

Gospel Grapevine

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

December 2008

And God So Loved the World. . .

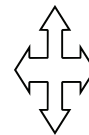
Jesus let us in on an astonishing secret: God has chosen to change the world through the lowly, ordinary and insignificant. This should give us all hope.

Changing the world through the . . . insignificant has always been God's strategy. God chose a ragtag group of Semite slaves to be the insurgents of a new order. God sent a vast army to flight with three hundred men carrying lamps and blowing horns. God chose a shepherd boy with a slingshot to lead his chosen people. **And who would have dreamed that God would choose a baby in a cow stall to turn the world right side up?**

—Tom Sine, *The New Conspirators* (2008), p. 22.

St. Alban's Christmas Worship Schedule

Sunday	December 21	8:00 a.m. Rite I 10:30 a.m. Rite II
Wednesday	December 24	5:30 p.m. Family Eucharist with Children's Christmas Pageant 10:30 p.m. Festive Eucharist
Thursday	December 25	10:00 a.m. Christmas Day
Sunday	December 28	8:00 a.m. Rite I 10:30 a.m. Lessons & Carols



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Newcomers Ministry Getting Re-Started, Seeking Volunteers

St. Alban's newcomers ministry is regrouping, and seeks enthusiastic and welcoming volunteers to join our committee. We will meet on **Wednesday, December 3rd at 10:30 am** in the Parish Hall to set goals and plans for the coming year. New and continuing volunteers are invited to attend.

The newcomers ministry welcomes visitors to St. Alban's, answers their questions about the church, follows up with them after their visit(s), helps facilitate their membership in the church, and offers an informational program at least annually to introduce them to the parish and the wider church.

If you would like to be part of this vital ministry at St. Alban's please mark your calendar for December 3rd, and call Sarah Leech to let her know of your interest at 425-672-2470.

St. Alban's Episcopal Church

21405 82nd Place West
Edmonds, WA 98026

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Fax: 425-778-1583
Email: staedmonds@aol.com
Website: www.stalbansedmonds.org
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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

Wednesdays:

9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist



From the Rector's Study

After Christmas

After Christmas... we put the presents away, recycle the wrappings, and store the boxes in the attic or garage.

After Christmas... the child Jesus grows up.

After Christmas... we try to get our minds around the mystery. Who is this child?

After Christmas... we wonder what will change. What will we do differently? What will we see differently?

After Christmas

*Good King Wenceslas looked out,
On the feast of Stephen,
When the snow lay round about,
Deep and crisp and even;*

*Brightly shone the moon that night,
Though the frost was cruel,
When a poor man came in sight,
Gath'ring winter fuel.*

*"Hither, page, and stand by me;
If thou know'st, telling—
Yonder peasant, who is he?
Where and what his dwelling?"*

*"Sire, he lives a good league hence,
Underneath the mountain,
Right against the forest fence,
By Saint Agnes' fountain."*

*"Bring me flesh, and bring me wine!
Bring me pine logs hither!
Thou and I will see him dine,
When we bear him thither."*

The saint in the carol sees a way to serve Christ through the poor – and acts on it. He and his page go out into the snow to invite the man to dine.

After Christmas... will we see differently? Will we act differently? Will we walk out into the cold in the footsteps of Wenceslas to seek out the poor? Will we speak out on the causes of poverty? Will we be working to transform the world into the image of Christ's kingdom – a kingdom of peace and not of poverty, of abundance and not of scarcity; a kingdom turned not inward in self-preservation but outward in charity, faith and hope?

*Page and monarch forth they went,
Forth they went together,
Through the rude wind's wild lament,
And the bitter weather.*

*"Sire, the night is darker now,
And the wind blows stronger;
Fails my heart, I know not how,
I can go no longer."*

*"Mark my footsteps, good my page,
Tread thou in them boldly;
Thou shalt find the winter's rage,
Freeze thy blood less coldly."*

*In his master's steps he trod,
Where the snow lay dinted;
Heat was in the very sod
Which the saint had printed.*

*Therefore, Christian men, be sure,
Wealth or rank possessing,
Ye who now will bless the poor
Shall yourselves find blessing.*

--J. M. Neale (1818-1866), *The New Oxford Book of Carols*, Hugh Keyte & Andrew Parrott, eds., (Oxford, 1992) #97.

A Franciscan Benediction:

May God bless us with discomfort at easy answers, half-truths and superficial relationships, so that we may live deep within our hearts.

May God bless us with anger at injustice, oppression and exploitation of all people, so that we may work for justice, freedom and peace.

May God bless us with tears to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation and war, so that we may reach out our hands to comfort them and turn their pain to joy.

May God bless us with enough foolishness to believe that we can make a difference in this world; so that we can do what others claim cannot be done.

The English word GOSPEL (Anglo-Saxon, *godspell*, 'God-story') is used to translate the Greek *euangelion*, 'good tidings.'*

As Christ's hands and voice in the world we strive to proclaim the good tidings of Jesus in our words *and* embody his gospel in our deeds.

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor." (Luke 4:18)

—Fr. John +

*Alan Richardson, *A Theological Word Book of the Bible* (Macmillan, 1950), p. 100.



Make a joyful noise unto God, all ye lands: Sing forth the honour of his name: make his praise glorious.

Silent Night

by JoAn Andenes

Did you know that the music to the beloved Christmas carol “Silent Night” was written by an organist? If this is the case, why is it frequently sung with guitar accompaniment instead of organ? The story of Silent Night’s creation might explain the reason. This information comes from The International Book of Carols.

On Christmas Eve in 1818, Joseph Mohr, the assistant pastor at St. > Nicholas Church in Oberndorf, Austria, brought Franz Gruber, the church organist, a poem that he had just written. He asked Gruber to write music for it, using guitar and solo voices. The poem came at a critical moment: mice had eaten the leather of the church organ bellows and the repairman was not able to come and fix it until after Christmas. This meant that all the pieces planned for the Christmas Eve service would not have the organ accompaniment they needed. So Gruber set Mohr’s poem to music and accompanied the singing on the guitar for that Christmas Eve service. After Christmas, when the organ repairman came, Gruber played the carol for him. The repairman liked it so much that he took a copy with him when he left. He showed it to the Strasser sisters, a troupe of Tyrolean singers. They included it in their repertoire, and it quickly became a favorite with their audiences. And yet, even as it gained tremendous popularity, the names of Mohr and Gruber were never mentioned as its creators. Franz Joseph Haydn’s son, Michael, was given credit for the carol in some published copies, possibly because he may have made an arrangement of the music. In 1854, almost half a century after its composition, a special government committee was set up to try to determine who the creators of “Silent Night” actually were. They unearthed the facts through Felix Gruber, the son of Franz, who submitted a statement by his father, along with a copy of the original carol.

In stanza one of the English translation of the carol, the first sentence of the text carries over beyond the musical phrase. The sense of stanza one is: “Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright [a]round [the] Virgin Mother and Child!” with the next thought: “Holy infant, so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace.

Lift Up Your Voices!

If you like to sing Christmas songs, please consider joining the group who will sing some special music at the late service on Christmas Eve!

We will have three **10:00 a.m. Saturday** morning rehearsals: **December 6, 13, and 20.**

The first practice will be held in the Church School building with the digital piano.

All voices are welcome. It would be fun to sing in harmony! JoAn has lots of music but needs more singers.

Please come and join us!



What Is All This Caroling About??

Come explore the real meaning of Christmas Carols with Eric Hanson. Eric will be teaching a course in the meaning of many Christmas carols and other hymns, with focus on how they are prophetic. There will be three different sessions offered between services from **9:15 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. on Dec. 7, 14 and 21.** Come and enjoy the glorious music and bring your voices. Please contact Eric with any questions, 425-743-3538.

News From Your Vestry

from Carrie Cone, Sr. Warden

On November 6, 2008, your Vestry met. The meeting was opened with prayer and a short mediation reading. Those present included Vestry members: Carrie Cone (Sr. Warden), John Greenlaw, Phil McClelland (Jr. Warden), Reilly Mannery, Barbara McLain, Erin Munday, Susie Nichols, Jeannie Wells, Shirley Wilson, and the Rev. John Leech. Phyllis Becker, John Bee, and Gaylord Sisk had excused absences. Newly appointed interim Clerk Shirley Wilson was present to take minutes and Treasurer Chris Greenlaw presented the financial report.

The treasurer's report showed a current year's overall shortfall to \$3,267 as of the end of October. You are encouraged to keep your pledges current, if possible, as well as consider any year-end special gifts you might be able and willing to give. We have a bare-bones budget this year and every dollar counts.

The Treasurer then presented the current draft budget for 2009 for the Vestry's review and discussion. While better reflecting actual costs of programs and activities (mostly due to parishioners covering charges on their own to help out the church in recent

years), the 2009 draft budget also reflects annual mandated increases such as diocesan-set cost of living raises, insurance premium increase, needed upkeep on the rectory, and fully funding our organist/music director, and increasing church utility bills. In an effort to step above the bare bones budget of this past year, the draft budget among other things provides for new altar linens; funding or increased funding for a newcomers program, Sunday school materials, and starting a sabbatical fund; assisting the rector with high home utilities costs in the rectory due to poor insulation, oil heat, and single paned windows; cost of internet access at the church (which includes Wi-Fi at no additional cost); returning the advertising budget to it's former levels and supporting website development. One of the most important proposed increases (in the Sr. Warden's opinion) is that of funds to support local and global ministries. It has been a while since we've been able to cover this kind of support from our operating budget, and it is an important addition to the wonderful time, talent, and treasures that many of our parishioners provide through hands'-on ministries and the generosity St. Alban's shows to local food banks. If projected income from pledges and

other sources can sustain this draft budget, we would be making a big step into the future. The hope is that a final 2009 Budget will be balanced and approved at the December Vestry meeting.

Sr. Warden, Jr. Warden, and Commission reports were presented. A report by the Vestry Nominating Committee indicated a complete slate of candidates for next year's Vestry. Plans for the Annual Meeting (Nov 16) and the Bishop's visit (Nov 23) were discussed.

Finally, the Vestry thanks you all for your support and prayers during this past year. As a family, we are all responsible for one another and that sense of family is alive and well at St. Alban's. Continue to pray for our Rector, John Leech; the new Vestry as they step up to guide the affairs of St. Albans; and the parish as a whole as we together walk the road that Christ has prepared for us. As always, 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.

Carl Knirk and attorney Tim Burkart with Garvey Schubert Barer law firm in Seattle will be our guests to present a Wills Awareness Seminar.

Tim is an expert on wills and estate planning. He'll share information about the benefits of making a will and legal aspects of wills. If you have any questions about wills, this is a great opportunity to ask it. If you have a question that you want to be sure is answered, get it to Maryellen in advance.

Refreshments will be provided. The program should complete by 1 p.m. This opportunity is provided by the St. Alban's Planned Giving Committee and Diocese of Olympia. Watch for a sign-up sheet after Christmas. Any questions, contact Maryellen Young, 425-776-2461.

Wanted: Attorney Recommendations

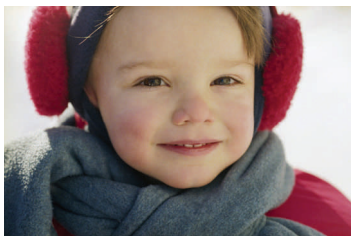
As part of the Wills Awareness Seminar, the Planned Giving Committee would like to compile a list of attorneys and the cost of preparing a will and related documents. If you have an attorney you would like to recommend, please contact Maryellen Young by telephone 425-776-2461 or email maryelleny@comcast.net with the name. Recommendations are the best way to find an attorney.

Wills Awareness Seminar

Save the Date—

February 8, 2009

12:00—1:00 p.m.



Bits & Pieces—

▼ *Sunday School Helpers*

Thanks to the following people who have volunteered to help with Sunday School through mid November: Nancy Boor, Joyce Buckner, Judy Kistner, Phyllis Becker, Carol Hicks, Sallie Shippen, Claudia Walker, and Susan Bailey. There are openings if you are interested in helping starting in January. 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. To volunteer, just contact Maryellen Young, 425-776-2461.

▼ *Hands On Ministry*

For December, Hands On is not planning any projects in December so that St. Alban's can support the Chase Lake Christmas Project. We will be celebrating efforts this past year at a Christmas Party on Friday December 12 (note this is a date change) at Connie McCutcheon's home. Call Connie at 425-640-5498 for directions if you are interested in attending. Potluck appetizers and wine are appreciated. Our next planning meeting will be Thursday, January 8 at Barbara Lagozzino's home, 857 Walnut. Anyone is welcome to join us and participate in our planning for future projects. Upcoming dates are Compass Center on January 18 and the Food Bank on February 28.

*Your love, O Lord, for ever will I sing;
from age to age my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness.*

*For I am persuaded that your love is established for ever;
you have set your faithfulness firmly in the heavens.*

—Psalm 89:1-2

▼ *Outreach Update* from Maryellen Young

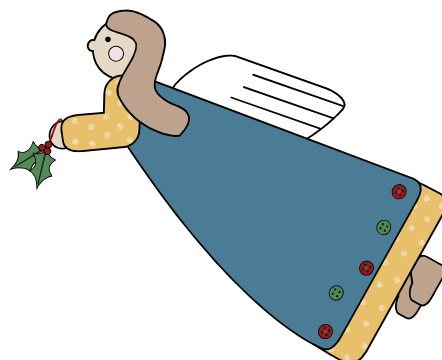
St. Alban's has been very generous so far this year with our outreach donations. Below are the results of the money we have donated for various causes through mid November. This equates to approximately 5% of our year to date income. In addition to money, we have also donated items each week to the food bank and food for the Hands On Compass Center dinners. Thanks to everyone for their generous donations!

2008 Outreach Donations:

Discretionary Fund	\$3,018
Food Bank	\$2,374
Hands On	\$199
Celebration Service for Outreach	\$805
Diocese of Jerusalem	\$221
Women of Purpose	\$695
Malaria Net	\$917
Myanmar	\$175
	<hr/>
	\$8,404

▼ *Sacrament of Baptism*

Please contact the church office if you are interested in the sacrament of baptism for yourself or your child on the First Sunday after Epiphany: Baptism of Our Lord, Easter Vigil or Pentecost.



Book Club

The second book chosen to be read by both groups is **Amazing Grace** by Eric Metaxas.

Amazing Grace

review from Publisher's Weekly

Amazing Grace tells the story of the remarkable life of the British abolitionist William Wilberforce (1759-1833). This accessible biography chronicles Wilberforce's extraordinary role as a human rights activist, cultural reformer, and member of Parliament. At the center of this heroic life was a passionate twenty-year fight to abolish the British slave trade, a battle Wilberforce won in 1807, as well as efforts to abolish slavery itself in the British colonies, a victory achieved just three days before his death in 1833.



Everyone is invited to join for just one book/meeting or as a regular attendee.

The October and November meetings were spent discussing **Three Cups of Tea** by Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin.

For December both groups will be reading **Amazing Grace** by Eric Metaxas.

At the December meeting we will be setting dates for the new year and discussing our process for deciding future books.

<p>Morning Group:</p> <p>Wednesdays 10:00 a.m.—11:30 a.m. December 10</p> <p>Evening Group</p> <p>Mondays 7:00 p.m.—8:30 p.m. December 15</p>



A Privilege

by Millie Salmon

Being a member of the Altar Guild is a privileged discipline, a service of love, an offering of time—when perhaps the children have dental appointments, ball games and you yourself have people coming for dinner.

It is preparing the altar for a saint's day all alone in the sanctuary with the quiet, the peace, the beauty of it all—a special closeness to God; polishing brass and silver, knowing that you are doing something beautiful for God, but something definitely a disaster for your hands!

It is returning to the sacristy for altar work after a celebration, listening to the happy roar of the coffee hour in the parish hall, the hilarity and embarrassment when a visiting priest at the offertory announces, "Will one of the fair ladies of the Altar Guild please bring us the alms basin?" and then ten women jump out of their pews and race to the sacristy (you are number five!).

You wonder during the service if you forgot something when you notice the priest sends an acolyte back to the sacristy and you hope it is only to fetch a Kleenex for the oncoming sneeze.

It is the anxiety and weariness of getting something ready for the late night Christmas Eve Eucharist and arriving a bit early to sit quietly in the church as you admire a halo of beauty around the adorned altar.

You may feel sorrow while pressing the Pall to be placed over the body of a beloved brother or sister in Christ and you sense the faithful departed is in our Lord's nearer presence. It is vesting the Chalice and praying for all who will make their communions that day. It is laying out the priest's vestments according to centuries old customs. You ask God to strengthen and help him as he looks after all who worship in this place.

One day you go into the church and find a single tiny rosebud on the altar cover—someone has been there before you with a special thanksgiving, and that thanksgiving becomes a part of you.

If you feel the call to be blessed as a part this ministry, please call Millie Salmon at 425-778-6436.

A Touch of Inner Healing— *Strongholds*

from Shirley Wilson

In the latest copy of Christian Counseling Today, there was an interesting article titled, "Generational Patterns and Strongholds," by Eric T. Scalise, Ph.D. The question is posed whether addictive problems are caused by our environment or by extended family history. We have all seen negative behavior patterns in people (maybe even ourselves). These behavior patterns can then become strongholds that are very difficult to break. The article points out, "The good news is that with God, there is the opportunity to rewrite the script and see things made new."

The author explains, "If you were a movie producer and wanted to make a movie out of an author's book, the first thing you would do is negotiate the 'right' to the story. When Peter Jackson made the Lord of the Rings trilogy, he and New Line Cinema had to come to an agreement with the Tolkien society before any filming took place. I'm sure they paid a handsome price." We have all been frustrated at times because many changes must be made to an original story to fit the movie format, and as a result the movie is never quite like the book. However, in the following example, it was a good thing that the script got changed.

As Scalise points out, "When Christ died on the cross, it was as if He negotiated the rights to our story – the cost was His life. Now, He can declare to anyone with ears to hear that He is the 'author and perfecter' of our story (Hebrews 12:2), that He can rewrite the story."

Whether we are working to change our sinful behavior patterns or to overcome destructive generational ties, the author suggests four steps to help us:

1. Recognize and Admit:
Break through denial and take personal responsibility.
- 2.
3. Clean Out the Infection: Painful or distorted emotions need to be addressed and resolved.
- 4.
5. Renew the Mind: The ability of the Word of God to give discernment clarity, direction, hope, wisdom, and changed thinking.
- 6.
7. Exercise the Will: Steps must be taken through confession, repentance, obedience, and accountability.



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



Liturgically Speaking . . .

Why are the prayers in the Book of Common Prayer called "offices?" I always thought of an office as a place where businesses do their work. I find such "church words" very interesting, indeed.

You are correct in considering an office a workplace. It was an early saint of the Church who taught that work is prayer and prayer is work and is the basis for all of the "good works" Christians are called to do. In the language of the Prayer Book, Morning and Evening Prayer is basic "works" we as a community are called to perform. Besides these two, there are other "offices" the Church is called to perform. It is from this concept that we have the word "officiant," referring to the one who is appointed to carry out the office.

—courtesy of Canon Grant S. Carey, The Cathedral Cross, Trinity Cathedral, Sacramento, CA

Calendar—December 2008



<i>Day</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
Wednesday	12/3	Newcomers Ministry/Parish Hall @ 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday	12/3	Prayer Beads/Annex @ 7:15 p.m.
Thursday	12/4	Vestry @ 7:00 p.m.
Saturdays	12/6, 13, 20	Music Rehearsals for Christmas @ 10:00 a.m.
Sundays	12/7, 14, 21	The Meaning of Christmas Music @ 9:15 a.m.
Monday	12/8	Covenant Group @ 2:00 p.m./Marjorie's home
Wednesday	12/10	Book Club/Parish Hall @ 10-11:30 a.m.
Thursday	12/11	Worship Committee/Annex @ 2:00 p.m.
Monday	12/15	Book Club/Annex @ 7-8:30 p.m.
Tuesday	12/16	ECW @ 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday	12/24	Family Eucharist @ 5:30 p.m.
Wednesday	12/24	Festive Eucharist @ 10:30 p.m.
Thursday	12/25	Holy Eucharist @ 10 a.m.
Sunday	12/28	Christmas Storytelling/Parish Hall @ 9:30 a.m.
Sunday	12/28	Lessons & Carols @ 10:30 a.m.



Upcoming Events

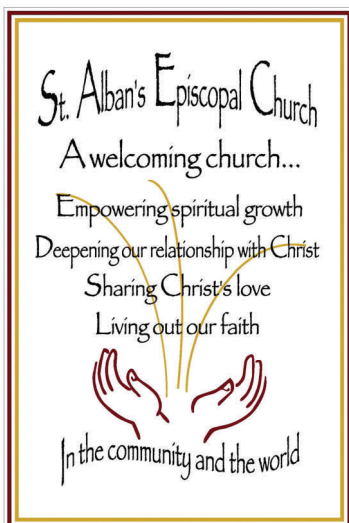
Recurring Events:

Music Rehearsal
Sundays at 9:15 a.m.

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

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

- December 7, 14 & 21: The Meaning Behind Christmas Carol Lyrics, taught by Eric Hanson @ 9:15 a.m.
- December 10: Book Club @ 10:00 a.m.
- December 12: Hands On Committee Christmas Party 7:00 p.m.
- December 15: Book Club @ 7:00 p.m.
- January 4, 11, 18, & 25: Living Our Parish Vision Statement, taught by Eric Hanson @ 9:15 a.m.
- January 8: Hands On Committee Meeting @ 7:00 p.m.
- January 18: Compass Center Dinner by Hands On Committee
- February 8: Wills Awareness Seminar @ 12-1 p.m.



Living Our Parish Vision Statement

Start the new year off with a special course on how to truly live our church vision. Eric Hanson will be offering a guided meditation on the various aspects of St. Alban's vision statement.

This is a four week course with sessions Jan. 4, 11, 18, and 25th between services from 9:15 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.

Know our church vision statement and be prepared to live it! Please contact Eric with any questions 425-743-3538.

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
 Michael Sweeney, *Interim Clerk*
 Chris Greenlaw, *Treasurer*



Staff

The Rev. John Leech, *Rector*
 Doris Eaker, *Parish Secretary*
 JoAn Andenes,
Music Director & Organist
 Joyce Carver, *Director of Children & Youth Education*
 Ben Johnson, *Youth Leader*
 Nancy Boor, *Editor, The Grapevine*
 Phil McClelland, *Webmaster*

Office Hours

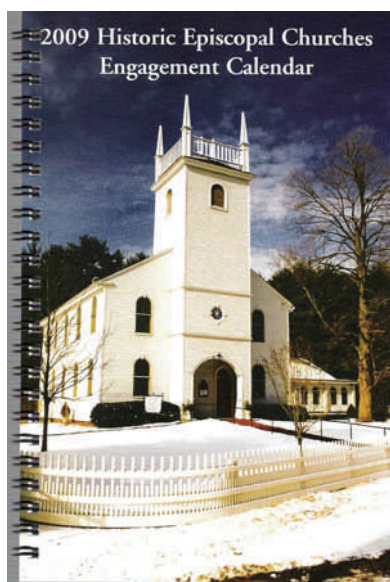
Monday & Wednesday
 8:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.
 Tuesday & Thursday
 8:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

Pilgrimage to Ireland, Scotland June 24-July 8, 2009

Led by the Rev. Carla Pryne and Tom Cashman, the itinerary of this pilgrimage will include Iona, Lindisfarne, Edinburgh, Tralee, Kildare, Dublin, Newgrange and Glendalough. This is believed to be the first Celtic pilgrimage that connects the emerging church communities of today with the sites, the spirituality and the ethos of historic Celtic monastic communities — which were the emerging church of their own era.

The group will visit a variety of emerging church communities, including more mature communities such as those of Iona and Lindisfarne.

For a complete brochure and details, contact Tom at 253-709-8414 or tomcashman@aol.com.



2009 Historic Episcopal Churches

Engagement Calendar

Publisher: National Episcopal Historians and Archivists

\$18.95

Order online or by phone (800) 803-6223

Weekdays: 9:30am - 5:30pm
 Saturday: 10:00am - 5:00pm



Grapevine Newsletter Articles for the

January 2008 Issue:

Due December 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.

The Lessons Appointed for:

<u>December 7</u>	<u>December 14</u>	<u>December 21</u>	<u>December 28</u>
Isaiah 40:1-11	Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11	2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16	Isaiah 61:10-62:3
Psalms 85:1-2, 8-13	Psalms 126	Psalms 89:1-4, 19-26	Psalms 147:13-21
2 Peter 3:8-15a	1 Thessalonians 5:16-24	Romans 16:25-27	Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7
Mark 1:1-8	John 1:6-8, 19-28	Luke 1:26-38	John 1:1-18

Giggle Box:

Adam was walking around the Garden of Eden feeling very lonely, so God asked him, "What is wrong with you?" Adam said he didn't have anyone to talk to. God said that He was going to make Adam a companion and that it would be a woman.

He said, "This person will gather food for you, cook for you, and when you discover clothing she'll wash it for you. She will always agree with every decision you make. She will bear your children and never ask you to get up in the middle of the night to take care of them. She will not nag you and will always be the first to admit she was wrong when you've had a disagreement. She will never have a headache and will freely give you love and passion whenever you need it." Adam asked God, "What will a woman like this cost?" God replied, "An arm and a leg." Then Adam asked, "What can I get for a rib?" The rest is history....



St. Alban's Episcopal Church
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