



# The Grapevine

July / August 2007

NEWSLETTER OF ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, LONGVIEW, WA  
1428 - 22nd Avenue, Longview, WA 360-423-5600 www.sslv.org

## Confirmation and ordination of our Bishop

On Sept 15, 2007 The Rev. Greg Rickel, D. Div., will be confirmed and ordained as the next bishop of the Diocese of Olympia.

This is a very jubilant time in the life of the church. If we can get enough people to go to Bellevue, I would like to charter a bus. The cost is \$25.00 each and we'll need about 40 people to make it possible. The trip will take about 2 1/2 hours each way.

Reserve your space now so we can get a head count. There's a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the hallway.

Dcn. John Ackermann



To my brothers and sisters in Christ at St. Stephen's,  
*From Helen, a servant of the Lord God.*

"Grace be with you and peace from God our Father. In my prayers I always thank God for you, for I have seen your faithfulness and the love you have for one another and for God."

(patterned on St. Paul's letters)

This model for greeting Christians was common in the early days of Christianity.

Somehow it just seemed to be appropriate to use as I greet you here in Longview. I sense the enthusiasm (en - theos, filled with God's spirit), this congregation has for sharing the love of Christ within the parish and within the larger community.

Thanks to the Vestry and clergy; to Dick and Leslie Woods; to Greg Lopic, Rick Lecker and others for the lovely rock work for the wall; to Dick Woods visitation team, to the Saturday service planners, to the Altar Guild, the VBS participants, to St. Clare's Guild, coffee hosts/hostesses, DOK, ushers, LEMs, lectors, acolytes, Mary Lyons (who is everywhere), Angie, Ann, and Deacon John - for making my stay here absolutely wonderful.

There's excitement in the air! I see it when I visit various committees, I see it in church attendance - many new faces, I see it in fellowship times. It's there in the visits being made, in Vacation Bible School's excellent program, in the faithful servers behind the scenes everywhere.

We have pray-ers, do-ers, leaders, donors, craftsmen, artists, cooks. We come in different sizes and shapes, different ages and interests. All together, we are the living Body of Christ. We're alive, well and growing. We are ready to say "Yes" to what we are called to do - to bring Christ to the world.

"May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers and sisters. Amen" (Galatians 6:18, NRSV)



### St. Stephen's Mission Statement

*St. Stephen's is a Christian Community, empowered by the Holy Spirit to bring others to Christ and to celebrate God's love through worship, fellowship, education, and service*

#### The Staff

The Rev. Helen K. McKee	Interim Rector
The Rev. Richard Green	Rector
The Rev. Kathleen Patton	Associate Rector
The Rev. John Ackermann	Deacon
Angela Warning	Parish Administrator
Ann Long	Pianist, Treasurer
Howard Meharg	Music Minister, Webmaster
Katie Lewis	Organist
Annie New	Children's Ministry Assistant

#### The Vestry

John Edmiston	Rector's Warden
Peggy Norman	People's Warden
Jill Johanson	Lloyd Solon
Stan Lewis	Dick Woods
Diane Glase	Sara Hamilton
Barbara Dunlap	

### Prayer

by Mary Lyons

As hammers work or  
 Diligence works...  
 Use prayer to get what you want...  
 But, prayer often doesn't work in  
 Getting me what I want.  
 It "helps", though.  
 And if prayer "helps", then  
 What works?  
 What gets me where  
 I want to go?  
 Love.  
 Love works.  
 Like a wrench or tool  
 Works on a frozen fitting.  
 Apply love and watch it work.  
 Prayer helps and  
 Love works...  
 Prayer helps.  
 Love works.  
 Prayer helps love work.  
 Amen

## AgapeFest 2007... Celebrating the journey of the peoples with Bishop Vincent Warner

For eighteen years Bishop Vincent Warner has served the people of Western Washington and the Diocese of Olympia. It is now our turn to honor that journey. Aug 18, 2007 will be the date of the celebration and it will take place at Annie Wright School in Tacoma. It will be a day of worship, renewing old friendships and making new ones. We will plan a picnic and participate in the activities for all ages. Besides our picnic lunch we will need to bring folding chairs and blankets as there is only a limited amount of table space. We will carpool, meeting behind the church at 9:00 AM that Saturday morning.

Please sign up for this important event. There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board in the parish hall. Do this soon as we need to have an RSVP in by the end of July.

If you cannot go and would like to contribute to a gift fund for Bishop Warner, a free will offering will be taken and it will go to the many continuing ministries for the homeless, emigrants and working poor that Bishop Warner will continue to support. Make checks payable to Vincent Warner, and we will see that he gets them.

If you have questions please feel free to contact me at 360-423-4687.

Come join the fun.

~ Sharon Ackermann, point person

## Visitations are going great

The second meeting of our Visitation Team was held on July 10th. Lots of enthusiasm was shared about our progress. Some parishioners welcomed our visits, some folks didn't. These results are ok, we "shake the dust from our feet" (a quote from the Bible and Rev. Helen) and move on. Once we have made a visit, most contacts have been positive.

We are learning from our members about what is working at St. Stephen's and what they would like to see happen at our church. Our two-person teams all selected two more names and visits continue.

Now that we are past the organization phase, we welcome anyone who might want to join our team.

### VESTRY VISITATION COMMITTEE

Dick Woods 636-3906

Barb Dunlap 636-4109

Jill Johanson 636-0341

Stan Lewis (503) 556-1924

## Freezer

There is an old freezer in the furnace room down in the basement that seems to be very under-utilized. It is more full of frost (because it's not "frost free") than foodstuffs. We would like to remove it. If you have comments, please call Greg Lopic (425-4922). Thanks.

## Bible School was a great success!

Children, youth and adults all had a wonderful time traveling to a new country each session. Each evening began with a wonderful meal and game in the courtyard. Next, everyone gathered in the church for singing, lessons, and to hear the storyteller of the day. The storyteller told of a pilgrim of long ago whose life was changed by the love of Christ. Master craftsmen and Journeymen led small groups in deeper discussions and activities relating to the day's stories. Artisans, musicians, and craftleaders met in the parish hall which had been transformed into a wonderful streetfair. Everyone had the opportunity to eat, talk with real local artists, listen to music from the country of the evening and try their hand at a craft of two on their own. The evening ended back in the Church with more singing and prayers. Each participant was given a remembrance symbol of the day's lesson and as a reminder of how Christ's love is so important in all our lives.

There are too many people to thank personally in this space. Please know that many people worked hard to make this program run smoothly. The upfront people such as the storytellers, musicians, games leaders, craft leaders, artisans, Guild leaders, Journeymen are appreciated for working directly with the Pilgrimage participants. There are many people not seen as often, the publicity staff, registrars, supper and snack workers, and set designers who also put in a lot of time and energy. A special thanks must go out to all of the people who donated flowers, papers, rocks, shells, material and the numerous other things that were used for decorations, crafts, and costumes. All of these donations were greatly appreciated.

It is wonderful to be a part of a church that has so many people willing to take the time to make programs such as Bible School a memorable event in so many participant's lives.

~Judy Swanson

## Sunday, November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2007

Q: What is the mission of the Church?

A: The mission of the Church is to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ.

Q: Who are the Ministers of the Church?

A: The ministers of the church are lay persons, bishops, priests and deacons.

Q: What are the sacraments?

A: The sacraments are outward and visible signs of inward and spiritual grace, given by Christ as sure and certain means by which we receive that grace.

Q: What is Holy Baptism?

A: Holy Baptism is the sacrament by which God adopts us as his children and makes us members of Christ's Body, the Church, and inheritors of the kingdom of God.

Q: What is Confirmation?

A: Confirmation is the rite in which we express a mature commitment to Christ, and receive strength from the Holy Spirit through prayer and the laying on of hands by a bishop.

Q: What is required of those to be confirmed?

A: It is required of those to be confirmed that they have been baptized, are sufficiently instructed in the Christian Faith, are penitent of their sins, and are ready to affirm their confession of Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

Book of Common Prayer, Pgs. 845-862 Catechism

In anticipation of the sacrament of Confirmation by Bishop Nedi Rivera here at Saint Stephen's on Sunday, November 18, 2007, a five Sunday series of Christian Initiation Classes will begin Sunday, October 14<sup>th</sup> after 10:00 Worship service.

Confirmation or "Reception" (for those former Roman Catholics and Lutherans in our midst) is a prerequisite to licensed ministries such as Chalice Bearer and Lay Eucharist Visitor and serves as a powerful spiritual anchor for any and all volunteerism.

In addition, if you're an adult who has never been baptized, we encourage you to consider this class as a great setting to "make the leap" on November 18<sup>th</sup>, surrounded by a supportive group of your peers and the entire congregation! Questions? Call lay leader Mary Lyons at 423-8382 or e-mail her at [MaryLyonsNow@msn.com](mailto:MaryLyonsNow@msn.com) for coffee and pressure-free conversation.

## Next newcomers class set for September!

Spread the word! Our next Newcomers Series begins on Sunday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, the week after Welcoming Sunday.

The four Sunday series occurs after the 10:00 Worship Service, from 11:30 to 1:30 p.m. A light lunch is included every week and interested families can make advance arrangements for friendly, onsite childcare by St. Stephen's highly qualified and popular childcare staff.

It's an opportunity to meet the Clergy and lay leaders, get some answers to those nagging questions about our denomination and parish and get a hosted tour of the buildings and ministries you hear so much about in the announcements! You can do all of this while connecting personally with a group of newcomers just like you.

So don't be shy; contact class leader Mary Lyons at 360-423-8382 or [MaryLyonsNow@msn.com](mailto:MaryLyonsNow@msn.com) with any questions and sign up now.

We're glad you're here!

## The Grapevine

The Grapevine is the newsletter of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church.

It's easy to contribute: Just submit your articles or items by email ([sslvadmin@comcast.net](mailto:sslvadmin@comcast.net)) or place a hardcopy / cd in the mailbox located on the Parish Office door. Deadline is the 18th of every month beginning in September.

## To the congregation of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church:

The Austin to Anchorage Texas 4000 cancer awareness and fundraising bicycle team did not receive our support this year. Including our household, there were only four families to show support by volunteering space for an overnight stay, dinner and breakfast. That is embarrassing to me and it should be for our congregation.

We need to send our apology and a pledge to have more than adequate accommodations ready for the 2008 team. In fact, we need to sign up right now, so that everything will be in place for the 2008 team. Jane and I will be the first. A sign up sheet will be posted so show our support.

P.S.: If, as a congregation, we are not going to support this endeavor, then I think that the Texas 4000 organization should be notified of our decision well in advance.  
~ Alan and Jane Brunk

## A "Mature" Prayer

Lord, Thou knowest that I am growing older. Keep me from the fatal habit of thinking I must say something on every subject and on every occasion. Release me from craving to try to straighten out everybody's affairs. Keep my mind free from the recital of endless details. Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally it is possible that I may be mistaken. Make me thoughtful, but not moody; helpful but not bossy. With my vast store of wisdom, it seems a pity not to use it all - but thou knowest, Lord, that I want a few friends at the end!  
~Anonymous

## Never too late to learn

Although the handbell choir does not play in the summer, I took the opportunity to attend a graduate course in Composing for Handbells at Concordia University Wisconsin. Located just North of Milwaukee, the campus on Lake Michigan was strangely empty as the undergraduate courses had ended, and the other graduate courses started the week afterward.

Eleven students worked with nationally known handbell composer, Arnold Sherman. We wrote four pieces during the intensive five day course, with one of the pieces being a major work. I wrote harmonizations for Hymn to Joy and Holy God, We Praise Thy Name. My major piece was a revision of a piece I had written last winter, as I knew it needed work.

Each day started about 7 am in the computer lab and ended about midnight in the same place! We wrote directly into composing software that fortunately I purchased last year. So while I had little experience with music theory, I could help some of the other students with the software. We had daily individual conferences with Mr. Sherman who kindly swamped us with ideas to try. Each afternoon from 2 to 5 pm, we played each other's pieces in the handbell room.

On Friday morning, we played our completed pieces for two of Concordia's music faculty, one of whom publishes handbell music for the American Guild of English Handbell Ringers. My piece, Prayerful Moments, was well received and I hope our choir can play it for you in the coming year. Thank you for your support and encouragement of the Celebration Ringers!

Jean Watson



## Fun Fellowship 8's

We were able to put together 8 dinner groups of 8 to participate in our Fun Fellowship 8's. Seven of these groups have been able to meet. For the first round we tried to mix it up with members of different ages, singles, long time members and shorter term members. The comments we have received have been very positive - both from the hosts and from those who were hosted.

If we just rely on coffee hour chat, and passing the Peace to get to know each other, developing meaningful connections can take a very long time. Participating in Fun Fellowship 8's gives us quality time with each other over a meal and most likely a glass of wine...or 2 ( we are Episcopalians after all).

We will be putting together our next grouping at the end of the month. These groups will meet for one dinner between Aug 30th and October 30th. We are going to assume that all of you who participated in the first round and in for a second.

Those who missed the first round and would like to be included please contact: the "fun committee" -

Diane Glase: 423-9958;  
John Freeman:425-7611;  
Peggy Norman : 636-1746

## J2A Pilgrimage

In late June, five young adults - Bonnie Carter, Cam Ford, Derrick Lecker, Haley Ellis and Sean Pederson went on their pilgrimage along with two group leaders, Gretchen Niemi and Dave Hanson. This was a pilgrimage the completion of four years together as a group. The first two years are Rite13; the second two years are Journey to Adulthood (J2A).

## Pilgrimage (continued)

We started with a drive to Yreka, CA and a visit with Mr. Super who shared some of his spiritual journey with us. He is both an Episcopalian and a member of the Karuk Tribe. We spent two nights at St. Barnabas' Church in Mt. Shasta; swimming, walking a lavender labyrinth and a cookout hosted by the church. The next stop was San Francisco. We walked on the Golden Gate Bridge. . . without the fog obscuring the beautiful views!! After that we experienced our first hostel which was a great time. In San Francisco we walked the labyrinth at Grace Cathedral, shopped, visited the waterfront and Alcatraz. We had planned to go to Lake Tahoe, but there were fires at the lake so instead we made a stop at the Jelly Belly factory on the way to Reno (part of pilgrimage is to be flexible!). In Reno, we stayed at Trinity Church and cooled off in the Truckee River in the middle of town. The next morning we headed out to the desert to experience that special kind of stark beauty. On the way we crossed the Extraterrestrial Highway in Southern Nevada and ended in Cedar City, UT where we stayed at St. Jude's Episcopal Church. This is in the canyonlands area of the state. We enjoyed the hospitality of the church and the town. They had a Taize service while we were there along with another walk on a labyrinth set in the floor of the sanctuary. Finally, we headed to Salt Lake City. There we stayed in our second hostel, visited the Mormon Tabernacle and Church grounds. On the way out of town we got to stop at the Great Salt Lake and headed to Pendleton and stayed with a friend of one of the leaders. The final day was heading home with a stop at the Stonehenge Replica at Maryhill.

We want to thank all the people of St. Stephen's for their help and support over the past 4 years that made this pilgrimage a reality.

## LABOR DAY OPPORTUNITY



Have we got an opportunity for you! The Properties Team has identified Labor Day as the perfect weekend to paint. We are badly in need of a new coat (of paint). Most of us prefer NOT to get out on the highway – and many of us couldn't afford the gas even if we wanted to brave the traffic. So, we are going to stick close to home and at least begin the immense process of painting the exterior of the building.

If you would like to be involved (it is Labor Day, after all!) please contact Rod Farley 636-1091 or Greg Lopic 425-4922 who are in charge of this project.

## Men, mark your calendars

Join us for breakfast and fellowship the first Saturday of each month at 8 am in the parish hall.  
Contact Dcn. John for details  
423-5600 x. 13

## Reminder

The Daughters of the King meet the first Saturday of every month at 8 am.



If you are interested in learning more about this group, contact Karen Rogers 425-1192

## Care and tending of God's house

People drive by – and walk by – and sometimes come in.... because our yard and gardens and outward appearance are inviting. Work parties and projects are essential for the continuing attention that is needed. More garden helpers (especially people who might help with watering) are welcome and needed!

Special thanks go to the humble hard working souls who labored on June 2<sup>nd</sup> and thereafter: Rod and Jan Farley, Barb and Skip Dunlap, Pat Schauer, Judy Swanson, John Ackermann, Greg Lopic, Rick Lecker, Mother Kathleen, and Annie New. Commendation is given to the Vacation Bible School crew (especially Judy Swanson and Barb Dunlap) for their awesome clean-up job! The back room behind the nursery has not looked so orderly in ages!

The courtyard continues to be lovely and pleasant, especially now with its long-planned wall. Greg Lopic has been the major builder with help from Dick Woods, Tom Hall, Rod Farley, Rick Lecker, and Pat Kubin. It makes the outdoor room complete but still invites passers-by to come in and enjoy.

The downstairs rooms were spiffed and cleaned by many volunteers. Come by any weekday morning and listen for the happy sounds of little voices playing in the lower level of our education wing. It is wonderful to have a preschool again! "Busy Bees" is a collaborative program and part of our outreach ministry. Operated by the Longview Parks and Recreation Department, we are hopeful it will be extended beyond summer.

Stay tuned for further developments as we continue to maintain and improve God's house.



## Alternative Liturgy

Alternative Liturgy is an opportunity to take a closer look at our worship and consider options that might be more meaningful to folks on the fringes of our community. This might mean Episcopalians who have drifted away or members of the wider community who may be attracted to our substance, but perhaps not our current style.

It is certainly NOT our intention to change our traditional Sunday morning services, nor to dilute or divide our congregation.

There actually is an Alternative Liturgy "movement" within the Anglican Communion, notably in England and New Zealand.

In the United States, the two best examples are the Church of the Holy Apostles (COTA), Seattle, and St. Gregory of Nyssa,

San Francisco. There are many diverse expressions, but a common thread is a willingness to experiment with art, music, and space, as well as using less formality and more sensitivity to youth and social justice issues.

We had nearly 60 surveys returned from the copies distributed at church (or by email) last month. The responses were extremely varied, even contradictory, but there were a few areas of consensus. Using our new courtyard, including chamber or acoustic music, and adding an evening service were the most common threads.

We are planning a simple service of Holy Communion on Wednesday evenings, August 1st, 15th, and 29th from 7 pm to 7:45 pm. Weather permitting, we will meet in the courtyard. Alternatively, we will meet in the Parish Hall. Tell your friends or neighbors, especially any young people you know who might be interested. For more information, I recommend the following websites: <http://www.apostleschurch.org/home.php> <http://www.saintgregorys.org/> or <http://www.alternativeworship.org/>

If you would like to participate in creating these services, please contact the Church Office (423-5600) or Jan E.V.W. Hanson: [dmhjevwh@comcast.net](mailto:dmhjevwh@comcast.net)

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