

May 23, 2025

Greetings! Today is the poet **Jane Kenyon**'s birthday anniversary. Kenyon's faith journey led her from a fire-and-brimstone childhood to years away from the church to a return to Christianity in later life. Her evolving spirituality was deeply connected to the natural world and held a reverence for ordinary life. Here is her poem "**Briefly It Enters, and Briefly Speaks:**"



*I am the blossom pressed in a book,
found again after two hundred years. . . .*

I am the maker, the lover, and the keeper. . . .

*When the young girl who starves
sits down to a table
she will sit beside me. . . .*

I am food on the prisoner's plate. . . .

*I am water rushing to the wellhead,
filling the pitcher until it spills. . . .*

*I am the patient gardener
of the dry and weedy garden. . . .*

*I am the stone step,
the latch, and the working hinge. . . .*

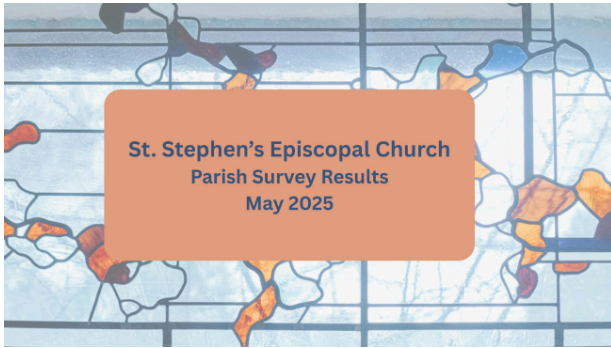
*I am the heart contracted by joy. . .
the longest hair, white
before the rest. . . .*

*I am there in the basket of fruit
presented to the widow. . . .*

*I am the musk rose opening
unattended, the fern on the boggy summit. . . .*

*I am the one whose love
overcomes you, already with you
when you think to call my name. . . .*

May the peace of "the maker, the lover, and the keeper" fill your hearts and minds this Memorial Day weekend and always.



Parish Survey Results

Many thanks to all who responded to the Parish Survey with thoughtful reflections and suggestions! In general, there is deep appreciation for the worship and community life of the parish, along with a diversity of vision and longing for the future. We will engage these ideas as we plan for the

future, so take a look and join the conversation!

You can pick up a copy of the survey results on the narthex table or click on the image to the left.

Sunday, June 1, 11:30 am Parish Forum on St. Stephen's Music Ministry

One of St. Stephen's Mutual Ministry Goals for 2025 is to "**Explore opportunities to enhance and grow the music program.**" Music is an important part of the parish's spiritual DNA, and we have a long history of making, celebrating, and sponsoring music. Come talk with Minister of Music John Terauds, Rev. Jennifer, and Monty McGovern about ways we can experiment with new offerings of music -- for the parish and the broader community.



Convene 2025 May 31, 8:30 am – 4:00 pm Everett Community College

Connect, Learn, and Convene with churches throughout Western Washington for a day of workshops and fellowship. There will be worship, exhibitors, lunch, four workshop sessions, and a plenary from the bishop. We are blessed to have an abundance of wisdom and gifts in our congregations! This is an opportunity to honor those gifts and learn from one another: vestries, staff, clergy, members of convention, administrators, and anyone who wants to connect with others over ways to strengthen our congregations. There is no cost; **learn more here.**

Summer Kick-Off Celebration, June 23, 11:30-12:30

Let's celebrate the end of the school year, give thanks for the choir's leadership, and welcome summer after church on **Sunday, June 22 on the front lawn** with a festive and casual meal together. Plans are underway for grilled salmon and burgers. **Please contribute a side dish, salad, dessert, and/or beverage.** It will be a feast!



Community Happenings

Hadestown, the musical

Roosevelt High School Theater

May 22 - June 1, 2025

Our own **Walter Kinney** is performing in Roosevelt High School's production of Hadestown! Anais Mitchell's haunting, jazz-inflected folk opera follows Orpheus' mythical quest to overcome Hades and regain the favor of his one true love, Eurydice. Purchase tickets [here](#).



UW Chorale and Chamber Singers: Blue Planet Friday, May 30, Meany Hall

Come hear our own choir members Charlie Dawson, Sofia Groff, and Jackie Smith perform! Tickets are 10 dollars at the door!

As the Salmon Run, a new play by Elizabeth Clark-Stern

Saturday, May 31 and June 7, 2:00 pm

Good Shepherd Center, 4649 Sunnyside Ave, Room 202

Elizabeth Clark-Stern invites you to the performance of her new play. We are grateful she is donating a portion of the proceeds to St. Stephen's!



As the Salmon Run takes place in the not-too-distant future. The natural and human environments are in a state of flux. The engineer who built the 15th dam on the Columbia River in Eastern Washington opens her home, the so-called "After House," to people displaced by the warming climate. She is sensitive to criticism that her dam hastened the extinction of species in the river, and wants to provide a stable dwelling for those unhoused in body and soul. Guests arrive whose mere presence challenges the climate refugees to build community, experience love, and embrace hope in a world reeling from ecological, social, and political change.

Coming Up at St. Stephen's

Sundays 10:00 am Holy Eucharist and Coffee Hour (Nave and Parish Hall)

Sundays 3:00 pm. Youth Group Food Program (Narthex)

Wednesdays 6:30 pm Men's Bible Study (Parish Hall)

June 1 11:30 am Forum on Expanding St. Stephen's Music Offerings (Parish Hall)
June 22 11:30 am Parish Summer Kick-Off BBQ Celebration (Parish Hall)
June 28 10:00 am Funeral for Skipper Skelly (Epiphany Parish)

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