

J A N U A R Y 2 0 1 9

Vashon Presbyterian Church

Vashon Island, Washington 98070

Listening to God, embracing all, living in joy

VPC Newsletter January 2019



Happy New Year!

Blessings and best wishes from all of us at Vashon Presbyterian Church. Join us for Sunday Service at 10 am or a prayer service at 8:30 am. Office hours during the week are Monday through Thursday 10-2 PM. Check us out on Facebook! Our latest weekly enews, monthly Newsletter and copies of Pastor Leigh Weber's sermons are available on our web site at www.vashonpreschurch.org. We make our building available to community and nonprofit organizations and events. We welcome you to come have a cup of coffee with us in 2019. We would like to get to know you better!

Important Dates!

NAMI Family & Friends

January 3rd 7 PM

Session Retreat

Friday January 11th

Installation of Officers

Sunday January 13th

VPC Book Club

Friday January 18th

VPC Hosts IFCH Meal

January 24th

Annual Congregational

Meeting

Sunday January 27th



Dear Ones of VPC,

On January 1st, NASA successfully informed the world of its successful fly by past Ultima Thule, the furthest encounter of an object in our solar system. This elongated object sits in the Kuiper Belt, a massive circumstellar disc of objects well beyond Pluto. The spacecraft that conducted the fly by is named New Horizons.

Waking up to this news on New Year's Day, I was lost in remembering my astronomy classes as an undergraduate in the mid-1980's. The discoveries made by the collective global community in the years since my graduation are mind boggling and there is still so much more to learn and discover.

I have had a passion for astronomy since the day my professor, who was also my Intersarsity mentor, leaned over my shoulder while I was looking through the university's high-powered telescope. It was a time in my life when I was questioning a lot and, as my eyes focused on the very first globular cluster of stars I had ever seen, he said, "Behold the handiwork of God...and there is so much more to discover."

I will always remember that night, standing in the observatory in southern Alamance County, North Carolina. There is so much more to discover. There is just so very much more to discover.

As we begin another year together, I pray you and I continue to discover, to gaze in astonishment and the ways in which God reveals Godself. I pray that we allow ourselves to be amazed, to shed tears, and to stand in the presence of Glory. What does the new horizon hold for us? What will we encounter as we travel this journey together, further than we've traveled before?

My commitment to you this year is to stay on the journey with you, traveling with you, keeping watch, paying attention and being amazed.

The heavens are telling the glory of God;

and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

Psalm 19:1

Sisters and brothers, look up, behold, be astonished. We have but scratched the surface of knowing this One who knows us fully. It is our gift to continue to learn and know and discover.

Falling in love together...

Grace and Peace,

Leigh



Purposeful Service

Team News

Area of Responsibility

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

IFCH Dinner VPC will be responsible for the IFCH meal on January 24th. Sign up sheet at coffee hour. Start the New Year by helping our neighbors in need.

Elizabeth Loveness, Purposeful Service Elder

Hospitality/Fellowship

Team News

Area of Responsibility

Hospitality, Fellowship

VPC Book Club Book club will meet at Ross-Weston's at 6pm on January 18th to discuss Great Small Things by Jody Picoult. There will be a potluck supper.

Elder Al Ross Weston

Invitation and Outreach

Team News

Area of Responsibility

New Members and Discipleship, Evangelism and Invitation.

New Members Class There will be a new member's class in February and March. If you are considering becoming a member or would just like a refresher about Presbyterian Church structure and history, talk to Pastor Leigh. This is sure to be an interesting time of learning, discussing and making your church home here at VPC.

Pastor Leigh Weber

Worship

Team News

Area of Responsibility

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

Worship News

On January 6th we will celebrate the Epiphany and the many gifts that God has given us. We are also looking forward to music from our choir.

On January 13th we will have the installation of officers and communion.

Brownie Carver, Worship Elder

Christian Formation

Team News

Area of Responsibility

Bible study, Christian formation (all ages).

The Sunday morning adult class will finish up the advent and Christmas writings from of Henri Nouwen on Epiphany January 6th. We will begin a new class, the book to be announced after it is chosen.

Al Ross Weston, Christian Formation Elder



Mission Resource

Team News

Area of Responsibility

Financials

Building and Grounds

Buildings and Grounds

The church looks really beautiful once again this Christmas season thanks to those who hung greens in the sanctuary and decorated our Christmas Trees. Thanks also to the Vashon Chamber of Commerce which donated the lights, time and equipment to decorate the tree out front again this year. The lights will be extinguished after Epiphany Sunday.

I've heard quite a few grateful remarks about the warmth of the sanctuary and upstairs meeting room since installation of our new furnaces. Adding to that good news is the report that our utilities bills have also dropped significantly since last winter. The small section of sanctuary carpet left over has been installed downstairs in one of the Creative Preschool classrooms and is greatly appreciated for story times.

We experimented with projecting prayers and hymns above the communion table during a more contemplative worship service December 16th and I've heard nothing but favorable responses. Please let an Elder know your views on projection enhanced worship as we plan to continue to incorporate more technology. We've begun adding the written text of Leigh's sermons to our website and are working toward adding a recorded version there also.

We're also looking for a few more office volunteers to greet visitors and answer phones during office hours. This is a wonderful way to serve the congregation and community while enjoying all the activity that goes on in and around our building throughout the week. If you're interested, call the office or speak to any of the present volunteers.

Blessings and Grace in the New Year,

Jacq Skeffington

Mission Resource Elder (Buildings and Grounds)

Financial Report

This report is being written on the last Sunday of 2018 and so I have not quite closed out the year. It is safe to say though, that we will have an operating surplus in excess of \$10,000. Thank you all for your generous support.

One big expense that was not planned for this last year was the replacement of the furnaces in the older part of the church. They failed the Saturday before Easter and had to have emergency repairs. It was obvious then that they had outlived their service life and there was no choice but to replace them. In addition, we needed to replace carpeting in the Sanctuary and in the upper meeting room. Our original plan was to use money from the Capital Repairs Fund to pay for this. There was enough money but the expenses would have pretty much exhausted the fund. It turns out that wasn't necessary.

First, Myrtle Walls stepped up and on her own initiative created the "Furnace Fund" with donations placed in a piece of heating duct created for the purpose. The Furnace Fund drive raised \$7651.62. Thank you Myrtle.

Next, Jacq Skeffington and Pastor Leigh teamed up to secure a grant from Presbytery for \$14,900.

In the end we only needed a little over \$7000 from the Repair Fund. Because of our surplus for the year, Session voted this month to restore the money spent on furnace and carpet and to add another \$5000 to the fund.

At the December meeting, Session adopted a budget for 2019. It is a balanced budget based on last year's donations and contracts in place with Creative Preschool and Carpe Diem School. It includes the pay raise for Pastor Leigh voted by the Congregation and increased mission spending including a new mental health support mission.

Details of this year's results and the 2019 budget will be available at the January Congregational meeting.

Jim Lilje

Mission Resource Elder (Finance)

Clerk's Corner

Session met on December 18, with all members present. The focus was on finances and budgeting. After a review of current assets, session voted to transfer \$12,825.52 from the General Fund to the Building Fund, and then approved a 2019 budget with unrestricted revenues of \$149,610, restricted revenues of \$5,180 and expenses of \$153,111. The compensation to the pianist was increased for Sundays when the choir sings, in recognition to the additional time commitment. It was agreed that the offering from the Christmas Eve services will be donated to the Presbyterian Disaster Fund for hurricane relief, and that session would meet monthly on the second Thursday at 4:30 pm through May. Finally, session agreed that no objection would be filed against the application for a beer and wine license for the proposed pub across the street. The congregation held a special meeting on December 2 to vote on recommendations from the Nominating Committee for deacons and elders, and to approve the pastor's 2019 terms of call. Claudia Ross-Weston, Lindsay Hofman and Nancy Tucker were elected deacons, Class of 2020. Brownie Carver stated that ruling elder Larry Commeree has resigned, and that the committee's nominee to fill his term is Barbara Huff. Barbara Huff was elected ruling elder, Class of 2019. Larry Commeree, Chair of the Personnel Committee, presented the proposed terms of call for 2019. He explained the circumstances leading to the current terms of call being for a two-third time pastor and noted that the session agreed with the committee's recommendation that the call be increased to a three-quarter time position. The congregation approved the following 2019 terms of call for a three-quarter time pastor: salary, \$22,200; housing, \$30,000; pension/medical, \$19,314; and travel reimbursement, \$1800.

Bob Spangler, Clerk of Session

From Our Deacons

Tomorrow

As I was sitting here at my computer playing Mahjong instead of writing this note for the church newsletter, I was thinking about how good I am at putting off until tomorrow doing something loving, good or useful today. Far too often I think, "I really should write that get well or sympathy note or stop and visit with my homebound neighbor and see if she needs any groceries." But I make excuses, "I'll stop in tomorrow, tonight I am tired and want to start dinner." Or I will say to myself, "I need to go to the store and find a sympathy card first. I will look for just the right card tomorrow" Maybe God has put on my heart the need to volunteer at the food bank or VCC. "Tomorrow I will find out who I need to see to volunteer." The bulletin says that we need someone to help usher or help with the coffee hour later in the month. I'll try to remember to sign up next Sunday after church and help. Or, I may notice that there are people needed to help with the next IFCH meal. I should sign up to help. Maybe next month, I am pretty busy right now. But deciding to do something tomorrow is a very dangerous idea for me. I like to think that through what I do and say, I am showing and sharing God's love for others. But far too seldom does tomorrow ever become today, or right now. Instead a person is left with the feeling that they really should be doing more to share God's love with the world. After all God is love and we are called to love and care for his people and world. But now is the time for me to do it, not tomorrow.

Deacon Sue Weston

Calendar

January 2019

(all events at VPC unless otherwise stated)



Jan

- 3 **NAMI Family and Friends 7 pm**
- 5 **Bible Study 10 am**
- 6 **Prayer Service 8:30 am**
- 6 **Christian Formation Class 9 am**
- 6 **Sunday Worship Service 10 am (Communion Service)**
- 10 **Session Meeting 4:30 pm**
- 11 **Session Retreat 9:30 – 11:30**
- 13 **Prayer Service 8:30 am**
- 13 **Sunday Worship Service 10 am (Installation of Officers)**
- 13 **Special Luncheon after worship**
- 18 **VPC Book Club 6 pm at Ross Weston's**
- 19 **Bible Study 10 am**
- 20 **Prayer Service 8:30 am**
- 20 **Christian Formation Class 9 am**
- 20 **Sunday Worship Service 10 am**
- 27 **Prayer Service 8:30 am**
- 27 **Christian Formation Class 9 am**
- 27 **Sunday Worship Service 10 am**
- 27 **Annual Congregational Meeting after Worship**

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

Text Study Group Noon on Mondays

Fellowship Breakfast meets at Sporty's at 9 am on Tuesdays.

Bible Study meets 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.