

# The ChapLine

A Seasonal Newsletter of  
Lewis County Chaplaincy Services

*Serving Citizens and Emergency Responders*



## A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT

We wish to express sincere thanks to Betty Kitchen for her meritorious service as Executive Director for Lewis County Chaplaincy Services (LCCS).

It was with regret that we received Betty's recent resignation. She has given an amazing amount of energy and enthusiasm to the work since she took the reigns of responsibility and began her service in this position. As a result of her concerted leadership over the past couple of years, our organization has grown in numbers as well as in services.

Betty's experience in crisis intervention and her skills in training have better prepared our chaplains for meeting the needs of those that are hurting in our community. We are indeed thankful for her service with us. We wish Betty renewed health and every blessing in her pastoral ministry and other responsibilities.

As we began our search for a new executive director, it was in recognition of the need for someone's availability to work at least a regular 30-40 hours weekly in overseeing the chaplaincy program. The challenge of administering 20 chaplaincy volunteers in emergency response and nearly 50 volunteers in the jail ministry is a task that requires a significant amount of time.

The board of directors began the search for someone who would be able to allocate the required time either as a volunteer - or someone who would have the passion, skill and stamina to

organize and implement a community support program to adequately sustain a salary and the operational expenses for maintaining the chaplaincy. Given the new growth at hand, the latter arrangement was deemed to be the more realistic and preferable.

The chaplaincy looked first within the existing corps of volunteer chaplains, and was pleased to find Brian Carter, a seasoned chaplain, to be interested in the challenge. Brian is a local pastor who has also served as a volunteer chaplain for the past 6 and one-half years.

We are pleased to report that the invitation has been officially extended and that after prayerful consideration, Chaplain Brian Carter has enthusiastically accepted the challenge of becoming the Executive Director of LCCS.



Kevin Curfman

Brian is a man of deep convictions with a strong fidelity to duty in his work ethics. His knowledge of our chaplaincy is extensive, and he carries a well balanced commitment to the ongoing need for this supportive work.

Let us now lend our hearty support to Chaplain Brian's continued service as he assumes these new responsibilities.

Kevin Curfman, President  
Lewis County Chaplaincy Services

## MY DEAR FELLOW CHAPLAINS:

It is an honor to serve the citizens of Lewis County in chaplaincy service. It is a further honor to now serve with you in the capacity of Executive Director of LCCS. I sincerely thank you for your expressions of encouragement and support.

I honor you, our dedicated chaplains, and also all who volunteer in jail ministry under the direction of the Chaplaincy.

As an ordained minister for over 16 years, I have served in churches for all of my adult life; and I have served in many capacities since high school days. I understand fully the value of the sacrifice each of you are making to be an integral part of our Chaplaincy's services.

As we continue to move forward in unity of purpose, our presence in the community will ever be felt by those to whom we lend our assistance. Let us faithfully serve in harmony with our mission statement, that of being: "...committed to assisting emergency agencies throughout the county in meeting the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of emergency crisis victims, their families and the emergency responders."

To you who are among the responding chaplains in the field and to you who are engaged in jail work I submit that you are all engaged in a privileged ministry - a ministry not unlike that of the Good Samaritan in Christ's parable. A ministry that lends

help when and where it is needed - just because it is the right thing to do.

Continuing to develop the tools and provide the training for skills in both services will continue as paramount in our program.

Finally, it is the people whom we come in contact with and serve – they are the real reason we do this. It is our calling to be there for them as an encouraging presence and a comforting voice in their time of crisis.

The Apostle Paul’s exhortations ring clear even today for the chaplains of our time: “Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing”



Brian Carter (2C14)

(1 Thess. 5:11).

I welcome our new working relationship as together we

serve the good people of this great County.

Chaplain Brian Carter (2C14)  
Executive Director LCCS

**A CHAT WITH OUR LEWIS COUNTY SHERIFF**

By Chaplain Mel Lyon (2C7)

As we all know, Lewis County Chaplaincy Service is a volunteer-based organization serving in support of and in cooperation with the County Sheriff’s office. We chaplains find it an honor to work closely with our county’s dedicated team of law enforcement officers. Sheriff Robert R. Snaza is now well into his second year of tenure since his November 2014 election. When I called to request a few minutes of his time, he extended a warm welcome. Our visit together included the following:

*Sheriff Snaza* [Rob]: Welcome, Mel, and thanks for coming in today.

*Chaplain Lyon* [Mel]: And thank you for the cordial invitation. May I simply refer to you as “Rob”?

[Rob] Absolutely, and I prefer that. I just want you to know right off, Mel, that I really appreciate the quality of unselfish service that each one of you Lewis County Chaplains perform on behalf of our community. It is great to know that when our people are hurting due to personal trauma - from a death or other tragedy - we have the invaluable resource of trained, caring people from the chaplaincy to assist us in serving them.

[Mel] Thank you, Rob. We chaplains do believe that we have been placed in this world for a reason and a purpose - a purpose that calls us to respond when our fellow citizens have special needs in times of crisis.

[Rob] Well Mel, I know from personal experience that when there is a grieving family that needs some immediate, but non intrusive reassurance, a skilled chaplain can provide both comfort and helpful guidance. Their services often make it possible for our busy officers to transition more smoothly back to their civil duties knowing that the given situation is now in the good hands of a chaplain.

[Mel] Rob, May I ask a few personal questions - like *where are you from*, and *how did you happen to enter a career in law enforcement?*

[Rob] Well, I have had the great opportunity to live in Lewis County for most of my adult life. My brother John and I were reared in nearby Rochester, WA along with our younger brother Tom. After graduating from high school I started working for Yard Birds Shopping Center, during which time, I attended Centralia College. In 1990 I started my law enforcement career

when I was hired by the Napavine Police Dept.

[Mel] Oh, well you are a native son indeed! And how did you feel about starting out in police work?

[Rob] Frankly, I felt it to be the highlight of my life to engage in such



Chaplain Mel Lyon and Sheriff Rob Snaza

an honorable profession. And I have never looked back since!

[Mel] Great! And when did you get into service for the county?

[Rob] It was in June of 1995 that I started working with the Lewis County Sheriff’s Office. I was commissioned as a deputy working patrol and eventually as a DARE Officer. Over the years I took on many assignments such as SWAT, boat patrol, honor guard, and the street crimes unit. In 2002 I was promoted to Patrol Sergeant. As a sergeant I was given many specialty assignments including supervising the Unified Narcotics Task Force, Special Services, and others.

[Mel] That sounds like a broad array of accumulated experience, Rob.

[Rob] Yes, it has been both an honor and a tremendous benefit to have worked in almost every division and specialty position within the Sheriff’s department before assuming full responsibility of the office. I have been

privileged to work with many individuals and have developed partnerships at the county, state and federal levels. I especially enjoy working with people who readily give themselves to the betterment of our communities. I say without reserve that I dearly love the people of our county, and that has driven me to embrace a concept called “servant leadership.” I sense this concept is understood and practiced among you chaplains as well. I firmly believe that finding life’s greatest rewards are personally realized when making a positive impact upon the lives of others.

[Mel] I am aware that the Sheriff’s office relies substantially upon the services of various volunteer groups that are under your purview. Your annual Volunteer Appreciation Day luncheon is deeply appreciated by all of us.

[Rob] Over my 25 years in law enforcement, I recall times when things have been especially challenging: death scenes, death notifications, serious vehicle accidents, calls dealing with small children or the elderly. During those times I have found comfort in working with the chaplains of LCCS. Regardless of how difficult the call or the situation may be, when I or another officer have needed extra spiritual support, the chaplains have been there. I remember those hard occasions when I have had to request a chaplain to respond. And each time they came with a smile on their faces and saying, “what can I do to help you?” Those smiles, their coherent observations and their reassuring presence eases the burden I carry within. In those darker moments, I am comforted and encouraged in just knowing that somehow we are going to make it through this together.

[Mel] It helps us to know this, Rob. I see you are thus moving forward in the

noble tradition of your worthy predecessor, Sheriff Steve Mansfield.

[Rob] Yes, Mel, I couldn’t have asked for a better mentor and or a better example than Sheriff Mansfield.

The Chaplaincy program has been in place now for over two decades. During this time the chaplaincy program itself has expanded, and one arm of it now extends also to our jail services. I have worked the drug unit, and I can attest to having seen individuals who were once law abiding citizens somehow adopt compromised habit patterns that put them on the wrong side of the law. So changed, they were (and are) being arrested for the first, or maybe the tenth, time. But I am gratified in knowing that while being housed in our detention facility, they each have the opportunity to receive the caring help of our volunteer workers from the Chaplaincy. As Sheriff, I actually see firsthand the positive effect of the work that the LCCS program has on the inmates

[Mel] This good information will definitely be shared with our volunteers, Rob, and we appreciate your comments. In closing, what words might you care to express directly to our field chaplains and to our volunteers working in jail services.

[Rob] I ask that each of you continue your good work with patience, persistence, and always in the spirit of the love I know you carry within your hearts. I have witnessed first-hand the compassion you have shown and often the heartfelt prayers you have shared with others. I ask also that you continue to grow in your expertise as you seriously seek to absorb the ongoing training provided by LCCS for your special role in service.

As for the LCCS program itself, I envision its extending into the future with a steady quality of growth; growth

within the community and in partnerships with our first responders.

Since the chaplaincy program is volunteer based, it tells me clearly that you are men and women who are strongly committed to the high principles of helping others in need. You are purpose-driven for God and country. On behalf of my office staff and our officers in the field we commend you and extend our heartfelt thanks for your unselfish services.

[Mel] Thanks, Rob. I have enjoyed this visit, and I am buoyed by your own upbeat outlook. I want you to know that we chaplains remember you and all of our law enforcement people in our daily devotions. Thanks for what you do to keep the populace safe. We are honored to assist to that end. God Bless!

#### **Why I’m a Lewis County Chaplain** By Pastor Tim Walker

Greetings to readers of The Chapline. First, just a small amount of bio info. I was born in northern Texas, and I have lived in various places throughout western United States.

I attained an AAS degree from Wyoming Technical Institute, a BAS from East Texas Baptist University, an MDiv degree from Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, and an EdD from George Fox University.

Eventually then, *I came to my senses* and relocated to the beautiful Pacific Northwest - a decision I do not regret.

As lead pastor for Reconciled Christian Fellowship, we serve the communities scattered along the northern Cowlitz River. Additionally, I teach regionally and internationally.

My wife Rebecca and I are enjoying the privilege of rearing nine crazy-fun kids. We’re an active family.

I also love trekking in the high country, motorcycling on the open road, free gas station coffee, and good conversation. (Incidentally, I am absolutely afraid of flying kites – Yep! I can’t even watch.)

We came the Northwest in the year 2,000, and we love it. We are enthusiastic about life, and enthusiastic about God, the giver of life abundant. Against this backdrop of living life fully and with a mission, we felt it highly appropriate that I respond to the invitation given me from Louie Hopkins. He is a fellow chaplain who suggested that I enlist, train, and be on call as needed in cooperation with the Chaplaincy and the Sheriff's office.

We all live in this broken world full of tragedies, hardships, and sometimes unexplainable atrocities. But with the love and the grace that has been given us from God through His Son, we can climb down into those human struggles to lend a hand, serve, and walk with our friends and neighbors until they can breath easier again.



Pastor Tim Walker

And THIS is why I am now a Lewis County Chaplain. May God bless us all in caring one for another!

**Editorial**

**JUST WHAT IS A CHAPLAIN?**

This is not an infrequent question. Almost everyone has at least a reflex knowledge as to what a pastor is, what a fireman does, the role of a police officer, and even that of a mortician. But a chaplain? Who? What? Where? So what is a chaplain?

Checking first with *Merriam Webster*. Here we find "chaplain" described in four settings:

- a) a clergyman in charge of a chapel
- b) a clergyman officially attached to the military, an institution, or to a family or court
- c) a person chosen to conduct religious exercises
- d) a clergyman appointed to assist a bishop

Q) So, are all chaplains clergymen?  
 A) Usually, but not in every instance. A chaplain can be a practicing Christian who is appointed to and given training in specialized forms of Christian service. (Note "c" above.)

Q) Are all chaplains Christian?  
 A) Yes. By normal criteria they are.

Q) Do they only perform religious duties?  
 A) Yes. But it is understood that while they may be asked to make a hospital call or perform a funeral ceremony or to read scripture, our chaplains may also be found performing seemingly non-religious things like directing traffic to assist a police officer at an accident scene; lugging a hose to assist a fireman in an emergency; cleaning blood off of a rug; or even shoveling snow to help an elderly couple get out of their car in a snowbank. Not innately religious work, but certainly Christian deeds of service. Lewis County Chaplains freely perform many deeds that are not intrinsic to a recipient's religious faith. But it is just the Christian thing to do!

Q) Why are the chaplains Christian, and why would they perform these services?  
 A) Basically because they are followers of Christ who taught: *"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself"* (Matthew 22:37-39 NIV)." So we see that loving our neighbors as ourselves (like all our fellow citizens of Lewis County) is a precept reflecting the character of Jesus. And rendering temporal help to others is as much a Christian service as rendering spiritual help.

While there are numerous applications of chaplaincy in churches, military, political institutions, hospitals and other entities, we Lewis County Chaplains are focused largely on the one-to-one and family-to-family needs

that usually occur in emergency settings. This is how we define our kind of chaplaincy LCCS.

So what's a chaplain? Well, in the case of Lewis County Chaplaincy Services - it's any one of us!  
 . . . Editor

**THANKS TO BURGERVILLE USA!**

By Jonni Wood

From time to time Burgerville USA partners with Lewis County Chaplaincy Services (LCCS) for a little community spirited fund raising and PR event. Evening customers at the Harrison Street restaurant are surprised and amused when several of our affable volunteering chaplains deliver their evening food orders right to their tables. Friendly repartee ensues, and we thank Burgerville USA for identifying with the community services of the Chaplaincy in this novel and neighborly way.

Editor . . .

**Looking ahead:** Southwest Washington Fair dates are August 16-21. Plan to participate at the LCCS booth.

**Five new Chaplains and Five new Jail workers** have taken the oath of office in the first quarter of 2016

*"The ChapLine"*

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