

# COUNTY-WIDE CHAPLAINCY

"There to Help  
When it Hurts"

14000 NE 191st Circle, Battle Ground, WA 98604 Phone: 360-687-4596 Email: chapepp@msn.com. <www.911chaplain.org>

## November 2006

### Dear Friends of Chaplaincy,

Well, the voting is over, and not all the ones that I voted for won. We all believe that each vote counts, but some people just seem to vote for the wrong politicians which is hard to understand. I better get off that subject before I offend anyone. Suffice it to say, we don't always get our way in this world, do we!

There are few things where this is as evident as in death. A little over a week ago I was in two homes where two high school boys who played football together lost their dads to cancer the same morning. Needless to say, they have a special bond, and their buddies on the football team were there in their jerseys to support their teammates in their grief. Oh yes, one of the dads was in law enforcement, and the other was a volunteer firefighter—touches rather close to home!

There have been a number of 90 year old deaths which seem easier to deal with, especially when the last years have been rather miserable for them. Yesterday I conducted a funeral for a 50 year old man who died after being diagnosed with cancer just a month ago. He left a wife of 17 years and 2 teen-age daughters, one of which has some major physical challenges of her own. What a loss.

A few days ago I was with 2 brothers whose 56 year old mother died in her sleep. The one son had come over that morning to hook up her new TV set. What a shock!

Another sad situation was the other end of the spectrum. A 2 month old baby - not breathing - had been born with a heart defect and had just been released from the hospital, and now was being transported with life support to the hospital. One poignant situation that hit me at that home was the battery operated little baby swing that continued to swing with no baby in it. As the father was getting the three year old boy ready to head for the hospital, I figured out how to turn the swing off, since there was no baby to rock!

I also had the joy of speaking at the AWA NA kids program at the Yacolt Evangelical Free Church, which is one of my

supporting churches. I told the kids a few "tame" stories about helping other people when they are having tough times, and at the end I let them ask questions. What really amazed me was how many kids came up to me to ask for prayer for their friend's mom, grandma, mother, dad, and even a hamster that was dying. On an evening of teaching, games and a lot of fun, even these kids carry some pretty heavy loads, and I am convinced we adults are not always aware of it.

Tonight I meet with a family whose wife and mother drove her car onto the train tracks just as the train was coming in an apparent suicide. What a tough situation to deal with for all concerned.

Now on a happier note. This month I got a call from Francie who said that the Grange has a monthly pancake fundraiser, and they wanted



to donate the October proceeds to County Wide Chaplaincy. What a neat thing to do, and we do appreciate the efforts of many of you who through churches, clubs, even matching funds, and personal gifts make this ministry available to people who would certainly cast their votes differently for the events they are forced to deal with in life.

I am thrilled to tell you that we have 2 new volunteer chaplains in training, and the possibility of getting some seasoned veterans back. Evelyn and I have not been able to take any time off this summer, so we plan to go to Los Angeles to check up on four of our grandchildren and spend **Thanksgiving** with our daughter Kim and husband Edgar. They tell us it is in the 80's and 90's and they have needed the air conditioner!

Thanks again for your partnership as together we are "there to help, when it hurts." **God bless you as you celebrate a season of Thanksgiving, and to you who will have an empty seat at the family table this year, may the God of all comfort be your strength.**

**Joyfully serving together with you,  
Chaplain Landis Epp**