



# Cowlitz Chaplaincy

PO Box 2578, Longview, WA. 98632

Phone: 360.425.7222

Website: [www.cowlitzchaplaincy.org](http://www.cowlitzchaplaincy.org)

*A non-profit organization serving Emergency Service Responders and Citizens since 1983*

Volume 3

Issue Number 2

April 2007



## THERE IS LIFE!!!

Daylight saving time is here and our days are really getting longer. I have had to start the routine of mowing my lawn and weeding my few flowers these have been told are the sure signs that spring is here. It is refreshing to see new life spring forth from the dormancy of winter. But the greatest reward is to understand that we celebrate the most important Holiday of the year.

Easter is when we remember that Glorious Morning when that tomb could no longer contain the Son of the Living God, the Lord Jesus Christ. And He arose into new life and by that resurrection you and I have as a gift from God our Heavenly Father Newness of life by receiving Jesus as our Lord and Savior.



NO religion of the world can give eternal life. This new life is ONLY found in Jesus. John14:6 Jesus states: *"I AM the Way, I AM the TRUTH and I AM the Life no one comes to the Father except through me."*

Spring is a wonderful time of the year as we renew our hopes and plans for the coming months ahead. Spiritually our season of spring should usher us into a new evaluation of spiritual health maybe some winter weeds have rooted that would diminish our beauty and behavior. What a time to refresh ourselves with the beauty of Jesus in our Spirits. HAPPY EASTER!

Fire Departments, and the Chaplaincy have put on an ACOHOL related program within the High Schools of our county just before the proms. The last two weeks of March we participated with Toutle Lake High School and Woodland High School. I just want to report that this year we were met with politeness and respect from the students who participated. It was a delight to interact with the students Thursday and Friday and how they, with thankfulness, made us feel special. I just pray that they enter adulthood and the future with blessings and success. It was also refreshing to interact with school staff that held the lives of their charges with such seriousness for life and wholeness.

## NEW ADDITION



I would like to introduce you to "SMOKEY." He is an Australian Cattle Dog / Blue Heeler. He is doing quite the job training me and hope soon we will be speaking the same language or at least the same understanding.

*Chaplain Lyle*



## Every 15 Minutes

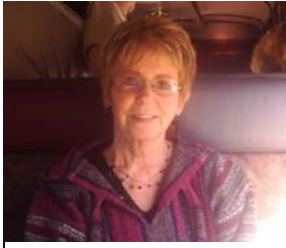
Each year for the last twelve years the Sheriff's Office with the help of the local Police Departments,

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## JUST SOME THOUGHTS

As I sit at the computer today I realize how blessed I really am. Besides having a wonderful



My biggest fan: Carmen

wife and her support for what I do, I have the honor and privilege of “*bringing Jesus’ love*” into people’s lives in remarkable times and places. The fact that people put their trust in me as a perfect stranger (for the most part) in times of crisis is something I pray I never take for granted. I’m so **thankful** that I am able to do what I love to do.

One of the recent activities I participated in was leading a workshop at the annual *Hope & Justice Conference on Domestic Violence (DV)* at Lower Columbia College. I’m **thankful** for opportunities to lead a workshop at this important event these past three years. This year I teamed up with Rev. Kathy Patton (Saint Stephens Episcopal Church) to speak on the issue of ‘The Faith Communities Response to Domestic Violence’. This subject is seldom spoken about in our churches, but is one that deserves our attention. I’d be happy to meet with any pastors/church leaders to discuss how your church could get involved in the battle against DV/Abuse.

Violence is so much a part of our day to day world and even nice, rural Cowlitz County is not exempt from its

impact. A few days ago some of my LPD officers were shot at several times while they tried to stop a vehicle. By God’s grace and protection, no one (not even the bad guy/gal) was injured. For that I am most **thankful**, but it was still a “critical incident” for my officers. Not many of us have job descriptions that require

us to ‘put our life on the line’ at the drop of a hat. Even the seasoned, veteran officer can become a ‘victim’ (more than just physical) at any time. I was able to spend time with these officers one-on-one as well as in a group debriefing to help make sure they did not become a ‘victim’ of this event. I’m also **thankful** for the support of Command Staff who recognize the need for this kind of ministry for their staff.

My life all too often gets caught up in tragedies of other people’s lives. No matter how much we may think we are ‘prepared’ – we’re not! Knocking on the door of a family who’s 18 year-old-son died of an overdose, or speaking long distance on the phone to a grieving father who’s 38-year-old daughter suddenly died of a blood clot, or comforting a person who found their 81-yr-old neighbor dead and then working hard to discover the ‘next-of-kin’ to notify is “what I do.” All of these activities pale in comparison to having to tell a 12-year-old boy and his 13-year-old sister that their single parent mom will never again hug them or kiss

them on the cheek because she has died. I am incredibly **thankful** for the grace and strength that God gives me in times of tragedy. **Thankful** mainly because I know Jesus loves me and He loves the people I minister to as well.

Another thing I am most **thankful** for is the chance to work alongside some of the very best men and women in the world. The law enforcement/fire personnel I work with are each amazing in their own ways. One thing rings true for all of them though – when everyone else is “*running out of the building, they are running IN!*”



Whether I am around them on patrol, or in a fire house, or spending time with dispatchers or support staff, or attending a social event, or something I really enjoy -- being a part of the weekly law enforcement Bible study group. I never cease to appreciate their commitment to serve and protect. I happen to live in Cowlitz County, but wherever you live there are men and women just like them in your city. I am sincerely **thankful** for all they do every day to make life better on this earth.

By the way... have I mentioned that I’m **thankful** for those of you who pray for me and support me financially each month? With Jesus and YOU on my side, how can I possibly not be **thankful**? God bless you and yours!

*Chap Steve*

## 2ND ANNUAL FUNDRAISER



Rev Minor in training (1983)

This year's event will be held at the Monticello Hotel and will pay special tribute to Rev. Dave Minor (retired) who was instrumental in establishing the Chaplaincy in our county along with Sheriff Les Nelson (retired) who we honored last year. Back in 1983, Rev. Minor was Senior Pastor at Columbia Heights Assembly of God Church. Our **special Guest Speaker** this year will be **Pierce County Sheriff Paul Pastor**, a man unashamed of his personal relationship with God and an outspoken advocate for Chaplaincy Ministry. In addition there

will be personal testimonies from a couple of local emergency responders as well as one of our "clients" who was helped by this ministry.

We have recruited "Table Captains" again this year to fill the room with donors. Each Table Captain invites 7 'friends' to join them for breakfast with the expectation that each person donate a minimum of \$25.00 to Cowlitz Chaplaincy. If you have not been personally invited by one of the Table Captains yet, and would like to attend this event, you **MUST** make a reservation no later than April 30<sup>th</sup>. Seating is limited so please email [steve@cowlitzchaplaincy.org](mailto:steve@cowlitzchaplaincy.org) (or call Steve @ 431-8735) if you have questions or would like to make a reservation.

### "Thank You's..."

We don't do what we do so we can get 'pats on the back,' but, like everyone else, we appreciate the encouragement when we receive thank you notes. Here are a few we've recently received...

Chaplain Steve,  
We wanted to thank you so much for all of your help during this most difficult time. We especially thank you for your compassionate words as you spoke with Blake. Love,  
Bill, Lynn, Dee & Sue

Dear Lyle & Staff,  
Thank you for all you do in times of sadness, disaster, etc. We think of you often. What a God send. As ever,  
Russell & Beverly Scott

Lyle,  
Thank you so much for your willingness to help, your kind words, and your encouragement to all of us. I appreciate all you have done for us. Many thanks.

Courtney Langner  
Director ESC

Steve,  
I just wanted to let you know that we prayed for you today at CPC... I am glad to hear that you had a good week recently. You are such a huge blessing to the community... God's great blessings upon you!

Tami Pickett

Lyle,  
Bless your work. I have been praying for you! You have been on my mind.

Mary Bennett



### Coming Soon...

Mark your calendar for this special week of recognition. In 2006 there were 145 law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty in America – 3 of those here in Washington State. **Tuesday, May 15<sup>th</sup> is National Peace Officer's Memorial Day** and all US Flags are to be flown at half-staff on that day in honor of these brave heroes.

Rising fuel costs have increased our financial needs lately. Please consider making a special gift to help us cover those increased expenses.

