



The Grapevine

MARCH 2006

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

Mark Your Calendar

February 26 - Sunday - 8:00
Compline Service

February 28 - Tuesday - 5:30
Fat Tuesday

March 1 - Wednesday - Noon
Ash Wednesday Service

March 1 - 7:30
Ash Wednesday Service

March 4 - Saturday - 9:00
Lenten Quiet Day

March 5 - Listening Hearts
small groups (date/time tba)

March 19 - Sunday - 12:00
Wills Awareness Seminar

March 22 - Wednesday - 6:00
Youth Ministry Team
Evening of Reflection

March 26 - Sunday - 3:00
Kaleidoscope Concert

March 26 - Sunday - 8:00
Compline Service

April 2 - Sunday
Daylight Savings Time begins

April 9 - Palm Sunday

April 13 - Maundy Thursday

April 14 - Good Friday

April 15 - Easter Vigil

April 16 - Easter Sunday

Capital campaign keynote speech

The Parish Hall Remodel Team announced the kickoff of a capital campaign with this eloquent keynote speech from team member, Donald Kirkpatrick. Written information was distributed during the Annual Meeting and included bright green pledge cards and green envelopes. More information will be forthcoming.



When receiving a phone call from your church's priest, few openings lead to more dread than "I would like you to serve on a committee." Contrary to past church committee experiences, joining Father Richard, Dick Woods, Julie Kendall, Sara Hamilton, Chad Olsen, Mark Norman, Greg Lopic, and Margaret Lopic over these past 6 months has been, indeed, a privilege.

In the late 1920's, a family of faith here in Cowlitz County felt a calling to build a church. Facing who knows what kinds of financial hardships (keep in mind the stock market crash of 1929), they decided "this is our time" and on March 12, 1930, in this very space we are meeting, that calling became a reality.

Hardly 20 years later, that family of faith had grown and despite the challenges which face any new construction project, decided again "this is our time" and in 1952, the beautiful sanctuary nearby also became a reality.

Six years ago, at the turn of this new millennium, a Master Facilities Plan envisioned a dramatic series of changes for St. Stephens. These proposals, supported by by the vestry and congregation, did not become a reality. Instead, the winds of change were felt blowing through the Episcopalian church and through our congregation. Resources became scarce, programs were eliminated, and items of facility maintenance, let alone facility improvement disappeared from depleted budgets.

Realizing that while our sanctuary has stood the test of time, our Parish Hall, constructed as the original church on this

(continued on page 2)



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
Katie Lewis	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	

obstacles making a quick departure to awaiting vehicles the more viable option. A chance for a kind word of encouragement, an embrace with an old friend, an opportunity for further growth in faith is lost.

In recent sermons, Father Richard asked "If not us, who? If not now, when?" Over 75 years ago this Parish Hall was built by a congregation who felt a calling that "their time" was at hand. Hear now the calling of this aged, but noble building telling us to bring about not just necessary maintenance to this floor and ceiling, these windows and walls, but the call to transform this Parish Hall into a place which draws us from the inspiration experienced in our sanctuary into a welcoming place of fellowship, a facility that can accommodate groups larger than tonight's Annual Meeting or an intimate small Bible study in comfort, a place which celebrates the joys of a wedding or concert reception, or the memories at a dear friend's funeral. The tide is changing here at St. Stephens. New membership classes are filling, the number of annual fund pledges is increasing, the budget is now balanced. This is our church, this is our home, this is "our time."

It has been an honor to serve on the Parish Hall Remodel Committee, whose members unanimously believe this is "our time." In this container are pledges from each member of our committee. Our committee chair, Margaret Lapic, in honor of her mother, has issued an inspiring and extraordinarily generous challenge pledge for matching funds up to \$40,000 raised by the congregation. We would gratefully receive any pledges or indications of support tonight; the pledge cards are on your tables. Thank you.

Donald Kirkpatrick,
for the Parish Hall
Remodel Team

Capital campaign

(continued from page 1)

property in 1930, has foundered, Father Richard commissioned a diverse group of parishioners to form the Parish Hall Remodel Committee. Weighing the financial burden of this project against the dangers of our church's fellowship hall falling into a further state of disrepair, this committee has met frequently, consulted contractors, solicited ideas from the congregation, and established a list of priorities consistent with the 1999 Master Facility Plan.

Under our feet, a carpet becomes threadbare, over our heads, visible pieces of ceiling tile are missing, around us windows allow in more cold air than usable light, a library is dark and enclosed with immovable walls which prevent other uses of that space for larger groups. Lighting and electrical work are sorely needing revision. Our kitchen now gleams brightly for providing food, but for an equally basic human need, only one restroom in reasonable condition can be found on our premises. Finally, as our members and guests leave the sanctuary, their path to a place of fellowship is one filled with

Photos from annual meeting



Margaret Lopic talks about capital campaign as the puppet of St. Stephen and Fr. Richard look on. "Girls' Night Out" group listens.



A view of the entire Parish Hall with our "newcomers' table" in the foreground.



Father Richard addresses the annual meeting dinner audience on Sunday evening, February 12, 2006

Annual Meeting Highlights

In an atmosphere of fun, over 80 parishioners gathered Sunday evening, February 12 in the Parish Hall for the Annual Parish Meeting and Dinner. Having celebrated the Feast of Stephen (translated) in the morning, the attendees were in a celebratory mood as they hobnobbed before dinner at theme tables. Themes were tropical, Asian, Irish, western, Keith Husman's birthday party, and more. And, yes, there was business and speech-making.

- Appointment of Clerk, Chancellor, and Endowment Board Member
 - John Freeman, Clerk
 - Patrick Kubin, Chancellor
 - Julie Kendall, Endowment Board Member
- Table reflection
 - What are you grateful for at St. Stephen's?
 - How has St. Stephen's touched your life this year?
 - How has St. Stephen's served the community this year?
 - What's the Good News (or what's good and new) here in 2005?
- Website overview – Howard Meharg
- Acknowledgement of outgoing vestry members
 - Jan EVW Hanson
 - Gretchen Niemi
 - Elmer (Red) Rogers
 - Marilyn Hoehne
 - Richard (Dick) Benson
- Elections
 - Vestry (three year terms), Sarah Hamilton, Margaret (Peggy) Norman, Lloyd Solon
 - Convention Delegates, John Edmiston, Becky Edmiston, David Hughey, Mary Lyons, Perry Piper, Ann Mottet
 - Convention Alternates, Crawford Spens, Lyn Spens, Joe Sudar, JanE Hanson
- Financial report – Ann Long
 - Positive finish for 2005
 - About 10% of our total income was distributed in outreach
 - Pledging up for 2006 with fundraisers to create youth pastor position
- Facilities Ministry Team report – Margaret Lopic (see annual reports)
- Planned Giving Ministry Team report – Margaret Lopic (see annual reports)
- Kickoff of Capital Campaign for remodel of Parish Hall
 - Stirring speech by Don Kirkpatrick



Listening hearts small groups forming for Lent

It is easy to feel insignificant, and rudderless, to drift through our days without sense of purpose. But our faith calls us to another way, to a relationship with God and the world that has meaning. We each have gifts, and a call to follow and unique contributions to make to the body of Christ, and the human family.

You are invited to join with others in a season of discernment. What is God’s dream for you? How is God’s yearning unfolding in your life? How do we begin to hear God’s call?

If you want to learn to listen, or if you are ready to listen with an open heart to God’s call in prayerful community, sign-up for St. Stephen’s small group series for Lent.

Groups will run for five weeks, beginning the week of March 5. Some groups may negotiate not to meet during Spring break week, or to extend their meetings into Easter, as the Spirit leads!

We will be using *Listening Hearts*, by Farnham, Gill McLean and Ward, as a launching point for our conversations and discernment together. Contact the office to enroll, (360.423.5600; church1428@adelphia.net) or clip and return the enrollment slip below.

“**Learning to listen** within our hearts may not come easily. We muse, Does God call ordinary people like us? And if so, to what? How can we distinguish God’s voice from all of the other voices that clamor at us – those of our culture, peer pressure, our careers, our egos? Amid our secular lives, where can we find support for our calls?”

Listening Hearts, p.2

Lenten Quiet Day

In an effort to enter the season of Lent in an appropriately reflective state of mind and heart, Fr. Richard will offer a Lenten Quiet Day Saturday, March 4, 9-3.

The focus of the day will be “Opening the Heart to God”.

Bring a sack lunch or fast for the day. Gather in the Parish Hall by 9 am for an introduction to set the stage for the day. All are welcome, so bring your friends.

Youth Handbell Chime Choir

Time to rise and shine!
Our bells have been silent for too long. Wouldn’t you agree?

During the Lenten season, we will be dusting off our bells, and forming a youth bell choir, with the goal of playing on Easter morning.

We are inviting youth from grades 4-12 to participate. Our rehearsals will be from 6-7 pm every Wednesday night beginning March 1st.

If you are interested in taking part, you can contact Lisa Sudar – 423-1780, Mary Hoover – 577-0298, or Ann Long – 578-1755.

Please enroll me in a *Listening Hearts* Lenten small group.

Name _____
Phone _____
E-Mail _____

Please CHECK ALL times you are available to attend AND please CIRCLE the time you prefer.

- ___ Sunday, after Church (child care available)
- ___ Sunday, 5:00 pm (child care available)
- ___ Wednesday, 7:00 pm
- ___ Thursday, 10:00 am

*Please return to the office or in the offering plate by
Wednesday, March 1*

Outreach grant applications now available

The Outreach Committee at St. Stephen's will begin reviewing applications for 2006 grants by the first week of April this year.

There will be \$13,266.20 available in total from the Endowment Fund, similar to last year's funding.

The Committee will meet three or four times during the year to consider requests, but interested individuals or organizations are encouraged to apply as soon as possible.

Any charitable cause, either local, national or worldwide is welcome to submit an application. Grants will be based on level of need, suitability of program to Committee goals and in some cases, other funding sources.

An application form is available from the church office and can be either turned back in to the office or put in the Outreach mailbox in the hall.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Robert Sudar at 423-

From the Treasurer:

I am happy to report that we have started our new year in a very positive way. We received pledge payments of \$22,000.00, slightly more than our budgeted \$21,250.00 per month.. Along with our other sources of income, we were able to meet our obligations. Thank you for your continued generous support. From a 17th century Slovakian hymn, we ask the question, "With such a Lord to lead our way in hazard and prosperity, what need we fear in earth or space in this new year of grace?"

St. Stephen's youth feeds ten hungry children for a year

Thanks to many generous people, and about fifteen hungry teenagers, over \$3,500 was raised for international hunger relief – enough to feed ten children at this year's 30 Hour Famine event. In addition, three overflowing grocery baskets full of food were collected for FISH, our response to local hunger. The kids also enjoyed dyeing Greg Lopic's beard blue, having easily over-reached their challenge goal of \$2,000.

That night, we spent time reflecting on the things we hunger for. On a superficial level, everyone could easily name something they wanted to eat - cheeseburgers were high on the list. But after we considered Jesus' hunger for God's Word, after his forty days fast, we named other hungers that motivated us to fast for 30 hours. We were hungry for compassion, for companionship, for the good feeling of helping others, for a sense of purpose and accomplishment. I think the famine took the edge off some of that hunger, but we all understand the need to "stay hungry" for the things that matter.

Thanks to the many generous people who supported our youth and helped feed the world. Thanks also to the wonderful adult leaders who were there for our young people: Greg (Bluebeard) Lopic, Marlene Norman, Peg Norman, Stacia , Paul Batzle, Rick Lecker, David Hanson, and Gretchen Niemi.

Thanks to all our participants: Barbara Swecker, Jan E Hanson, Perry Piper, Joe Sudar, Andrew Turner, Adam Schrepel, Haley Ellis, Jami Nakashima, Brittany Teller, Miranda Lecker, Jessica Johanson-Kubin, Jenna Hollinger, Derrick Lecker, Cameron Ford, and Erica Lloyd.

Mo. Kathleen +



A gathering for children and youth

On Wednesday, March 22 at 6:00 p.m. the Youth Ministry Team invites you to join a conversation about what we want for our children and youth, and how St. Stephen's can be part of that vision. (And while we are at it, the teens will feed us a light supper!)



This is a crucial time for ministry to youth. We face some challenges with lower numbers, and leaders preparing to step down after years of service. We need to check our priorities, and plan for fall, laying strong foundations for the future.

Our young people know they will find something rare here. They find other kids they can trust, and adults who care for them unconditionally. They find a place where faith is valued, doubts are honored, and diversity is accepted.

If you want to see this ministry continue for all our kids, I invite you to join the St. Stephen's Youth Ministry Team for an evening of reflection.

Please call Mo. Kathleen to let her know if you plan to attend (423-5600, ext. 14; kpatton48@adelphia.net). If you cannot come that night, please catch up with a member of the Youth Ministry Team. They truly want everyone's input.

Mo. Kathleen +

The next Celebration Concert Series Musical Kaleidoscope

Sunday, March 26
3:00 p.m.

This is the annual popular Kaleidoscope event which will feature parish musicians as well as others in our community performing a variety of musical numbers.

The free-will offering that is taken at every concert as part of St. Stephen's outreach into the community will go to Hospice.

Blog, blog, blog...

Here's a unique way to connect with others at St. Stephen's, and to dialogue about what is on your mind. Want to chat about the sermon? Want to vent about the readings? Want to explore issues of faith and fellowship at St. Stephen's? Log on to Stephen Speak! Just got to <http://stephenspeak.blogspot.com/>, click on a topic of interest, and click on "post a comment". If it is your first time, you will have to sign up – for the sake of civility, there are no "anonymous" bloggers, though you do not have to give ANY personal information – just a name we can call you by!

HAVE SOME SOUP
WITH THE REST
OF THE GROUP
AND
IMPROVE YOUR
"WILL POWER"
IN JUST AN HOUR!

WILLS AWARENESS SEMINAR

SUNDAY, MARCH 19TH
12 - 1

CHANCELLOR PATRICK KUBIN
RECTOR'S WARDEN ANN MOTTET
RSVP TO OFFICE
REGISTRATION REQUIRED

What is Compline?

Compline is a contemplative office that emphasizes spiritual peace, dating back to the mid-4th century.

The service consists of psalms, short passages from scripture, an office hymn, a canticle, a litany, collects and additional prayers or even an anthem.

Compline is offered when the work of the day is completed and the quietness of evening settles over those who have come together in thankfulness for the blessing of the day in anticipation of God's gift of a new day.

Annual Meeting Highlights (continued from page 3)

- Announcement of \$40,000 matching grant from Margaret Lopic and pledges by entire Remodel Team with more pledges at Annual Meeting
- Rector's Wardens
 - Outgoing – Jan EVW Hanson
 - Incoming – Ann Mottet
- St. Stephen's Rector Award presented to Phil Shore
- The Vestry appointed Dick Woods People's Warden at the Vestry meeting following adjournment.

Please clip this pledge form and return to church office

Richard

2006 St. Stephen's Episcopal Church Parish Hall Remodel

I have already considered my contribution to the Parish Hall Remodel Campaign. My gift to my church family and the community to whom we minister is:

_____ Special one-time major gift of \$_____ (optional: in memory of or in honor of _____)

_____ Pledge of \$2,000

_____ Pledge of \$1,000

_____ Pledge of \$600

_____ Contribution of \$_____

I support this project and will prayerfully consider my financial commitment.

Name (please print) _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Your gift is deeply appreciated!



Mardi Gras

Fat Tuesday, February 28, 5:30

**Live Jazz with "Heads on Fire,"
Great Cajun Food, Les Bontemps!**

\$15.00 adults, \$10.00 children under 13

A Benefit Event for Hurricane Relief

Please make reservations...call now! (423-5600)

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
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