

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

Vashon Presbyterian Church

Vashon Island, Washington 98070

“Love One Another”

September 2020 Newsletter

September 2020 versus One Year Ago – September 2019

When we start each month's newsletter the issue from the previous year is brought forth and the process of updating it with current information and dates begins. This allows a season-correct format and design while simply pasting in the articles written this last week. Because of the process, your editor inadvertently compares what was going on the year before with what's happening now. Looking at the activities on the “Important Dates” for last year, we can see a big difference in the kind of activities and the needs of the congregation. “First Friday Ice Cream and Fire Pit, Motorcycle Sunday, Bike Recycle Event, Hospital District Speaker, VPC Book Club, Mental Health Forum, Combined Service With VUMC and the Harvest Supper” just to name a few. Who would have thought that our lives and routine would change so much.....and who had ever heard of ZOOM?! Well our church services are now on Zoom and are as spiritually inspiring and uplifting as always. Pastor Leigh, the session and deacons have worked tirelessly to provide and coordinate connection times on Zoom, telephone calls, hand written notes, goodies from the deacons and safe distancing visits so that we are not isolated from our church family. The activities on “Important Dates” this year are mostly on Zoom. Happy Hours, Art in Worship, Tuesday “coffee at Sporty's”, text study, faith formation classes, game night and early morning prayer times as well as Sunday services (all on Zoom) round out the church calendar. Going forward Pastor Leigh would like to devote more time to pastoral care. It is a time when we are hesitant to look back to last year for assurance and uncertain how to look forward to see what is realistic for the coming months. We know that God's love is constant. We can support and reassure one another. It's been good to begin mini gatherings but we're still very much in the arena of Zoom, email and social media for ongoing connection. One might wonder how this year's “Important Dates” will compare with that of September 2021?

Upcoming Dates!

**Carpe Diem Starts
Limited Outdoor Classes
August 31**

**Worship Team Meeting
September 2 - 7 pm**

**Friday Game Nights
September 4, 11, 25 - 7 pm**

**Hospitality Team Meeting
September 4 - 9 am**

**Mini Gatherings
September 1 - 30**

**VPC Book Club
September 18 - 7 pm**

**Art in Worship
September 6, 13, 20, 27**

**Happy Hours!
September 2, 4, 7, 9, 11, 14,
16, 18, 21, 23, 25, 28, 30.**



Dear Ones of VPC,

As I write this to you, I've just been walking through my backyard noticing the first couple of crunchy fallen leaves, partly from my lack of watering but largely giving hints that summer is waning. Having grown up on the East Coast, seasons were more defined. Summer was summer, it was hot and filled with afternoon thunderstorms to cool things off. Fall was full of colorful leaves and got perpetually colder until winter presented itself and the world grew cold and quieter. Then, of course, spring and all of its color.

What I have learned in my 27 years living in the PNW is that seasons have more gradual changes, and each season has mini seasons within it. Rain will soon come but there will be days where the skies clear and we bask in the moments. Such is the life of faith in so many ways. Things come easily at times, and other times we wonder where God is and why we can't feel the closeness for which we long. We wax and wane through our seasons.

I suspect that Covid-19 is adding to the turbulence of seasonal changes this time around. Impending rain will force us to rethink how we gather. The dry evenings walking with friends or gathering at a distance in backyards will be less frequent. We will, once again, how to become creative.

We will have to be intentional and rethink how we do what we do in order to maintain the closeness we all want. And I wonder if that's a bit of a gift in this season. Our relationship with God also requires us to be intentional, to think and rethink where we are and what it is, we feel and need. Practices and disciplines that worked for us in the past may need some rethinking. We might be being invited to try something new with our prayer time/life.

This is a good time to check in with yourself, with God. What might you be being called to try or experience in a new way? As always, I am so happy to check in with you and think and talk and dream about what is and what can be. God is with us. Through each and every season, we need to be intentional with our spirits. Seasons change but God never does.

Grace and Peace,
Leigh



Hospitality/Fellowship

Team News

Area of Responsibility

Hospitality, Fellowship

Mini Gatherings The mini gatherings are starting to pick up speed. More and more members are feeling safe when masks, distancing and meeting outside are the conditions set forth for the gathering. If you would like to join in or host a get-together, contact Nancy Tucker to coordinate.

Hospitality Meeting There will be a Hospitality Team meeting Friday at 9 am. We would like to initiate other activities that bring our church family closer together and will be open to suggestions and ideas this Friday.

Faith Exploration Team News

Area of Responsibility

Bible study, Christian formation (all ages)

Adult Faith Formation Class We continued Spiritual Journaling by popular demand. The last class will be Tuesday September 1 at 7 pm. Thanks to all who participated. The class provided inspiration for continuing with your own personal journaling. We are considering topics and materials for a new class. If you have ideas please contact Al Ross Weston.

The VPC Book Club will meet via Zoom at 7 pm on September 18th. We will discuss The Nightingale by Kristin Hannah.

Upcoming Book Club Selections

October Ho Chi Minh: A Life William J Duiker

November One Long River of Song Brian Doyle

Al Ross Weston, Faith Exploration Elder

Mission Resource

Team News

Area of Responsibility

Financials, Building and Grounds

Buildings and Grounds The windows in the upper room, chapel, library, both offices, classrooms, and the social hall were cleaned inside and out 8/18/20 by Robert Ortega, "The King of Pane". All carpeting in the great hall, social hall, reception areas and the office will be cleaned by Robin Lewis on Tuesday, September 2nd.

Carpe Diem returned to outdoor classes August 31st. Children will meet in small cohorts with teachers on Mondays and Tuesdays and work remotely the rest of the week to start out. They intend to use Creative Preschool's gazebo in the courtyard and set up a tent in the parking lot, only enter the building for bathroom use. **Please refrain from entering the church on Mondays and Tuesdays if possible and wear a mask at all times in the building.** Creative Preschool is not planning to hold any classes this year.

I'd like to invite you to a **socially distant work party Saturday, September 5th, from 10-noon.** We'll plan to pick up trash around the parking lot, trim hedges and shrubbery, cut back blackberries, deadhead the rhododendrons and generally freshen up the grounds for the fall. Please bring clippers, string trimmers, rakes and shovels. We'll spread out around the grounds but please wear a mask also.

There are a still couple of **drainage issues** in the crawlspace beneath the social hall and parking lot that we can only address in the drier months. Please contact me if you'd be willing to help and we can coordinate our schedules.

Blessings and Grace,
Jacq Skeffington, Buildings & Grounds

Worship Team News

Areas of Responsibility

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

Worship Survey The surveys have been very helpful. Thank you to everyone who replied with their opinions.

Worship Team Meeting The worship team will be meeting on Wednesday, September 2 at 7:00 pm.

Please contact Brownie at bc2vashon@centurytel.net, if you would like to furnish music for our Sunday service

Brownie Carver, Worship Elder

Invitation and Outreach Team News

Area of Responsibility

New Members and Discipleship,
Evangelism and Invitation

VPC Game Night Game Night has proven to be one of the hits of the difficult stay-at-home pandemic season. Plan to join the fun and find out what everyone is talking about. Fridays at 7 pm!

Barb Huff, Outreach Elder

Purposeful Service Team News

Area of Responsibility

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

Purposeful Service team met via zoom on August 14. We decided to proceed with the **Heindsmann Scholarship** selection even though the building may still be closed. Claudia Ross-Weston is handling the publicity. Forms and returns will be sent by mail. Interviews in October will be held according to the guidelines then in place.

The team recommended, and session agreed, that \$500 from the mission initiative fund will be donated to **Mary's Place for a children's program**. A speaker from Mary's Place will give a moment for mission in September. We have also been in touch with **Binh Nguyen about the Vietnam Ministries**, one of VPC's mission partners. We will provide more information about this program after our discussions with him. The team is looking at other organizations to support with funds designated for mission.

We continue to ask the VPC community to support **IFCH and the Food Bank** during this time of great need for their services. We are also asking members to use the **recycling of styrofoam** and similar materials, as described in the e-News. If you have those materials but are unable to take them to the designated location, please contact Bob or Jacq Skeffington for a pickup.

Bob Spangler, Purposeful Service Elder

First Sunday Recycling Event Coming Soon!

“First Sunday, Recycling Event” September 6th
Use the list provided at the end of August and September Enews as you gather items.

Clerk's Corner

Session held its monthly meeting August 18th via ZOOM with all Elders present. Pastor Leigh reported that people are appearing worn out due to the pandemic and social justice concerns. She intends to increase socially distant pastoral care, coming to Vashon twice per week and meeting with individuals or small groups in outdoor settings. Please call her or the office to set up a time. Treasurer Jim Lilje reported that VPC is still in good financial condition. Discussion followed concerning additional funds received as shareholders from the final sale of the OMAX Corporation. In light of the financial uncertainty ahead of us, Session decided to retain the funds in our general bank account. A WiFi access point has been added in the sanctuary to enhance internet access there. This will allow individuals to join ZOOM meetings and worship services while in the sanctuary and add performances on the piano or organ from VPC to the services. Brownie Carver reported that the Worship committee conducted a survey of the congregation about resuming limited worship in the sanctuary. Results are still coming in and being reviewed. Bob Spangler reported that publicity for the Heindsmann scholarship will be sent out in September with a possible decision and award in late October. \$500 will be donated to Mary's Place for a "summer fun day" program for children. Friday night game nights are still gaining popularity and Outreach Elder Barb Huff is getting closer to publishing sermons on our website. Hospitality elder Elizabeth Loveness reported that small gatherings are picking up speed. Many members are developing routines for safe distancing in person to person meetings. It is rewarding to see these fledgling get-togethers. We could be in a restricted environment for quite some time and its nice to be experiencing the joy of getting together - even if in this limited manner. Liz is also researching other books for a congregation wide read on social justice issues.

Blessings and Grace,
Jacq Skeffington, Clerk of Session

Mission Resource Team News Area of Responsibility Financials, Building and Grounds

On-Line Giving

VPC has had the ability to accept on-line donations on the church website for two months now. A few people have tried it out. It may be time for a little more information. Donations can be made either by using your credit card or by creating an on-line profile to make ACH donations.

ACH payments are short for "Automated Clearing House" and also go by EFT (Electronic Funds Transfer) or direct deposit. An ACH transaction is simply the electronic transfer of money between two bank accounts, such as the transfer of funds from your checking account into the bank account of the church. You likely have some familiarity with this concept, whether your paycheck or Social Security is direct deposited into your checking account or you pay your cable bill by auto-pay each month.

We accept (and encourage!) ACH payments for donations for several important reasons:

- Lower processing costs or no costs for ACH means VPC ends up receiving a higher percentage of each donation. Credit card companies charge a transaction fee of 45 cents per donation and a processing fee of 2.75% of the amount donated. You receive full credit for your donations but the church receives the reduced amount.
- ACH payments are fast and secure
- Checking accounts don't expire or decline like credit cards

ACH is strongly preferred. Please consider using your checking account for payments (also known as ACH). Checking accounts are more stable than credit or debit cards, and don't expire.

Diana Lilje, Financial Secretary

Make Time to Laugh

“A day without laughter is a day wasted.”

Charlie Chaplin

“There is nothing in the world so irresistibly contagious as laughter and good humor.”

Charles Dickens

It's pretty clear that Charles Dickens never met COVID-19. But it is true that laughter, one of God's greatest gifts to us, is very infectious. In these times of flattening the curve, *this* is an infection we should proactively spread. But what is there to laugh about these days? A lot, actually.

We can start with ourselves. Who among us does not remember receiving *Reader's Digest* years ago? The features “Life in These United States,” “Humor in Uniform,” and “All in A Day's Work” were genuinely funny, largely because people revealed personal moments of embarrassment and were able to poke fun at themselves.

We can also find humor in our own environment, usually when things have gone wrong. Some of the funniest stories arise from situations that weren't viewed so humorously at the time. Jay Leno tells of having grown up in a house with sisters. When he was about 10, his mother asked him to bike to the store and pick up some napkins and set them on the table for a dinner party that evening. He did as she asked. When Jay's mom led the guests into the dining room, she was apoplectic to find he had set the table with Kotex napkins.

We know that laughter is a powerful medicine for the body. A daily dose of it revs up our immune systems, improves our memory, relieves our pain and eases our stress. It is also potent medicine for the soul. With laughter in our souls, it's hard to carry a grudge and it's much easier to overlook slights, and to forgive. When there is laughter in our souls, we can spot someone who lacks it, and as the old hymn says, brighten the corner where we are.

Think about making a go-to list of things that make you laugh, to have handy when you're feeling especially cross or anxious. *Tip: Searching “Humor” on Pinterest will yield tons of funny quotes and cartoons.*

Also, think about actually scheduling time each day to read or watch something that lifts your spirits, or even better, gives you a good old-fashioned belly laugh. At least for a while, the world will be a cheerier place.

Deacon Nancy Tucker

P.S. If you were a fan of the germaphobic detective Adrian Monk, you'll enjoy this video short featuring a reunion of the cast. To skip the introduction, cue the video to 1:40.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f4W2xmjqvx4>



Calendar for September 2020

(All events on Zoom unless Otherwise Stated)

Sept

- 2 **Worship Team Meeting 7 pm**
- 4 **Hospitality Team Meeting 9 am**
- 6 **Morning Prayer Service 8:30 am**
- 6 **Sunday Worship Service at 10 am (Communion Service)**
- 13 **Morning Prayer Service 8:30 am**
- 13 **Sunday Worship Service 10 am**
- 15 **Deacon's Meeting 3:30 pm**
- 15 **Session Meeting 4:30 pm**
- 18 **VPC Book Club 7 pm**
- 20 **Morning Prayer Service 8:30 am**
- 20 **Sunday Worship Service 10 am**
- 27 **Morning Prayer Service 8:30 am**
- 27 **Sunday Worship Service 10 am**

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

Art in Worship Sundays 2 pm

Text Study Group Mondays Noon

Coffee at Sporty's Tuesdays 9 am

Movement Prayer Wednesdays 8 am

Happy Hours Mon Wed Fri 5 pm

Games Nights Fridays 7 pm

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