

J U L Y 2 0 1 9

Vashon Presbyterian Church

Vashon Island, Washington 98070

Listening to God, embracing all, living in joy



July 2019 Newsletter

VPC Summer Event Schedule

July 7

Congregational Meeting

July 16

Seattle Presbytery at VPC

July 20th

Strawberry Festival
Parking/Chairs Fundraiser

July 20th – 21st

Quilt Exhibit

August 3rd

VPC Yard Sale

August 11th

Mary's Place
Worship and Picnic

August 12-16th

VBS at St. John Vianney

Congregational Meeting

There will be a congregational meeting after worship on July 7 to amend the terms of call for our pastor.



Summer Suppers

Summer suppers are providing a time of joy and fellowship. In the informal and welcoming setting of people's homes we can relax and enjoy each other's stories and friendship. Pastor Leigh has been attending all of the suppers and has provided "a little direction" to our conversations by asking us to respond to easy story telling questions. Sign up and come see for yourself. You'll be glad you did!

Dear Ones of VPC,

I was in Café Luna the other day, getting a fix of caffeine for my afternoon, when once again someone recognized me and said hello. “You’re the Presbyterian pastor, right?” “I love what all you guys are doing, you’re so open.”

Conversations like that are not unusual for me these days, being greeted by folks I don’t know who clearly know of us. In Paul’s letter to the Ephesians, he tells the church there that he has heard about them, heard about what all they are doing. “I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints...” (Eph. 1:15-16)

The apostle Paul has heard of their love. He “knows” them because he’s heard about them and what they are doing in their community. And, in places like Café Luna and others, people “know” me because of the love being shown by VPC, by each of you!

What do we want others to know about us, to believe about us? When people in our community think about the Presbyterian Church up the street, what do we want them to think about? These are questions I’d like us to consider and to make space to talk about in conversations together. These are questions that we need to be asking ourselves individually and together.

As our Summer Suppers have started once again this summer, I have fallen deeper in love with the power of story and the stories we each carry within us. I treasure listening to you talk about your journey and how you pay attention to the connections you make. Listening to you at Summer Suppers is a gift to my spirit and I value your sharing. It’s helped me know you more and I suspect you continue to know one another more deeply.

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, like Paul heard about the Ephesians. I’ve heard how it’s carried you through ups and downs and how you have remained in the conversation with God even when it was difficult. I have heard you, my dear sisters and brothers and by hearing you, I know you more.

My prayer is that God would bless us all with the thirst to listen deeply, to hear, to know and to be with one another. As always, I keep you in my prayers and hold you in my heart. I treasure the moments when I get to listen. My door and ears are open to you, now and always. And, remember always, people are talking about us and our lived actions together help determine what is being said.

Grace and Peace,
Leigh



Purposeful Service News

Area of Responsibility

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

Heindsmann Scholarship The recipient of the Heindsmann Scholarship, **Xavier Ajeto**, was presented to the congregation June 17th. Xavier will begin his junior year at Western Washington University this fall. He is majoring in communications with minors in Spanish and theatre. He will be performing at the Strawberry Festival at the following venues and times:

Saturday 7/20, 7:00 pm outside the Hardware Store (At this one he's just performing/singing ONE song as a guest of Portage Fill.)

Sunday 7/21 3:30-4:15pm outside Snapdragon (At this one he will have his own solo set and perform several songs!)

Don't miss these opportunities to enjoy the talent of this outstanding young man.

FESTIVAL PARKING 2019 Wow! How does it get to be that time of year already again? I will be needing the usual blitz crew for parking set up, chair set up and working both areas the day of the festival. I will plan to be tagging chairs on Friday 19th. (Time to be determined). Will need a few people to help put the chairs out very early on Saturday (7/20) morning, like 6:30am (for all you early risers who have lots of energy!!) Will also need at least two people to help "park the cars" so we get maximum space usage and two or more people to assist with setting additional chairs, collecting donations, etc. If you can see yourself doing any this, please let me know. **Make your parking space and chair reservations with me. They go fast, so don't delay!!**

Bev Skeffington.

Mary's Place Picnic This year, our worship and picnic with the women of Mary's place will take place on Sunday, **August 11th**. Worship will begin at about 10am with lunch following. Mark your calendars!

Elizabeth Loveness, Purposeful Service Elder

Hospitality/Fellowship Team News

Areas of Responsibility Hospitality, Fellowship

VPC Hosting Seattle Presbytery Meeting July 16th. On July 16th our church will be hosting the Seattle Presbytery. People will be arriving in the afternoon for sightseeing and enjoying the island hospitality. There will be a dinner that evening catered by the Presbytery and served by us. Join in and help welcome our church extended family from across the water. See Liz if you'd like to help.

Summer Supper Sign-up sheets are on the info table in the greeting room. You can just sign up and show up! It's a great way to gather in smaller groups and get to know one another better. Hope to see you at several of these gatherings this summer.

Elizabeth Loveness, Hospitality Elder

Invitation and Outreach Team News

Area of Responsibility New Members and Discipleship, Evangelism and Invitation.

Quilt Show We are going to have a wonderful display of quilts in the sanctuary for Strawberry Festival – the weekend of July 20th–21st. The public is invited. Attached will be a short story to tell about the quilt – how old, who made it, who is showing it.

**Saturday open from 10am – 6pm
Sunday open after worship until 4pm**

We will also need volunteers to be present during the open hours. Questions or information via email to barb.huff@comcast.net.

Barb Huff, Invitation and Outreach Elder

Mission Resource Team News

Area of Responsibility

Financial Stewardship
Building and Grounds

Financials

In April of this year we received \$123,474.13 from the sale of OMAX corporation stock. This stock was originally donated the church by John and Kathy Olsen in the late 1990's in support of the building fund drive for the new church addition. The mortgage remaining on that new addition was \$42,254.88. Using this income, we paid it off in full on April 29th.

That means that we no longer have to make the monthly mortgage payment of \$1336.23. That gives us some extra discretionary money each month without having to have increased donations. In May, I paid the entire balance of the annual per capita owed to the Seattle Presbytery. That's \$70 per month we won't have to pay again until next year.

For the past few years, because of budget constraints, we have had to make do with a part time Pastor. It has always been the goal of the Session and, I believe, the Congregation to have a full time Pastor as soon as it was economically feasible. With no more mortgage payment, we have reached that goal.

At the June meeting, Session voted to call a congregational meeting on July 7th for the purpose of changing Pastor Leigh Weber's terms of call to full time and to increase her compensation to an amount slightly above the minimum recommended by Presbytery. With an increase in compensation comes an increase in benefits, state L&I and state family leave insurance. The entire package will cost us an additional \$908.92 per month over what we are paying now. In other words, we will be spending less for a full time Pastor than what we were spending for a part time Pastor and a mortgage. I urge you to vote in favor of the change in Leigh's terms of call.

After the mortgage was paid off we still had \$81,219.25 left in the bank from the OMAX sale. To help decide what to do with this one-time windfall I

solicited suggestions from the congregation and formed a Mission Resource committee to make recommendations to Session. The committee members were Kathy Olsen, Beverly Skeffington, Lindsay Hofman, Jim Huff and me.

The committee made two recommendations to Session. First, that we give a tithe for missions. That is, that we give 10% of the OMAX income (\$12,347.41) to mission partners. The second recommendation was that the remaining funds be used for capital projects which would either directly support the mission of this church or lower our overhead expenses, freeing up funds to be used for our mission. Specifically, they recommended that we purchase solar panels to reduce our utility expenses and that we install a shower facility to support our homeless mission. Session adopted both recommendations.

In June I wrote checks to The Viet Nam mission for \$8231.61 and to IFCH for \$4115.80. That was our tithe for mission. I believe that both organizations are planning to use our donations for capital projects of their own.

We are still studying the costs and feasibility of our capital projects. We probably don't have enough funds to build both unless we got matching funds or grants of some kind. We definitely don't want to go back into debt for these projects. I will keep you posted as things progress.

Jim Lilje, Mission Resource Financial Elder



Mission Resource Team News

Area of Responsibility

Financial Stewardship
Building and Grounds

Buildings and Grounds

The flower beds are in bloom and dogwood tree out front is covered with new growth! It's a wonderful time of year to witness all this new life. What I truly miss though is the life and energy the students and parents of **Creative Preschool and Carpe Diem** fill the building we've been called to steward throughout the school year with. The good news is that both schools have renewed their contracts as tenants for next year and we hope to continue getting to know each other better.

Chris Coldeen and Phil Yunker and I have been busy making some joyful noises in and around the unoccupied classrooms, changing fluorescent lights and ballasts, checking emergency lighting, changing furnace filters and emptying the built in vacuum canister. We're taking a 2-week break because I'll be away until July 14th. But we've got a list of other repairs and improvements we'd like to accomplish this summer so join **the "Toolbelts" any Tuesday after we host Presbytery on July 16th to help out with minor maintenance projects.**

I spoke with Jim Marsh of the Chamber of Commerce about plans for this year's **Strawberry Festival. This year a major music stage will be erected between VPC and Colvos Creek Campground.** This will certainly provide us a wonderful opportunity to extend Christ's hospitality, listening to the stories of many Islanders and visitors who may hesitate to enter the church building.

Finally, we recently purchased **12 new lightweight plastic round tables for the social hall.** The new tables should be much easier to set up and stow. The tables we have been using have served us well for 19 yrs through many joyous occasions. Plans are to sell off the older tables at this year's Annual Yardsale August 3rd.

Blessings and Grace,

Jacq Skeffington, Mission Resource B and G Elder

Worship Team News

Area of Responsibility

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

On Tuesday, July 16th, we will host the Seattle Presbytery meeting. Beginning in the afternoon members from the surrounding Presbyterian churches will arrive to enjoy our island. Some will do some sightseeing, others will stay close to town. Last year they had a great time.

The meeting will begin at 5:00. Dinner will be served and the meeting will continue until around 8:00. Some of you may want to see how our presbytery works. Let us know if you plan on attending.

Don't forget Theology Pub every 4th Thursday of the month 5:30 at Camp Colvos.

Brownie Carver, Worship Elder

Faith Exploration Team News

Area of Responsibility

Bible study, Christian formation (all ages)

Adult education will resume in the fall. We will be discussing the book The Agile Church by Dwight J. Zscheile.

VPC Book Club will be at Barb and Jim Huff's this month on the 26th at 6:30. The discussion will be on the book Ordinary Grace by William Kent Krueger.

Al Ross Weston, Faith Exploration Elder

Deacon's News

Sharing God's love

If you would share God's love with the world then one of the best ways to do so is by volunteering. There are many different ways that you can help make our world a better place for others. Here are three different suggestions:

Picnics in the park

When school is out for the summer at lunch time island children can go hungry. Five mornings a week in the Presbyterian Church kitchen volunteers put together lunches for the Picnics in the Park program. Extra hands making sandwiches or slicing watermelon are always welcome and you will be helping make sure that many of the island children will have a nutritious lunch.

Outreach Committee

This committee, chaired by Barb Huff, 567-5678 is planning several activities this summer and needs volunteers for a variety of events. During festival the church makes the bathrooms available and provides an out of the heat retreat for people to relax and unwind. This year, a quilt show is planned. During that time we will need people for two hour shifts to welcome people and answer any questions. In August people will be needed to sort and price donations for, and help with, the annual church yard sale. Barb also needs additional committee members to help her plan other special summer church/community events.

Community van drivers

We want to put together a program for people needing rides in order to be able to attend church. The Chamber of Commerce has a van that is available but we will need volunteer drivers on Sunday morning. If this is something you would be interested in helping with, please talk to one of the deacons.

The church can always use help in many other different ways. Sign up for ushering or to bring flowers. Offer to help with a coffee hour or one of the IFCH dinners. Pick up litter from the parking lot or pull a few weeds. Join the crew in the kitchen for cleanup after a potluck or on Sunday morning. People willing to wash dishes are always welcome. If during announcements in church someone requests help, seek that person out after church and volunteer to help. By doing so, you will be sharing God's love with each other and with the world.

Deacon Sue Weston

Clerk's Corner

July 2019

Session met for its monthly meeting on June 11 with all elders present. A report was received from the nominating committee. Progress is being made on finding deacons and elders to serve next year. A discussion was held on the format for Theology Pub. A suggestion was made that the gathering be limited to one hour – one discussion – one beer. A report was received from the Mission Resource Committee regarding the utilization of funds realized from the sale of OMAX stock. (see elsewhere in the newsletter for that report.) The Bike Works event was discussed and it was decided to move that event to Saturday, September 14. There will be a square dance in the Social Hall to raise money for the Food Bank. It will be open to community. A date has not yet been set. Talk continued on the goals for each mission area. Members submitted written reports for their teams' activities.

Diana Lilje, Clerk of Session



Vacation Bible School

**Get Ready for Faith-filled Fun as we explore the Gospel of Luke! (español debajo)
VBS registration begins NOW! Sign up today! For children entering kindergarten to 6th grade,
(5- 11 year olds)**

August 12-16 9:30 am- 1 pm St. John Vianney Church.

\$30/ camper or \$50/ family. Scholarships available upon request.

Registration form at participating churches. Please bring form and fee to St. John Vianney, Bethel, Presbyterian, or VI Community Church by July 23rd or email to marylawrence.sjv@gmail.com.

Checks to St. John Vianney (memo- VBS)

Presented by the All-island ecumenical VBS team,

Mary Lawrence Kimi Healey Alice Dorr





Calendar for July 2019

July

- 7 Morning Prayer Service 8:30 AM
- 7 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM (Communion Service)(Food Bank)
- 7 Congregational Meeting after worship service
- 9 Session Meeting 4:30 PM
- 14 Morning Prayer Service 8:30 AM
- 14 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM
- 16 Seattle Presbytery Meeting at VPC
- 20 VPC Quilt Exhibit
- 20 Strawberry Festival Parking Fundraiser - all day
- 21 Morning Prayer Service 8:30 AM
- 21 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM
- 21 VPC Quilt Exhibit
- 26 VPC Book Club
- 28 Morning Prayer Service 8:30 AM
- 28 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

Text Study Group Monday Noon at VPC

Fellowship Breakfast Tuesday 9 am at Sporty's

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