

March 2019



*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*

The St. Stephen's Clarion



Priest's Passages

To the children of St. Stephens (You may share this with your parents or other adults if you want),

Many of you have asked me about why I'm leaving and where I'll go and when you will see me. Good questions, all of them. I'm leaving so Rev. Peter can come. He is a wonderful priest and pastor, and I know you will agree with me when you get to know him. I will be at home, where I have always gone after church, and I plan to work in the garden, to sew, to spend some time with my husband and my grandchildren, and to walk some every day. Daisy, our dog, plans to sit on my lap as long as she can every day. I also will be involved in church in some way. Right now, I'm not sure where, but church is important to me, and so I will find a way to worship and serve God in as many ways as I can.

Saying farewell is hard. I bet you have had to say good-bye to someone before – a good friend who moved away to a new town, or a coach who is coaching in a different place, or a favorite teacher who you had to say goodbye to at the end of the school year. Maybe you were the one who moved and had to say goodbye to a bunch of friends. In any event, it was hard to let go of those friends, and I understand what you went through. I am feeling the same way, as I have enjoyed being your priest and watching you grow into young men and women of faith. I can only imagine all the wonderful things in your future.

I hope you will be at St. Stephen's on March 17 so we can say farewell to each other. Farewell is a fancy way of saying goodbye. It is a combination of *fare* and *well*. *Fare* comes from the old English word, *faran*, which means "to journey." And so, on March 17 (wear green, it's St. Patrick's Day, and you don't want to get pinched...) we will wish each other "journey well!" That is, we will send each other off with warm wishes for a good life, just as Jesus taught us. I will look forward to our happy celebration on the 17th!

Inside this issue:

Priest's Passages	1-2
Birthdays & Anniversaries	2
Senior Warden	3
Hey, Bill, Tell Us Something Cool!	4-5
Adult Formation Schedule	6
Shrove Tuesday	6
Upcoming Events	7
Calendar & Contact	8

Priest's Passages (continued)

I also hope you will be at St. Stephen's on April 7 (among other Sundays to follow.) That will be the day that you meet Rev. Peter and tell him, "Welcome!" You, as the children and tweens of St. Stephen's, are so blessed by your wonderful Sunday School teachers, and you will want to tell Rev. Peter all about what you are doing so he can get to know you, and you can show him all around St. Stephen's. I believe you will have fun together and learn from him.

I have appreciated all the kind things you and your adults have said to me, the hugs, the artwork, and the questions. You and your parents, in fact the whole St. Stephen's congregation, will be in my prayers and in my heart always.

Your friend,
Rev. Rilla



March Birthdays

- Mar 4: Cheryl Coleman
- Mar 4: Bette Hallam
- Mar 7: MaryAnn Taylor
- Mar 9: John Perrin
- Mar 12: Maggie Scott
- Mar 20: Tom Hines
- Mar 26: Peggy Tyson
- Mar 31: Michael Pasewark



March Wedding Anniversaries

- Mar 13: Dennis & Mary Ann Taylor
- Mar 26: Tom & Michele Johnson

Ordination Anniversary

March 17, 1994: The Rev. Amy Donohue

Thoughts From Our Senior Warden—Susan Ho



Now that winter is almost finished, we are ready to start thinking about warmer weather, sunshine, gardening, and whatever else we associate with spring and summer in this wonderful place we live. Although our winter was fairly mild, it gave us a blast at the end, just so we will appreciate the next portion of the year. As we get Spring Fever, we can harness some of that restlessness and energy as we transition into a new phase at St. Stephen's.

We have to say good bye to our cherished Priest-in-Charge, which is certainly hard, but we send her on to a new phase in her life, knowing that she has given us so much love and spiritual nourishing, and is leaving us in a revived and exciting atmosphere. Of course, we all wish her well, and hope she will have many new experiences in the coming years. (I'm sure the first bonus will be less miles on her car!)

For us at St. Stephen's, we have lots of work to do. We will be welcoming a new rector, The Reverend Peter Rood, and his lovely wife Christen Herman. As we see ourselves as "radically welcoming", I know we will embrace them both, and make them feel at home here. In talking with Peter, he is excited about this new chapter, and ready to learn who we are and what we aspire to. For myself, the rest of the search committee, and the rest of the vestry, we feel Peter and Christen will be wonderful additions to our community. Their first Sunday will be April 7, and we are planning an informal "Meet and Greet" on Saturday, April 6, from 2 to 4 pm., in Miller Hall. Please come and give them a special St. Stephen's welcome.

At this time, I want to give a special thank you to our Junior Warden, Rick Colombo, and his wonderful group of helpers. You may have noticed things getting done on our campus in the last few months. Last year the vestry decided to hire a building inspector to come in and assess our buildings and grounds. From this, a very long list of things that need fixing was compiled. Believe me, when I first saw it, I was totally overwhelmed. However, Rick got together a "few good men", who have been meeting for breakfast Tuesday mornings, and then working through that list. They have accomplished an incredible number of repairs and have brought our property to a better place than it has been in a long time. So, when you see Rick, please thank him, and offer your help if you can.

I am truly excited about this coming year. Hopefully, we will continue to grow, have more people involved in many ministries, learn more about so many topics, and challenge ourselves to be what we are called to be as an Episcopal Church on north Whidbey Island.

Hey, Bill, Tell Us Something Cool!

“I commend you on doing this. If I were still teaching, I’d brag about you up in front of class in the hopes of encouraging others.” These words of praise come from Rev. Rilla and were happily directed at me. “Why?,” you may wonder. I’m glad you asked!

What drew Rilla’s affirmation was the fact that I had completed, at least for the moment, the plans for my funeral. It was full of ideas and decisions I had nursed for some time. Let me tell you how I did it, hoping, as Rilla hoped, that some of you will follow along.

I started with the forms the Church provides for the burial of the dead. In the Prayer Book, there are actually three forms, Burial of the Dead Rites I and II, and An Order for the Burial of the Dead. This last is primarily an outline to be followed in planning the burial liturgy when the prayer formulas in Rites I and II are not exactly on the mark.

Then there is the form provided in *Enriching Our Worship 3, Burial Rites for Adults together with a Rite for the Burial of a Child* [Church Publishing 2007]. The EOW series includes the Eucharistic Prayers currently contained in the red booklet found in the pew racks in Church. These forms are numbered 1, 2 and 3. We use them occasionally on Sundays.

The plan I have fashioned is composed largely of the Rite II form in the Prayer Book, amended in several places with texts from EOW 3.

Beyond these resources, there are the musical resources provided by the Church. The hymns I have chosen are all taken from the Hymnal 1982.

Choosing the hymns was the hardest part of this project. There are so many hymns that I know and like—a lot more than the liturgy can accommodate. The music needs to be reflective of our gospel faith. “The liturgy for the dead is an Easter liturgy. It finds all its meaning in the resurrection. Because Jesus was raised from the dead, we, too, shall be raised.”[BCP 507] So the first criterion for the music is that it needs to be a lifting up of the voice, an Easter voice.

Secondly, it needs to be familiar, and this is where it got sticky. Because of the way I have spent the last 50 odd years of my life, I know a lot of hymns, that is, they are familiar to me. But am I a proper test? After all, it’s my survivors who will be singing, not me! So I have tried to temper my enthusiasm in some measure in favor of what I suspect and imagine others will know and enjoy offering to God on the day in question. [Truth be told, over the intervening time, I may well urge the use of some of these hymns in order to increase the “familiarity” level in the congregation!]



Hey, Bill, Tell Us Something Cool (continued)

In addition, then, to the liturgical forms and the music, there are two other considerations. The first of these, and perhaps the primary consideration in all of this, is the Bible. What should be read at my funeral?

There need to be three readings plus a psalm. The first reading will be from Isaiah 25 where the Prophet tells us that at the end of all this, there will be “on the mountain of the LORD,” a feast, a feast to which “all people” will be invited. There could not be better news than that. The second reading comes from Paul’s letter to the Romans, chapter 8, where he testifies that there is nothing in all creation that can separate us from God through Our Lord Jesus. More boundless good news. Then the Gospel will be read from Matthew 14, the story of the feeding of the 5000, where Jesus “took, blessed, broke and gave” food in miraculous portions, with leftovers. *Mirabile dictu!*

The Psalm will be the first portion of Psalm 34, the Psalm that was recited at our wedding, Amy Donohue and me. “Taste and see that the LORD is good;* happy are they who trust in him.” [v. 8]

So far, we have the liturgical form, the music, the Scripture. Now we need personnel. I will be buried from St. Stephen’s and my cremated remains will be interred at the cemetery in Langley, anticipating the companionship in time of my Beloved.

For the liturgy, I have asked someone to preach, someone to assist the Bishop, who will preside, someone to serve as acolyte and carry my remains in the procession at the beginning and end of the liturgy, and someone to serve as the Lay Eucharistic Minister. I am hopeful that one of the children will serve as the crucifer. I have also asked two people to oversee the wake that will occur before the funeral, perhaps the night before or as convenient.

I have given the office at SSEC a hard copy of this plan and an electronic copy as well. They will be duly filed and made available as needed. It was when I notified Rilla that I had made my plan that she offered words of praise.

If you’d like to make a plan for yourself, I commend the resources I have named. If you’d like some assistance, guidance or counsel, I’m ready to help, as are all the other clergy in the house. It’s likely a good time to get on with this. I rather enjoyed it! And those who survive me will be glad.

Benedicite!

Adult Formation Classes

- March 10 : Tom Hines—Religion and Theater Part III
(Rescheduled from earlier)
- March 17 : Lent 2 – Harry Anderson Interviews Rev. Rilla
- March 24: Lent 3 – Teresa Di Biase & Frank Shirbroun – “Who Was St. Patrick?”
- March 31: Lent 4 - Teresa Di Biase & Frank Shirbroun – “Who Was St. Brigid?”
- April 7: Lent 5 – Harry Interviews the Rev. Peter Rood



SHROVE TUESDAY Pancake Dinner



Tuesday March 5th!

5:30 pm

Potluck pancake supper—pancakes and toppings provided. Please bring a dish to go along with pancakes (eggs, fruit, salad, meat, whatever sounds good!) Coffee/Tea/Juice also provided. Anything else you might like, bring some to share.

The men of the parish will be flipping the cakes for all! (Pancake crew to arrive by 4:30)

We will also have our annual Poetry Slam, where the youngsters take on the seasoned parish members in a poetic challenge of creating the best poetry out of ten random words.

Bring your friends, you won't want to miss this!

Other Upcoming Events



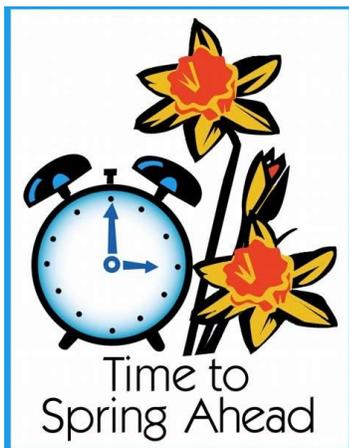
Ash Wednesday Service
Wednesday March 6th

12:00 pm

Lenten Taizé Service
Thursday March 14th



7:00 pm



Spring is Coming!

Daylight Savings Time begins
Sunday March 10th at 2:00 am

Set your clocks forward before you go to bed
Saturday night



Thank You!

Thank you everyone for your help with my class project. With your donations, I brought four large bins of food and other items to Ryan's House. I am grateful for all of your kindness and help!

Allison Geibig



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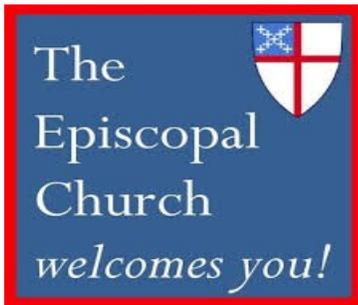
Calendar of Upcoming Events:

- ◆ Tuesday March 5: 5:30 pm Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper & Potluck
- ◆ Wednesday March 6: 12:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service
- ◆ Thursday March 14: 7:00 pm Lenten Taizé Service
- ◆ Sunday March 17: 10:30 am Rev. Rilla's last service

Continuing Events

- ◆ Tuesdays & Thursdays: 10:00 am Morning Prayer
- ◆ Sundays: 10:30 am Holy Eucharist & Sunday School
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.