

O C T O B E R 2 0 1 9

Vashon Presbyterian Church

Vashon Island, Washington 98070

Listening to God, embracing all, living in joy

October 2019 Newsletter

Something New on Tuesdays at 2!

Starting Tuesday, October 8th, join Leigh at Café Luna for conversation or just to hang out. She'll be there from 2-3 pm and you are welcome to come for as much or as little of that time as you like. She'd probably stay a longer if the conversation gets going.

Trick or Treat at VPC

VPC' will participate in the annual downtown Merchant Trick or Treat on Halloween night. We will be opening our doors (and bathrooms) and handing out treats and hot cider. We'll also have the fire pit going for trick-or-treaters to gather and warm themselves.

On the Subject of Sustainability

Rondi Lightmark will speak at our coffee hour on October 20th. She is putting together a Whole Vashon Catalog giving a community-wide look at what's being done, resources, and what can be done in the future toward the goal of greater attention to sustainability. She is a very interesting speaker so mark your calendars for this important coffee hour after worship on the 20th.

What Would You Say?

Given a couple of minutes in an elevator with someone, how would you say what you believe? This is the question those gathered at Theology Pub this month will be pondering. The Pub meeting is on the 24th instead of the last Thursday because of the conflict with Halloween.

Important Dates!

First Friday S'Mores
October 4

World Communion Sunday
October 6

Adult Education Class
October 6, 13, 20, 27

Luna with Leigh
October 8, 15, 22, 29

VPC Book Club
October 18

PEO Debbie Dimitre Event
October 19

Halloween Treats
October 31

Harvest/Gratitude Dinner
November 2



Dear Ones of VPC,

As I sit in my office typing this, with the heat on, I'm aware that summer has officially gone, and fall is upon us. I have a love/not so much love relationship with this season. I love Saturdays, making chili, watching college football. I've grown to love listening to the Seahawks more than watching them as I tune in to the radio while waiting for or sailing on my Sunday ferry rides home. But the leaves in my backyard...not so much love for them. My days off will soon be consumed with hours of raking and yard waste bins packed full.

Seasons are like that, parts of them we love and parts of them...not so much. Life seasons both individually and as a community, as a church, are also like that. There are parts we love and parts...well not so much but they are, in the end, seasons and they change as we move forward. There's both joy and real work in this work we do as the church. There are dishes to be washed, floors that need vacuuming, toilets that occasionally clog. There are outside chores and inside chores to keep our building up and going for all its many users. And there are moments of deep conversation and joyous laughter, of tears and happiness, of sharing in this work and this season that we find ourselves in.

My prayer for you and me is that we find the joy amid the work, that we celebrate the deepening relationships while we do the chores and that we get lost in the moments of rest where we stop and just simply be together. My prayer for you and me is that we embrace and receive this new season, in whatever it is that God is calling from us and gifting to us.

I'm personally entering a season, now in my third year with you, of finding a more natural rhythm and wanting to make even more space for deeper conversations together. So, this fall, starting on Tuesday, October 8th, I'll be hanging out at Café Luna from 2-3 pm. Maybe someone will think of a catchy name for this time, "Luna and Leigh" or something but what I hope for is that you know you are welcome to slow down for an hour and join me in a cup of tea or a latte, and just check in.

I'm always praying for you. I keep a directory in my car to pray for you by name each day and I would invite you to be praying for me as well. Let us all pray that, as the seasons transition from summer to fall, we make ourselves open to whatever new season God has in mind for us. It's exciting to me to think of God having a plan for you and me.

Please join me any Tuesday at 2 at Café Luna or email/call me as you need or want. I value checking in, hearing how you are, getting to know more about your own journey. I value the ever-deepening relationships we will all find together as we continue this work of being the church, for such a time as this.

Grace and Peace,
Leigh



Hospitality/Fellowship

Team News

Area of Responsibility

Hospitality, Fellowship

Gratitude Supper Join your church family for a relaxing, evening meal and lots of fun Saturday, November 2nd at 5:30 pm. You don't need to bring anything. Appetizers and a harvest dinner will be provided by the hospitality committee. Entertainment in the form of music, games and possibly a small but exciting silent auction will cap off the evening of fun. Pastor Leigh and the Session would like to say thank you to everyone who has dedicated time, funds and energy to the real work of carrying out our mission here on Vashon.

Elizabeth Loveness, Hospitality Elder

Faith Formation

Team News

Area of Responsibility

Bible study, Christian formation (all ages)

The Sunday morning adult class will continue our study of the book The Agile Church by Dwight J. Zschelle. The class meets at 9 am Sundays in the library.

Pub Theology will be on October 24th (the 4th Thursday) this month as the last Thursday is Halloween. Our topic for October is "if you're in an elevator for two minutes with someone how would you convey what you believe"?

Text Study Text Study continues in October with a discussion of the Book of Ester. This group meets at noon on Mondays in Leigh's office.

VPC Book Club will convene on the 18th of October. The meeting is at Bev and Jacq Skeffington's beginning with a potluck at 6 pm. The book selection is In the Heart of the Sea by Nathaniel Philbrick.

Al Ross Weston, Faith Formation Elder

Worship

Team News

Area of Responsibility

Sacraments Celebration, Music Program,
Lay Leaders, Ecumenical worship,
Church Décor

If you would like to be a reader for Sunday morning worship please contact me at bc2vashon@centurytel.net

We would like to have a men's chorus perform during worship in December. Please let me know if you are available to sing some special music for Advent.

The worship team met in September and came up with creative and helpful ideas that will improve our worship experience. Our next meeting is November 27th. Join us and share your ideas.

Brownie Carver, Worship Elder

Invitation and Outreach

Area of Responsibility

New Members and Discipleship
Evangelism and Invitation

Halloween Treats The Outreach Team plans for VPC's participation in the annual downtown Merchant Trick or Treat night. We will be opening our doors (and bathrooms) and handing out treats and hot cider. We'll also have the fire pit going for trick-or-treaters to gather, take a break and warm themselves. If you want to help or take a shift giving out treats, talk to Barb Huff.

Barb Huff, Outreach Elder

Mission Resource

Team News

Area of Responsibility

Financials

Building and Grounds

Buildings and Grounds

Fall is in the air. Soon we'll be decorating the front porch with pumpkins, corn stalks and maybe a sunflower or two. If you have any of these growing in your garden and would like to add them to our Halloween decorations, please let me know.

Aldo Flores and his group of workers have finished clearing the brush along the west side of the parking lot behind the church and replacing the broken-down pieces of fence along that line with a new continuous 6 ft tall 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 for Carpe Diem students in the south end play yard.

The tool belts group cleaned the dispersal trench at the north end of the parking lot and installed fencing to block access through the spillway of the south end containment pond at the request of King County Surface Water Management. Compliance with their guidelines results in a substantial reduction in our property taxes. Our next major project will be reopening the doorway from the nursery to the courtyard playground used primarily by Creative Preschool. We hope this will allow more interaction with the families of preschoolers who might like to stay nearby after dropping children off or who arrive a little early to pick them up.

Meanwhile, we need to clean the gutters and downspouts and start cleaning the flower beds and preparing them for the winter so please join us any Tuesday morning between 10 and noon if you are willing to help with our routine maintenance.

The Mission Resources Facilities Team plans to meet the first Tuesday of each month at the Colvos Creek Pub at 6:00. Please join us Tuesday, October 1st, to discuss future needs and activities.

Blessings and Grace,

Jacq Skeffington, Mission Resource B&G Elder

Purposeful Service

Team News

Area of Responsibility

Scholarship, Mary Magdalene Weekend, IFCH Dinners, Mission Partner Relations

Rondi Lightmark will speak at our coffee hour on October 20th. She is putting together a Whole Vashon Catalog giving a community-wide look at what's being done, resources, and what can be done in the future toward the goal of greater attention to sustainability. She is a very interesting speaker so mark your calendars for this important coffee hour after worship on the 20th.

IFCH VPC will be responsible for the meal October 24th.

Purposeful Service Team Purposeful Service Team invites new members. Join us for our fall planning meeting, Thursday, October 3rd at 6:00 pm. We'd like new faces and fresh ideas!

Elizabeth Loveness, Purposeful Service Elder

Clerk's Corner October 2019

Session held its monthly meeting September 9 with all elders present. Each elder had been encouraged to spend the past month in daily prayer for guidance on the issue of using the OMAX funds for purchase of solar panels. Following a discussion, it was unanimously decided to proceed with the purchase. Each elder is expected to review and update his/her mission area by the next session meeting and forward corrections to the pastor. Work was begun on the 2020 budget. Members submitted written reports for their teams' activities.

Diana Lilje, Clerk of Session

Church Officers

VPC Pastor Reverend Leigh Weber

VPC Elders

Brownie Carver - Worship Team;

Elizabeth Loveness - Hospitality Team

Barb Huff - Invitation and Outreach Team

Al Ross Weston - Faith Exploration Team

Jim Lilje - Mission Resource Team, Financials

Elizabeth Loveness - Purposeful Service Team

Jacq Skeffington - Mission Resource Team,
Building and Grounds

Diana Lilje - Clerk of Session

VPC Deacons

Lindsay Hofman, Sheryl Lehman,

Myrtle Walls, Claudia Ross Weston, Sue Weston

Deacon's News

It is never too little

When ever I am tempted to say that doing something to share God's love is too little or not enough I am reminded of the child who had the 5 small barley loaves and two fish that the disciples fed the crowd with and then had lots left over. But, you say "this was because Jesus was there to make a miracle." We forget that God is always with us and able to use whatever small gesture of kindness or generosity that we may do in his name and turn it into something far beyond what we can imagine happening in another person's life.

This week, just before church, I was reading the current Presbyterian magazine that sits on the table in the east room. There is a program in the Philippines for 7-13 year old children who would ordinarily be on the streets, either selling merchandise for their families or begging instead of being able to attend school. Called the School on Wheels, this program gives these street children a non-formal education of 3 hours a day for 10 months and enables the children to catch up and reenter public school. In New York, 12 year old Boden Bubb learned about the Philippine program and wanted to do something to help. His first collecting drive of Legos collected over 100 pounds of Legos to be donated to various children's programs and shelters in the city of Dumaguete, in the Philippines. The Legos allow the children to learn, play and expand their imaginations. Inspired by the success of his first Lego drive Boden then learned about the need for safe drinking water in the Philippines and started raising funds again. As a result of his fund raising efforts the Silliman Water Ministry will now able to build another solar-powered water filtration system.

I may never know the results of any small gestures of kindness or generosity but God will always use them in his own time and ways. And I believe that that each small gesture has the power to grow and create more, just as a ripple or a drop of water can cause more and more ripples until it can become a river and then an ocean.

Deacon Sue Weston



Calendar for October 2019

October

- 1 Mission Resource Meeting 6 PM at Colvos Creek
- 3 Purposeful Service Meeting 6 PM
- 4 First Friday Fire Pit and S'Mores
- 6 Prayer Service 8:30 AM
- 6 Adult Faith Formation Class 9 AM
- 6 Sunday Worship 10 AM (World Communion)
- 6 Hospitality Team Meeting after worship
- 8 Leigh at Luna's 2-3 PM
- 8 Session Meeting 4:30 PM
- 13 Prayer Service 8:30 AM
- 13 Adult Faith Formation Class 9 AM
- 13 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM
- 15 Deacon's Meeting 3 PM
- 18 VPC Book Club 6:00 PM at Skeffington's
- 20 Prayer Service 8:30 AM
- 20 Adult Faith Formation Class 9 AM
- 20 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM
- 24 VPC'S IFCH Meal 5:30 PM
- 27 Prayer Service 8:30 AM
- 27 Adult Faith Formation Class 9 AM
- 27 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM
- 31 Halloween Treats

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

- Text Study Group noon on Mondays
- Fellowship Breakfast at Sporty's 9 AM Tuesdays
- Tool Belts 10-Noon Tuesdays
- Leigh at Luna's Luna Café 2-3 PM Tuesdays

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