

*At St. Stephen's,
our Mission is to
worship, love and
serve Our Lord
Jesus Christ,
welcoming
everyone,
deepening our
faith, helping our
neighbors and
caring for creation*

Inside this issue:

Rector's Words	1
Hey, Bill...	2-3
Upcoming Events	4-5
What We Are Reading	6
Birthdays & Anniversaries	7
Looking for help...	7
Calendar & Contact	8

The St. Stephen's Clarion



Words from our Rector

"What am I supposed to call you?"

Throughout my many years of ministry, I have been asked this question countless times; and you might think the answer is simple: "Father Peter," which is the way I've been addressed for the majority of my years as a priest.

But in reality, it's not that simple. Calling priests "Father" can be traced back to the Roman Catholic tradition and, until recently, the Episcopal tradition. This is left over from our old hierarchical and male-dominated church culture, because the church has always been slow to change. As you know, in the mid-1970s the Episcopal Church began ordaining women, praise be. This created challenges in the use and forms of titles. Should we call all clergy of the church "Father"? Some of my female colleagues, in protest, said yes to that. Others preferred the title of "Mother." Both, in my opinion, have different meanings, and are often associated with different levels of authority both in church leadership and in the home. Additionally, this parental language encourages the perception that clergy are set above laypersons, rather than simply called to a particular role within our ministry.

What about "Reverend"? This title has its problems too. Grammar specialists will be quick to point out that this title is reserved for the written form only and should be preceded by the word "The."

<https://www.episcopalchurch.org/library/glossary/reverend>

That might make sense on paper, but it would be silly if spoken in this form.

At St. Stephen's we have a diversely talented wealth of both female and male clergy and even clergy of other denominations. Until there is a title that has equal merit among all clergy everywhere, I propose and prefer that I be called by my baptismal name, simply "Peter." If this feels too informal for some of you, "Reverend" is just fine. (And I hope the grammarians among you will be forgiving!)

Hey , Bill, Tell Us Something Cool

Last month I wrote describing the structure of Holy Eucharist. In that article, I mentioned some other things about this liturgy that might occupy another column. So, here we go!

As I mentioned last time, the rite is composed to two major and equally necessary and interdependent part, The Word of God and The Holy Communion. We spoke about the ambo and Bible being the physical focus of the first part, the altar/table, bread and wine being the comparable focus of the second. By way of actions, the first part of the rite is animated by the reading of Scripture and the proclamation that follows; the second part is animated by the Great Thanksgiving and communion.

Last time, I used the outline on pages 400-401 to describe the structure of the whole rite. I want now to talk a bit more about The Holy Communion, generically known as The Liturgy of the Table.

There are four aspects or moments to this part of the rite. These are the Offertory, the Great Thanksgiving, the Fraction and Communion. By explanation, the offertory is the moment in the liturgy when the altar/table is prepared, bread and wine are brought and alms are gathered. These elements are presented to the presiding minister and placed on the table.

The Great Thanksgiving is the prayer prayed over bread and wine. The Prayer Book provides two such prayers in Rite I and four such prayers in Rite II. Called Eucharistic Prayers, they share a very similar structure but vary in theological emphasis. This allows for seasonal variation. Beyond these six forms, The Order for the Celebration of the Holy Eucharist provides two forms, each of which invites added content from the priest and people who celebrate the rite. This brings to eight the forms provided in the BCP.

Then there are the three Eucharistic Prayers contained in *Enriching Our Worship*, a collection authorized by General Convention. These three prayers are increasingly commonly used across the Church. We are familiar with them at St. Stephen's.

Following the praying of the Great Thanksgiving, using one of the authorized Eucharistic Prayers, comes the action known as the Fraction. This is the breaking of the bread. The rubrics that surround this action are very clear that it is to take place in silence. That is, the action accomplishes what is intended when it is seen on its own, in silence. It is common for there to be something said or sung in association with the action, but the BCP is clear that that action stands on its own, surrounded by silence.

Upcoming Events & Educational Opportunities



SAVE THE DATE!!!!

We are pleased to announce that we are hosting Safeguarding God's Children and People classes on Saturday, August 24, 2019 from 9:30 pm to approximately 4:00 pm here at St. Stephen's. The Children class will begin at 9:30 am with lunch at 12:30 pm and the People class will begin at 1:00 pm. It is of the **utmost importance** that if you are free that Saturday, and participate in **any** ministry at St. Stephen's or **have a key** that you take one or both of the classes. I will be sending out an email to those whose existing certificates have expired or will be expiring this year.

Additionally, some of you have completed the Children OR People portions but not both. If you work with Children in any capacity, even casually, it is essential you take the Safeguarding God's Children portion. We are working on a customary for interaction with our children and a completed class will be one of the requirements.

Below is an excerpt from the Diocese of Olympia's Safe Church program webpage:

"The Diocese of Olympia takes its responsibility for the safety of our people seriously. The Safe Church program teaches how to identify and prevent abuse within the church community, and is conducted several times per year, free of charge. The training consists of two sessions: Safeguarding God's Children and Safeguarding God's People.

Safeguarding God's Children and People is required for all canonically resident and licensed clergy. Safeguarding God's Children is required for non-clergy who have a key to the church facility, vestry and bishop committee members, church staff, and anyone who works with children in any capacity. Safeguarding God's People is required for non-clergy who have a key to the church facility, vestry and bishop committee members, church staff, and eucharistic visitors. The renewal training for Safeguarding God's Children and for Safeguarding God's People MAY be taken online if the original training was done after 2009."

Diane Rammerman from Christ Church, Anacortes has graciously volunteered to teach the classes and we've extended the invitation to our surrounding Episcopal Churches as well as posting on the Diocese website.

There is a sign-up sheet in Miller Hall. We need to provide snacks, refreshments and lunch so if you would be willing to help with that, please indicate so on the sign-up sheet. Questions? Contact Michele Chapman at ststephensoakharbor@gmail.com or call the church office at 360-279-0715.

See you on August 24th!

Michele Chapman

Upcoming Events & Educational Opportunities



PFLAG is hosting an event at St. Stephen's Church
Sunday, September 15th from 3:00 pm to 5:30 pm.

The topic for this event is:
"Hearts Open to Real Lives: The Science of Gender".

Presented by Skagit PFLAG Speakers Bureau.



Educational Opportunity

We are excited to share the upcoming Educational Summit on Trauma Informed Care at End of Life occurring August 23rd, 2019 at the Swinomish Casino and Lodge in Anacortes. Each year we offer an educational summit that's open to everyone in the community to attend, and this year's event promises to be very informative.

Registration is online at our website: www.hospicenw.org. Click the "SUMMIT 2019" button on our home page and follow the prompts. If you have any questions, please call Diane Hart at 360.814.5570.

PLEASE JOIN US
for our Annual Hospice of the Northwest Educational Summit:
TRAUMA INFORMED CARE AT END OF LIFE



August 23rd, 2019
7:30 AM - 4:30 PM
Swinomish Casino & Lodge, 12885 Casino Drive, Anacortes
Cost is \$100.00 ~ Lunch and 8 NASW CEUs included with registration

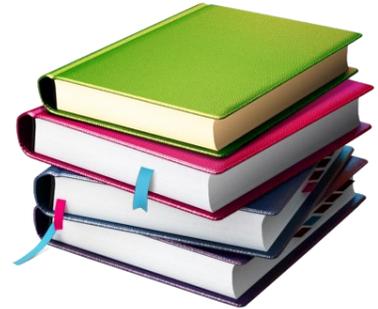
This continuing education event is ideal for hospice agency and palliative care staff, primary care providers, social workers, counselors, psychologists and long term care facility workers

ONLINE REGISTRATION: visit our website at www.hospicenw.org and click "SUMMIT 2019"

What We Are Reading at St. Stephen's

Jim and Virginia Wagner offer these three:

- **Engines of Change by Paul Ingrassia, A History of the American Dream in Fifteen Cars.** Explains our great love affair with cars: The Model T, the Mustang, etc.
- **The Feather Thief, Beauty, Obsession and the Natural History Heist of the Century** by Kirk Wallace Johnson. True crime adventure and a captivating journey into an underground world of fanatical fly-tiers and plume peddlers.
- **I've Been Thinking by Maria Shriver. Reflections, Prayers, and Meditations for a Meaningful Life.** This is a book you will pick up to read on a daily basis. Thoughtful short readings followed by a prayer.



The Rev. Mary Green offers: ***The Moment of Lift, How Empowering Women Changes the World*** by Melinda Gates is inspiring reading. I did get bogged down in the middle with what seemed like needless repetition, so skipped to the last chapter and epilogue. I hope everyone in our congregation, *both women and men*, who is trying to define radical inclusivity or is concerned about current and past justice issues will at least read the last 27 pages.

John Visick says: I have just finished **Langdon Gilkey's "Shantung Compound"**. It is about his time in China during WWII and his observations on humanity and society in that small community (an internment camp). John's also reading *The Essentials of Christian Thought* by Roger Olson. It's philosophical theology.

Christine Visick says: One book that gripped my attention for days recently is **Abraham Verghese's "Cutting for Stone."** It took me back to when we served in Ethiopia during the mid-80's famine. The book is beautifully written, sensitive and thought-provoking. I would have to agree with the *Sunday Times* (London) reviewer who wrote, "...the book honors the extraordinary, complex work of surgeons and physicians, but it also allows us to see them as ordinary men and women." I loved Verghese's writing so much, I am now reading **"The Tennis Partner."**

Val Roseberry reports for her family:

Abbie has been reading the **Meg Cabot Middle School Princess** stories. She likes that they are funny, and she says they are good to listen to on Audible before going to sleep.

Val has been reading **I Think You're Wrong (But I'm Listening)** by Sarah Stewart Holland and Beth A. Silvers. Beth speaks "from the right," and Sarah speaks, "from the left." They talk about how nuanced, grace-filled conversations about current events and even *gasp* politics are not only possible but can be the genesis of strong relationships and great problem solving.

As a family, we've been listening to **An Absolutely Remarkable Thing by Hang Green** (We'd give it a PG 13 or 14 rating for language). It's about mysterious statues that show up all over the world. One of the statues is discovered by April May who immediately films a YouTube video about the statue (who she calls Carl). The mystery of "The Carls" begins to unfold and April May finds herself (sometimes places herself) right in the middle of it. It's a fun, funny, and thought-provoking book that we've really enjoyed.

Tom Johnson, on vacation in MA, could not put down the thriller **"The Silent Wife"** by A. S. A. Harrison

Birthdays & AnniversariesAugust Birthdays

Aug 4: Liz Klenke
 Aug 5: Michele Johnson
 Aug 17: Haley Chapman
 Aug 22: Marilyn Pierce
 Aug 25: Cindy Geibig
 Aug 26: Mike Moore

August Anniversaries

Aug 12: Catherine & Jerry Blair
 Aug 16: Vincent & Susan Ho
 Aug 24: Jim & Nancy Langler



Looking for some help and fresh ideas!

Recently, you should have received an email on behalf of the St. Stephen's Communication Committee asking for some help and ideas to help improve our monthly newsletter The Clarion. We'd like to start a new feature of "Getting to Know St. Stephens", where we are introduced to our parishioners, getting to know them better. This takes some help with folks willing to do some brief interviews and writing up some fun information. Don't worry, there's nothing too personal involved, just some fun facts about us to help us get to know one another better. Please consider helping out!

If you have any other ideas or suggestions, please feel free to reach out to any of us. We'd love to hear from you!

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

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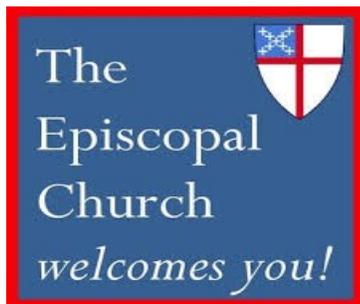
Calendar of Upcoming Events:

- ◆ Saturday August 24th 9:30am - 12:30pm Safeguarding God's Children
- ◆ Saturday August 24th 1:00pm- 4:00pm Safeguarding God's People

Continuing Events

- ◆ Sundays: 10:30 am Holy Eucharist
Nursery Care Available

If you have information or any fun photos you would like included in the monthly newsletter, please contact Cindy Geibig at cindynkilo@yahoo.com.



Wherever you are in your life with God -- whether a hesitant searcher or a regular churchgoer -- we invite you to worship with us and to think of St. Stephen's as your spiritual home.

We meet in the Main Sanctuary for Eucharist at 10:30 AM each Sunday, followed by fellowship in Miller Hall. Our office is in the A-frame building with All Saints Chapel.