

HISTORY OF THE LOWER COLUMBIA THRESHOLD CHOIR

Chapter Beginnings

The Lower Columbia Threshold Choir was founded in 2013 by two devoted singers, Jana Frieberger and Gloria Staat. Drawn to the mission of Threshold Choir through their own exploration and regional gatherings, they envisioned a local chapter that could bring comfort through song to those at life's thresholds.

Gloria continues to sing with the choir, while Jana is remembered with deep affection as she now "sings with the angels."

Membership

Over the years, the chapter has grown into a vibrant community of 14 singers, with 12 members regularly offering bedside sings or participating in song baths. Two of the original founding-era members remain active, providing continuity and wisdom. Among the choir's singers is one songwriter whose music has become part of the group's active repertoire.

From the beginning, the chapter grew organically. Word of mouth carried the message into the community, attracting singers who felt called to this gentle service.

Service Through Song

The choir sings weekly, averaging about 15 bedside sings each month. It does not currently offer song baths. Rehearsals take place twice a month, offering time for musical refinement, connection, and reflection.

The choir's clients come primarily from two local hospices, which provide most referrals. Occasionally, personal connections—friends or loved ones of choir members—request songs as well.

Leadership and Chapter Culture

The Lower Columbia Threshold Choir operates with a leaderful, collaborative spirit. Although one director provides overall guidance, decision-making is shared, and every singer's voice matters. The chapter maintains a simple structure with a treasurer, a secretary, and the director, while the rest of the group contributes informally to musical and organizational discussions.

Community Connections

The choir is fortunate to rehearse at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Longview, Washington, a relationship it cherishes. In gratitude, the singers offer music each year for the church's Service of Remembrance on November 2 (All Souls' Day)—a candle-lighting ceremony honoring loved ones who have passed.

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