

O C T O B E R 2 0 1 8

# Vashon Presbyterian Church

Vashon Island, Washington 98070

Listening to God, embracing all, living in joy

## October 2018 Newsletter



### A Beautiful New Wall Sculpture at VPC

The name of the sculpture is "Seasons of the Church" and the original design was for a cloth banner that Kathy Olsen saw in a church supplies catalog years ago. Through the catalog, she was able to contact the person who designed the quilt. This artist sent more photos and gave Kathy permission to use the design for a metal version. Unfortunately, Kathy has lost the correspondence she had with the designer but is going to keep trying to track her down so she can get the credit due. Islander Bob Powell, Meadow Creature LLC, who used his OMAX waterjet machine to cut the sculpture, did the finishing. The piece was hung in the sanctuary by John Olsen and George Thieme. Our deep gratitude and thanks go out to Kathy and John for this beautiful gift to our church.

### Important Dates!

**World Communion Sunday**  
October 7<sup>th</sup>

**All Congregation Photo**  
October 7<sup>th</sup>

**Adult Education Class**  
October 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>

**Gratitude Supper**  
October 20<sup>th</sup>

**Tailgate Coffee Hour**  
October 21<sup>st</sup>

**VPC Book Club**  
October 26<sup>th</sup>

**Halloween Treats**  
October 31<sup>st</sup>

**Mental Health Forum:**  
**Ending the Silence**  
November 10<sup>th</sup>



Dear Ones of VPC,

When I was a little girl, about once every month or so, my family would go and visit my Granny. She was my great-grandmother, so I have no memory of her other than when she was older. Granny's bed was in her living room and the whole family would gather in there and talk with her where she had "taken to the bed" years before. Granny's house had a wood stove but didn't have indoor plumbing and it had a noticeable slant to the floor. I remember being able to sit against the wall and roll a ball away from me and watch it roll back.

I was still young when she died so I don't fully remember all of the conversations with her or my other relatives there, but I do remember knowing they were my family. I remember how she took my hand in hers and smiled at me. And I remember looking around the living room at the other people and knowing they were "my" people and I was theirs.

I suspect most of us have had those moments where we just know that people are "our" people. Last month, we finished up our Summer Greet and Meet dinners. And, as the summer progressed, and I had the opportunity not only to talk with you at these meals but to listen to and watch you with one another. I had that same feeling again, these are "my" people and I am theirs. And it's very clear that you all are each other's people, each other's family. And you are simply beautiful when you come together. There is a magical quality to your acceptance and love for each other and the way in which you honor one another's story.

So, it shouldn't surprise you to hear me say that I want to do it all over again next summer! Summer Suppers (that's the new name) because that's what family does, they gather around the table and know they fit. I wonder if the times when Jesus was with his disciples gathered around the table, talking with one another, sharing their stories, what they carried with them in life, I wonder if they didn't look around and know they were "his people." And I wonder if that's not part of why he looked around the table that night and left them with a way to remember him, in bread and wine.

Even though our Summer Supper gatherings have finished up for this year, we do still gather because of that night. We gather at a Table where we always fit, where we look around at "our" people. When we come to the Table we are reminded that he is ours and we are his.

I wonder what moments you have had where you just knew you belonged, where you knew you fit in. And I'd welcome hearing your stories of that feeling. I imagine that's part of God's desire for us when we take that bread and cup together, to know we fit. We begin October with Worldwide Communion Sunday and my prayer for us all is to know deeply that we do fit and that we are his and he is ours and that it is right and good that we come to the Table with one another.

Sisters and brothers, we are each other's people and I am so very grateful to watch your love at work. We are each other's people as we are God's very own. This is the good news of Jesus Christ.

Grace and Peace,

Leigh



**Hospitality/Fellowship  
Team News**  
Area of Responsibility  
Hospitality, Fellowship

**Gratitude Supper** Join your church family for a relaxing, evening meal and lots of fun Saturday, October 20<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm. You don't need to bring anything. Appetizers and a light supper will be served. A fun trivia competition between tables will stimulate our aging (maturing) minds. Pastor Leigh and the Session would like to say thank you to everyone who has dedicated time, funds and energy to the real work of carrying out our mission here on Vashon.

**Tailgate Coffee Hour** Come join the VPC Tailgate Party on October 21<sup>st</sup> The Seahawks bye week this year is 10/21. Wear your College (or pro) T-shirt or sweatshirt to church. Bring your favorite tailgate dish so everyone can enjoy it during coffee hour.

We will have **Lunch Bunch** in the social hall this month.

**VPC Book Club** Book Club meets October 26<sup>th</sup> at the home of Barb and Jim Huff. Meet at 6:30 PM for a potluck. The book selection this month is Bobby Kennedy by Chris Matthews.

**Purposeful Service  
Team News**  
Area of Responsibility  
Scholarship, Mary Magdalene Weekend,  
IFCH Dinners, Mission Partner Relations

**Purposeful Service Team** Purposeful Service Team invites new members. Join us for our fall planning meeting, date to be announced. We'd like new faces and fresh ideas!

**IFCH** VPC will be responsible for the meal Oct 25<sup>th</sup>  
*Elizabeth Loveness, Purposeful Service Elder*

**Worship  
Team News**  
Area of Responsibility  
Sacraments Celebration, Music Program,  
Lay Leaders, Ecumenical worship,  
Church Décor.

**Sanctuary Update** Our sanctuary is beautifully refreshed with new carpet and a fabulous hanging steel sculpture on the back wall. I hope all of you have had an opportunity to visit, worship and to be inspired by these new additions. Thank you again to our carpet crew who moved furniture, pulled out the old carpet, and cleaned. The steel sculpture is a gift from Kathy and John Olsen. We are grateful for their generosity, vision, and talent.

**Dates to Remember**

**October 6th and 20th:** Bible study at 10:00 am in the library.

**October 7th:** World Communion Sunday

*Brownie Carver, Worship Elder*

**Faith Exploration  
Team News**  
Area of Responsibility  
Bible study, Christian formation (all ages)

**The Sunday morning Adult Class** will begin a four week study of Praying the Psalms by Walter Brueggemann. It will begin on Sunday October 14<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am in the church library. Books can be obtained for \$14 from Leigh or the office. There is also a cheaper kindle version available. Al will facilitate the class. All are invited!

**Book Club Selections Coming Up**

- Oct. Bobby Kennedy
- Nov Souls in the Hands of a Tender God
- Dec. Maya Angelou ( Books about or by her)

*Al Ross Weston, Faith Exploration Elder*

**Mission Resource**  
**Team News**  
**Area of Responsibility**  
 Financials  
 Building and Grounds

**Financial Report**

**I'm pleased to report that we are on budget** for the year to date, both for expenditures and income. Keep it up.

The projects to repair the furnaces and replace carpet in the Sanctuary and Upper Room are complete. The total cost was \$30,377.14. The "Furnace Fund" has raised \$7,651.62 to date and the Seattle Presbytery gave us a grant of \$14,900. The balance of \$7825.52 came from our Capital Repairs fund. This was actually less than we had anticipated and I recently transferred nearly \$800 from the General Fund back to Capital Repairs.

With October's payment **our mortgage will dip below the \$50,000 mark.** It will be totally paid off in another four years by just making the minimum monthly payments. The day when we can "burn" the mortgage is in sight.

Finally, the Session will take up the **2019 budget** starting this month. If you have any input for us, please let one of the elders know.

*Jim Lilje, Mission Resource, Financial Elder*

**Buildings and Grounds**

September was another very busy month for us. We managed to get our **new carpet** installed in the sanctuary and upstairs meeting room and get the pews moved back into the sanctuary in time to worship there September 2<sup>nd</sup>, as planned. Thanks for all your help. I've heard many, many favorable remarks about the "feel" of the Sanctuary. We've also had a chance to use our **new furnaces** on a couple of chilly mornings and many have been impressed with how quickly the building now heats up when the furnaces are utilized. We should also see a substantial reduction in our utilities bill.

*Continued in 2<sup>nd</sup> Column*

Classes are in full swing in both **Creative Preschool** and **Carpe Diem Primary School**. The sound of children's voices is music to the ears of the office volunteers and there is a noticeable excitement in the air with many new children in each school. I was just down in the preschool Tuesday and one of the toddlers remarked "I know you! You gave me an Otter Pop!"

**Creative Preschool parents** have also been busy **erecting a gazebo** in the courtyard between the sanctuary and social hall. They plan to use it as a covered outdoor learning center for the preschoolers.

The "**Toolbelts**" still have plenty of work to do. I'll be away the first week in October so we'll take a break, but upon my return we'll have to check the sediment level in the parking lot catch basins and clean them out if necessary in order to receive a discount on our property taxes for next year. We'll also need to resume cleaning the gutters as local trees begin to drop their leaves and needles. So please join us Tuesday mornings from 10-12.

Blessings,

*Jacq Skeffington, Mission Resource, B & G Elder*

**Invitation and Outreach**  
**Area of Responsibility**  
 New Members and Discipleship  
 Evangelism and Invitation

**Halloween Treats** The Invitation Team joins Mission Resource to plan for VPC's participation in the annual downtown Merchant Trick or Treat night. We will be opening our doors (and bathrooms) and handing out treats.

*Larry Commeree, Invitation/Outreach Elder*



## Clerk's Corner

Session held its monthly scheduled meeting on September 6, with the clerk and one member absent. Diana Lilje was named acting clerk. Session decided to have a class for new members in January. The audit of the 2017 financial records is tentatively set for October. Session approved Carl Kishline's request to use the sanctuary to present our organ in an Organ Crawl scheduled for Oct. 13. Session also decided that the Building Use Coordinator should be given the authority to approve the use of the sanctuary for events that have had prior approval.

Session members were assigned names of VPC members and friends to call this fall and discuss what are the congregation's hopes and dreams, and what should VPC be doing. The design for the sculpture offered by Kathy and John Olsen was discussed and approved. Also discussed was a plan for selecting ushers.

Prior to the meeting, members and Pastor Leigh submitted written reports as to activity in their respective areas. Certain team items were discussed, including the decision to change cleaning contractors.

*Bob Spangler, Clerk of Session*

## Deacons News

### Just for Today

"This morning, just for today, I will make a choice." I am not going to regret anything from the past and I am not going to try to vow to be different tomorrow. Just for today, I am going to try to be the best and most loving person I can be. If I woke up each morning, and said this to myself, what would my world become? If we let God use us as a vessel through which we let the love of God flow to others, how would that change us? I was listening to a speech the other morning and was challenged by the statement that was made. "Each choice is a test. What choice will I make today?" Don't be discouraged if you can't see any changes in the world around you. You will still be changed and blessed inside as God daily refines you as a vessel overflowing for the world.

*With thanks from your VPC Deacons' Team -  
Lindsay Hofman, Sheryl Lehman, Myrtle Walls,  
Claudia Ross Weston, Sue Weston*

## **Church Officers**

**VPC Pastor** Reverend Leigh Weber

### **VPC Elders**

Brownie Carver - Worship Team;  
Elizabeth Loveness - Hospitality and Fellowship Team  
Larry Commeree - Invitation and Outreach Team  
Al Ross Weston - Faith Exploration Team  
Jim Lilje - Mission Resource Team, Financials  
Elizabeth Loveness - Purposeful Service Team  
Jacq Skeffington - Mission Resource Team, Building and Grounds  
Bob Spangler - Clerk of Session

### **VPC Deacons**

Lindsay Hofman  
Sheryl Lehman  
Myrtle Walls  
Claudia Ross Weston  
Sue Weston

## What's On Your Mind?

### God at Work

Session has decided it would be a good thing to share information of how we see God at work at VPC and in our own spiritual life these days. So each of us Elders will share some thoughts in upcoming newsletters and we invite you to do the same by email to [vashonpresbyterianchurch@yahoo.com](mailto:vashonpresbyterianchurch@yahoo.com).

Serving as Mission Resources Elder for the last 5 years I have seen incredible evidence of the life of the Spirit in this congregation and on Vashon Island. I remember the initial discernment exercises we began as attendance was reducing and we were having great financial difficulty doing any missional activity due to lack of funds. We constantly struggled with paying the mortgage, paying the minister and deferring maintenance on an historic old building.

In fact, a significant donation to the mortgage fund led us to create a task-force to investigate the appropriate use of those funds. The question was whether to use that money as "seed money" to start a financial campaign to pay off the mortgage or just apply it to the principal. That discussion led to the realization that if we were to start a new financial campaign, we would have to discern where God was calling us to go in the future. That led to discussions about partnering with non-profit organizations in building use, calling a part-time pastor and possibly even closing our doors and combining worship with other congregations.

Throughout those discussions and prayerful discernment exercises, I repeatedly heard "Don't worry about the money, be My people and serve My children". Since then I have seen us repeatedly opening our doors, our building and ourselves much more to the community around us and joyfully sharing rather than fearfully protecting our dwindling resources.

Just last Tuesday I was changing the message on our reader-board out front. I love doing this "task" because I frequently get to interact with passers-by, even if only with a smile. As I was removing the word "Welcome" to rearrange the letters, a stranger parked his truck nearby. He stopped to remark "Oh, so I'm no longer welcome here?" That led to a wonderful, light hearted banter (I replied, if he had approached from the north side of the sign he'd still be welcomed). And then we talked for about 20 minutes about how he had been raised by a Presbyterian mother and aunts but only attended church services reluctantly and hadn't for years. After sharing a bit more of our faith histories, we parted with my invitation to join us Sunday and see how we Worship these days.

That's one example of how I see God at work more and more through us at VPC these days. Opening our building and ourselves more and more, where we are, to whomever God draws us into contact with. Listening, sharing our common histories, concerns, joys and hopes for the future. What's your story?

Blessings,

*Jacq Skeffington*



# Calendar for October 2018

(all events at VPC unless otherwise stated)

## October

- 4 Session Meeting 3:00 PM
- 6 Bible Study 10 AM
- 7 Prayer Service 8:30 AM
- 7 Sunday Worship 10 AM (World Communion Sunday)
- 7 **All Congregation Photo**
- 9 **Deacon's Meeting 3:00 PM**
- 14 **Prayer Service 8:30 AM**
- 14 Adult Education Class 9 AM
- 14 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM
- 20 Bible Study 10 AM
- 20 Gratitude Supper 5:30 PM
- 21 Prayer Service 8:30 AM
- 21 Adult Education Class 9 AM
- 21 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM
- 21 Tailgate Coffee Hour after worship
- 25 VPC'S IFCH Meal 5:30 PM
- 26 VPC Book Club at Huff's 6:30 PM
- 28 Prayer Service 8:30 AM
- 28 Adult Education Class 9 AM
- 28 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM
- 31 Halloween Treats

## ONGOING ACTIVITIES

- Text Study Group** Noon on Mondays
- Fellowship Breakfast** at Sporty's 9 AM Tuesdays
- Bible Study** 10 am 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> on Saturdays.

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