



The Grapevine

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

September, 2018



Exploring the New

"And the one who was seated on the throne said, 'See, I am making all things new.'"

-Revelation 21:5

One of the more exciting things about becoming your rector is the opportunity to explore new with you. New understandings of ministry in our changing world. New opportunities to form and grow in our faith together. New signs to better welcome visitors and guests. New is a fresh and exciting opportunity to come together and explore to what and where God is calling us to be "The Episcopal Branch of the Jesus Movement" here in Longview/Kelso and beyond.

New is also a challenge. New can feel like an attack on those things that we hold dear, those traditions, those expectations we have when we enter into this space to worship, to learn, to experience the holy. New can leave us feeling cautious, unsure, uneasy.

My hope is that together we can experience new without the fear of new weighing us down. I do think it is important to hold onto those emotions and reactions to new, both positive and challenged, because the real impact of new is what matters to us as a people who come together to worship and exist in community. If the new we try doesn't work for us as a people, it is important to voice that reality, rather than trudge forward unfulfilled. If the new surprises and excites us, even when we didn't expect it to, that also must be shared and celebrated with the community.

And, most importantly, the introduction of new things will be a communal process. I promise to you to not do something radically new without first inviting conversation with you. My hope is that in coming together our understanding of what can be accomplished here together is built stronger than anything we can individually accomplish.

We have some initial new-ness to experience and celebrate (and critique) already underway here. You will notice that we have moved the announcements to the beginning of the service in order to facilitate an unbroken flow in the liturgy. We have revived the 9:15 am Sunday Forum formation series. We will celebrate St. Francis and the Blessing of the Animals as part of our Sunday service on October 7 at 10:30 am. And, there are new signs up around the building to further enhance our welcoming culture.

It is my hope that these new expressions of our life together will fill you and further facilitate the opportunity to continue exploring together the new that we can create in this place, at this time.

FR. Nic



St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

*Deep Roots,
Prayerful Hearts,
Open Arms*

THE STAFF

The Rev. Nic Mather	Rectort
The Rev. Michael Wright	Priest, Associate
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
Barb Dunlap	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

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday 9:00 am - 1:00 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

October 14, 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.



Fall Forums

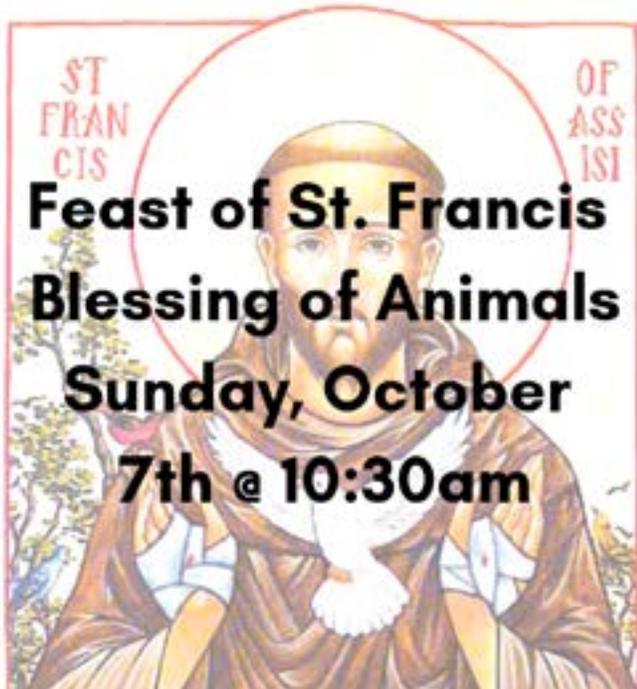
Join us every Sunday at 9:15 in the Parish Hall for Fall Forums. Our theme this fall is: Discovering Our Story, Together



Rector's Notes



Sign up for the weekly Rector's Notes email. Email Becky at admin@sslv.org to be added to the list.



Vestry Retreat

The evening of August 24th, found the Vestry of St. Stephen's, blessed to be meeting at the home of **Cathy Cochrane**. We are grateful to her and John, for allowing us the use of their beautiful home, in the woods near Toutle. The goal of the evening was to allow our new rector and the Vestry to get to know each other. First we gathered for dinner, with soup provided by Cathy and everything else by the rest of the group. Afterwards we did team building exercises, ran by **Heather Niemi, Sandra King** and **Father Nic Mather**. We prayerfully adjourned and went home around 9 pm.

The next morning at 9:00 am we gathered again and started with a light cold breakfast. We began the meeting with prayer and sharing our favorite scriptures. Next we tackled motions and paperwork related to Father Nic joining us. After that, we spent the remainder of our time together discussing and setting goals for items like: Green Faith, the talent survey, faith formation, welcoming, retention, upkeep/maintenance of our physical plant, stewardship etc. Father Nic had questions and input. He talked about things that he would like to see implemented over the coming weeks, months and years. It felt like many exciting things are in the future of our congregation. Thanks be to God!

It was decided to move the monthly Vestry meetings to the third Sunday at 1 pm. Our next retreat will be an overnight one in February. The meeting ended in the afternoon with prayer.

Submitted with joy,
Sandra King
Co-Rectors Warden

Got Produce?

FISH distribution is September 18th through 21st. If you have any leftover produce we would love to help you get rid of it. Our families are always happy to receive fresh produce. Squash, cucumbers, baggies of cherry tomatoes, peppers, apples and pears would be very nice. If you know of someone that has apples to spare it please ask them to donate to us. Remember, this is also a way of getting rid of those baseball bat zucchini.



I will be at Baird House Monday, September 17th at 10:00 am if you wish to drop off your donations. I will ask that you not come in from 11:00 to 1:00 Tuesday through Thursday as this is when we are having our distributions. Tuesday through Thursday between 9-11am OR 1-2 pm are good times to drop off. If you wish to contact me, please call or text 360-560-2615. I wish I could pick up but it will be a very busy week. However, I will do my best if needed.

Again, thank YOU all for your continued support in helping feed and nourish those that need it most.

Happy Harvest,
Lucy Claxton

Many Thanks

A huge "thank you" to all the people who worked so well to create the thank you party for our two interims and then the welcoming celebration for Father Nic. These two events were carried out most successfully.





Agape

Agape is a group that works at contacting visitors and parishioners who having not been attending Sunday services.. They will be meeting on Wednesday September 25 at 6:00 pm in the Library. If you are interested please talk to Joe White. 360-560-6531.



Children and Families Ministry

Godly Play

Welcome all! It is the beginning of a new school year for the children at St. Stephen's and that means a new year for our Godly Play stories in Room 4. I would like to welcome all children between the ages of 5-10 years to join us every Sunday from 10:00 am for shared time and wonder as we listen to the stories about the people of God. Class ends at 11:15 am to share in the Eucharist with the rest of our church family.

Childcare for infants-4 years

We are very happy to introduce two new staff members to the St. Stephen's childcare team. **Ally Harman** and **Tally Connors** are both Seniors attending Kelso High School. They are both very eager to work with the children of St. Stephen's and we are grateful for the experience and enthusiasm they bring to the nursery. Childcare is available from 9:00-11:15 am every Sunday. All children return to the Sanctuary at 11:15 am to participate in the Eucharist with the church family.

Messy Church

Messy Church is a family oriented service that involves active participation for everyone, including the wiggliest among us! Please join us for stories, crafts and the Holy Eucharist. Messy Church begins at 2:30 pm and usually ends at 4:30 pm.

- September 23rd
- October 28th
- November 18th

Save the Date!

The Feast of St. Nicolas is December 5th, 5:00-7:00 pm. You don't want to miss this wonderful start to the season of Advent! Volunteers to assist the children with their gift making will be very much appreciated!

I am very excited for us to all come together for another year of growing in Christ's love, right here at St. Stephen's!

Peace,
Gretchen Moore

Parent's Meeting

Are you a parent of a child under the age of 18? Then join us Sunday, October 7th at 12:00 pm for a gathering to discuss the potential for new Children's Ministry offerings at St. Stephen's



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: 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.





Financial Summary

by Wayne Amondson

St. Stephens Episcopal Church - Longview, WA 98632

Treasurer's Report for: January thru: AUGUST 2018
08/31/2018

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)	17,467.69	147,787.14	100.00	14,511.73	140,509.80	4,716.98
OTHER MINISTRIES & FUNDS							
FISH OFFERINGS	4,801.52	631.00	6,091.00	80.00	0.00	4,750.00	6,222.52
OUTREACH PROGRAM	10,035.15	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7,050.00	2,985.15
RADICAL LOVE OUTREACH	2,184.97	100.00	8,537.61	50.00	3,640.87	9,865.00	907.58
ALTAR GUILD FUND	1,458.65	0.00	735.50	0.00	0.00	1,128.73	1,065.42
PROPERTY FUND	24,843.99	298.60	4,520.15	0.00	181.49	22,737.31	6,626.83
OTHER DESIGNATED FUNDS	70,228.93	607.67	80,089.22	0.00	45,550.00	110,746.20	39,571.95
ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE FUNDS							
CCE Music Fund Balance	127.84	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	152.42	(24.58)
Col. River Bells Fund Balance	599.30	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	283.25	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)	(1,390.42)	(5,881.53)	0.00	(1,390.34)	(5,964.45)	49.15
TOTALS	112,123.70	17,714.54	241,879.09	230.00	62,487.75	291,258.25	62,974.54

“Giving for August was bit down, but again, quite solid for being the summer. With summer giving being down a bit, our TOTAL GIVING NEED has slightly increased to a 16% shortfall. Yet again, our Expenses were lower which allowed Monthly Income to again exceed Expenses by about \$3,000. This elevates our Operating Fund Ending Balance to: \$ 4,716.98. This gives us a good base as our Seasonal Expenses start back up in September. Thank you again for staying mindful of our church finances, and for all your continued support of the many Ministries St. Stephen’s offers to our Community! And new and exciting opportunities for ministry awaiting, as we engage with our dynamic new Rector!”

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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Address Service Requested