

Honoring A Life that Truly Made a Difference

PASTOR JAMES STENDER



“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.”—Romans 8:28

It is with great sorrow and regret that we share the sad news that Pastor Jim Stender passed away on February 8. It is hard to put into words the shock and loss all of us at WHO are feeling. Pastor Jim was the rock and spiritual leader for WHO as well as pastor of St. Andrew Lutheran Church. He was instrumental in the creation of, and oversight for, the Winter Hospitality Overflow homeless program. His commitment to the WHO was unwavering for 16 years.

Jim was fond of telling the story of the first WHO kick-off meeting. Members from faith-based communities met with Jim and staff from Share, including Amy Reynolds. Jim and Amy were up front, fielding questions when members of the audience started to pledge thousands of dollars on behalf of their congregations. While Amy had never had an experience where person after person offered up money without being asked, Jim just turned to her and said, “This happens here.” It was a miracle he was familiar with, because he inspired those around him to be the miracle workers he knew they all could be—he inspired people to be their best. Jim had an awareness of God that exists in every day life, in every action or event.

Jim described WHO as a three-legged stool between the faith communities, the Council for the Homeless and Share. He believed strongly in the value of partnership, the compassion and expertise brought by each group, and that the stool just couldn't work without each of the legs.

Jim spent his career the way he lived his life. Being abundant in his generosity. Inspiring others to be equally generous. Encouraging everyone to keep going. And to keep being a kind and caring person every day. His legacy of good deeds and hope are a challenge for all of us to live up to.

Please pray for comfort and guidance for the Stenders as we remember the words of Psalm 46:1, “God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.”



February was a month filled with generosity...



Many, many thanks to Vancouver Church of Christ volunteers.

This incredible group always gives St. Andrew Lutheran Church the perfect mid-season clean!!! Our counters, closets, fridges, and kitchen sparkle. Thank you Diane, Beth and Billy for bringing such an outstanding team.



Yum!!! Homemade cupcakes and cookies—it doesn't get much better than this.

Oh, the February weather outside was frightful!!

We fight to keep the drafts out, but when you are only 2 inches off the floor, another blanket is a bonus. Thanks to Jana for delivering a half dozen soft, warm, cuddly blankets.



Grateful to the many hands and hearts that served at the St. Paul WHO in February, including Salmon Creek United Methodist Church, Camas Friends Church, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.

Thank you very much!



There are so many unseen delights when you spend time with homeless people. The chalk art of the residents at St. Paul WHO is just amazing.

“Blessed are they who see beautiful things in humble places where other people see nothing.”

—Camille Pissarro

To access WHO beds, contact the Council for the Homeless Housing Hotline: 360-695-9677

For information about WHO, including donations & volunteering: 360-200-8757 or whoprogram@gmail.com

WHO is a program committed to providing safe shelter during the winter months to families & individuals experiencing homelessness.