



The Grapevine

The monthly newsletter of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church,
Longview, WA

August 2018



Memories

Just over eighteen years ago, Kathleen and I arrived in Longview with a toddler, Aidan, and two cats. We moved into what is now known as Baird House where we lived for a few months until we bought our house on 24th Avenue. We have been through quite a few cats in that time, and one great dog. That toddler turns twenty in a couple of months and is far from a little boy.

Over the years we have been through much together. Kathleen and I have performed well over one hundred funerals, a scattering of weddings, quite a number of baptisms, and countless eucharists. There have been classes and dinners and hours of contemplative prayer. Untold numbers of the needy have been served with food and other forms of aid. Diocesan conventions have come and gone, as well as bishops, canons, and diocesan staff. We have watched each other age and turn gray. We have visited each other when we have been ill. We have been with loved ones as they transitioned out of this mortal life, and grieved with those who mourn. Still, this Church of St. Stephen remains. The story of you, the people of this parish, continues to unfold. Lives are changed, hearts and minds are opened to the greater life offered to us by the Way of Christ. It has not always been easy, but it has been a rich experience to walk with you over these years. We have taught one another much. Now though, we come to a fork in the road, and go our separate ways. I wish you well in your journey.

Godspeed.

Fr. Richard +



In Gratitude for Your Love and Support!!

In just a few weeks, Fr. Nic Mather will be joining St. Stephen's as the new rector. Many of you have expressed your feelings of encouragement as you anticipate Fr. Nic's arrival. I have sensed personally both the renewed energy and excitement within the congregation as you envision the mutual ministry and opportunities for service guided by Fr. Nic's spiritual leadership.

As I reflect over these past few months in my role as co-interim priest, I am grateful for the opportunity to be in mutual ministry with each of you – the St. Stephen's faith family. I am feeling a sense of gratitude for the love, grace and encouragement I received from all of you. I have been inspired by your desire to seek and serve Christ in all people. I am thankful to each of you for allowing me to be a part of your lives through this time of transition and discernment.

I find the words of the Apostle Paul fitting as my time as one of your interim priests comes to an end. His words are my prayer for each of you today and in the days to come - *"I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, thankful for your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ."* (Philippians 1:3-6 RSV)

Blessings,

Michael A. Wright +



St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

*Deep Roots,
Prayerful Hearts,
Open Arms*

THE STAFF

The Rev. Richard Green	Interim priest
The Rev. Michael Wright	Interim priest
The Rev. Bob Sipe	Priest, Associate
Rebecca Edmiston	Parish Administrator
Alison Askeland	Music Director
Katie Lewis Phillips	Organist
Jean Watson	Bell Choir Director
Riki Davis	Pianist
Gretchen Moore	Family Ministry

THE VESTRY

Greg Lopic, Rector's Warden	
Sandra King, Rector's Warden	
Joe White, People's Warden	
Cathy Cochrane	Curt Copenhagen
Patrick McCoy	Greg Moore
Heather Niemi	Dave Williams

ARTISTS-IN-RESIDENCE

Columbian Choral Ensemble
Columbia River Handbells
Jean Watson, Fabric Artist

SUNDAY SERVICES

8:00 am Eucharist in All Saint's Chapel on the first and third Sunday of the month
10:30 am Eucharist in Sanctuary
2:30 pm Second Sunday Worship Gathering at Caterbury Park

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday 10 am - 1 pm

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

1428 - 22nd Avenue

Longview, WA 98632

360/423-5600 admin@sslv.org www.sslv.org

You are invited to Second Sunday Worship Gathering

At Canterbury Park

August 12, 2:30 pm

In the President's room

Our service will include scripture readings, a brief sermon, prayers and communion

All are welcomed!



Yoga

Community yoga meets in the parish hall Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 7:00 am and Monday and Wednesday at 8:30 am.

Tuesday Morning Prayer



Interested in contemplative prayer? The benefits can be profound: spiritually, mentally, psychologically, and physically. A group is forming that will meet Tuesday mornings at 8:30 am in the clergy office with Fr. Richard. No experience necessary.

Adult Faith Formation

The Wednesday Study Group will continue to meet during the summer, but **only on the 3rd Wednesday of the month** through August. It will resume the weekly meetings in September.





Exciting Transitions

August is going to be an exciting month at St. Stephens! We are transitioning from our two revered interims to Fr. Nic Mather as our new rector.

THANK YOU

We will celebrate the closure of the interim period with a thank you event right after church on August 19. There will be ice cream sundaes with all kinds of delicious toppings. During August, you will find memory boards in the parish hall for Father Richard and for Father Michael. So take a few minutes to write a note or share a memory with either or both of them. The boards will be presented along with gift cards and gifts during the event on the 19th.

WELCOME

Then on August 26 we will be welcoming Fr. Nic and his family (wife Krista and daughter Charlee) to their first Sunday with us. We will gather in the parish hall after church so that they can begin to know us. There will be festive food and an opportunity for Fr. Nic to informally introduce himself. Please be sure to wear your name tag to help Father Nic and Krista begin to learn our names.

So, mark both of these important events on your calendar and come and join in the fun and celebration.



How To Keep Our Kitchen Clean

There are so many different groups that use our kitchen, including Sunday morning Coffee Hour. Here are few simple guidelines to make sure that the kitchen is ready for the next group to use. Thank you

General Kitchen Clean Up Checklist

1. Wash down all counters with disinfectant
2. Clean stove top if used
3. Gather up all wet rags and towels and dirty aprons- wash and return to the kitchen
4. Sweep the floor and wipe up any spills
5. Empty all garbage cans into the green bins outside of the church and replace the garbage bags in all garbage cans
6. Empty the recycle bin into the large recycle bin outside of the Baird House
7. Rinse down sinks and run garbage disposals
8. Empty the dishwasher water (pull plunger) and rinse food screen
9. Turn off the dishwasher
10. Store dish racks upside down
11. Squeegee and wipe dry stainless steel around dishwasher
12. Put all clean kitchen utensils in their marked drawers





Church Announcements

The hand held mike that we use for announcements at the end of church leaves something to be desired. It has to be held just so in order for people in the back of the church to hear. This is difficult for many of us. As an alternative, priests, vestry members, and others who have special announcements will use the Epistle Side microphone. This microphone is more forgiving and then there is the advantage of the “announcer” standing a little higher which aids the projection. Birthdays and anniversaries will still use the hand mike like we typically do. Hopefully we can make this adjustment easily. After all, if some of us can't hear the announcements, what's the point?



Baseball with the Bishop

There's no better way to spend a summer evening than kicking back at the ballpark with a hotdog, a bag of peanuts, and your beverage of choice. So, on Tue, August 21, 2018 at 7:05 pm join Bishop Rickel and other Episcopalians from across the Diocese for Baseball with the Bishop as we watch the Tacoma Rainiers face off against the Reno Aces! Ticket cost \$14.50, includes reserved seating, complimentary meal (hotdog, chips and bottled water), a souvenir game program, and group recognition on the video board during the game. Tickets can be purchased at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/baseball-with-the-bishop-tickets-48181281510>

We have a New Rector!

After much careful consideration the search committee has selected a candidate and the vestry has called the Rev. Nic Mather to be the new rector at St. Stephen's.



We are grateful to all who graciously offered their time and talents to be a part of the process that resulted in this call to Fr. Nic Mather. Please offer your prayers for Fr. Nic and his family as they relocate to the Longview area. This time of transition will be filled with much activity and adjustment as Fr. Nic prepares himself to be the rector for St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. As with any life change, starting a new position, moving to a new home, being exposed to a different setting, learning the dynamics of a new town and meeting the members of the congregation is a demanding and stressful experience at best. Until Fr. Nic officially begins his first day as St. Stephen's rector, please be respectful of his transition process by guarding his and his family's privacy. There will be plenty of opportunity to get to know him and his family once he starts his mutual ministry with us on August 20, 2018. Thanks be to God for the continued work of the Holy Spirit as Fr. Nic joins us.

Name Tags

Please help us revive the practice of wearing name tags every Sunday. It is very helpful if you do. A better space is being made available in the narthex for making the tags, so please wear one . . . and thank you for doing so!





FISH News

Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers and those who contributed food and hygiene products for our FISH distribution last week. As a result of our collective efforts, we provided food and other necessary items to over 400 people!



For our September distribution, we would like to provide families with some "back to school" items. If you would like to participate, start looking for foods that could easily be packed into school lunches, like granola bars, fruit snacks, etc. Also, if you have a reusable cloth bag you could part with, we would like use those to pack in all the extra goodies we will send along with our regular food distribution.

Finally, we are having a FISH potluck meal after church on Sunday, August 5th at the Claxton's residence (just across Louisiana from the church). Lucy and Jerri will provide the main dish and beverages, so join us and bring a salad or dessert to share!

Summer Childcare

Childcare is on summer hiatus. Childcare will resume on August 19. Godly play will begin on September 9.



Blood Drive

Tuesday August 21 from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm. Call 1-800-398-7888 to make an appointment. Appointment are recommended but walk-ins are always welcome.



Cookies are also needed.

Hot Water!!

Thanks to skilled help (**Dorian Brebeck** [**Ann Long's son-in-law**], **Duane Higby**, & **Gary Lindstrom**) the old water heater for the two upstairs bathrooms was replaced without flooding or physical injury. We are blessed to have such expertise amongst us.



Spirit Market Returns

Spirit Market is returning to our courtyard this summer. From July to October, Spirit Market will be open 11:30 to 1:30, on the following dates: Aug 12, Aug 26, Sept. 23, Oct. 7 and Oct 21-weather permitting. There is also information about CSA shares or Friend of the Farmer cards across from the offices.





Sacristy Cleaning



On August 13 there will be an organizing of the robes in the sacristy. If you have a personal robe in the sacristy, this would be a good time to take it home. When you return your robe to the sacristy please make sure it is clearly marked with your name. The remaining robes will be sorted and organized. Some robes will be purged. Thank you for your help in this endeavor.

Many Hands

Thanks to **Dave Williams** and **Joe White** for a lot of various tidying up details around the building (weeds, bush trimming, cob web removal, etc.). Thanks also go to **Judy Swanson** for consistent attention to the cleanliness and order in the kitchen.

Nat Light also deserves our gratitude for washing windows everywhere. Thanks Nat!

Please note that we now have a new door to the second main floor bathroom thanks to a generous donation from **Diane Glase** and some skillful work by **Robert Sudar** and **Greg Lopic**.

If you notice that the parking lot has been freshly striped, thank the **Goodnight family** for their attention to that chore. Another unsung hero is **Mary Hoover** for making sure all the thirsty plants inside get watered.

It would be wonderful if a few more people would periodically check the water level in the fountain. It only takes a few minutes to fill the reservoir. (If the fountain goes completely dry, the fountain engine will burn up.) Those of us on the Properties Team really appreciate everyone's help keeping things in mint condition.

Wanted: One Good Plumber

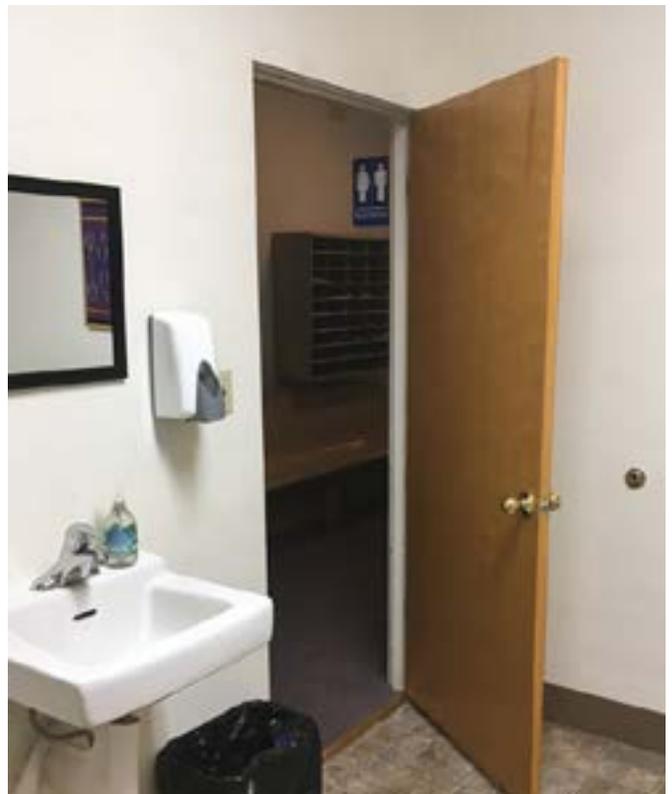
Both sprayers in the sinks in the kitchen need replacing. It would be great if someone would volunteer to take that on. The new sprayers are there, just need installing. Thankyou.



Chamber Music Concerts

There will be a series of Chamber Music Concerts at St. Stephen's

- August 3 at 7:30 pm - Bach's Greatest hits
- August 4 at 7:30 pm - Mozart, Martinu, and Beethoven
- August 5 at 3:00 pm - The Romantics, Brahms and Schumann
- August 10 at 7:30pm - Mozart Horn and Smetana quartet
- August 11 at 7:30 pm - A night of woodwinds
- August 12 at 3:00 pm - Spotlight recital Grant Mack, piano





Financial Summary

by Wayne Amondson

St. Stephens Episcopal Church - Longview, WA 98632

Treasurer's Report for: January thru: JUNE 2018

6/30/2018

FUND SUMMARY	January 1st Beginning Balance	INCOME Month	INCOME Y-T-D	TRANSFERS Y-T-D	EXPENSE Month	EXPENSE Y-T-D	Yr-to-Date Ending Balance *
OPERATING FUND (BUDGET)	(2,660.36)	17,943.82	113,551.35	0.00	(5,265.31)	111,199.82	(308.83)
OTHER MINISTRIES & FUNDS							
FISH OFFERINGS	4,801.52	584.00	4,531.00	0.00	750.00	4,750.00	4,582.52
OUTREACH PROGRAM	10,035.15	0.00	0.00	0.00	7,050.00	7,050.00	2,985.15
ALTAR GUILD FUND	1,458.65	0.00	735.50	0.00	44.29	1,128.73	1,065.42
PROPERTY FUND	24,843.99	325.16	3,358.55	0.00	712.20	21,251.62	6,950.92
OTHER DESIGNATED FUNDS	72,413.90	55,549.49	81,061.00	50.00	31,127.60	67,451.93	86,052.97
ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE FUNDS							
OCE Music Fund Balance	127.84	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	152.42	(24.58)
Col. Oliver Bells Fund Balance	599.30	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	293.25	316.05
SW Chamber Music Balance	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Columbia Regional Fund Balance	537.49	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	537.49
LIABILITIES (seasonal accruals)	(33.78)	(1,470.88)	(3,105.63)	0.00	(1,403.25)	(3,171.78)	32.37
TOTALS	112,123.70	72,931.59	200,131.77	50.00	33,015.53	210,095.99	102,189.48

“Giving for June was bit down, but we’ve moved into summer. Our TOTAL GIVING NEED remains at a 14% shortfall. Our Expenses were reduced since we’re moving into Summer, and this Month Income exceeded Expenses by about \$1,400. With our new Rector coming in August, the Finance committee decided now is a good time to clear out the Rector Reserve Contingency Fund, so a credit of almost \$22,000 was posted as a credit on the Housing Allowance Line. This reduced the Operating Fund Ending Balance to \$ -308.83. Again thank you for all your continued support of the many Ministries St. Stephen’s offers to help and assist the people in our Community!”

Treasurer: Wayne Amondson
Wayne Amondson

Don't forget that you can now give electronically at SSLV.org.

or scan our QR code to go to our mobile giving page



St Stephen's mission is to:

- Courageously serve the diverse world, to care for one another, our community and the earth in Christ's name.
- We ground this service in joyful and thoughtful worship, drawn from past and present, trusting in the Holy Spirit to refresh and guide us.
- We are committed to grow together, to find our being in God, and to welcome all on their faith journey.

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1428 - 22nd Avenue
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Address Service Requested