

AUGUST 2018

Vashon Presbyterian Church

Listening to God, embracing all, living in joy



August 2018 Newsletter

VPC Late Summer Event Schedule

August 4th
VPC Yard Sale

August 12th
Mary's Place Worship

August 13th – 17th
Vacation Bible School

August 24th
VPC Book Club

August 19th & 26th
Worship in the Great Hall

August 5, 22, 29, Sept 2
Greet and Meets

VPC Annual Yard Sale: More Than a Fundraiser

Each summer we gather up items around our homes and garages and offer them for sale to the community to supplement our general fund. It's become a fun time of fellowship for our members and a time to reach out to the community and visit with our neighbors in town and visitors to the island who pass by. On a summer sunny day we say "hello" and "how are you doing?" to hundreds of islanders as members of our church sharing God's love. The personal connections made this day perhaps far outweigh the financial gain from the sale. So let's get ready for this coming Saturday and put out our "welcome" sign as well as our "for sale" signs. It's going to be a great day.

Hosting Seattle Presbytery

"We want to come back next summer". That was the consensus after a well received meeting of the Seattle Presbytery at VPC this July. Over 80 attendees made the trip to the island. Many came early to see Vashon. They explored such activities as the Heritage Museum exhibit on Japanese internment and a stop at Palouse Winery arranged by VPC. There was a worship service starting at 5 pm that many members of our congregation attended. Then the supper was served. 125 dinners were served to presbyters, IFCH diners, and those from VPC. After the supper many people drifted away and the business meeting began. Thanks to our whole congregation who came together and worked tirelessly to make the evening a great success!

Updates at VPC

There is soon to be a new carpet in the sanctuary. Also a much needed replacement of the two old furnaces was accomplished by our Mission Resource team. See p 3 for details.

Dear Ones of Vashon...

Once again, the summer is flying by, as summers do, especially in the Pacific Northwest. Summer is not a quiet season in the life of our congregation and this summer is proving itself to be full and rich, as do most seasons at VPC. Members of Seattle Presbytery were amazed by the hospitality and energy of our congregation. You not only hosted the July Stated Meeting of the Presbytery, you hosted many of our friends for a day of sabbath retreat on the island. And you did it so beautifully and seamlessly that they are coming back next July!

The Art Show for both Presbytery and Strawberry Festival drew over 250 visitors to our building. And Vashon Youth and Family was blessed with \$1,800 in donations from your work with parking and chairs for that Saturday's parade. It took the combined efforts of so many of you to make that work. Our Session has been talking about the value of synergy, the result of working together for something that none of us can do alone. You are living into that idea over and over again.

August will be filled with moving pews from the Sanctuary to the Social Hall in prelude to our new carpet. We'll worship the last two Sundays of August in the Great Hall as that process takes place. And we'll start off the month with the Annual VPC Yard Sale! All along the way, we'll experience more small group conversations at our summer Greet and Meet dinners and co-host with VUMC the women of Mary's Place for a morning worship and picnic at Ober Park.

Each and every morning our church kitchen is filled with folks from Vashon Food Bank who prepare lunch for around 150 kids in Ober Park. AA groups continue to meet upstairs, and the Preschool has been busy preparing their space downstairs with new flooring before they welcome a new class of little ones. And, despite the summer heat, we worked to prepare our building for winter with the installation of two new furnaces.

At VPC, the doors stay open as do your hearts, your minds and your spirits. And like the church in Ephesians, people have "heard of your faith and your love." As I continue to engage with the island, I continue to hear, "Your church is amazing, they are so welcoming to the community." And I totally agree. Look at all you have done, all you have accomplished just this summer! Others hear of your faith and your love. You live your faith and love in your actions. And what you have done together as sisters and brothers in Christ has preached the gospel of Jesus and his radical grace and love to all humankind far better than any sermon ever.

Grace to you, my friends, so much grace! And so much appreciation for the way in which you live your faith and live the love of Jesus Christ to all you meet. My prayer is that you continue to BE LOVE in this community and that you rest in the knowledge that the One who calls us also goes before us and prepares the way. So, let us go together with confidence into this next season! God is at work.

Grace, Peace, Love and so much respect,
Leigh

Mission Resource

Team News

Area of Responsibility

Financial stewardship
Building and Grounds

Thank you all for weeding, watering, picking up trash, mowing the lawn, setting up chairs and tables and the beautiful art display in the Great Hall prior to the Presbytery meeting on the 17th. We have received numerous responses about how beautiful the church looked and felt as well as how welcomed commissioners felt due to your hospitality during their visit.

We're accepting donations of goods for **our Annual Yard Sale** this week during office hours, 10-2. The Sale will be Saturday August 4th from 9-3. Please donate kitchen items, household goods, collectibles, arts & crafts, books, toys, puzzles, games, sports equipment, holiday items, linens, tools, building supplies, and furniture. We request no clothing or computers.

The "**Toolbelts**" continue to make minor repairs. We recently started installing the long awaited wooden baseboards in the new building bathrooms. Join the "Toolbelts" any Tuesday between 10 and 12 to help out.

On Wednesday and Thursday following the Presbytery meeting the **old furnaces were removed and new, more efficient Rheem furnaces were installed..** I'm not really wishing for a cold winter but I'll be interested to see how well they work and what a cost savings we'll experience.

Mike Donnelly informs me that the carpet we ordered is on a ship transiting the Atlantic from Ireland now. Once landed on the east coast it will be trucked to Seattle. The installers will then pick it up and get to work. As soon as I have a more definite timeline for installation, I'll pass it along. 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!**

Thank you for all the donations to the "Holy Smoke Furnace Fund Campaign". Those funds and any funds we receive from **the Presbytery will replenish the capital improvement funds set aside by Session** over the last two years for contingencies just like these.

Blessings,

Jacq Skeffington, Mission Resource Elder

Purposeful Service

Team News

Area of Responsibility

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

GEARING UP FOR MARY'S PLACE PICNIC

The Methodist Church and The Quakers are joining forces with VPC on August 4th, to provide a Sunday worship celebration and potluck lunch for our dear friends from Mary's Place. This is always a highlight of the summer and we look forward to it. It will be held at Ober Park and will begin at 10am with potluck following. We will be using the chairs from Ober Park this year, so we won't have to bring so many from our church. We will still need some help Sunday morning 8:30am to move dishes, kitchen equipment and chairs, to Ober Park. We also need drivers to provide a transfer from the ferry and then back again after the event is concluded. We are asking for some nice homemade picnic potluck dishes to be shared by all. It is our strong hope that this year we can integrate more fully with their group. I urge each one of you to get to know at least one of these women. Perhaps we can figure out a partnering of some sort as we go through the line for the food and dine with someone other than our church friends. We are seeking contributions for the ferry fare and the facility rental. Please be thinking about how you want to participate this year and share that with Beverly Skeffington.

THANKS FOR BEING WHO YOU ARE.....

We were able to raise \$1800 for Vashon Youth and Family Services with our Strawberry Festival Parking and Chairs. Lots of hands made it possible, and lots of goodwill was spread as we opened our doors for restroom use and a quiet place to get out of the heat for some serenity. The art exhibit was well received. Thanks to all who freely gave out smiles, answered a question or just loved the stranger in such a powerful way.

Beverly Skeffington, Purposeful Service Team

Faith Exploration Team News

Area of Responsibility

Bible study, Christian Formation (all ages)

VBS is scheduled for August 13 to 17 at Bethel Church. 60 kids signed up so far. Alice Dorr and representatives from the Bethel Church and the Catholic Church have done a good job. Contact Alice Dorr if you have questions.

All-Island Ecumenical Vacation Bible School for kids entering K - 5

Date: 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

The Adult Class is planning on studying the book Everybody Always by Bob Goff. Starting this fall. Details later.

New Members Class We are working on a New Members Class for this fall. If you are a “friend” of VPC and interested in joining or just interested in the development of the PC(USA) and VPC in particular, please let Pastor Leigh know.

Al Ross Weston, Faith Exploration Elder

Worship Team News

Area of Responsibility

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

August Worship On August 19th and 26th, we will have our worship services in the Great Hall. Come and join us for something a little different while our sanctuary is receiving a new carpet.

Brownie Carver, Worship Elder

Morning Prayer/New Worship Service

For almost a year now we have been having the Sunday morning Prayer Service. We begin at 8:30 am in the chapel and conclude by 9 am. This is a quiet time of morning prayer, periods of silence, singing and sharing. For those who have attended, it has become a time to pause, share our faith and concerns, and depart lovingly prepared for the day and week ahead. Questions? Talk with Pastor Leigh.

“In a world of noise, confusion and conflict it is necessary that there be places of silence, inner discipline and peace. In such places love can blossom.” -Thomas Merton

Hospitality/Fellowship

Team News

Area of Responsibility

Hospitality, Fellowship

Greet and Meets The Greet and Meets have been adding a special dimension to our summer at VPC. Amid all the fun and sense of purpose that touch our summer fundraisers, the Greet and Meets give the opportunity to be in a smaller, more intimate group that allows us to really get to know one another better. Thanks to our hosts and hostesses: Myrtle Walls, Liz Loveness, Brownie Carver, Nancy and Ben Tucker, Susan and Larry Commeree, Kathy Olsen, and Nancy and Jan VanRoessel. Most all of the times have been filled but thanks to Nancy and Jan VanRoessel a new day has been added. On September 2, they will host a picnic at their home complete with a vintage “summer covered picnic” area. The huge picnic table can accommodate 12 people or more. So if you haven’t gotten to attend one of these fun gathering (or even if you have) here is a perfect way to celebrate labor day weekend with some of your VPC friends. Sign up sheets are out during coffee hour.

Signup for Sunday Helpers Sunday is a day in which everyone can play a meaningful part in morning worship and fellowship. Ushers, flower providers, and coffee hour hosts put that extra special touch on our time together. The signup sheets are in the reception room.

Elizabeth Loveness, Hospitality Elder

August Book Club The VPC Book Club will meet this month at Kate Smith’s on August 24th. There will be a potluck at 6:30 before the discussion of The Collected Poems of Wilfred Owens. Join us!

Elder Al Ross Weston

Invitation and Outreach Team News

Area of Responsibility

New Members and Discipleship,
Evangelism and Invitation.

“Islanders’ Expressions” Art Exhibit

Well over 250 visitors came through VPC’s doors during Strawberry Festival last week, some seeking shelter from the heat, peace and quiet or a bathroom. But the majority came to see the Art Exhibit on display in VPC’s Great Hall featuring the works of Helen O. White, Ginger Krinsky and Mica Gaxiola-Morosoff and “anchored” by the creations of our very own George Thieme. Images of some items exhibited are shown on p 7.

A sample of observers’ comments: “What a wonderful space, so much light;” “Beautiful stained-glass window in the Sanctuary;” “Wow! I’ve never seen so much (secular) art in a church;” **“Best display in town this weekend.”**

Many thanks to the docents who welcomed visitors: Kate, Laura Jean, Sue, Susan and Larry and to Thomas and Larry for organizing the event.

We’re interested in hearing feedback from congregants, too. Please let Thomas, Larry or an elder know your thoughts or ideas.

Larry Commeree, Invitation and Outreach Elder

If you missed George’s Fish during Strawberry Festival (See p 7), they will adorn the Great Hall again August 19th and 26th for our Worship Services that will take place there. Not to be missed!

Clerks Corner

Session met on July 5 with all but one member attending. Written reports for the program areas had been distributed prior to the meeting. Members discussed Jacq's report on the furnace installation and carpet replacement, approved a carpet color and style and authorized the carpet expenditure. Session will request a Presbytery grant for part of the carpet cost. Also discussed were VPC's responsibilities for the July Seattle Presbytery meeting. The Nominating Committee reported that a potential deacon was available to serve; after discussion session set August 5th for a special congregational meeting for an election. Other committee reports were discussed briefly, especially as to the various *events scheduled for July and August*.

Bob Spangler, Clerk of Session



VPC raised \$1,800 with the Strawberry Festival Parking and Chairs to donate to Vashon Youth and Family Services.

Deacons News

Reflection for Tue July 10th
Always offer to help

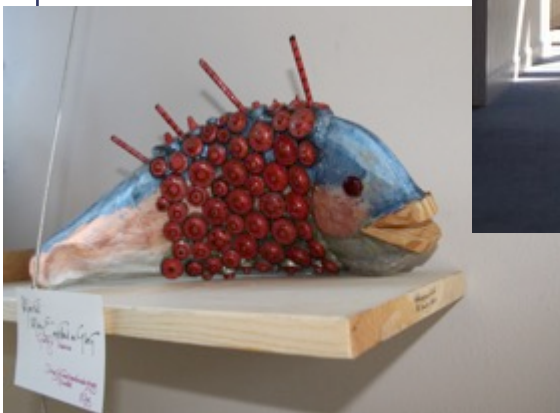
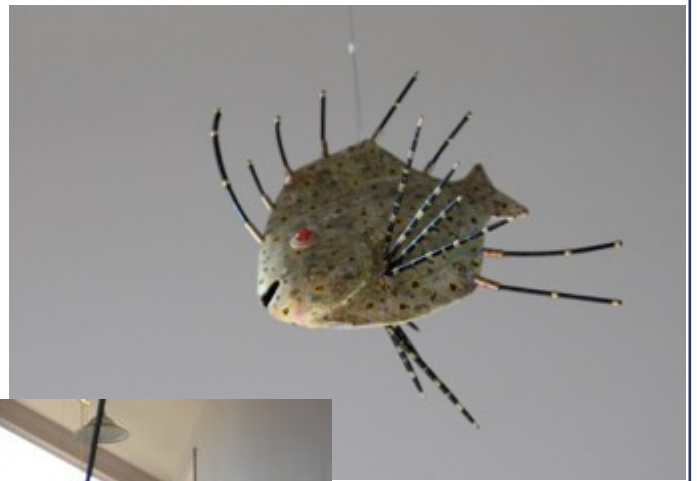
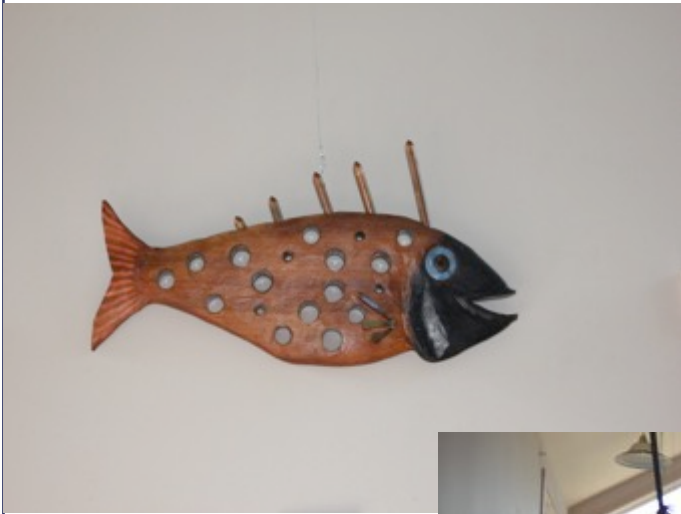
It is better to show love by asking "how can I help?" rather than waiting to be asked to help someone. To ask is to show love actively but to wait passively to be asked is to sometimes not help at all. People, even when they need help, hesitate to ask but will often welcome the approach of someone offering to help. Offering freely if you can help will make others feel visible, valued, and loved. If no one comes forward offering help there can be a feeling of aloneness or abandonment on the part of the person who is already feeling of little self worth because he has not been able to take care of problems by himself. So don't stay silent but reach out bravely to others when you see need or hurt.

We may not think what we have to say or do is going to be of enough value to someone else. I am reminded of that each time in church when someone says "I don't need a mike." If it is important for you to say what you want to say then; it is of value for every one to hear what you have to say. There may be someone out there for whom what you say is just what they need to hear.

In affect, when you do not speak up and ask someone if you can help them you are inferring that what you have to offer is not worth much. But for the person you are offering help to, you may have exactly the aid or encouragement they so badly need. So show love by bravely speaking up, when you see or sense that someone could use some help or encouragement.

VPC Deacons are Lindsay Hofman, Sheryl Lehman, Myrtle Walls and Sue Weston.

The Highlight of the VPC Art Exhibit, and for many.....the highlight of the summer!
George's Fish





VPC
welcomes
Seattle
Presbytery!

Over eighty
guests from
Seattle came to
Presbytery
Meeting. Many
came early to
explore the
island.



We served 125
dinners
including
Seattle guests,
IFCH diners
and our own
members who
attended the
worship
service.



Calendar for August 2018

(all events at VPC unless otherwise stated)

Aug

- 2 Session Meeting 3 PM
- 4 VPC Annual Yard Sale 9-3 PM
- 4 Bible Study 10 AM
- 5 Sunday Morning Prayer Service 8:30 AM
- 5 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM (Communion)
- 12 Mary's Place Worship/Picnic at Ober Park 10 AM
- 14 Deacon's Meeting 3 PM
- 19 Sunday Morning Prayer Service 8:30 AM
- 19 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM (In the Great Hall)
- 24 VPC Book Club at 6:30 PM at Kate Smith's
- 26 Sunday Morning Prayer Service 8:30 AM
- 26 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM (In the Great Hall)

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

Liturgy Group meets Mondays at Noon

Fellowship Breakfast meets Tuesdays at Sporty's at 9 AM

Toolbelts meets Tuesdays 10-Noon.

Bible Study meets the 1st and 3rd Saturdays at 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.