

F E B R U A R Y 2 0 1 9

Vashon Presbyterian Church

Vashon Island, Washington 98070

Listening to God, embracing all, living in joy



February 2019 Newsletter

The Annual Report

If you were not able to attend the Annual Congregational Meeting on January 27th you should pick up a copy of the Annual Report on the information table in the entry hallway. It gives a summary of all that is going on at VPC. Besides the Pastor and Elder's reports there is information about the budget for 2019. Also there are reports from the personnel and nominating committees. The deacons have been busy and there is a review of the care they have provided for our members and the wider community. It's rewarding to see how much our dedicated members have accomplished in one year.



**A VASHON CONVERSATION
FOR THE LIVING ABOUT DYING**

Film Series on Living and Dying

Vashon Conversation for the Living about Dying is hosting a series of three powerful films. *Departures* is the first film offered on Saturday, February 9 at the Land Trust Building, 1:00 – 4:00. It is a provocative, tender story about caring for the dead. It won the 2009 Academy Award for Best Foreign Film. The film will be followed with discussion about the penetrating intimacy and challenges of death and dying. Suggested donation: \$5.00. Popcorn is free!

Important Dates!

February 3, 10, 17, 24, March 3
Faith Exploration Class 9 am

February 9th
***Departures* 1 pm**

February 15th
VPC Book Club 6:30 pm

February 21st
Theology Pub 6:30 pm

February 28th
VPC IFCH Meal 5:30 pm

March 6th
Ash Wednesday TBD

March 14th
Pi Day 10 – 3 pm

Dear Ones of VPC,

We ended January in worship with our Annual Meeting both acknowledging where we have been in the last year and looking toward this new one. One of the things that you heard me say is “If you have an idea, share it, let’s look at it together and be willing to try new things.” The willingness to try new things, to take on new experiences and to move forward with a variety of unknowns can be both exhilarating and frightening.

By the time most of you read this newsletter, I’ll be either on my way or already in Colombia. This is a new thing for me. As I have shared, I’ve never traveled like this before. It’s a new experience with a lot of unknowns. As we looked at Luke’s account of Jesus’ sermon in Nazareth in worship recently, I asked the question, “Are you in?” They say preachers preach what they most need to hear. When it comes to this trip, there was a point when I just had to let go and say, “I’m in.”

I wonder what other new things we will be asked to do this year, by the community around us and by one another. I wonder what new ideas we will generate that will be, for many of us, new experiences that will require a leap of trust and vulnerability. I’m excited by the unknown future with you because I strongly believe we are called to move forward together.

During Lent we will be sharing in our midweek Taize service once again and, this year, we will be adding more time of intentional silence together in worship. The silence will lengthen each week as we move closer to Easter Sunday and we’ll be celebrating communion together each week during that season.

We’ll continue to deepen our efforts in Mental Health Ministries as well as cultivate some additional small groups within the church. Starting on February 21st, you can join Elder Jacq Skeffington and me at our neighbors, Colvos Brewing, for Theology Pub at 6:30 pm on Thursday evenings. And we’ll be getting our Little Library up out front and starting to ask the question, “Hey Vashon, what are you reading?” From that, we hope to create an additional community wide book club that will meet at VPC.

These are just some of the new things being planned, some of the new experiences we can share together. And we are still looking for more. I can’t tell you how any of these things will end up going, but I know we’ll learn something together in our willingness to step out in new ways and embrace unknowns.

I love the way Eugene Peterson translates Hebrew 10:22-25, *“So let’s do it—full of belief, confident that we’re presentable inside and out. Let’s keep a firm grip on the promises that keep us going. He always keeps his word. Let’s see how inventive we can be in encouraging love and helping out...”*

Sisters and brothers, whether it’s over at Colvos at Theology Pub or in a Mental Health Forum, journaling together, reading and discussing together, developing more meaningful liturgy in worship, serving up pie or many of the other things we will do and try this year, let’s do it! Let’s encourage love and help out in this community, let’s share our ideas and spur one another on. We’re called to this!

Grace and Peace,
Leigh

From the Deacons

February 2019

The church of Christ is like a great big jig saw puzzle. Each piece is important and necessary in order to create a complete puzzle. Just as a puzzle needs all of its pieces to be complete so also does the church need all of us. When a puzzle is missing a piece, the puzzle is incomplete and when the piece is separated from the whole it has much less value on its own. In fact, by being separated from a puzzle it is little more than a piece of cardboard sitting in my desk drawer. Sometimes, it may seem that the pieces have little connection to the whole, but even then, the puzzle will not be complete without them. When we sometimes look at the pieces that are us, we do not see the complete picture. Only God can see it and he needs you and the piece that you are. You are vitally important to God and to the picture he has created so allow him to place you in your place in the body of Christ and the plan he has for made especially for you to fit into his jig saw that is the church and body of Christ.

Sue Weston for the Deacons

Clerk's Corner February 2019

Session held its monthly meeting on January 10, with two members absent. Members submitted written reports for their teams' activities; some discussion followed. Session made a number of appointments for 2019, including Jacq Skeffington for Commissioner to Presbytery and Diana Lilje as Financial Secretary. The monthly meeting date was set as the second Thursday, but this will be modified for the February meeting that will be held on the third Thursday.

Session held a retreat at the Spanglers' on January 11.

New officers were installed at the January 13 worship service. They were Deacons Lindsay Hofman, Claudia Ross-Weston, and Nancy Tucker, and Elder Barbara Huff.

The annual congregational meeting was held on January 27. Members elected the 2019 Nominating Committee composed of Russ Dorr, Al Ross-Weston, Kate Smith, Héré Thieme, Sue Weston, and John Williams.

Diana Lilje, Clerk of Session

Church Officers for 2019

Session

Pastor Leigh Weber, Moderator
 Diana Lilje, Clerk of Session
 Brownie Carver, Worship Elder
 Barb Huff, Outreach and Invitation Elder
 Jim Lilje, Mission Resource, Finance Elder
 Elizabeth Loveness, Hospitality and Purposeful Service Elder
 Al Ross Weston, Faith Exploration Elder
 Jacq Skeffington, Mission Resource, Buildings and Grounds Elder

Deacons

Lindsey Hofman, Moderator
 Sheryl Lehman
 Claudia Ross Weston
 Nancy Tucker
 Myrtle Walls
 Sue Weston

Mission Resource

Team News

Area of Responsibility:

Financials, Building and Grounds

Building and Grounds

It appears spring is just around the corner. What a wonderful job Here, Sheryl and Kathy have done pruning the flowerbeds around the church. I hope you notice the new life on those pruned branches next time you come into the building.

We still have an ongoing need to pick up trash around the parking lot on a regular basis. If you have any free time and would like to help out, you can always stop by the church on your own and pick up litter around the lot and shrubbery. Recyclables and trash can be placed in the receptacles within the fenced collection area in the parking lot. Please wear rubber gloves! While picking up trash around the lot last week, it became apparent that we're going to have to fill a lot of potholes again. Let's plan a party (work party that is) for Saturday, Feb 9th, if it's not snowing! Yes, my forecaster predicts that possibility! Keep your eyes on the weekly eNews for an update.

We're also planning to have the carpets cleaned while CarpeDiem is on break Feb 18th. I'll be contacting a few hearty souls to move furniture and tables into the classrooms Saturday 2/16 in preparation and back out once the carpet is dry. Please let me know if you're interested in helping.

We've begun adding the written text of Leigh's sermons to our website and are working toward adding a recorded version there also. Our website is at vashonpreschurch.org

We're also looking for 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. We'll be happy to have you "shadow" any one of us and train you.

Blessings and Grace,

*Jacq Skeffington, Mission Resource, Buildings
Grounds Elder*

Financials -Annual Report For a complete review of our accounting for last year and projected budget for 2019 you can refer to a copy of the Annual Report handed out on Sunday, January 27th at the Annual Congregational Meeting. If you weren't able to attend you can get a copy in the entry area on the information table.

Jim Lilje, Mission Resource, Finance Elder

Invitation and Outreach

Team News

Area of Responsibility

New Members and Discipleship,
Evangelism and Invitation

Celebrate Pi Day with a Piece of Pie!

Bring a pie to share! VPC wants to celebrate Pi Day (March 14 – 3.14) by inviting all islanders to stop by for a piece of pie!

Pi Day is an annual celebration of the mathematical constant Pi, the ratio of the circumference of a circle to its diameter. The earliest known official or large-scale celebration of Pi Day was organized by Larry Shaw in 1988 at the San Francisco Exploratorium, where Shaw worked as a physicist. While it has generated a lot of interest in the study of Mathematics, it has also become an excuse for eating a lot of pie!

Please join in this informal outreach to the community by bringing a pie to share. It will be a fun time!

*Elizabeth Loveness, Hospitality Elder
Barb Huff, Outreach Elder*

Ππ

Hospitality/Fellowship Team News

Areas of Responsibility:

Hospitality, Fellowship

Hospitality Meeting We will meet March 3rd after worship to plan for our winter – spring activities. In the meantime keep the signup sheet for coffee hour, flowers and ushers full! We've been doing an outstanding job. If you would like to help, let me know. Glad to have new members and new ideas!

Elizabeth Loveness, Hospitality Elder

VPC Book Club This month the Book Club will discuss Homegoing by Yaa Gyasi. We will meet at the Skeffington's on Feb.15th, 6:30 pm. For upcoming book selections March through July see list on P 6.

Al Ross Weston

**Book Club at Ross Weston's in January.
We had a great discussion of Jodi Picoult's
Small Great Things.**



Notes from Interfaith Brainstormer's Meeting January 15, 2019

Support Group for friends and family of those living with mental illness has met twice since the November event held at the Presbyterian church. It meets the first Thursday of the month in the Pastor's office at Vashon Presbyterian church. New meeting time is 6pm (but may go back to original 7pm). For further information contact Vashon Presbyterian Church 206/463-2010 or Pastor Leigh at pastorleigh@comcast or 425/221-1142

Vashon Resettlement Committee has several events coming in the near future:

Womens' retreat to be held on 3/9 from 9am-4pm. Location to be determined. It will be interfaith and secular in scope with the aim of building sisterhood. It will be called "Weaving Together". Events will include: cooking, crafts, making art. There will be a workshop dedicated to everything you have always wanted to know about scarves, hijabs, etc. They are hoping to have a henna artist there as well.

There will also be a **summer camp for children** that will start on 7/22 and will meet Monday-Friday from 9am-noon, culminating in a festive event on 8/3. (storytelling puppetry,), a concert in the evening. Food will be available for the afternoon puppetry presentation.

Vashon Presbyterian Church is in the process of launching a ministry called "**Theology on Tap**" to be held at Camp Colvos Brewhouse (adjacent to the church). Details of time, day of week, etc will be forthcoming.

Sally Carlson is very interested in pursuing a gathering of firearms and turning them into art (such a program already exists in Anacortes).. She is looking for like-minded people who would join her in planning for such a program here on Vashon. Please contact her at sally.carlson@comcast.net

The Methodist and Presbyterian Churches will be collaborating on a mid-week Lenten series. Details will be forthcoming.

Celtic Concert on the evening of 2/9 at Church of the Holy Spirit.

Next meeting will be April 9 at noon at the Vashon Presbyterian church Library.

**Worship
Team News**

Area of Responsibility

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

Pastor Leigh in Columbia

We pray that Leigh will have a meaningful and safe trip to Columbia. We will miss her and look forward to hearing about her wonderful journey. We are fortunate to have Rev. Scott Anderson preaching on February 10th. This will also be our communion Sunday. Leigh will be serving communion at the same time in Columbia.

Choir Practice

Calling all potential choir members, there will be a practice following the worship service on the 10th and another prior to worship on the 17th. Our goal is to have the choir sing once a month. Let's make a joyful noise!

Brownie Carver, Worship Elder

**Purposeful Service
Team News**

Area of Responsibility

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

Vashon Conversation for the Living about Dying

is hosting a series of three powerful films. *Departures* is the first film offered on Saturday, February 9 at the Land Trust Building, 1:00 – 4:00. It is a provocative, tender story about caring for the dead. It won the 2009 Academy Award for Best Foreign Film. The film will be followed with discussion about the penetrating intimacy and challenges of death and dying. Suggested donation: \$5.00. Popcorn is free!

Carol Spangler

**Faith Exploration
Team News**

Area of Responsibility

Bible study, Christian formation (all ages)

The Sunday morning adult class is starting a new series on February 3rd. It will focus on some of the writings of Brian Doyle. It will meet for 5 weeks.

Al Ross-Weston, Faith Exploration Elder

The VPC Book Club Selections

Feb	<u>Homegoing</u>
Mar	<u>The Other Alcott</u>
Apr	<u>The Devil in the White City</u>
May	<u>In the Sanctuary of Outcasts: A Memior</u>
Jun	<u>Broken for You</u>
Jul	<u>Ordinary Grace</u>

Al Ross Weston



Calendar

February 2019

(all events at VPC unless otherwise stated)



Feb

- 2 Bible Study 10 am
- 3 Prayer Service 8:30 am
- 3 Faith Exploration Class 9 am
- 3 Sunday Worship Service 10 am (Food Bank Sunday)
- 9 Work Party 9 – Noon
- 10 Prayer Service 8:30 am
- 10 Faith Exploration Class 9 am
- 10 Sunday Worship Service 10 am (Communion Sunday)
- 15 VPC Book Club at 6:30 pm at Skeffington's
- 16 Bible Study 10 am
- 17 Prayer Service 8:30 am
- 17 Faith Exploration Class 9 am
- 17 Sunday Worship Service 10 am
- 21 Session 4:30 pm
- 21 Pub Theology 6:30 pm
- 24 Prayer Service 8:30 am
- 24 Faith Exploration Class 9 am
- 24 Sunday Worship Service 10 am
- 28 VPC IFCH meal 5:30 pm

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

Text Study Group meets at noon on Mondays

Fellowship Breakfast meets at Sporty's at 9:00 am on Tuesdays

Toolbelts meets 9-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.