God by doing what God wants of me."

George says the prospect of showing his art is also scary because the fish and other objects that result from his dreams (he has made some spiral artifacts) are "not of me, they come from somewhere else, through me." When he dreams of one, it might take him years before he figures out how to represent it.

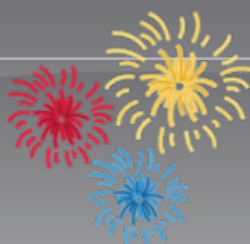
"It's not always clear at first, what the dream is saying. Many aspects are involved: healing, understanding, my relationship with God, with myself, with others. That's why it's private. I know what the fish mean. But I'm concerned what other people will think. I'm also concerned about notoriety. I don't think I want to be 'famous'."

Apart from screening video of his artwork at Vashon Theater some years ago, this will be George's first show. It's prompted by the death of Curt Cizek, who captained the boat George and seven other friends sailed the Pacific as they entered their 20s. In the French Polynesian island of Bora Bora, George met Héré, the woman he would marry.

He's acutely aware that Vashon Presbyterian is also Héré's faith community. A little later, Héré made it clear she supports George. "It's just that I don't want him to feel as if he needs my approval. He needs to put himself out there. He needs to walk his walk. It's his fish."

George hopes his fish will help people open up, when they learn how these marine dreams took tangible shape. "Maybe viewers will say 'Wow! I can see the hand of God working through you.' It won't feel so creepy then. It will bring it full circle, further my healing, close the loop in some way."

Interview written by Thomas Abraham



Calendar for July 2018

(all events at VPC unless otherwise stated)

July

- 5 Session Meeting 3 PM
- 7 Bible Study 10 AM
- 8 Morning Prayer Service 8:30 AM
- 8 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM (Communion Service)
- 10 Deacons Meeting 3 PM
- 13 VPC Book Club 6:30 PM at Loveness's
- 15 Morning Prayer Service 8:30 AM
- 15 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM
- 17 Seattle Presbytery Meeting at VPC
- 21 Bible Study 10 AM
- 21 VPC Art Exhibit
- 21 Strawberry Festival Parking Fundraiser - all day
- 22 Morning Prayer Service 8:30 AM
- 22 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM
- 29 Morning Prayer Service 8:30 AM
- 29 Joint Sunday Worship Service with Vashon Methodist 10 AM
- 29 Summer Supper 5 – 9 PM

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

Liturgy Group Monday Noon at VPC

Fellowship Breakfast Tuesday 9 am at Sporty's

Tool Belts Tuesday 10 – Noon at VPC

Bible Study meets 10 am 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.