

F E B R U A R Y 2 0 2 1

# Vashon Presbyterian Church

Vashon Island, Washington 98070

**Love One Another**



## February 2021 Newsletter

### The Annual Report

If you were not able to attend the Annual Congregational Meeting on Zoom, January 21<sup>st</sup>, you can ask Jacq Skeffington and he will email or USPS a copy of the Annual Report to you. 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 2021. Also there are reports from the Deacons, personnel, and nominating committees. It's rewarding to see how much our dedicated members have accomplished in this unlikely pandemic year.



### First Sunday Styrofoam Recycling Event

Recycling for Styrofoam, plastic bags, bubble wrap, bubble padded mailers. This Sunday February 7<sup>th</sup>. Noon to 4 pm. Sheffield Building.

### **Important Dates!**

February 2, 9

**Faith Exploration Class 7 pm**

February 13-14

**Valentine Cookie Exchange**

February 16

**Mardi Gras Celebration 6pm**

February 17

**Ash Wednesday Service 5 pm**

February 19

**VPC Book Club 6 pm**

Starting in February

**New Members Class**

Starting in February

**Special Activities for Lent**

Beloved of VPC,

It's hard to believe it's almost a year since you and I were together, all together in person. And I want to start by saying that I appreciate your willingness to engage Zoom and to show up and make things work. We have kept being God's church through it all. And I also want to say that I miss you. To be honest, I miss being in the office on a regular basis tremendously. I miss conversations in the middle of the week when you dropped by. I miss a lot.

It's left me thinking about the Israelites, when everything went away, and they were living in exile. I've known that story for a long time but now I'm left wondering what all they missed. Conversations, the ease of worship in their own space and just life lived differently.

One day, history books will record the pandemic of Covid-19. They will discuss the economic and political ramifications on a geo-political level. They will not, however, likely record the missing. They probably won't record the grief lived out without hugs or the moments when we have each ached just to be near each other. Those are feelings and expressions of this time that only our hearts record and I want to honor them. During this season of Lent, which begins on February 17<sup>th</sup>, I am inviting you to name and to honor that which we long for, that which we miss. I want us to name that together because we were created to be together for this moment in time. I want to hear how you are, how your really are. I want us to honor the longing to get through this time and the thirst for what we define as normal.

We will be sharing in a growing moment of silence each Sunday during Lent, as we have but we will also be setting aside some time to name both verbally and in the Zoom chat, that for which we ache. You'll hear more about that in worship.

Last year, we quickly switched gears and moved worship onto Zoom during this season. This year we do it with intention. As part of that intention, I want to create space to name and feel it all. We DO live in a wilderness season, but we are not alone. And my prayer is that we remember we held in love and meant to do this together.

Grace and Peace,  
Leigh



## From the Deacons February 2021

### **Crossing the Comfort Zone—Even Barely**

*The Lord said, “Behold! For unto you this month I am giving you a priceless gift.”  
And the people answered, “What, Lord? What gift are we to receive this month?”  
The Lord responded, “This year, February will have one fewer day than February 2020.”  
And the people rejoiced.*

We rejoice indeed as we look forward to longer and sunnier days. We anticipate the glorious blossoms of spring and we can't wait to resume our summer walks, picnics, and travels. At the same time, we know that we aren't yet through the gloomy winter of Covid, understanding that we need to prepare and brace ourselves to move forward so that we can take part in those times ahead.

Noting the progressive uptick in Covid vaccines administered to the population including ourselves, it's time to personally assess how willing we will be to reach out to others as gathering restrictions are lifted.

The understanding that we are called to minister to others, usually well outside of our comfort zones, is an unsettling realization as we emerge from this pandemic of disease and fear. Our text study of Jonah is a vivid reminder that God often calls us to serve Him in very uncomfortable places. Jonah's story could be a metaphor fit for today. We need to prepare ourselves to venture outside of our bubbles when it has authoritatively been declared safe to do so. For some of us, it will be uncomfortable to meet inside someone else's home even after everyone attending is fully vaccinated. Others of us will have a hard time removing masks in public even after “herd immunity” has been achieved. Some of us, sadly, might never feel safe again. We each have our own personal circumstances, and nobody else can tell us or judge us as to how quickly we return to personal interactions. Baby steps it will be, but as long as we are moving forward, eventually we will be back together both in spirit and body.

*“For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.” 2 Timothy 1:7*

*Deacon Nancy Tucker*

P.S. In honor of Presidents' Day, here is a skillfully crafted montage (and enjoyable history refresher) of our nation's leaders from Presidents Washington to Biden.

<https://biggeekdad.com/2020/11/presidents-usa/>

## Hospitality/Fellowship

### Team News

#### Areas of Responsibility

Hospitality, Fellowship

On February 13, 2021 drop off 2 dozen Valentine Cookies at the church. Later come by and pick up 2 dozen new cookies. You can have a cookie or two for coffee hour on Valentine's Day after church. The times will be published later.

Hospitality is up and running for the upcoming year. I don't know about running but we are up and cooking for the new year. We are planning on several Covid type food events. Of course that means you are in your home & I am in my home. Hospitality prays soon we will be all together.

If you would like to participate in the Valentine's Day cookie swap please e-mail Kate and include what kind of cookies you will donate.

I look forward to eating many good Valentine Cookies.

*Kate Smith, Hospitality Elder*

## Invitation and Outreach

### Team News

#### Area of Responsibility

New Members and Discipleship,  
Evangelism and Invitation

### Game Nights!

The games get better every week. Fun, challenging, informative, prizes and the feeling of being together. Game nights are the same day and same time in 2021 but they are filled with new ideas, games and lots of new winners! Join us!

*Barb Huff, Outreach Elder*

## Worship

### Team News

#### Area of Responsibility

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

There will be an Ash Wednesday service on February 17th at 5pm. There will be Communion every Sunday during Lent. If you would like to be on the worship team, let me know.

*Al Ross Weston, Worship Elder*

## Purposeful Service

### Team News

#### Area of Responsibility

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

The Purposeful Service committee met on January 22 to start planning for events in 2021. We are already in contact with Mary's Place about a program that can be done with them with social distancing in place. We also plan to continue the regular programs and offerings for our mission partners; more information will be provided next month.

Please continue to remember the Food Bank with a donation of either money or non-perishable goods. The latter can be dropped off at our supermarkets while the building is closed. We also encourage the VPC community to recycle paper, plastics and metal at the county facility, and to support the First Sunday styrofoam recycling at the Sheffield Building from noon to 4 pm.

We plan to award the Heindsmann scholarship this spring. Information about qualifications and application procedures will be published locally.

*Bob Spangler, Purposeful Service Elder*

Mission Resource  
Team News

Area of Responsibility  
Financials, Building and Grounds

Buildings and Grounds

Two large fir trees fell across the fence from Island Lumber into the north end of the parking lot in early January. Thankfully no one was hurt. The trees have been cleared away now but there is still a lot of brush and branches to clean up. Let's finish cleaning up that area during our **Second Saturday Work Party, Feb 13th**, weather permitting. Please bring hedge trimmers, lopping shears, rakes and pitchforks from 10-noon. Carpets will be cleaned Feb 15<sup>th</sup>, while Carpe Diem school is on winter break. There's not much furniture to move this year but let me know if you are willing to help out Sunday the 14<sup>th</sup> or Tuesday the 16<sup>th</sup>. Call me at 206-354-8917 and we can plan ahead.

Blessings and Grace,  
*Jacq Skeffington*

Faith Exploration  
Team News

Area of Responsibility  
Bible study, Christian formation (all ages)

New Members Class A weekly class for prospective new VPC members will begin in February. If you have been thinking of joining VPC, this is an opportunity to learn more about our local church and our parent denomination and to share your interest and questions. Please contact Pastor Leigh for more information and to indicate preferred meeting times.

Faith Formation Class – White Privilege ends Tuesday February 9<sup>th</sup>. The following Tuesday we will be celebrating Mardi Gras style on the 16<sup>th</sup>. The ensuing Tuesdays will be devoted to Lent. See the weekly enews for updates on Lenten activities.

VPC Book Club This month the book club will discuss A Man Called Ove by Fredrik Backman on Friday, February 19, 6 pm.

*Elizabeth Loveness, Faith Formation Elder*

VPC Book Club - Upcoming Book Selections

Jan '21	<u>Ho Chi Minh: A Life</u>	William J. Duiker	Zoom	Commeree
Feb	<u>A Man Called Ove</u>	Fredrik Backman	Zoom	Weber
Mar	<u>American Nations</u>	Colin Woodard	Zoom	Huff
April	<u>Amish Grace, How Forgive....</u>	Kraybill, Nolt, Weaver	Zoom	Spangler
May	<u>This Tender Land</u>	William K. Krueger	Zoom	Ross-Weston

## Clerk's Corner

Clerk's Corner 2/1/21

There was short Congregational Meeting before the worship service Sunday January 3<sup>rd</sup> to re-elect Elder Elizabeth Loveness. Deacons Claudia Ross-Weston and Nancy Tucker were installed as the class of 2022 and Elders Elizabeth Loveness, Jim Lilje and Kate Smith were installed as the class of 2023 during the worship service. The Annual Meeting of the Congregation and corporation of Vashon Presbyterian Church was held after worship January 24<sup>th</sup> at which time the Annual Report and 2021 budget was reviewed. Proposed revised Terms of Call for Pastor Leigh Weber was approved and Nancy Tucker, Caran-marie Weston Dunbar, Bob Spangler, Diana Lilje and John Williams were elected to the 2021 **Nominating** Committee. Session held its monthly meeting January 19<sup>th</sup> via ZOOM with all Elders present. Pastor Leigh opened the meeting with a meditation and prayer. Claudia Ross-Weston, the incoming moderator of deacons, joined briefly to report on Deacons activities and concerns. Newly installed Elder Kate Smith was welcomed back to Session. She will chair the Hospitality group this year. Session elected Corporate Officers and commissioners to Presbytery for the year and authorized Pastor Leigh to administer the sacraments at her discretion throughout the year. Session also authorized payment to Caran-marie Weston Dunbar for providing artwork for Worship and discussed the need for a new members class.

Session's next scheduled meeting will be Feb 16<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 pm via zoom. Presbytery will meet Feb 23<sup>rd</sup> at 5:00 pm via zoom.

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

## Black History Month

This link lists 13 books recommended reading for Black History Month. A few are copied here. We will continue to highlight more of the 13 in the enews as February progresses.

[https://innocenceproject.org/books-black-history-month-baldwin-bell-hooks-jesmyn-ward/?fbclid=IwAR2XkPAx\\_CCjyjal1e0G3A2p9KtQYlVesG693HUsb8DcMKu9UO3e9KIJ6II](https://innocenceproject.org/books-black-history-month-baldwin-bell-hooks-jesmyn-ward/?fbclid=IwAR2XkPAx_CCjyjal1e0G3A2p9KtQYlVesG693HUsb8DcMKu9UO3e9KIJ6II)

### 1. "Heavy" by Kiese Laymon

In this memoir, Mr. Laymon writes about growing up in Jackson, Mississippi. He poignantly discusses his struggles with his weight, abuse and family, and contemplates the dynamics of race and America's fraught racial history on his life and the lives of those around him.

### 2. "Another Country" by James Baldwin

No list of great Black literature would be complete without Mr. Baldwin's work. In this 1962 novel, Mr. Baldwin paints a portrait of New York City's Greenwich Village and Harlem neighborhoods as he saw them. He challenges the characterization of New York City as a harmonious "melting pot," and instead highlights the ways in which continued racism can become internalized and affect interpersonal relationships. "Another Country" was criticized by many and banned in some places, including New Orleans and Australia, at the time of publishing. But, today, is considered an important and influential writing.

### 3. "Homegoing" by Yaa Gyasi

In her first novel, Ghanaian-American writer Yaa Gyasi traces the details the slave trade's impact on two continents over eight generations. Focusing on two half sisters and their descendants, "Homegoing" highlights the ways in which the legacy of slavery has shaped race dynamics and changed lives over hundreds of years, and still does to this day.

### 4. "Sing, Unburied, Sing" by Jesmyn Ward

Ms. Ward's novel is set in a fictional town in Mississippi, but much of it takes place in the very real Mississippi State Penitentiary, modeled after a slavery era plantation, and tells the story of a family impacted by mass incarceration, racism, drugs and poverty. Ms. Ward won the National Book Award for her moving book.

# Calendar

## February 2021

(all events on Zoom unless otherwise stated)

### Feb

- 7 Prayer Service 8:30 am
- 7 Worship Service (Communion Service) 10 am
- 7 Styrofoam Recycling Noon- 4 pm (Sheffield Bldg)
- 9 Faith Formation - White Privilege 7 pm
- 13-14 Valentine's Cookie Exchange at VPC
- 14 Prayer Service 8:30 am
- 14 Sunday Worship Service 10 am
- 16 Deacon's Meeting 3:30 pm
- 16 Session Meeting 4:30 pm
- 16 Mardi Gras Celebration 6 pm
- 17 Ash Wednesday Service 7 pm
- 19 VPC Book Club 6 pm
- 21 Prayer Service 8:30
- 21 Sunday Worship Service (Communion Service) 10 am
- 28 Prayer Service 8:30 am
- 28 Sunday Worship Service (Communion Service) 10 am

### ONGOING ACTIVITIES

Sermon Reflection Monday Noon  
ZOOM Coffee at Sporty's Tuesday 9 am  
Text Study Tuesday Noon  
Movement Prayer Wednesday 8 am  
Happy Hours Mon Wed Fri 5 pm  
Game Nights Friday 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.