

St. Alban's Grapevine



AUGUST 2009

'Summer Hours'

by The Rev. John Leech

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St. Alban's Episcopal Church

*21405 82nd Place W
Edmonds, WA 98026*

Phone: 425-778-0371

Fax: 425-778-1583

Email: staedmonds@verizon.com

www.stalbansedmonds.org

Worship Schedule Sundays

8:00 a.m. Holy Communion, Rite I

10:00 a.m. Nursery Open

10:30 a.m. Sunday School

*10:30 a.m. Holy Communion,
Rite II*

Have you ever visited an artist's home? Have you seen the collection of their own work, the work of their friends, the work they admired - gathered together over a lifetime of aesthetic sensibility? Have you ever visited such a home - and seen it kept as a shrine, long after they've gone, by friends or family or fans? Robert Louis Stevenson inspired such devotion, both in Edinburgh, Scotland, and in Carmel, California, where he lived for a time - and doubtless in Tahiti too; his writing desk left intact, pen and pipe standing by. His honeymoon hideaway at Silverado is long gone, however, with only traces of the old mine-works scattered down the mountainside. Sometimes a surviving spouse or children keep intact the memories they'd shared, by not moving anything. Sometimes they move on...

How do you honor the past without getting stuck in it? That is the challenge faced by the children of H el ene Marly n ee Berthier in 'Summer Hours (L'heure d' et e)' a film by Olivier Assayas (2008). At her 75th birthday, they gather in her home to celebrate and to remember. The mother wants to speak about her death - in terms of the disposition of her beloved possessions.

"In general, you prefer objects not weighed down by the past," she tells her daughter, ceramics designer Adrienne. True, the daughter replies. She prefers clean, elegant, contemporary values in her own pieces - "but beauty is beauty."

And yet the older brother, Frederic, wants to keep the family matrix intact - memories, artwork, house, and all. If they keep the house they can pass it on to their children, he argues - "if you have any" his childless sister wryly observes.

What about the younger brother, J er mie? He lives in China. He is technical supervisor for factories that make running shoes. He needs to buy a residence in Peking, and wants to own a vacation home in Bali. He will not be coming back.

They, the three of them, are not ready yet to face the dissolution of the old establishment. So it is the mother who says to the elder brother, Frederic, you are the one who wants to hang on to it all, you are the one who has to organize my legacy - and let it go. And soon - not many months later - she is dead. What remains?

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Continued from page 1

What we see develop is the siblings' ability to deal with the legacy of their forebears – alone and together. (I have not told you all. There is utility – and humility – in how a loyal old soul receives a parting gift.)

St. Alban's Vestry

Kären Ford, *Senior Warden*

Phil McClelland, *Junior Warden*

Phyllis Becker, *Junior Warden*

Carrie Cone

John Greenlaw

Mark Gregory

Barbara Hatt

Barbara McLain

Sid Rathburn

Gaylord Sisk

Sarah Sweeney

Jeannie Wells

Shirley Wilson, *Clerk*

Staff

The Rev. John Leech, *Rector*

Lisa Coale, *Interim Parish*

Administrator

JoAn Andenes, *Music Director &*

Organist

Joyce Carver, *Director of*

Children's Education

Ben Johnson, *Youth Leader*

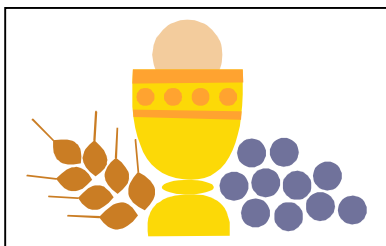
Phil McClelland, *Webmaster*

Mona Carter, *Newsletter Editor*

Office Hours

Monday through Thursday

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon



Then at last we see how the next generation begins to deal with the past. “It is from another era” one boy says, early on, of a family art treasure. Finally we see, as at the end of “Doctor Zhivago,” the future’s heirs moving forward together.

As members of families, we may feel we face similar questions: What do we inherit? What do we pass on? What do we value? An aesthetic sensibility? An appreciation for beauty? A wistful sense of love? Of loyalty?

As Christians, in fellowship in the body of Christ, we are called to something more than maintaining a family system. We are called to unity in Christ, and we are called to a common mission. We are commissioned to carry out and carry forward the Kingdom of God. We are called to inherit, to realize, and to transmit the Good News of the Word of Life.

As the apostle wrote, “We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us—we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.” (1 John 1:1-3)

May we, as we gather in the name of Christ, as we hear the Word proclaimed and as we respond to it, as we pray together and celebrate together the supper of the Lord, as we are sent into the world rejoicing in the name of Christ—

May we indeed embody and bear forward into the future what is truly lasting – not treasures that on earth would rot or rust or pass away, but what will never pass away, secure as we are in the knowledge of the love of Christ: his own grace and peace and joy.

–Fr. John

*The task ahead of us is never as great
as the Power behind us.*

Stump the Canon

By The Rev. Canon Grant Carey

Dear Canon Carey,

As I understand it, the structure of the Episcopal Church in the United States differs from other churches in the Anglican Communion. How does this affect our relationship with sister churches who reject the decisions made at our General Convention?

The Episcopal Church in the United States of America (ECUSA) differs from many of our sister churches within the Anglican Communion because historically, our church government is patterned after that of our nation. Many of the same persons concerned with our political independence from England in 1776 were also concerned with breaking ties with the Church of England in the Colonies. They did not seek to create a new denomination, but, instead, to establish a relationship free of political involvement. The Church of England was, and remains, an "established Church" with political ties to the Crown.

In the ECUSA, decisions affecting church government are made through a representative government known as "General Convention." General Convention is held every three years. The structure of church government is similar to the Congress of the United States. There are two houses, with representatives elected from the various dioceses (think of dioceses as states). Decisions made at Convention are

representative, not unilateral. The Presiding Bishop - like the President - does not make law but is responsible to insure that the decisions of the convention are carried out, whether or not (s)he may personally agree with them.

Other parts of the Anglican Communion may follow a different, more restricted method of church government. Sadly, many find it difficult to understand that we abide by the decisions of our democratically elected representatives - just as we do in our national government. True, not all decisions are popular, but they are still made through an elective, representative government.

— Canon Carey

From the *Cathedral Cross*, newsletter of Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, Sacramento, California (www.trinitycathedral.org). Permission to reprint granted by the author.

St. Alban's Parish Picnic by Lee Forsberg

Special thanks to all who worked to make the annual St. Alban's Parish Picnic in the park so successful. Many enjoyed the sermon preached by Ryan Marsh, mission developer for Church of the Beloved. Despite the cool weather and a few showers, all enjoyed fellowship, good food and the great outdoors.

There were many volunteers who went the extra mile to ensure a memorable time for all. Thanks to all of you.



Vacation Bible School

by Joyce Carver

The Jerusalem Marketplace buzzed with activity throughout the four days of Vacation Bible School. Children were free to visit shops of their choice as many times as they wanted. The spice and candy shops received a lot of return attention.

Necklaces and bracelets were designed at the jewelry shop and wonderful woven baskets and mats went home each evening.

Activity at the carpenter's shop produced dreidels and crosses while the pottery shoppers turned out lovely creations. Shopkeeper Claudia Walker opened her bakery the first night and shared interesting information about bread. The baked rolls were shared during the tribal meetings at the close of the evening.

Throughout this shopping frenzy, shopkeepers and children engaged in conversation about the man, Jesus, who was new in town. Each day a mini-drama near the town well portrayed events leading up to the resurrection. Sarah Leech, assisted by Fr. John, wrote, recruited, directed, and produced each one.

Rabbi Chuck Becker conducted synagogue school each day and among the lessons learned was that God is our best friend. Special thanks to Gaylord Sisk who built the ark to hold the covenant, and to Rita Bennett who shared her beautiful menorah.

Our youth, Marshall Greenlaw, John Bee, Jr., and Patrick Greenlaw were admirable role models for the youngsters. They served as tribal leaders and playground directors. Ben Johnson drove directly from his work place each day to lead a tribe of 5 high-energy boys. Marshall led a tribe of 5 girls. Fun playground games were directed by John and Patrick.

Loyal shopkeepers who opened their shops each evening were Phyllis Becker, Mona Carter, Kati Johnson, Richard Mosely, Miranda Timonen, plus Karen Cresse, Barbara McLain, John Bee, and Jeannie Wells who also came directly from their work places. Arielle Mosely kept two little boys happy in the nursery.

Liz Bee's role as leader set the tone of each session and brought daily closure with thoughtful introspection through review, song, and dance.

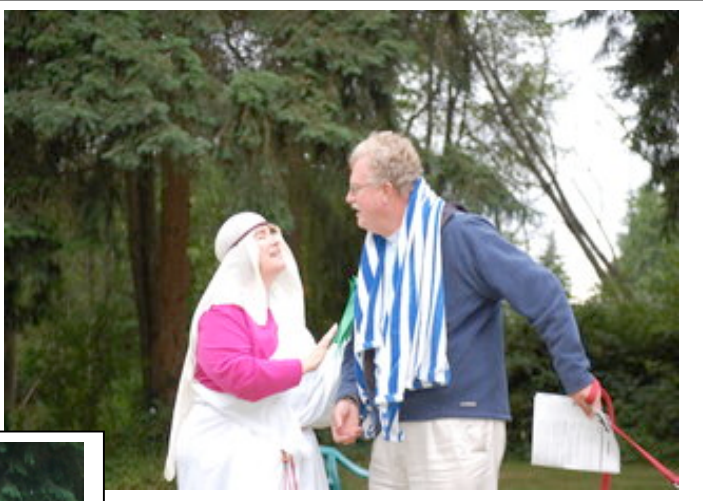
The kitchen crew consisting of Louella Armstrong, Connie Forsberg, Barbara Halterman, Jackie Leake, Lana Berger, Susie Nichols, Margaret Ainsley, Judy Kistner, and Judy Fleenor saw that everyone was fed on time. Jim Nichols took total responsibility of purchasing and preparing hot dogs, chicken, and pizza. Thanks also go to those who brought potluck dishes to share. Dessert treats came from Judy Kistner, Janet Neice, and Barbara Hatt. Lee Forsberg and Jim Nichols trimmed weeds and mowed grass to ready the grounds.

It was John Greenlaw's passion and energy for a VBS that sparked the organization. He and Chris shopped for the materials needed and oversaw the set-up. Liz Bee and Shannon Duggan were involved in the planning, and Joyce Carver worked to pull it all together.

Grateful thanks to all who stepped forward to support this VBS program. Yes, it does take a whole parish to raise the children.



Vacation Bible School



PROCRASTINATION

by Carl Knirk, Canon for Planned Giving/Stewardship/Evangelism

The Rev. John Schaffer preceded me a decade ago as a part time planned giving minister in our diocese. I often heard him say when speaking to groups that the biggest sin in getting one's life planning affairs in order was PROCRASTINATION.

It is absolutely true. Talking with family and loved ones about how to distribute all the stuff we've accumulated, planning one's memorial service, completing a health care directive, updating or writing one's will, these are all tasks that can wait for another day or time. Often our children or loved ones are not helpful, as they don't want to talk about the possibility of death of their Mom or Dad, Brother or Sister, or closest loved one. Yet, there is a 100% chance we all will die sometime, either suddenly or of natural causes or diseases. The rubric on page 445 of our Book of Common Prayer speaks to why it is our responsibility to take care of these things.

The Rev. David Storm, another senior priest in our diocese with much wisdom, always says to me, when I run into him, 'Carl, You know I've never seen a hearse with a U-Haul behind it.' This is also absolutely true. There will be no trailer hooked up to the hearse to cart all your "stuff" with you to the afterlife.

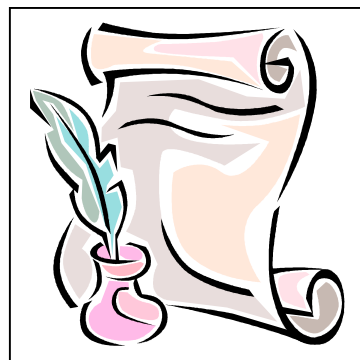
So, may I offer encouragement to you to not procrastinate, but instead request a copy of our

Diocesan Life Planning Manual which is the greatest gift I can offer you to help get your affairs in order. You may have a copy sitting around in a desk drawer that I gave you years ago, but you've never completed it. I've given out 8,000 of these over the last ten years by conducting life planning seminars in churches and giving them away for free at a variety of events. The latest version of the manual, 8th edition, is now available at our new planned giving website: www.ecwwgift.org

You can download it in a PDF format and you can also copy it in a "word file" which allows you to fill in the document, save it, and keep it as well as send it on to our loved ones. Having this most valuable information in one place where your family can find it is important. It will prevent much stress and be a true blessing to know that you have your memorial service planned (copy on file at the church), a durable power of attorney is named and it is the person you wanted to handle that responsibility, and most importantly you have a will that is current, and reflects your wishes and values. Hopefully you've included your beloved church with an estate gift upon your death to carry on God's mission and ministry in the place you called your church home. For some of us that may be more than one place or entity that has been named. It has nothing to do with how much money one has, but rather acting on our own love for God and the ministry that has formed us.

Lastly, please don't hesitate to call me (206-325-4200) if I can be of assistance in your gift planning. Our diocesan website is chock full of great information on ways to make a legacy gift. There are witness stories from several members of the Bishop's Society on why and how they acted on their values as Christians. Explore the website and use the resources of our diocesan planned giving program to encourage your brothers and sisters to included Christ's work as part of their family distribution from all they've accumulated. If you don't act now, it may be too late

Note: Maryellen Young also has some copies of the Life Planning Manual



Vestry Notes *by Kären Ford*

A few weeks ago Fr. John asked that I talk about what it means to be on Vestry. In a manual I found at Diocesan Convention last year, The Vestry Resource Guide from the Episcopal Church Foundation has become my special resource. Along with my Bible and Prayer Book, this Guide is a tool we use to do the everyday work so that our parish can run in an orderly manner.

Serving on any Board of Directors is a labor of love. Each person brings skills and talents to the table to help deliberate the needs of the organization. Fiduciary responsibilities, property management, standard accounting practices, and human resources are just some of the knowledge bases needed to be an effective member of a Board.

There is an additional responsibility for the member of a Vestry in the Church, faith. We may be charged with all of the above responsibilities but we know that we are not alone in running the organization. God is there in the middle of all of our deliberations whether we are struggling over budget issues or trying to find the most equitable way to cut costs or hammering out priorities.

We cannot make the kind of decisions needed without His Divine Guidance. We start and end all of our meetings in prayer. Having served on three Vestries in my life, I have learned that He is there in the midst of every meeting.

Our Diocese has wonderful resources to make our jobs easier and this year we are taking advantage of them. It is very helpful to know that there are other parishes with the same questions we have and to have a forum where our questions can be answered.

Vestry meetings are filled with the mundane and the profound. We are always looking for individuals who are called to help make St Alban's a very special place. The Annual Meeting is when Vestry members are elected to serve the parish. I sincerely hope that you will be led to consider serving on the Vestry. It truly is a labor of love.

Touch of Inner Healing—Warrior or Lover?

by Shirley Wilson

It was not uncommon for Arden and his wife to take off on the spur of the moment and head for the woods where they could enjoy the fullness of God's creation. This one particular day started out like that. The weather was great and they had the day off so chores and other responsibilities would just have to wait. Their outing was only going to be a day trip so there was no need to pack a lot of stuff; just a sack lunch in case they got hungry, and good walking shoes.

After lunch and a long hike, Arden's wife decided to rest awhile, so she found a comfortable log where she could sit and take in the beauty of nature. Arden took that opportunity to wander down to a nearby stream. Oh, yes, he just happened to stop at his vehicle where he had a fishing pole stashed. He loved to fish, but more than that, he loved the feeling of being able to provide for his family. He could be described as a man's man; big and strong in stature, yet also tender and caring in his demeanor.

The stream was cool and inviting as it babbled over the rocks enticing him to throw in his hook and take his chances. It all came so naturally. That's what boys and men do, right? You put the worm on the hook and skillfully cast the line into the water. Then you wait for that gentle tug which means that your efforts have paid off. For Arden, that's exactly what happened. It wasn't long before he had a nice size trout squirming in his large hands, his warrior heart bursting with satisfaction. He couldn't wait to hurry back and show his wife.

Arden didn't get quite the reaction he had hoped for. His wife tried to be gentle, but there was no other way to say it. "Arden, remember we didn't bring a pan or any utensils with us to prepare the fish. We have no way to cook it. We don't even have a cooler to keep it fresh until we get back home. It will just go to waste." The truth of the situation hit him like a ton of bricks and he knew he had blown it. Because of his years of being in Christian ministry and having witnessed many

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Warrior or Lover? *continued*
miracles as a result, it was an automatic response for Arden to turn to God in prayer. He asked the Lord to forgive him for his thoughtlessness, and then he began to pray for the fish to be restored to life.

By this time about an hour had gone by, so it was obvious that the fish was very dead. However, that reality did not detour Arden from retracing his steps back to the stream, gently holding the trout under water, and tenderly stroking it for at least 60 minutes. Arden didn't give up easily, and his determination paid off. Eventually, he felt movement under his fingers and then a stronger flip of a tale fin. Arden removed his hands and miraculously, the fish swam off. But before he did, he swam in a circle near his rescuer, as though to say, "Thank you and God bless you." But the words he heard from God were even more meaningful as well as validating, "Arden, it's good that you are one of my warriors, protecting and providing for your family, but it is also important that you are a lover of my creation."

If you would like to know more about the Inner Healing Ministry, please call Shirley Wilson at 206-542-2944 or e-mail wilsaw@hotmail.com.

Hands On Update *by Maryellen Young*

Compass Center Dinner: On August 2nd we'll be serving a barbecued chicken dinner at the Compass Center. The next dinner is planned for October 18th. Watch for opportunities to assist when Chef Dan sets the menu.

Adopt-a-resident: Barbara Lagozzino recently recruited donations from some of our members to help a Compass Center resident in transitioning to independent apartment living. Members donated basic household items such as an iron, ironing board, mop, and broom. There is an ongoing need. Transitioning residents need basic household items as well as dishes, linens, furniture etc. These items can be gently used. We're going to evaluate this program and determine whether to add it to our Hands On Ministry. We'll meet with one resident in August who will be planning to move within the next month or so to determine what the needs are. We'll then solicit donations from our congregation. If you are interested in participating and have some items you would like to donate, please contact Barb Lagozzino at 425-774-9265 or Blagoz1@aol.com

Back-to-School Supplies: During August we'll be collecting Back-to-School supplies for Cedar Valley Community School and Camille Hartley's classroom. Cedar Valley is a multi-cultural community with a high percentage of students participating in the reduced lunch program. This past year, Lorrie Pruitt, Reilly Mannery, and Helkie have been helping Camille's students with reading. We wanted to expand our support by providing school supplies that can be given to students who come to class without them. Some of the needs include #2 Pencils, pencil top erasers, pink erasers, box of 24 crayons, student scissors, colored markers or colored pencils, 3x3 sticky note pads, glue sticks, Elmer's white school glue, ruled notebook paper either wide or college ruled. See the display in the Parish Hall with a more complete list of items needed.

Back-to-School Classroom Preparation: On Tuesday, August 25th we will be volunteering at Cedar Valley Community School to help teachers, like Camille, prepare classrooms for the start of school. We'll meet at St. Alban's about 8:45 a.m. to carpool to the school that is located at 19200 56th Avenue West in Lynnwood. Contact Maryellen Young, 425-776-2461 or maryelleny@comcast.net if interested in participating. Watch for a signup sheet in the Parish Hall.

Food Bank: Our next Food Bank opportunity is Saturday, September 19th in the afternoon. We'll meet at St. Alban's at 11 a.m. to carpool and should return by 3 p.m. A signup sheet will be in the Parish Hall or contact Maryellen Young, 425-776-2461 or maryelleny@comcast.net if interested in participating. We now have a tradition of volunteering the Saturday before Thanksgiving, so put November 21st on your calendar.

Continued on page 9

Hands on Update continued

Mission to Seafarers: Don't forget to buy those items for the Mission to Seafarers' Ditty Bags or make some bags. List of supplies and sewing instructions are located in the Seafarers' container in the Parish Hall.



Happy Birthday!

July

1 Jackie Leake
16 Camille Hartley
17 Dee Tugby

August

17 Shirley Clark
19 Barbara Hatt

Episcopal Church Women (ECW)

By Connie Forsberg

New Secret Pals were distributed in June. This is a chance to keep each other in our prayers through uplifting notes, cards and concerns. There is still time if you would like to participate.

A no-host luncheon was held at Barlee's on July 22nd. Stories of summer travels and trivia were shared.

Keep food donations for the food baskets and the ongoing Compass Center dinners.

Announcements

Prayer Beads Day of Week Change

Starting in September, Prayer Beads will begin meeting on the first Tuesday of the month instead of the first Wednesday. We'll meet on Wednesday, August 5th, and then Tuesday, September 1st and the first Tuesday of the month thereafter. Anyone is welcome to join us. Prayer Beads are available for you to try. We meet in the Annex at 7:15 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. If you want information about Prayer Beads, just ask Maryellen Young, 425-776-2461

Wanted: Contact Information for Troops

The Hands On committee would like to organize sending cards and packages again to the troops we pray for each week. The plan is to send packages to those troops currently in Iraq or Afghanistan and cards to the rest. However, to do this we need contact information. If you are or know a contact person for anyone on our troop prayer list or, even better, an address where we can contact the person directly, please call Lorrie Pruitt, 425-778-7709. Lorrie can also help if you would like to add a name to the list.

Newsletter Articles for September Issue: Due August 15

Send articles and photos via email to Mona Carter at mikenmona2@comcast.net. Be sure they have a .doc or .pub extension on the file for text files. Or, place items in the plastic holder marked "Grapevine" on the wall next to the front door in the Narthex. All articles and announcements are subject to editing. Include name and contact information.

A Night or Two Under the Stars For the Whole Parish Family



Picture Yourself Here

August 21 - 23

St. Alban's Parish Camp Out

Nightly Cost: \$25 per RV or \$20 for two tents

(Scholarships available; bring your own tent or RV)

Address: 4474 Friday Creek Road, Burlington

* a couple of miles east of Exit 236 (Bow Hill Rd) off I-5

Call Phil McClelland to reserve your spot

(425) 446-2355

St. Alban's Episcopal Church

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Edmonds, WA 98026

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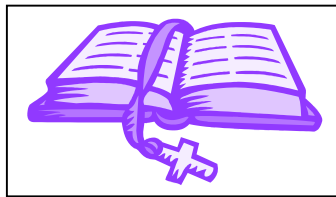
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LYNNWOOD, WA

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

*If you do not want this newsletter, please mark it REFUSED and
Return it to the Postal Carrier unopened*

The Lessons Appointed for Use on Sunday:



Aug. 2

Proper 13: Yr B, RCL
2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a

Psalm 51:1-13
Ephesians 4:1-16
John 6:24-35

Aug. 9

Proper 14: Yr B, RCL
2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33

Psalm 130
Ephesians 4:25-5:2
John 6:35, 41-51

Aug. 16

Proper 15: Yr B, RCL
1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14

Psalm 111
Ephesians 5:15-20
John 6:51-58

Aug. 23

Proper 16: Yr B, RCL
1 Kings 8: (1, 6, 10-11),
22-30, 41-43

Psalm 84
Ephesians 6:10-20
John 6:56-69

Aug. 30

Proper 17: Yr B, RCL
Song of Solomon 2:8-13

Psalm 45:1-2, 7-10
James 1:17-27
Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23