

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

# Vashon Presbyterian Church

Vashon Island, Washington 98070

**Love One Another**



## February 2020 Newsletter

### The Annual Report

If you were not able to attend the Annual Congregational Meeting on January 26<sup>th</sup> 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 2020. Also there are reports from the Deacons and personnel and nominating committees. It's rewarding to see how much our dedicated members have accomplished in one year.

### New Officers at VPC

Deacons Sheryl Lehman and Sue Weston (class of 2021) and Ruling Elders Barb Huff, Al Ross-Weston and Bob Spangler (class of 2022) were installed during Worship January 12th. Deacon Susan Commeree (class of 2021) was installed January 26. Session held its monthly meeting January 21st with all Elders present. Jacq Skeffington was elected to serve as Clerk of Session. Pastor Leigh Weber is Moderator.

**Your complete list of church officers for 2020 is:** Elders Brownie Carver, Barb Huff, Jim Lilje, Elizabeth Loveness, Al Ross Weston, and Bob Spangler. Jacq Skeffington, Clerk of Session. Our Deacons are Susan Commeree, Lindsay Hofman (Moderator), Sheryl Lehman, Claudia Ross Weston, Nancy Tucker and Sue Weston.

### **Important Dates!**

**February 2, 9, 16**  
**Faith Exploration Class 9 am**

**February 20**  
**Theology Pub 5:30 pm**

**February 21**  
**VPC Book Club 6 pm**

**February 26**  
**Ash Wednesday Service 7 pm**

**February 27**  
**VPC IFCH Meal 5:30 pm**

**March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31**  
**Lenten Taize Service 6 pm**

**March 14**  
**Pi Day! 10 – 3 pm**

Dear Ones of VPC,

While it may be hard to believe, by the end of this month we will be entering into the season of Lent. Ash Wednesday, 2020, falls on Wednesday, February 26<sup>th</sup>. I'd like to invite you to consider the different offerings during the Lenten season this year, our Tuesday Taize service at 6:00 pm each week and/or our Lenten Bible Study, that I will be leading, afterwards. During Lent, we will be focusing on the Gospel of John, but our Bible Study will be comprised of the stories that we've skipped over in the Winter Sermon Series, Starting with Abraham. Additionally, there will be a weekly devotional guide sent by email each Monday morning but also available in print copy at the church office as well.

I encourage you to try on one or more of these offerings as part of your observation of the Lenten season. It's a season that gives us a dedicated period of six weeks where we can explore a variety of spiritual disciplines, including the study of scripture together.

One of the things that I have been reminded of in this latest sermon series is that God takes ordinary and complicated human beings and accomplishes extraordinary things. And by being in God's word together, wrestling with the text together, I know that I at least, get a better and deeper understanding of what God is up to in this world of ours and where I am being called to fit.

As I listen to you tell your stories of your own journeys and share observations of your shared stories with one another, I get a richer understanding of the community of people that is VPC. The same is true of scripture. As we read the journeys and observations recorded for us, we get a richer understanding of the community of God's people to which each of us belongs. Israel's story is OUR story and the struggles of those individuals bear a lot of resemblance to the kinds of things that you and I struggle with today.

My prayer is that you will prayerfully consider where you might plug in this Lent, in the contemplative, quiet worship of Taize, in the study of the text in Bible Study or in trying on new spiritual disciplines that you may not have yet to explore. Whichever one you choose or however many of them, my hope is that you will learn something new not only about God but also about yourself.

This work of being the church and this work of faith are not things we can master and never work on again. They require creativity and imagination and the desire and willingness to learn and try new things. We, and our faith, are works in progress. So, what might you try this season and where might you show up to share your story with another? I look forward to hearing about it and sharing in it with you. I look forward to Lent.

And, as always, I thank God for you and this work into which you and I are called together.

Grace and Peace,

Leigh

## From the Deacons February 2020

From Our Mouths to God's Ears...

*"We are snared by the words of our mouth."* Proverbs 6:2

*"Let the redeemed of the Lord say so..."* Psalm 107:2

We are all familiar with the term "self-fulfilling prophecy," in which the forecasts we make—and usually they are couched in negativity—come to pass. How often do we vocalize sentiments like, "That's just my luck," or "I'll never get out of debt," "This pain will never go away," etc. We all have these unbidden thoughts sometimes. But it's important to not give life to those feelings by expressing them aloud. Do you know the power of the spoken word? God does, and He wants the words we speak to be positive and praise-filled.

When we are bombarded with negative thoughts, we can either accept them or we can defeat them by speaking words of faith and positivity aloud. "I don't see how my situation can improve, but God's vision far exceeds mine. I put my faith in Him to get me through this." When we speak in the affirmative, we create another self-fulfilling prophecy, but this one is full of hope and promise. How much more fun it is to serve God when the words of our mouth are faithful and joyous. And how much more effectively can we serve others when we offer positive words of encouragement! Let's strive to banish the negative, and instead create an air of contagious positivity with our kind and uplifting words.

*Deacon Nancy Tucker*

## Clerk's Corner February 2020

Deacons Sheryl Lehman and Sue Weston (class of 2021) and Ruling Elders Barb Huff, Al Ross-Weston and Bob Spangler (class of 2022) were installed during Worship January 12th. Deacon Susan Commeree (class of 2021) was installed January 26. Session held its monthly meeting January 21st with all Elders present. Jacq Skeffington was elected to serve as Clerk of Session. Members submitted written reports for their teams' activities and some discussion followed. Session received the 2019 audit committee report and moved to amend the 2020 budget to reflect revised expenses for Board of Pension payments and for state employment taxes. Session received a number of recommendations from Purposeful Service concerning Creation Care initiatives which session endorsed. Session made a number of appointments for 2020, including Jacq and Beverly Skeffington as Commissioners to Presbytery. The monthly meeting date was set as the third Tuesday of each month at 4:30, but this will be modified for the February meeting which will be held on the fourth Tuesday. The annual congregational meeting was held on January 26. Jim Lilje gave an update on the financial report included in the Annual Report and answered questions about VPC's financial position. The Moderator asked Barb Huff, chair of the Personnel Committee, to present the proposed terms of call for Pastor Leigh for 2020 which the members approved unanimously. The congregation elected the 2020 Nominating Committee composed of Al Ross-Weston, Barb Huff, George Thieme, Sue Weston, and John Williams. Session held a retreat at the Spanglers' on January 24 prayerfully discerning where we're called as a church and renewing our mission statement.

*Grace and Peace,  
Jacq Skeffington, Clerk of Session*

## Mission Resource

### Team News

#### Area of Responsibility

Financials, Building and Grounds

**Buildings and Grounds** We're literally busting out of the walls of the church! **We've begun reopening the doorway from the nursery to the backyard playground** used primarily by Creative preschool children and families. The door was sealed and boarded over about 10 years ago when repairs were needed but funds were unavailable. Recently, as we've had more interaction with the parents of the preschoolers and their teachers, Pastor Leigh and the outreach group have been visioning a reception area where parents can drop off children and gather for a few minutes sharing stories and concerns. We hope to complete the installation by springtime.

Speaking of springtime! Very soon there'll be plenty of help needed pruning and weeding the flowerbeds around the church. Right now though, **we have a great need to pick up trash** around the parking lot. Please join me at a **work party Saturday Feb 8<sup>th</sup> from 10-12**. If you can't make that Saturday but would like to help out, you can always stop by the church on your own and pick up a bag or two of litter around the parking lot.

**Recyclables and trash can be placed in the receptacles within the fenced collection area** in the parking lot. Please wear rubber gloves!

Once again we're planning to have the **carpets cleaned** while CarpeDiem is on break Friday, Feb 21st. I'll be contacting a few of you hearty souls to move furniture and tables into the classrooms Thursday, the 20th in preparation and back out Saturday or Sunday. Please let me know if you're interested in helping.

**The Mission Resources Facilities Team meets the first Tuesday of each month at the Colvos Creek Pub from 6:30 to 7:30 pm**, so please join us Tuesday, February 4th with any concerns or just to help discern future plans.

Blessings and Grace,

*Jacq Skeffington, Point Person B & G*

## Hospitality/Fellowship

### Team News

#### Areas of Responsibility

Hospitality, Fellowship

**A Big Thank You** Many hands went into making the service and reception in celebration of Hazel Thies's life a meaningful time for Hazel's family and friends. I fully appreciated the hospitality crew as they faithfully worked and shared the Lord's love at each turn and bend in the day. Although chilly, the sun came out and shown bright putting a special glow on our surroundings - but no more so than the warm greeting demonstrated by our members. Thank you again intrepid committee members!

#### Coffee Hour and Flowers on the Altar are

**Calling** Week in and week out – so goes the year. What helps make each week special? You can make a difference by hosting a coffee hour or placing flowers on the altar. Please indicate your willingness to do this by adding your name to the signup sheet at coffee hour.

*Elizabeth Loveness, Hospitality Elder*

## Faith Exploration

### Team News

#### Area of Responsibility

Bible study, Christian formation (all ages)

**VPC Book Club** This month the book club will discuss When Breath Becomes Air, by Paul Kalanithi. February 21, 6 pm place TBD. The book selection for March is A Pilgrimage to Eternity by Timothy Egan.

**Adult Education Class** finishes the last three weeks of its special look at the Prophets.

**Theology Pub this month is Thursday, February 20, at 5:30 pm Camp Colvos. (One Year Anniversary!)**

*Elder Al Ross Weston*

## Worship Team News

### Area of Responsibility

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

Hazel Thies' service will be on Sunday, February 2nd at 1:00.

Leading up to Lent, our Sunday worship services will have both piano and organ music.

Ash Wednesday will be on February 26th. Our service will be at 7:00 PM.

During Lent, Leigh will lead a Bible study which will go into more detail on Abraham's story. Pastor Leigh will give more information with the time and day.

Taize services will be on Tuesday evenings during Lent, beginning on March 3rd at 6:00 and ending on April 7th. Services will last 30 minutes.

*Brownie Carver, Worship Elder*

## Invitation and Outreach Team News

### Area of Responsibility

New Members and Discipleship,  
Evangelism and Invitation

**First Friday S'Mores** Outreach will have its normal Friday S'mores - First Friday - February 6th , 5-7 pm.

**Outreach Planning meeting following church Sunday, February 9th.** Jesus was all about outreach. What does outreach mean to you? Where do you see us in our community? Join us for sharing of ideas, direction for the year, events, projects - One time attendees welcome, or one year commitment is delightful.

*Barb Huff, Outreach Elder*

## Purposeful Service Team News

### Area of Responsibility

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

I'm delighted to be the new session member assigned to the Purposeful Service team. This group of very dedicated members has faithfully been leading VPC in its mission efforts to the community and beyond, and I'm confident that we can continue with our service in the Christian tradition. In addition to our ongoing support of the Food Bank through the first Sunday collection (thanks, Sue Weston!), we will be working in February to further the Creation Care initiative by emphasizing recycling and reuse programs. You will be seeing more recycling bins in addition to the one in the office. Other spring programs will be interviewing for and awarding the Heindsmann scholarship, and the One Great Hour of Sharing collection. Our plans and accomplishments will be reported regularly. **Purposeful Service will hold a meeting after coffee hour on February 16,** and any member of the VPC community is invited to join us.

*Bob Spangler, Purposeful Service Elder*

### **Creation Care Thought for the Day!**

WAIT!! Don't grab that paper towel! Why not use a cloth rag for wipe-ups and a variety of other things? These cloths can be thrown in with your other laundry and can provide so many uses over and over. These reusable rags could be created from old tee shirts or tea towels you have around the house. I should imagine that potential rags could be made from items found at granny's attic for a reasonable price. They can also be purchased new in hardware stores. When cleaning mushrooms tonight for dinner, I used a cotton cloth to clean them before chopping. So before you rip off a paper towel, think about using a cloth rag instead. Store them in a convenient place to where you will use them.

# Calendar

## February 2020

(all events at VPC unless otherwise stated)



### Feb

- 2 Prayer Service 8:30 am
- 2 Adult Education Class 9 am
- 2 Worship Service (Communion Service, Food Bank Sunday) 10 am
- 2 Celebration of Life for Hazel Thies, 1 pm
- 4 Mission Resource Team Meeting 6:30-7:30 pm at Camp Colvos
- 9 Prayer Service 8:30 am
- 9 Adult Education Class 9 am
- 9 Sunday Worship Service 10 am
- 9 Outreach team meeting after worship
- 16 Prayer Service 8:30 am
- 16 Adult Education Class 9 am
- 16 Sunday Worship Service 10 am
- 16 Purposeful Service Meeting after worship
- 20 One Year Anniversary Theology Pub 5:30 pm at Camp Colvos
- 21 VPC Book Club at 6 pm at TBD
- 23 Prayer Service 8:30 am
- 23 Sunday Worship Service 10 am
- 26 Ash Wednesday Service 7 pm
- 27 VPC IFCH meal 5-7 pm

### ONGOING ACTIVITIES

**Text Study Group** meets at noon on Mondays

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

**Tool Belts** 10-Noon Tuesdays.

**Luna with Leigh** 2 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.