



The Grapevine

JUNE 2006

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

A Franciscan Blessing

May God bless you with discomfort
at easy answers,
half truths and superficial
relationships,
so that you may live deep within
your heart.

May God bless you with anger at
injustice, oppression, and
exploitation of people.
so that you may work for justice,
freedom and peace.

May God bless you with tears to
shed for those who suffer
from
pain, rejection, starvation and
want,
so that you may reach out your
hand to comfort them,
and to turn their pain into joy.

May God bless you with enough
foolishness
to believe that you can make a
difference in this world,
so that you can do what others
claim cannot be done.

And the blessing of the God of
Abraham and Sarah,
and of Jesus, born of our sister
Mary,
and of the Holy Spirit, who broods
over the world as a mother
over her children,
be upon you and remain with you
always.

Do we have graduates!

by Greg Lopic

Joe Beisel

Joe is graduating from RA Long. He will be leaving on July 19 for basic training in the Army. Joe plans on working after getting out of the Army and wants to buy a Nissan Skyline. Both his grandpa and grandma were helpful through the high school years. Alaine Borrea was also a reliable support. Faith was an important antidote for the bad things that were happening in Joe's life. It was a constant, which he could rely on.

James Halliday III

This is the grandson of Jim and Marlys who is graduating from Kenai High School in Alaska. Although he was baptized at St. Stephens, he lived in Portland when older and was an acolyte there. He will be attending the University of Alaska in Anchorage starting this fall.

Jan E Hanson

Jan E will be graduating from Mark Morris. Part of the summer will be spent in Thailand with the J2A group. She hopes to find work during the balance. Western Washington University will become home in the fall where she will pursue her interest in anthropology. This will be followed by graduate school to further pursue that career. The most significant experience for Jan E in high school was being an exchange student in Germany. By learning to speak the language and understanding a different culture, her appreciation for her own perspective and culture was increased. This was motivation to change things that previously were just accepted. Some of Jan E's closest friends were made through her involvement at St. Stephens. It was here that she was introduced to the piano and Campfire. It was here also that she could demonstrate her concern for social issues by being involved in such things as the 30 Hour Famine, Crop Walk, and Relay For Life.

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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. 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
Lewis	Katie Organist
Linda Eddleston	Children's Ministry Assistant
Marissa Aquayo	Childcare Provider

The Vestry

Ann Mottet	Rector's Warden
Dick Woods	People's Warden
Jill Johanson	Lloyd Solon
Peggy Norman	John Edmiston
Bill Norvell	Sara Hamilton
Chad Olsen	

Legacy Day

The tower came tumbling down, the heavens opened, Mother Nature gave one spectacular show of light and sound, the thirst of the dry land was quenched, AND the Stephanos Society was established to honor the generosity of past and future bequests to the church.

St. Stephens designated May 21st as its first annual Legacy Sunday. Founding and charter members of the Stephanos Society were blessed during our 10 AM Eucharist service and honored later in the day during a spirited celebration. Special thanks are extended to Janice Stixrud for a spectacular array of gourmet treats, and to the members of the Endowment Board for sponsoring the party.

During the course of the day, several members shared stories and grateful comments about things learned in consultation with attorneys to update their wills. For some, failure to attend to their will would have created incredible grief to their families at a later date.

The Planned Giving ministry team strongly encourages all parishioners to have a will, update it periodically as needed, and make sure your final affairs are in order. There are many resources available to assist those who have questions about these matters. Please contact the church office if you would like a private consultation.

Graduates

(continued from page 1)

Chris Holway

Chris will be graduating from RA Long. He will be working this summer, but also playing in as many golf tournaments as possible to prepare for the fall. Chris will be attending the University of Oregon with the intent of graduating as an athletic trainer. Of course, there will be time set aside for golf. Chris lost in the playoff for state in his junior year. This turned out to be a positive experience because it taught him not to give up and how faith can be a support. Chris found the value of faith many times during his high school years.

Jake Jepson

Jake is graduating from St. Helens High. He will be employed full time this summer at Weyerhaeuser in the student work program. He will be entering the University of Oregon to pursue his love of the English language. This could be in the direction of being a writer or a lawyer. Drama/choir is another possibility. People have encouraged Jake to be a radio personality because of his aggressive politics and authoritative voice. Many of Jake's teachers during high school had a positive influence, but Paige English for voice and Ron Barnett for drama stand out. Jake got strong grounding from his involvement in St. Stephens and also the churches he attended in Alaska. He has been able to find sanctuary with God.

Pardon our dust...

Thank you all – for your comments along the way, your pledges and payments in support of the Parish Hall remodel, and your patience as we proceed with this project.

During the summer we will be “under construction”. The transition plan is in motion and includes shifting many meetings and activities from the Parish Hall to other sites. A complete list is available at both Baird House and in the office. There will be a work party on June 17th to move all furnishings and items for storage out of the parish hall. The remodel team will be working with various groups so that needed items are prepared for transition (or storage) and marked accordingly.

During the summer we will continue to have coffee hour at Baird House. Baird House will also accommodate Senior Nutrition 3 days/week, except during FISH distribution days, the MS Support Group, and Women’s Cursillo. (Baird House users will need to help us keep the place spiffed!) Senior writing classes and St. Clare’s Guild will both discontinue for the summer. Certain groups who use the kitchen only will still have access to their regular activities. NA and AA groups will meet in the classroom in the lower level of the education wing.

Construction begins June 19th and is expected to be finished by the end of August. A design board will be on display to give some hints about details of our finished product.

Volunteers will be needed June 17th and during August for installation of the commemorative garden. Contact Margaret Lopic (425-4922) if you are interested.

Graduates

(continued from page 2)

Barbara Swecker

Barbara is graduating from Mark Morris. Barbara will be going to Thailand with the J2A group this summer and working at the school district print center when she’s home. Hanging with friends is also a priority. She will be attending Washington State University this fall to pursue her career as a dietician or food service manager. Being in the Mark Morris band was significant for Barbara. It was here that she met many of her closest friends and had opportunities such as marching at Disneyland, competing at state solo and ensemble contests, and directing the band at games. Barbara’s faith helped her through the hard times. It also brought her closer to the people at St. Stephens and she is grateful for the support over the years.

Simon Waite

Simon is graduating from Mark Morris. He will be working at the Longview Country Club snack bar this summer and of course playing tennis. He will attend Washington State University in the fall with the desire to become an athletic trainer or P.E. teacher (like Michelle). Sports helped Simon develop social skills in high school. He started with tennis, added swimming, and finally also participated in track. Simon became friends with many of his teammates and learned to set and achieve goals. Youth group was important to Simon during both middle and high school. This was a time to spend with friends outside of school and sports. The chance to acolyte has also been appreciated.

Jason Shea

Jason graduated from Perry Technical Institute in Yakima with a degree in instrumentation. He is already working for Weyerhaeuser in their Beaverton facility. Jason is grateful to his mother and father who demonstrated unconditional love and acceptance as he was growing up. His faith helped him to discover himself and to develop confidence.

Graduates

(continued from page 3)

Erin Cockrell

Elaine's daughter graduated from Washington State with a Bachelor of Science in Psychology with Honors. She hopes to go on to get her doctorate in clinical psychology. Her main area of interest is sexual assault victims. She has already volunteered in a variety of ways in this area and the experiences have confirmed her desire to help victims and the satisfaction that results from the effort. The exposure has given her life purpose and motivation. Erin's faith has enabled her to assist others in working through very traumatic situations. She believes that lessons can be learned from bad experiences and that joy will follow the sadness. One of the joys for Erin is that she is marrying her high school sweetheart this summer.

Anne-Marie (Kendall) Klein

Anne-Marie graduated from George Fox University in December with a degree in business marketing. She is recently married and now working in the advertising department for the local newspaper in Santa Cruz, CA. Anne-Marie's faith was strengthened during college as she realized that God was with her through the various challenges and crises that are common to the first away-from-home experience. She carries this forward into the more real life of work and marriage.

Ole Pedersen

Chris's son is graduating from Washington State with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology with a minor in Criminal Justice. Starting this summer he will be working at Sol Duc Hot Springs in the Olympics. Ole's girlfriend Marji has been a constant support through the college years. He also appreciated his grandparents and his mother for their constancy. Ole finds solace in daily prayer and relies on God to carry him through times of stress.

Micah Shea

Micah is graduating from Western Washington University with a degree in Communications. He will go on either to law school or the Navy. Mike Dugaw (debate coach at LCC) was a mentor for Micah. Dave Andrew was another positive influence at church camps through high school. Faith was a support for Micah during times of financial hardship.

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Time to sign-up for Camp Huston – scholarships are available!

Camp Huston: Do contact me right away if you want **scholarship assistance** for Camp Huston. Between diocesan and parish funds, 2/3 (or more) of camp cost can be covered. **Applications** are to be found across from the office upstairs. I commend "mini camp" to those of you with children entering first through third grade, especially. Aidan had the time of his life last year, and can't wait to go back. It is truly an amazing experience. Kids come away more confident, more aware of others and the power of team work, more alive to their faith. I could go on and on...

K



Mo.

Coming in July –

Wednesday Evening Eucharist

Summer is a perfect time to get together. All are invited to an informal worship time in Baird House at 6:00, followed by potluck for those who want to join in. Then go for a walk around the lake, or catch a movie? Hey, it's summer... We'll start July 19, and go through August, if there is interest.

Nursery Help: For the summer, I would love to have some volunteers to work with Linda in the nursery, perhaps some baby-sitting aged kids who want some experience? Let me know if you are interested. We could have a rotation, or work out an easy schedule if three or four people were interested.

June Youth Dates

**J2A Thailand Trip
Blessing – On Pentecost
Sunday, June 4, at the
10:00 am service.**



We will bless and commission our teens traveling to Thailand to work in a rural orphanage, sharing the Good News, friendship, and possibly some manual labor.

Don't miss the Youth Barbeque – the last event of the year is open to all youth entering sixth grade in the fall through college. Hot dogs, hamburgers, tasty treats, fun and games at Willow Grove, **Wednesday, June 7, 5:30 - 7:30.**



**Honor our Graduates
Sunday, June 11, at the
10:00am
service.**



There's a bunch to honor, too!!
If you have a graduate of any age, high school, college, or professional school that you wish to honor,

please contact Greg Lopic at:
glopic@cascadenetworks.net;

Graduates

(continued from page 4)

Becky Swanson

Becky graduates from Western Washington University with a Bachelor's in chemistry. She will be returning to that same institution in the fall to pursue a master's degree and from there then on to med school at the U of W or in Chicago. Becky volunteered with the Girl scouts for three years while at Western. This reinforced her desire to work with children and also gave her a connection in the Bellingham community outside the University. College was challenging with many new experiences and difficult decisions. God was the constant that helped Becky stay grounded. She also appreciates very much the support and encouragement she has always received from her church family at St. Stephens.

Sophie Swecker

Sophie is graduating from Eastern Washington University with a Bachelor's Degree in Journalism along with minors in Government and Humanities. She will be working at the Daily News this summer and then moving to Seattle to find employment. She hopes to combine her love of music and her experience in communication in a career as an entertainment writer or working at a radio station. Sophie found that living on her own during college was a significant experience. She had the support of family, friends, and teachers who helped her succeed. Faith in God was very supportive when feeling overwhelmed or just being alone away from home. Sophie has taken some classes in religion, which has helped broaden her understanding of spirituality and the nature of faith in general.

Megan Shea

Megan gets her AA from Lower Columbia College and then moves on to Western Washington University to continue her studies in Elementary Education. Megan found Fr. Richard to be very helpful in showing her a down to earth spiritual element that helped Megan accept herself in God's eyes. Her faith was also developed during times of prayer where she was able to hear answers and feel hope.



Graduates

(continued from page 5)

Allison Long

Allison Long graduated from Evergreen State College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Juvenile Studies. During college she learned the value of service to others. She has done volunteer work for CASA as well as the mental health crisis hotline of Thurston County. She also worked at St. Pete's Chemical Dependency Unit for Juveniles and the Northwest Behavioral Facility for Juveniles. In the fall, she is planning to pursue a Master's Degree in School Counseling at George Fox University. She is living in SE Portland with her Chihuahua, Gizmo, and working as the office manager for a private funding group. Allison's relationship with Julie Kendall and Ray Betts has been an integral part of her development. From them she received sound advice, constant encouragement, and an occasional little nudge. She is grateful for the spiritual guidance of Mother Kathleen, and Fr. Richard, and would like to offer a special thank you to Fr. Richard for introducing her to the writings of Rumi.

Heather Niemi

Heather is graduating from Pacific Lutheran University with a Master's Degree in Education plus a teaching certificate. When her course work is completed in August, she will be looking for a teaching position with 4th, 5th, or 6th graders in either Pierce or Cowlitz Counties. Heather will conclude her 5 ½ years at PLU with wonderful memories of warm and kind friends and professors. She would really like to be able to live close to her supportive family in Castle Rock. Her grandmother (Betty Noerenberg) was also a very special influence. Heather feels most fortunate to have been her caregiver during Betty's last months. Heather's faith has grown as she has matured through the college years. It has helped her to maintain a positive attitude. She credits God for her good family, friends, health, and the many positive opportunities that have come her way. God gives Heather the strength and courage to deal with any of the challenges that occur along life's path.

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Farewell to Marissa

Our wonderful Marissa Aguayo is moving to California to continue her studies. Rats! Marissa has done a terrific job in the nursery this year, and we will miss her ever so much. If you know of someone interested in serving in the nursery, especially as we get closer to fall, please let me know.

Summer Evensong

The monthly service of Compline ends in June, but let's not stop gathering! Instead, folks are getting together for the service of Evensong, Sunday June 25, July 30, and August 27. We'll keep the regular Compline time of 8:00 so we can keep up the good habit.

Evensong is quite similar to Compline. Quiet and prayerful, evensong is characterized by prayers, and canticles, and like Compline, can be either spoken or chanted. Summer Evensong will allow for a little more congregational participation, especially since the Compline choir will not be with us. It will be a great way to end the weekend, and celebrate the warm summer evenings.

Musicians, readers, and worship leaders are invited to participate, and to assist in planning.

Contact :

Jan Hanson

(spiralibrary@yahoo.com)

Mary Lyons

(MARYLYONSNOW@MSN.COM)

Mo. Kathleen

(kpatton48@adelphia.net)

Fr. Richard

(frrichard@adelphia.net).

Rector's Letter



Dear Ones,

Here we go again...another threat to the faith in the form of a media extravaganza (or feeding frenzy) on Dan Brown's The Da Vinci Code.

Do I think that this will challenge people and cause them to wrestle with their faith? It might. Isn't that bad? Seldom. Isn't it blasphemous? I don't know, I don't think it is intended to be so, and I suspect God can take it. Is it a distraction from what is important? Maybe. Is it a serious threat? Only if we let it be one.

The book, and now the movie, do raise some interesting questions about the role of women in the history of the Church and recently discovered writings that shed light on the faith outside the early mainstream of the institutional church. The emphasis on the humanity of Jesus may well be important in bringing more balance to the divine-human equation in our understanding of Jesus as Christ.

There is much we can learn from the varieties of expression and experience in the early church. It can help us to see the varieties of Christian faith and practice are nothing new. Mystical writings often use marriage and any number of other topics as symbols. Since I am not a literalist in reading Scripture, I need not be a literalist in reading extra-canonical works either. Works like The Da Vinci Code, and the material it claims to be based on, can only threaten faith that demands uniformity as a sign of unity.

If you are interested, I suggest you see the movie. As we go to press, plans are being made to have a "field trip" and a discussion time about this topic. If you are really interested, I suggest you read the works of Elaine Pagels, Professor of Religion at Princeton University. Her work on some of the ancient manuscripts is highly enlightening and very accessible.

Above all, fear not.

Sursum Corda,

Richard

Graduates

(continued from page 6)

Kate Sudar

Kate graduates from Northwestern University, School of Education with a Master's Degree in Elementary Teaching. She will be getting married in July and will be looking for employment near her home in Evanston, IL. (This area includes Chicago.) Kate's fiancé Doug will be finishing his studies in seminary. Kate's student teaching in Chicago reminded her of the need for social change in our society and the inequities within the educational system. Her mentor teacher reinforced the belief that each student's background is important and cannot be ignored, even if this is subjective. Kate feels that God led her to the Graduate Christian Fellowship at Northwestern, which was an encouraging group. She also believes that God will be assisting her in doing an excellent job as a teacher. Kate is thankful for the support from the St. Stephens church family all through the years. Her parents are the most deserving of all.

Sean Norman

Sean graduates from Mark Morris. He needs to work this summer to help pay for college, but also hopes to take a trip to Europe or through the good old USA. Sean will begin his college career at LCC and then plans to continue at Central or Western. Family and friends were important during the high school years to help Sean stay focused on important priorities. Sean's faith helped him meet new friends at youth events and EYC. It has also been important when things seemed hopeless. Sean very much appreciates his extended support group at St. Stephens.

We want to wish each of these graduates God speed in their future endeavors. Their successes already portend even greater things in the future. We will be honoring all graduates during the June 11 10:00AM service.

"And in the end, the love you take is equal to the love you make" Lennon/McCartney
(thanks to Anne-Marie)

Thanks to Teachers!

The last day of spring Sunday School approaches. Pentecost, June 4, is the last day of classes. **Thank a Sunday school teacher or youth group leader** for a good year!

- *Peg Norman, Joel Rupley, and Mike Shea led youth group on Wednesday night.*
- *Paul Batzel and Rick Lecker led the older J2A group*
- *Gretchen Niemi and David Hanson led the younger J2A group.*
- *Lisa Sudar and Marlene Norman worked with older elementary school children.*
- *Judy Swanson took on the early elementary class*
- *Linda Eddleston worked with the pre-K group.*
- *She and Marissa Aguayo oversaw child care.*



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