

Gospel Grapevine

The newsletter of St. Alban's Episcopal Church, Edmonds, WA

August 2008

St. Alban's Annual Picnic Edmonds Park, Shelter #2 August 17th, 10:30 a.m.



It's time for our annual worship service & picnic in the park. We'll be at the same location as previous years. Edmonds City Park is located at Third & Pine Street in Edmonds. The 8:00 a.m. service will be held at the church as usual.

Get out those cookbooks and put together a dish to share with your St. Alban's family. We have some awesome cooks and look forward to admiring the wonderful food we get to share. The hot dogs will be provided and cooked over open charcoal; hot and ready when the service is over.

There will be signup sheets at church to help us gather extra items and make arrangements for the help we need. Don't forget to dress for the weather, sometimes it can be a bit cool in the morning. If you have any questions or can help with the planning, setup, etc., contact Lee Forsberg at 425-774-4571.

Sunday School—One Hour is All it Takes!

from Maryellen Young

Those of us who were at church on June 15th received a real treat when the sanctuary was abuzz with mosquitoes and our Sunday School children presented the skit to show the benefits of malaria nets. I had a greater treat because I was able to work with the children for a couple weeks helping them practice. In spending time in the Sunday School, I learned that Joyce Carver, our Sunday School Director, would like members of our congregation to spend just one Sunday as a helper in the Sunday School. Now, I've taught Sunday School before and I know that is not my gift. However, I can give one Sunday to be a helper. I thought, I bet others would too if they knew that it was only for one Sunday and that they didn't have to prepare a lesson or teach...just help. All that's necessary is someone to organize a sign up list...and that is my gift—organizing!

If you're willing to give one Sunday, watch for a calendar to sign up for the Sunday of

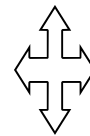
your choice. I'll also be asking you if you would like to sign the calendar. Sign with your name, telephone number and email address, if applicable.

You will be reminded the week before that it's your Sunday. All you have to do is arrive early to help greet the children as they arrive, observe and participate in the initial gathering as the children sing and give prayer requests, and then help with the craft time. You'll be through in time to take communion. The benefit is that you will meet our children and they will meet you.

Help us show our children how important they are to us and show our Sunday School teachers that we appreciate all they do to lead our children. If you already know which Sunday you want to volunteer, just let me know at 425-776-2461 or maryelleny@comcast.net.

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St. Alban's Episcopal Church

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Sunday Worship

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



From the Rector's Lawn Chair

Wholly Mysteries

With no new HARRY POTTER books to read, I'd resigned myself to a summer bookshelf stocked with heavy stuff like LEGACY OF ASHES and DESCENT INTO CHAOS. Then a friend, the Rev. Mary Allen, leapt to the rescue –

with lists of mysteries featuring Episcopal/Anglican clergy, or by Episcopal/Anglican writers.

My own revived interest in reading detective fiction came from two stimuli: Laurie R. King, a seminary classmate, had published her first novel, A GRAVE TALENT, and I was curious.

And then my cat – Willie – whom I'd trained to leap into the lap of a man reading a book, and who had needed no training in climbing telephone poles and trees, crossed the street from my house, climbed a neighbor's tree, and, seeing a man reading a book, jumped into his lap. The door of the room, a second-floor bedroom, was closed. The man was Father Charles Sheedy, C.S.C., aka "Mister Notre Dame", the retired Dean of Arts and Sciences from the University of Notre Dame du Lac, South Bend, Indiana.

Charlie Sheedy was an inveterate reader. He was living in Berkeley at the study house for the Holy Cross Fathers. One of the younger students living there told me, "Your cat jumped in Charlie's lap." So when I saw him the next day, I apologized – and then, I asked him his favorite question: "What were you reading?"

Ah.

Elmore Leonard. Olivia de Manning. The list grew...

Between Laurie King and Charlie Sheedy I soon found myself with a two-foot high TBR (to be read) pile bedside. On it were mysteries of all sorts. Since then I've winnowed it down. Mostly now I read mysteries set in foreign climes or countries, often in translation, by natives of the place or expatriate English or American writers.

On the shelf now are titles by Donna Leon (set in Venice), Fred Vargas (Paris), Andrea Camilleri (Sicily), Magdalen Nabb (Florence), and other novels set in Buenos Aires, Rio de

Janeiro, or Havana Cuba. Sometime when the weather is hot I'll add Iceland to my consumption – or perhaps Sweden or Denmark. Spain often pops up, thanks to Arturo Perez Reverte and other novelists of Andalusia. Ian Rankin (Edinburgh) is always near at hand.

Of course this is a bit like armchair tourism. But there is more to it – at least a broader meaning is given to escapist literature. In many of these, good triumphs – eventually. Or the truth comes out. It is not always easy to sort out what the truth is – or where the right lies. But, as Raymond Chandler said in "The Simple Art of Murder", down these mean streets must go a man who is not himself mean... somebody has to sort it all out.

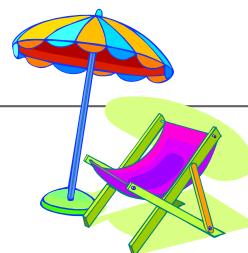
What are you reading this summer?

Selected titles from Mary's lists of mysteries:

Episcopal/Anglican Clerical Mysteries

Charles, Kate	A Drink of Deadly Wine	1991
Garrison, Kate	Bury the Bishop	1995
Holland, Isabelle	A Fateful Advent	
Meyer, Charles	The Saints of God Murders	1995
Blake, Michelle	The Tentmaker	
Spencer-Fleming, Julia	In the Bleak Midwinter	
Sumner, Cristina	Thieves Break In	
Cranston, Pamela	The Madonna Murders	
Rickman, Phil	The Wine of Angels	
Lovesey, Peter	The Reaper	
Schweizer, Mark	The Alto Wore Tweed	
James, P.D.	A Death In Holy Orders	
Davidson, Diane Mott	The Last Suppers	
Delffs, Dudley J.	The Martyr's Chapel	
Holland, David	The Devil in Bellminster: An Unlikely Mystery	
Malone, Michael	Handling Sin	
Bernhardt, William	Criminal Intent	
Lister, Michael	Flesh and Blood	
Truman, Margaret	Murder at the National Cathedral	
(And to these I add one set in my own seminary, among other Bay Area places)		
King, Laurie R.	To Play the Fool	

JRL+



Please Note: Fr. John and Sarah will be on vacation from August 1-13th.

I want to take a moment and thank everyone who helped make the Medieval Festival such a rousing success: Jim & Susie Nichols, John & Sarah Leech, Jeannie Wells, Maryellen Young, Rilley Mannery, Liz & John Bee, Chris Greenlaw, Rob & Joy De Lettera, Sarah & Mike Sweeny, Phil McClelland, Hazel Shaw, Shirley Wilson, and Darla Lane.

I especially owe a huge thank you to everyone who stuck around to help clean up afterward, without even being asked! It's that kind of team spirit that really makes St Alban's so special.

So, did you have a great time? Do you have thoughts on what would make the next event even better? Do you have ideas on other churchwide events that we could wow and amaze current members with and at the same time bring in new members? GREAT!!! I want to hear from you!!! We are in the process of putting together an EVENT Committee and we need your ideas, enthusiasm, skills, passion and muscle!

Talk to me at church or give me a call at 206-778-5724!



News From Your Vestry

from Carrie Cone, Sr. Warden

On July 10, 2008, your Vestry met. The meeting was opened with prayer and a short mediation reading, followed by discussion. Those present included Vestry members: Phyllis Becker, John Bee, Carrie Cone (Sr. Warden), John Greenlaw, Phil McClelland (Jr. Warden), Erin Munday, Reilly Mannery, Susie Nichols, Gaylord Sisk, Jeannie Wells, Shirley Wilson, and the Rev. John Leech. Barbara McLain was absent. Clerk Darla Lane was present to take minutes, and Treasurer Chris Greenlaw was present to give financial reports.

Treasurer Chris Greenlaw presented a positive financial report for June 2008 (see Bulletin or Grapevine article for more detail). She also presented a proposal from the finance committee to request forgiveness from the Diocese for back assessment not paid in 2006 and 2002, totaling \$12,796, the majority of which was from a shortfall in income in 2006. The Vestry approved her proposal and empowered her to make the request to the Diocese. Reilly Mannery, also a member of the Planned Giving Committee, presented revised guidelines, prepared by the Planned Giving Committee, on how undesignated memorial funds should be spent. The Vestry adopted these revised guidelines. She also presented a

proposal by the Committee to accept a designated memorial gift of \$20,000, stipulated by the donor for use in the kitchen. The Vestry moved, seconded, and passed a motion to accept these funds and appointed Erin Munday to assemble a committee of current and future users of the kitchen to consult with all users and prepare a proposal to the Vestry at its October meeting.

Warden's reports consisted of Sr. Warden Carrie Cone, requested Vestry members to volunteer who would like to work with her and the rector on the Mutual Ministry Agreement, as stated in our contract with him. A committee of five was identified, including the rector, the wardens, Phyllis Becker, and Erin Munday. Junior Warden Phil McClelland, reported that the Wi-Fi is functioning and podcasting should be fully functional soon. Upgrades to the sound system are very close to being done. He also reported on a long-range planning committee meeting of the Edmonds Lutherans that he attended at their request.

A number of Commission reports and discussions took place during the meeting, including: a report that the St. Alban's Day Medieval Festival was a big success with 72 attending of all ages;

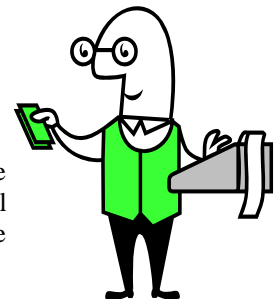
an announcement that Scout Troop 300, of which we are a sponsor, is in need of a scout master; and that we have received a proposal for lighting upgrades to save money, following a requested assessment by Snohomish County PUD. Further research is needed on this proposal with a follow-up report due in September.

Finally, the Vestry discussed a proposal, made by several parishioners, that the monthly funds raised by St. Alban's for the food bank be shared in part with other local food banks. It was agreed that starting in July notices would be changed to say that "funds go to local food banks," and the Vestry would allocate a percentage of funds raised in the second half of the year to other local area community food banks.

As always, the Vestry invites parishioners to prayer for our Rector, John Leech; the Vestry as they guide the affairs of St. Alban's; and the parish as a whole as we together seek from Christ the new future He has prepared for us. We encourage all at St. Alban's to seek God's will first, rather than our own. Respectfully submitted by Carrie Cone, Senior Warden, who can be reached at 206-367-7402 or cmcone@u.washington.edu.

St. Alban's Financial Update

from Chris Greenlaw



Contributions for June 2008 were higher by 5% than we had budgeted. The actual contributions were \$15,288 and the budgeted amount was \$14,613. However, expenses were also higher by 8%. The actual expenditure was \$13,985 and the budgeted was \$12,901. Actual net contribution minus expenses for the month was \$1,303.

Year to date contributions are slightly higher than budgeted by 3%. The actual year to date contributions was \$90,737 and budgeted \$87,969. The year to date expenses was also slightly higher by 6%. The actual expenses were \$94,069 and the budgeted was \$858,837. Our actual net contribution minus expenses for the year = (\$3,332).

Please remember that if you are going on vacation this summer, contributions can be mailed or dropped off with Doris Eaker, Parish Secretary.

A special thank you to everyone who donate towards the Food Bank. St. Alban's was able to send a check in the amount of \$1,100. This is from the monthly collection from January to June 2008.

Bits & Pieces—

▼ *Guest Clergy*

It will be our pleasure to welcome the Rev. David A. Marshall, our celebrant and preacher for the first two Sundays in August. Father David recently completed a tour as president of the Clergy Association of the Diocese of Olympia. A former employee of Sybase and Microsoft, he has served as Vicar, Good Samaritan Episcopal Church, Sammamish, and Associate Rector, St. Stephen's, Seattle. His latest project is an experiment in creating communities of intentional Christian discipleship. <www.revmarshall.com>

▼ *Alzheimer's Walk*

The annual Alzheimer's Memory Walk will be held Sunday, September 14th at Sand Point's Magnuson Park. Barbara Hatt and her family will be participating in the walk again this year. You may sponsor Barbara by making a donation in one of three ways: 1) write a check payable to Alzheimer's Association with Barbara's name on the memory line, 2) go online at alzwa.org and click on sponsor walker to enter Barbara's name, or 3) with a cash donation. Please give your checks or cash to Barbara. Raffle tickets are also available for \$1 each for a drawing to win a Holland America cruise to Mexico or the Carribean or perhaps a week in a condo on Maui.

▼ *Webmaster Needed*

We are in need of someone who would take on the website for St. Alban's. If you can do this, please contact Nancy Boor at 425-771-5436. It doesn't take a lot of time and it's not difficult.

▼ *Confirmation Classes*

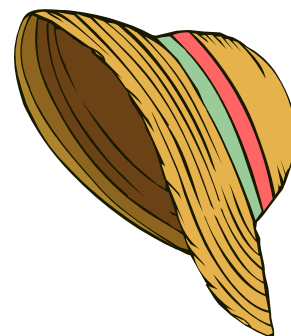
Confirmation classes will be offered for adults and those who will be at least 16 years of age withing the next 12 months. A sign-up sheet is available at the welcome table during coffee hour this summer. We will be offering opportunities this fall for confirmation training based on the needs of those who sign up.

The class will meet between services (9:30-10:15 a.m.) on Sundays during September, October and the first half of November. Each class member will need to attend at least five sessions before being confirmed.

Please consider taking part in this important rite in the life of the church as part of your growth in the Spirit and development in faith. All are welcome who wish to inquire further into the meaning of our walk with Christ as individuals and as a people of God.

▼ *Mission Trip to New Orleans*

A new mission trip to New Orleans is set for October 5-12, 2008. Lodging will be in the Homecoming Center dormitory at St. Paul's, our "We Will Stand With You" partner. Cost of \$200 will cover most meals and vans for transport while there. Volunteer work is organized by the Diocese of Louisiana. Flights to New Orleans are arranged and paid for each participant. For more details, contact Carl Knirk at cknirk@ecww.org or Kathy Hamilton at khamilton@ecww.org.



The Lessons Appointed for:

<u>August 3</u>	<u>August 10</u>	<u>August 17</u>	<u>August 24</u>	<u>August 31</u>
Genesis 32:22-31	Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28	Genesis 45:1-15	Exodus 1:8-2:10	Exodus 3:1-15
Psalms 17:1-7, 16	Psalms 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b	Psalms 133	Psalms 124	Psalms 105:1-6, 23-26, 45c
Romans 9:1-5	Romans 10:5-15	Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32	Romans 12:1-8	Romans 12:9-21
Matthew 14:13-21	Matthew 14:22-33	Matthew 15:21-28	Matthew 16:13-20	Matthew 15:21-27

As space permits we will print the lessons in the newsletter &/or you may find them on our website.

Episcopal Church Women (ECW)

from Connie Forsberg, President



We are so blessed with the amazing talents of our St. Alban's Churchwomen! Sally LeBoeuf showed us some of the beautiful quilts she has made over the years. She shared with us her "trunk show" of over 50 of her creations. Her stories of the materials, patterns, history and background of the quilts held us spellbound. There will be several pictures posted on the ECW board.

Summer Birthdays

- 8/13 Lee Dunlin
- 8/17 Shirley Clark
- 8/19 Barbara Hatt

In order to update our files, we are asking all the ladies to fill out a birthday information card so we have the correct information about your birthday.

During this past year we have had many interesting programs and some fund-raisers. Recently, we gave a check to David Garcia at the San Juan Apostle Church. He is the son of Abe and Barbara Garcia, long-time members of St. Albans. This was in the amount of \$250. We paid \$120 for the monthly Day by Day Forward booklets. Also, flowers for the Bishop's visit, gifts and flowers for Administrative Professionals Week, flowers for our minister's wife for surgery and birthday. During the program part of the year we made donations to World Concern, and for rectory repairs, stamps and assorted decorations. These donations amounted to over \$1,000.00. ECW's goal is to earn money to enhance the kitchen for needs and repair as well as outreach, programs and other needs.



If you would like to be part of the planning committee, outreach, food, decorations &/or retreats, please let Connie Forsberg know at 425-774-4571. We have lots of fun planning dinners, setting up the tables ahead of time and just getting together. All women, friends and dogs are welcome! We also have a Secret Pal program.

I ask people to remember to bring canned food for our food baskets which are under the main board as you enter the church. Gaylord Sisk is very gracious about taking the filled baskets to the Edmonds Food Bank on a weekly basis.



A Touch of Inner Healing— *An Apple a Day*

from Shirley Wilson

Summer is a wonderful time to take advantage of God's bounty. Fruit and vegetable stands are everywhere. Many cities have a farmer's market with a wonderful array of mouthwatering produce. I am one of the lucky ones who happens to like fresh fruits and vegetables, not just because they are good for me, but because I like the taste and the way they make me feel. The nutrition part is an extra bonus.

When I think of an apple, the picture that comes into my mind is a big juicy red delicious one that cracks when you bite into it. However, another picture came into my mind one day when the subject came up in prayer. It happened when a troubled young lady told me a story about her childhood that started about the age of four.

She remembered beautiful flowers in bloom and all was well. Then things changed when her parents started teaching her to use her right hand instead of her left. This caused her to become confused. She started to believe that there was something wrong with her because she was left handed. This thinking was confirmed when she was told that she was "rotten to the core." She reasoned that learning to use her right hand would make her good, but it was very hard for a little girl of four to do. It was easier to believe the lies the adults in her life were telling her.

At our counseling session, the young lady was asked to draw a picture of what "rotten to the core" looked like in her mind. She proceeded to draw an ugly, dark, rotten-looking apple core that was of no value to anyone. Then after praying to get the Lord's input into the situation, the picture changed.

He showed us what His Word says in Zechariah 2:8b. "He who touches you touches the apple of His eye." And in Deuteronomy 32:10b, "He kept him as the apple of his eye." Obviously God had a different opinion than the one this young lady had internalized from her childhood. I asked her to again draw a picture, but this time, a picture of how God saw her.

She proceeded to draw a beautiful large, juicy looking apple that was tempting to the appetite. But she wasn't done yet. In the center, or core of the apple, she drew a small heart. She was not only the apple of God's eye; she was also in His heart. The old saying that starts with "An apple a day" is good advice and a healthy habit in more ways than one!

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

*Thought for the Day—
God doesn't call the qualified,
He qualifies the called.*



St. Alban's Vestry

Carrie Cone, Rector's Warden

Phil McClelland, People's Warden

Phyllis Becker

John Bee

John Greenlaw

Barbara McLain

Reilly Mannery

Erin Munday

Susie Nichols

Gaylord Sisk

Jeannie Wells

Shirley Wilson

Darla Lane, Clerk

Chris Greenlaw, Treasurer



Staff

The Rev. John R. Leech, Rector

Doris Eaker, Parish Secretary

JoAn Andenes,

Music Director & Organist

Shannon Duggan, Nursery Director

Joyce Carver, Director of Children

& Youth Education

Ben Johnson, Youth Leader

Nancy Boor, Editor, *The Grapevine*;

Webmaster

Office Hours

Monday & Wednesday

8:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

Tuesday & Thursday

8:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

The rector is in on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays.

Grapevine Newsletter Articles for the

September 2008 Issue:

Due August 15

Whenever possible, please send articles for the next issue via email to Nancy Boor at nancykitty@comcast.net. Send email messages, pictures, photos and Word and Publisher documents only. Be sure they have a .doc or .pub extension on the file for text files. Or, you may place items in the plastic holder marked "Grapevine" on the wall in the Narthex.

All articles and announcements are subject to editing for brevity, space and content and require name and contact number.

Book Group Brewing—

We have had a very positive response to the idea of starting a book group at St. Alban's. Many people have indicated their interest by signing the Book Group forms posted on the table in the Narthex. If you are interested but have not yet let us know, please sign the forms or contact Sarah Leech (425) 672-2470 or Maryellen Young (425) 776-2461 no later than August 10th, 2008. Please let us know the meeting times that are best for you, as well as any topics or titles you are interested in. The book group will begin meeting in September. We will have more information to share with you after Labor Day.



Calendar—August 2008

<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
Wednesday	8/6	Prayer Beads @ 7:15 p.m.
Saturday	8/9	Grounds Work Party @ 10-1 p.m.
Monday	8/11	Covenant Group @ 2:00 p.m.
Mon-Thurs	8/11-14	Vacation Bible School, Potluck on Thursday
Sunday	8/17	8:00 a.m. Worship @ Church 10:00 a.m. Worship & Picnic at the Park
Thursday	8/28	Grounds Work Party @ 5-8 p.m.

Recurring Events:

Boy Scouts:
Mondays at 7:00 p.m.
at St. Alban's

Men's Bible Study:
Tuesdays @ 7:00 p.m.

Holy Eucharist:
Wednesday's @ 9:00 a.m.

Annie's Kitchen:
Wednesdays at 5-6:30 p.m.
at Edmonds Lutheran Church



St. Alban's Episcopal Church
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Edmonds, Washington 98026

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