

S E P T E M B E R 2 0 1 9

# Vashon Presbyterian Church

Vashon Island, Washington 98070

Listening to God, embracing all, living in joy

## September 2019 Newsletter

### Outreach: Everyone's Call

The most simple and efficient outreach in our church is to ask our friends or others we meet to come visit our church service or activities. To provide an opportunity for these personal invitations or a less personal but effective bridge to getting to know about our church, the Outreach Team, lead by Elder Barb Huff, plans fun and interesting events throughout the year. In the month of September the outreach activities are:

**First Friday** Join us Friday, September 6<sup>th</sup> for homemade ice cream and marshmallows by the fire pit in the front yard. Greet your neighbors and enjoy the fellowship of our church family.

**Motorcycle Sunday** Sunday, September 8 is "Motorcycle Sunday" when hundreds of Vintage Motorcycle Enthusiasts come to Vashon. The outreach committee is organizing a refreshment table again, to be set up outside in front of the church. Please plan to donate cookies etc. - homemade or purchased. Plan to help out in whatever way possible for this outreach

**BIKE DRIVE** for the community September 14<sup>th</sup> 9AM - 1PM at the church. We are working with Bike Works of Seattle to recycle bikes ([bikeworks.org](http://bikeworks.org)). They refurbish bikes for use in their programs or give away bikes, or up cycle parts, both locally and internationally. Bike Works accepts all bikes, bike parts and bike accessories, but they are especially in need of bikes in good condition. This is a great project for outreach - *helping the community, recycling - a win for all.*

*Barb Huff, Invitation and Outreach Elder*

### Upcoming Dates!

**First Friday Ice Cream**  
September 6<sup>th</sup>

**Motorcycle Sunday**  
September 8<sup>th</sup>

**Bike Recycle Event**  
September 14<sup>th</sup>

**Hospital District  
Speaker**  
September 15<sup>th</sup>

**VPC Book Club**  
September 27<sup>th</sup>

**Mental Health Forum**  
September 28<sup>th</sup>

**Combined Service  
With VUMC**  
September 29



Dear Ones of VPC,

For the last week or so the church has been filled with the noise of teachers preparing rooms for both Carpe Diem and Creative Preschool. I'm so excited to see the kids and hear their joyful noise coming and going in our hallways. They remind me each day that there is so much going on in this building.

One of my favorite books that I read to my children when they were little was called Ignacio's Chair by Gloria Evangelista. It is the story of a man who once carved a chair, a long time ago. The man had since died but the chair continued through time, seeing lots of things and with many people sitting on it and having it as part of their lives. I love that story and it reminds me of the life of this building that is VPC, built long ago, with so many people coming and going and allowing their stories to be told within its walls. From Carpe Diem and Creative to our 12-step groups, the Chorale, the Opera, IFCH dinners and so much more, including our own congregation, this building continues to see and support vibrant life!

As we move into the fall we will continue to see more moments where life is blossoming and stories are being shared in this place. On September 28<sup>th</sup>, we will host our Fall Mental Health Forum. It's a time where more stories will be told, more hearts will find safe space. I would encourage you to come and share in the experience with us, invite your friends and neighbors. By continuing this conversation, we continue to work together to erase the stigma of mental illness and make it safe to share our stories.

What stories will this building of ours hear, what life will it continue to see and hold? I like thinking of it recording each moment, from generation to generation, capturing the sounds of laughter and tears. I pray that continue to create the safe space together to welcome those moments, for everyone.

Grace and Peace,  
Leigh



## Hospitality/Fellowship

### Team News

#### Area of Responsibility

Hospitality, Fellowship

**Summer Suppers** Summer suppers were well attended and everyone thought them fun and informative. A hearty THANKS! to the following for hosting: Barbara Zue, Jan and Nancy vanRoessel, Ben and Nancy Tucker, Bob and Carol Spangler, Elizabeth Loveness, Claudia and Al Ross Weston, Thomas Abraham, Lindsay and Dana Hofman and Susan and Larry Commeree.

**Gratitude – Harvest Supper in November** Save the date, Saturday, November 9<sup>th</sup>. We will celebrate volunteers and the grace with which all of our members and friends of VPC have served our congregation and community throughout the past year.

*Elizabeth Loveness, Hospitality Elder*

## Faith Exploration Team News

### Area of Responsibility

Bible study, Christian formation (all ages)

**Adult formation** – The Sunday morning adult class will meet on September 15<sup>th</sup> at 9 am. We will discuss The Agile Church by Dwight Zscheile. Participants can get the book from the office.

**The VPC book club** will meet at 6pm on September 27<sup>th</sup> at the Ross-Westons. We will discuss Chicago by Brian Doyle. Potluck.

*Al Ross Weston, Faith Exploration Elder*

## Mission Resource

### Team News

#### Area of Responsibility

Financials, Building and Grounds

**Buildings and Grounds** Can you believe it's September already? Where did this Summer go? Thanks to all who helped with the **Annual Yard Sale** August 3rd and especially to Barb Huff for coordinating volunteers again this year. Not only did we receive donations of \$1,600.00, we enjoyed a wonderful day of sharing thoughts and stories with islanders and visitors. Many also stopped in to admire the sanctuary and the rest of the building. The building is once again abuzz with activity as teachers, future students and parents prepare classrooms, play fields and gardens for **Carpe Diem Primary and Creative Preschool**. Special thanks to Chris Coldeen for repairs in the preschool classrooms and to **Here Theime, Sheryl Lehman and Kathy O'Laughlin** for the hours they put in over the summer **tending and watering the grounds**. I'm always amazed to notice something different in the small garden near the north entrance which they lovingly transformed in the spring "**The King of Pane**" did a wonderful Job cleaning all our windows, both inside and out, at a very reasonable rate as did **Kenny Judd, stripping and resealing the bathroom floors** in the nursery and adjacent to the sanctuary.

Contractors are busy now clearing the brush along the west side of the parking lot behind the church. They will **soon replace the broken-down pieces of fence** along that line with a new continuous chain link fence. We hope this will cut down on the foot traffic, trash and vandalism we've experienced in the parking lot and provide a safer environment in the south end play yard.

Blessings,

*Jacq Skeffington, Mission Resource Elder*

## Invitation and Outreach Team News

### Area of Responsibility

New Members and Discipleship,  
Evangelism and Invitation

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**BIKE DRIVE** for the community September 14th 9AM - 1PM at the church. We are working with Bike Works of Seattle to recycle bike ([bikeworks.org](http://bikeworks.org)). They refurbish bikes for use in their programs or give away bikes, or upcycle parts, both locally and internationally. Bike Works accepts all bikes, bike parts and bike accessories, but they are especially in need of bikes in good condition, particularly these types of bikes:

**20-inch wheel BMX-style bikes**  
**24- and 26-inch wheel mountain bikes**  
**Road bikes of any size, especially smaller road bikes.**

We are in need of volunteers to work that day, recycle any bikes you have, tell friends and neighbors to bring in their bikes, someone to put up event posters around town, trucks and trailers to haul bikes to BikeWorks in Seattle.

This is a great project for outreach - helping the community, recycling - a win for all.

*Barb Huff, Invitation and Outreach Elder*

## Worship Team News

### Areas of Responsibility

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

**Guest Speaker** Bruce Baker will be preaching on September 8th while Leigh is on a retreat.

Please contact Brownie Carver if you would like to serve on the Worship Committee.

[bc2vashon@centurytel.net](mailto:bc2vashon@centurytel.net)

*Brownie Carver, Worship Elder*

## Purposeful Service Team News

### Area of Responsibility

Scholarship, Mary's Place Worship,  
IFCH Dinners, Mission Partner Relations

**Information about Hospital District Vote** Mark your calendars! On September 15<sup>th</sup> Mary Bergman and Annie Miksch will explain sustained healthcare on Vashon at our coffee hour. Bring a friend to hear the background and meaning of the Public Hospital District on which you will vote in November. This small group approach seems to be the best way to get complicated information out and everyone's questions answered. It feeds accurate information into the Island grapevine!

**Mary's Place Thank you!** Thanks to ALL who made the Mary's Place Picnic a truly unique event once again. Your delicious food, transport to and from ferry, setting up, cleaning up, providing music, etc etc. We couldn't have done it without you. It means so very much to the women who come to the picnic. I hope we can continue providing these women such a great time on Vashon and look forward to this event next year.

*Elizabeth Loveness, Purposeful Service Elder*

## Clerk's Corner

Session held its monthly meeting August 13 with all elders present. The Time of Congregational Listening was discussed and all agreed that it was a very productive gathering and more should be held in the future. The published ministry areas of the church are in need of updating. Each elder is expected to review and update his/her area by the next session meeting. Barb is continuing to work on a fund-raising event for the Food Bank. It will be a square dance event that will probably be held in January or February. Jacq and Chris Coldeen worked hard to remove skeletal remains and debris from rodents behind the walls of one of the preschool rooms in the basement. Members submitted written reports for their teams' activities.

*Diana Lilje, Clerk of Session*



A thoughtful moment at Mary's Place Picnic

## Thoughts from the Deacons

### I can't because.....

I sometimes hear myself making excuses. "I can't help with the IFCH dinner because I did it last month and.... I can't go to church on Sunday because the kids need me to ..... I can't make a meal for someone who has been in the hospital because I don't know what they can eat.... I can't give him a ride to that meeting because....I have to leave right after church so I don't can't help with coffee...I don't feel well so I can't....I can't help with that because I have never done it before....I can't be on that committee because I have too much to do at home. I am short of money this month so I can't.... Some one else needs to take her to the Dr because I can't.... I can't take time to read the Bible this morning because "I can't" springs far too often to our lips when asked to do something for others. If I believe that I show God's love for his world through my actions and hands then I need to reach out more and stop being so quick to say "I can't because...." What if the next time you said a prayer, God replied "I can't listen right now to your concerns because...." Or if we had a God that was not available for worship on Sunday because.... But just as God is always available to us so we must always be available to show his love to others. And I can't is simply not a good excuse.

*Deacon Sue Weston*



# Calendar for September 2019

(all events at VPC unless otherwise stated)

## Sept

- 1 Morning Prayer Service 8:30 AM
- 1 Sunday Worship Service at 10 AM Communion Service
- 5 Session Meeting 4:30 PM
- 6 First Friday Ice Cream Event 6-8 PM
- 8 Morning Prayer Service 8:30 AM
- 8 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM
- 8 Motorcycle Sunday Outreach
- 14 Bike Recycle Event
- 15 Morning Prayer Service 8:30 AM
- 15 Adult Faith Formation Class 9 AM
- 15 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM
- 15 Information Coffee Hour on Hospital District 11 AM
- 22 Morning Prayer Service 8:30 AM
- 22 Adult Faith Formation Class 9 AM
- 22 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM
- 26 IFCH Meal supplied by VPC 5:30 PM
- 27 VPC Book Club 6 PM at Ross Weston's
- 28 Mental Health Forum 9-Noon
- 29 Morning Prayer Service 8:30 AM
- 29 Combined Sunday Worship Service 10 AM at VUMC

## ONGOING ACTIVITIES

**Text Study in VPC Chapel on Mondays Noon (except Labor Day)**

**Fellowship Breakfast at Sporty's on Tuesdays 9 AM.**

**Bible Study meets the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays 10 AM (See enews for start date)**

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