



NOVEMBER 2018

# Vashon Presbyterian Church

Vashon Island, Washington 98070

**Listening to God, embracing all, living in joy**

## November 2018 Newsletter

### “Ending the Silence”

Vashon Presbyterian Church and Vashon Youth and Family Services are partnering to bring to Vashon an event about mental illness and especially how it impacts those who live in families where it is present. For too long, mental illness has been the source of shame or embarrassment and people who are going through it find themselves terribly isolated. We really feel the time has come to change this unfortunate situation and hope that this may be the beginning of greater acceptance and caring in our community.

The program will be called “Ending the Silence” and will be keynoted by a speaker from Seattle NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) Through this presentation, students/families get to see the reality of living with a mental health condition. During the 50-minute presentation, a young adult living with mental illness and a family member tell their stories about mental health challenges, including what hurt and what helped.

In addition, we will have a workshop on Suicide Prevention, support for families living with mental illness (with the hope of creating a safe place for a support group here on Vashon), and as a follow up to the keynote address, the NAMI speakers would be available to meet with folks who have further questions or needing more direction/help.

The event will take place on Saturday, November 10<sup>th</sup> from 9am to 2pm at the Vashon Presbyterian Church and the cost/person will be \$10 and will include a light lunch. We will not turn anyone away for lack of funds and will offer scholarship if financial help is needed. For more information, contact [pastorleigh@comcast.net](mailto:pastorleigh@comcast.net)

#### Save the Date!

Adult Education Class  
November 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>

“Ending the Silence”  
November 10<sup>th</sup>

VPC Book Club  
November 16<sup>th</sup>

First Aid - Mental Illness  
November 17<sup>th</sup>

Special Coffee Hour  
November 18

Interfaith Thanksgiving  
Service At VUMC  
November 19

Eagles Thanksgiving Meal  
November 22

First Sunday of Advent  
Cookies and Carols  
December 2



Dear Ones of VPC,

A couple of weeks back, I had a really special moment, one in which I was ministered to very powerfully. I was in the belfry putting some things away when it happened. “This is the 12 pm AA meeting, would you please recite the Serenity Prayer with me.” I heard these words from the room right across from me. “God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, Courage to change the things I can, and wisdom to know the difference.”

I know that prayer, I’ve heard it for most of my life and I can recite it from memory but sitting in the belfry, working on putting things away, on a day where I felt especially busy and had too much on my heart, it touched my heart and God used it to speak to me. The prayer prayed by strangers to me, in a room across the hall, ministered to my spirit.

I’ve been thinking a lot lately about the others who also call the VPC building home, the kids from Carpe Diem and Creative Preschool, the IFCH folks who have their evening meal in our social hall twice each week, the Chorale, the Opera, and others, including the AA groups. Each and every one of those people are God’s very own children too, just like me and you. And God walks through our door each and every time they enter this beautiful space where we all find our place together.

I wonder what you are hearing, who ministers to you and who is ministered to through you? I wonder what special moments you have, when God uses these others to speak to you. And I wonder what everyone who comes through those doors is able to hear and see in one another and each of us.

By the time many of you read this newsletter, we will be only a day or two away from our Mental Health Forum, Ending the Silence – a community conversation about mental illness. More people will come through our doors, each carrying their stories with them, showing up, just as they are, with their own sacred worth. I wonder what you and I will be privileged to hear and how it will change us, how it will ground us and reinvigorate us for this good and holy work into which we are all called. I wonder what really special moments we will have as we show up and pay attention to what God is saying through the lives of one another.

The one thing I do know is that God IS speaking and working and ministering in this place we call VPC. And you and I are blessed to be in the midst of it.

Grace and Peace,

Leigh



## Faith Exploration Team News

### Area of Responsibility

Bible study, Christian formation (all ages)

**The Sunday morning 9:00 adult class** will continue to discuss Praying the Psalms by Walter Brueggemann. It will meet the first three weeks of November. No class on November 25<sup>th</sup>. A class on Advent will gather the first four weeks of December. The book is to be determined.

*Al Ross Weston, Faith Exploration Elder*

Saturday morning Bible study will be on November 3rd and 17th. Everyone is invited to join us as we continue to study Exodus.

*Brownie Carver*

## From Your Deacons...

When you take the time to reach out and touch someone with God's love, his love and joy will flow through you and into the community. Do you have a few spare hours this week to share your love with fellow islanders? **Music Mends Minds needs your help.** Sometimes the simplest gestures can mean the most to other people. **Tuesdays at the Lutheran Church are the highpoint of the week for some Islanders. That is the afternoon when Music Mends Minds is held.** This program, with its group singing of familiar songs, brings smiles and laughter to the people who attend. Hearing or even singing the words to a familiar song can bring a sense of connection and joy to someone whose memory and awareness of their present surroundings may be fading. You can help by simply sitting next to that person, singing along and perhaps helping hold their book or finding the right page for them. **To volunteer, call Amy Huggins 206-567-5166, the Lutheran Church or the Senior Center.**

*Article by Deacon Sue Weston*

## Worship Team News

### Area of Responsibility

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

November is the time when we catch our breath before Advent.

**Choir practice** this month will be on the Nov 11<sup>th</sup> following worship  
Nov 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm

**The choir will sing on Nov 18<sup>th</sup>** as part of our Thanksgiving service.

**Advent begins on December 2nd.** We will have special music, candle lighting, and communion. Following the service, we will gather with our Methodist friends for carols, fellowship, and ornament designing in our social hall. I hope you will be able to join us for this festive day at the church.

**If you are interested in joining the choir, please contact the office or see Brownie Carver following the worship service.**

*Brownie Carver, Worship Elder*

## EVENING OF GRATITUDE

**An Interfaith Thanksgiving Service will be held November 19<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM at the Methodist Church.** Pastor Paul Mitchell is coordinating the event and members of the Muslim community have been personally invited to attend. This event will be well publicized in the Beachcomber, on the billboards at the north end, and on sandwich boards. Rides are being arranged through the Senior Center.

## Mission Resource Team News

### Area of Responsibility Financials, Building and Grounds

#### Buildings and Grounds

Once again, the front porch was decorated and candy basket full awaiting Islanders young and old, trick or treating uptown on Halloween. Our doors were open as we extended an invitation to the community to come inside, warm up, use the bathrooms and maybe sit quietly for a moment or two.

We need to pick up some trash around the parking lot, cut back some shrubbery, rake a few leaves, and prep flower beds for winter. Let's plan a **work party for Saturday, November 17<sup>th</sup> from 9-noon**. I'll extend the invitation to Carpe Diem and Creative Preschool parents so maybe we can also meet some of these younger families. Mark your calendars now and bring your favorite clippers, rakes and shovels and a pickup truck if you have one. A couple of trucks will probably be enough to haul the clippings to the yard waste recycling center.

**Our toolbelts** group cleaned the rain gutters, checked the sump pumps and even cleaned excessive sediment out of one of the parking lot catch basins last month. This group meets every Tuesday from 10-12 for minor maintenance and repairs. Please join us if available.

**The Chamber of Commerce is planning to light the Christmas Tree in front of VPC again this year.** I hope all of us will attend the tree lighting event, sing some carols and continue to extend hospitality to the community. Watch the Beachcomber and our weekly eNews for details.

Blessings,

*Jacq Skeffington, Mission Resource Elder*

## Purposeful Service Team News

### Area of Responsibility

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

**“Ending the Silence”** Vashon Presbyterian Church and Vashon Youth and Family Services are partnering to bring to Vashon an event about mental illness and especially how it impacts those who live in families where it is present. It will be called “Ending the Silence” and will be keynoted by a speaker from Seattle NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) Through this presentation, students/families get to see the reality of living with a mental health condition. During the 50-minute presentation, a young adult living with mental illness and a family member tell their stories about mental health challenges. November 10<sup>th</sup>, 9 am -2 pm. See P 1 article for more information. Bev Skeffington and Pastor Leigh will be coordinators for VPC. Contact them if you are interested in attending or helping.

**IFCH Dinners** A Thanksgiving meal will be served at the Eagles. All who are interested in a community meal are invited. There will be more information about the time and other details of the Eagles Thanksgiving in the weekly enews.

**Mary's Place Giving Tree** Again this year we will hang gift tags to take home and fulfill a gift wish from Mary's Place. Each tag is a personalized wish from a child for a toy or a gift a child would love to give his mom this holiday season. There will also be multiple tags asking for a \$15 donation for a pair of new shoes for a woman or child. The tree will be placed in the reception area on November 25<sup>th</sup> and tags/gifts will be collected December 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Purposeful Service Meeting** Purposeful Service Team will meet November 8<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm. We will be discussing the Mary's Place giving tree and assign the donations from Christmas Eve offering. Traditionally this is designated as a one time gift to an area of greatest need.

*Elizabeth Loveness, Purposeful Service Elder*

## Hospitality/Fellowship Team News

**Area of Responsibility:**  
Hospitality, Fellowship

### Upcoming VPC Hospitality Events

November 18	Special Coffee Hour
December 1	Decorate the Church
December 1	“Post Decorating” Supper
December 2	Carols Cookies w/ VUMC
February 16	Valentines / Special Tea

**We are also going to post on the bulletin board signups for joining a VPC group attending outings or events beyond VPC. Check the bulletin board in the entry hall. Two being considered for November and December are:**

- Heritage Museum Tour
- Vashon Chorale’s Winter Concert

**If you are interested in helping or getting more information contact Elizabeth Loveness.**

*Elizabeth Loveness, Hospitality and Fellowship Elder*

**VPC Book Club** Book club will meet Friday, November 16th at the home of Dana and Lindsay Hofman at 6:30 pm. Jacq Skeffington will moderate the discussion of Souls in the Hands of a Tender God by Craig Rennebohm after the potluck supper.

*Al Ross Weston*

### **Upcoming Book Club Selections**

Nov	<u>Souls in the Hands of a Tender God</u>
Dec	Maya Angelou ( books about or by her)
Jan	<u>Small Great Things</u>
Feb	<u>Homegoing</u>
Mar	<u>The Other Alcott</u>
Apr	<u>The Devil in the White City</u>

## Clerk’s Corner

Session met for the scheduled business meeting on October 4, with three members absent. Jim Lilje presented draft 2019 budget projections with explanations of changes from 2018. He also distributed YTD revenue and expense information, and noted that the audit of 2018 financial data will take place in October. Because the mortgage is now under \$50,000, a celebration will be held on November 18. Session briefly discussed the notification from the state that Zombiez has applied for a beer and wine license; no objection was raised. Session agreed to have a retreat on November 16 and approved Leigh’s suggestion that there be two Christmas Eve services. Session held a special meeting on October 14, with Diana Lilje acting as clerk and two members absent, to address the Hospitality Committee’s request that wine be served at the October 20 gratitude dinner. Session voted that wine may be served by members to attendees at that dinner, but only during the mixer time when appetizers are being served and using the same glasses as for non-alcoholic drinks.

*Bob Spangler, Clerk of Session*





Invitation and Outreach  
Team News  
Area of Responsibility  
New Members and Discipleship,  
Evangelism and Invitation



VPC's  
Halloween  
Treats –  
And a very  
hospitable witch!





## Calendar for November 2018

### Nov

- 3 Bible Study 10 AM
- 4 Prayer Service 8:30 AM
- 4 Adult Education Class 9 AM
- 4 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM Communion
- 8 Purposeful Service Team Meeting 6 PM
- 10 "Ending the Silence" 9 AM – 2 PM
- 11 Prayer Service 8:30 AM
- 11 Adult Education Class 9 AM
- 11 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM
- 13 Deacons 3:30 PM
- 13 Session 7 PM
- 16 Book Club at Hofman's 6:30 PM
- 17 Bible Study 10 AM
- 17 Fall Cleanup Work Party 9 AM to Noon
- 17 Mental Illness – First Aid Time TBD
- 18 Prayer Service 8:30 AM
- 18 Adult Education Class 9 AM
- 18 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM
- 18 Special Coffee Hour after worship
- 19 Interfaith Thanksgiving Service 7 PM at VUMC
- 22 Thanksgiving Community Meal at the Eagles
- 25 Prayer Service 8:30 AM
- 25 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM

### ONGOING ACTIVITIES

*Bible Study meets 10 am 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays*

*Liturgy Group meets at noon on Mondays*

*Fellowship Breakfast 9 am on Tuesdays*

*Toolbelts meets 10-Noon on Tuesdays*

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