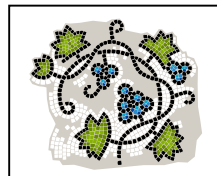


Gospel Grapevine



November 2009

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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.net
www.stalbansedmonds.org

Worship Schedule
Sundays

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I
10:00 a.m. Nursery Open
10:30 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II

After the Harvest *By The Rev. John Leech*

"It's getting warm," we said to each other. We were walking through the desert with friends. It was the middle of the morning and the temperature was rising into the 90s.

We had a drink of water. We sought the shade down in the relative cool of the arroyo. We made our way toward the food and shelter we knew were waiting for us – and the car.

It was a pleasant morning, out for a hike with friends and family. It was beautiful. It was dry and sunny. And it was getting warm.

Imagine walking through such a desert alone, or with strangers. Imagine walking across a desert, jobless and homeless, hoping for something not seen, for a place on the far side. No car waits, no friends or family, just a chance of finding a new way to live.

It happens every summer, in the Sonoran desert. People cross it, heading north, looking for a job, for food and water and shelter, and perhaps a new life. Carrying with them – not much but hope.

Imagine crossing such a desert with someone who has just been family for a little while: a relative by marriage. The two of you have dozens of miles of wilderness to cross, and you are alone in the world. You have left the known behind; there is a famine there.

You have an international border to negotiate. You hope that when you arrive in the new place – and it lies across that border – you will find a little food and water and shelter and perhaps a new life.

Their husbands were dead, and they heard the famine might be lifting over there to the west.

Naomi had said her farewells to Moab and to one of her widowed daughters-in-law, Orpah – perhaps the more sensible of the two, who stuck with what she knew.

Ruth came with Naomi. They were widows now, both of them – the older woman and the younger. They set out together to the west. Somewhere there might be a place for them – with the family Naomi had left behind years ago.

Ruth came with Naomi, offering her a love and a loyalty and faithfulness beyond what was required by any law: "Where you go I will go and where you lodge I will lodge and your people will be my people and your God will be my God."

With that passionate pledge Ruth began a spiritual journey into a new identity, as one of the people called to be the people of God.

They reached the other side – they came to the neighborhood of Bethlehem, in Judea. They came to fields of ripe grain, and a threshing floor: it was harvest time. Naomi's relatives were there – and an ending of their journey. They found, as the story continues, after the harvest, a future and a hope.

This November the calendar of the church year carries us from the feast of All Saints, —when we gather together in the presence of all the

Continued on page 2

St. Alban's Vestry

Kären Ford, *Senior Warden*

Phil McClelland, *Junior Warden*

Phyllis Becker, *Junior Warden*

Carrie Cone

John Greenlaw

Eric Hanson

Barbara Hatt

Sid Rathburn

Gaylord Sisk

Sarah Sweeney

Jeannie Wells

Shirley Wilson, *Clerk*

Staff

The Rev. John Leech, *Rector*

Lisa Coale, *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

Rector's Hours – 9 a.m to 11 a.m

Thursdays and by appointment

faithful remembering those past and anticipating those to come, and welcoming those present with us in the Eucharist, — through Ingathering Sunday to the feast of Christ the King and the Thanksgiving holiday and on to the first Sunday of Advent.

All Saints Day assures us we are among friends, the family of Christ that extends its embrace through time and space. Ingathering Sunday provides an opportunity to give our thanks for what God has given us. We rejoice together in Christ the King, proclaiming that our God reigns indeed, that he alone is sovereign. And we come to that first day of the season of anticipation, quietly but joyfully singing as we prepare the way of the Lord.

This month forms a part of the journey of the Christian year, from the hope of the coming King (past and future, in the first coming and his return in glory) to the blessings of the Nativity of our Lord and the epiphanies that herald his presence among us; from the thoughtful preparations of Candlemas (Candelaria) and Lententide to the raucous anticipations of Palm Sunday, the humble moments of Holy Week, the gift of Maundy Thursday and the crushing truth of Good Friday, and the scenes beyond dreams of Easter Day; through the revelations that follow that morning and build beyond the Ascension into the long green season after Pentecost, around again to the last days of autumn and the return of the King.

This is where we are now – and shows where we are going, from a known past and gifts we are thankful for, with family and friends (if we are so blessed) into a future with hope.

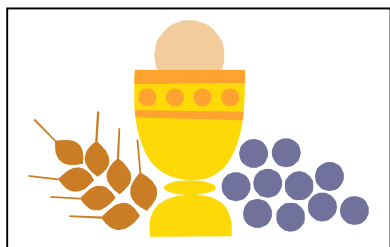
We do not always know where we are going, we are not always sure of our way, and as C. S. Lewis somewhere pointed out, the Christian faith does not give us a map but a compass.* We are not provided with a chart of what awaits us, just a directional aid.

Faith orients us toward the blessing of the presence of God. Hope assures us we are moving forward toward a future God has prepared for us. Love gives us the way to be with each other on the journey. And we know, that now in the present Christ is here among us, and in the unknown country, yet to come, he will be there to welcome us.

Let us share the welcome of Christ with each other – and those whom God brings to us, and whom we seek out in the world around us. The future beckons us, a future with hope.

May the true and living God who created all things bless us; the eternal Word of God take root in our hearts and the holy Spirit of God bear fruit in our lives. —*Fr. John*

*cf. Herbert O'Driscoll, *The Word Today*, Year B, Vol. 3 (Toronto: Anglican Book Centre, 2001) 130.



*God doesn't call the qualified,
He qualifies the called.*



If you suspect you have the flu, respect it: go into a resting mode. Now is the time to take care of yourself, as your mother taught you. Remember to drink lots of water and other fluids to keep yourself well hydrated. You should have on hand canned or frozen soups and fruit juices. Now is the time to invest in a thermometer. Just because you have a fever, it may not mean that you have the flu – but, if you develop a stiff neck, this should be seen. If you have a low-grade fever for more than two days, you should contact your doctor; if higher, no more than a day; over 104°, it is time to go to the Emergency Room or call the paramedics. If you feel you need to call the paramedics, do so. Do not feel embarrassed. They will make the call on appropriate care; it's their job. If you're under 25 do not take aspirin and do not mix analgesics such as, aspirin, Tylenol, Aleve™, etc. Have a contact person – relative, neighbor, or friend.

—Nonie Swaim, for your parish care team

How Do Prayer Ministries Work at St. Alban's?

By Sarah Leech

Prayer is a vital, unceasing part of our life together at St. Alban's. Our church's prayer ministries include: Intercessory Prayer and Prayers of the People (including the Parish Cycle of Prayer), the Prayer Chain, Hem of His Garment, Healing Eucharist, Prayer Beads and the Labyrinth. In addition, one of our members offers Inner Healing prayer through an affiliated ministry of St Alban's.

The first five ministries focus on intercessory prayer, and are the primary means for requesting prayer in our church; prayer beads and the labyrinth are vehicles for contemplation as well as intercession. Inner Healing prayer deals with the healing of hurts received, past and present and enables healing on a deep emotional level while practicing the presence of Jesus.

Intercessory Prayers and Prayers of the People

Each Sunday you will find the names of people we are praying for as a parish listed in the bulletin under one of several headings:

- *In the Parish Cycle of Prayer*
- *Serving in the Armed Forces*
- *We pray for those who are ill (or in distress)*
- *We pray for those who have died*

These lists are published so that members of the parish will be active in praying for these people throughout the week. The lists are also incorporated into the Prayers of the People we say together in church during the Sunday worship services.

If you would like the parish to pray for you or someone close to you (a co-worker, family member, close friend or neighbor), call Sheilah Reidburn at (425) 745-1390, sheilahreidburn@comcast.net *no later than Tuesday night* and ask her to include this person's name on one of the dedicated intercessory prayer lists. Tell her how long you would like the name to stay on the list; names will stay on the list for two weeks unless she is otherwise notified.

Some names stay on the list of those who are ill or in distress if they are permanently disabled or fighting a chronic or terminal illness. As there can sometimes be a great many names on that list, the permanent names may be rotated week-to-week. We customarily say prayers for someone who has died for two weeks or until after the funeral service.

If you would like prayer, but do not want to be listed in the bulletin, contact the prayer chain.

Parish Cycle of Prayer

Millie Salmon coordinates a faithful group of volunteers who pray for each member of our church on a revolving cycle. At least twice a year members get included in the group's prayers as well as listed in the bulletin under the heading "In the Parish Cycle of Prayer." For more information about this ministry, contact Millie at (425) 778-6436.

Prayer Chain

Another faithful group of volunteers prays for urgent requests that come to the prayer chain via word-of-mouth, email, or phone call. To be sure that a prayer need – as well as updates - gets communicated to the whole prayer chain,

Continued on page 4

Vestry Notes

By Kären Ford

Fr. John opened the meeting with the article written in the current "Voice" by Suffragan Bishop Nedi Rivera on Evangelism, very appropriate for the tenor of our entire meeting.

Our guest, Sarah Leech, reported on the Newcomers Committee and all the work the committee has accomplished. She shared a questionnaire for new members to help the committee prepare new member profiles for future newsletter articles. The questionnaire will also help the church database as well as planning and budgeting now and in the future.

The October Vestry meeting welcomed two new people, Eric Hanson filling an unexpired term and Susie Nichols, Treasurer.

Fr. John reported on the pastoral concerns of the parish.

The By-Laws Committee will be reporting their findings at the next Vestry meeting. By-Laws need to be voted on at an Annual Meeting and approved by the Diocese. We have looked at several types of By-Laws and we are "tweaking" what we have found to fit St Alban's community.

Susie Nichols gave the Treasurer's Report.

Carrie Cone reported that the Finance Committee has received the new software. The committee and Lisa Coale will be working on an updated Chart of Accounts. She also reported on the Stewardship program for the month of October. The In-Gathering will be November 8th.

John Greenlaw reported on the Building and Grounds Committee. Only a few people showed up for the clean-up on the 26th of September. We discussed some of the future problems facing our facility, including the roof. It appears that what we really need is

long-range planning for the facility. We will return to this discussion.

Barbara Hatt reported on the Worship Committee meeting and shared some ideas from their meeting.

Phyllis Becker reported on the Outreach Committee and we had a lively discussion on what is outreach and where should our monies be shared. This is a discussion that needs to be continued with more than just the Vestry and we will be looking at ways to include more in this discussion.

Fr. John had a short reading to end our evening and we adjourned just after 9 PM.

Continued from page 3 "Prayer Ministries"

speak to Lorrie Pruitt, coordinator (425) 778-7709. You can also call or email Margaret Ainsley (425) 640-7089, geeainsley@verizon.net or Barbara Hatt (425) 672-0761, msbarbarah@yahoo.com. Updates on answers to prayer or ongoing need are important and always appreciated. Please use good judgment about bringing requests from far afield of our parish. Extensive lists can become discouraging to intercessors with limited time to pray.

Hem of His Garment

Each Sunday during Holy Eucharist, teams of trained intercessors stand ready to pray with you in the side aisles near the front of the church. Rita Bennett coordinates Hem of His Garment, (425) 775-2965, and there are information cards in the pew about this ministry.

Healing Eucharist

Each Wednesday at 12:10 pm Fr. John celebrates Holy Eucharist and anoints people for healing.

Prayer Beads and the Labyrinth

These ministries offer rich means of prayer to our members as well as the community. For more information contact Maryellen Young, (425) 776-2461.

Inner Healing

For information about Inner Healing, contact Shirley Wilson at (206) 542-2944.

Sunday School

By Joyce Carver

In response to Sunday's gospel Mark 10:17-31 the Sunday School is gifting their "gently-loved" toys to less fortunate children. This will be coordinated with YWCA's *Pathways for Women* shelter program. The children invite the entire congregation to participate in this endeavor.

The shelter is also in need of gently used pots and pans, sets of matching dishes, silverware, and glassware as well as linens.

A container to collect these items will be placed in the narthex. The children and teachers appreciate your response.

Leave the Future to God

It has been well said that
no man ever sank under the
burden of the day.

It is
when tomorrow's burden is
added to the burden of today
that the weight is more than a
man can bear.

Never load yourself so.

If you
find yourself so loaded at
least remember this:
it is your own doing, not
God's.

He begs you
to leave the future to Him
and mind the present.

George MacDonald

(from *Food for Meditation*, compiled
by Paul Clasper, Dean, St John's
Cathedral, Hong Kong (Green Pagoda
1986).

Will You be the One to Serve?

By Kären Ford

Have you ever thought
about serving on the Vestry?
Now is the time to look at
serving St Alban's Church as we
grow. Please give prayerful
thought to standing for
election. If you have skills that
you would like to share as a
Vestry member, please see any
one currently serving.

The vestry is inviting
nominations now; elections will
be held at the annual meeting on
Sunday, December 6th.

Report from the Newcomer Ministry Team

By Sarah Leech

New Members of St. Alban's

In the past 21 months the following people have joined the parish and become active in parish life: Sid Rathburn (serves on the vestry); Nonie Swaim (serves on the Outreach Committee; Mona Carter (Editor, Gospel Grapevine); Sharon Joy (serves on pastoral care team); Markham Gregory (served on vestry), Brandon and Shannon (son & daughter, baptized here); Rob and Joy DeLettera (married here); Charles & Catherine Hagen, son Henry – Catherine serves in the Nursery

In addition, the following people have begun attending St. Alban's on some regular basis in that same time period. Richard Mosley and Arielle Salee, their four children; Michelle Tulleners and Dave Treichel, daughter Ashlynn (plus baby on the way); Christine and William Roberts, daughter Josephine.

Returned Members of St. Alban's

In that same time period, the following formerly active members have returned to active participation in parish life: Judy Flenor, Allegra and Roger Andersen, Kathy Glassburn, Leslie Phillips and Seth Ceely

Newcomers Ministry Accomplishments

Every Sunday service a greeter welcomes newcomers at the door, invites them to sign the guest register, introduces them to other parishioners and gives them a bag that contains information about St. Alban's as well as candy, a bookmark and a small packet of note cards. There is one greeter scheduled for each service each Sunday of the month. When needed, ushers act as greeters as well. The system is running smoothly.

When appropriate, greeters encourage newcomers to fill out our yellow cards with requests for follow-up. The Parish Administrator receives the yellow cards each Monday and enters it into our database. Newcomers receive a welcome letter from Fr. John within a week of their visit. We have begun inviting newcomers to events in the life of our parish. Our original plan was to send a letter at the start of summer inviting newcomers to participate in all of the events of the summer: the Show 'N Shine, Ministries Fair, VBS, St. Alban's Festival, Parish Picnic and Parish Campout. However, as the details of many of these events were uncertain – including whether or not they would actually happen – we elected not to send a letter. Instead, over the summer we phoned each newcomer household to invite them personally to the St. Alban's Festival and the Parish Picnic. (N.B. Lee McGonigle, a member of Christ Church Seattle, helped make these calls.) The calls were appreciated.

Plans for Fall 2009

We will introduce new members on All Saints Day. People who have joined the church in the last two years and wish to be introduced as new members will be recognized on Sunday, November 1st during both church services and also in the bulletin. In addition, new members, will be featured in upcoming newsletters.

We are encouraging all members of St. Alban's to introduce themselves to newcomers and make them welcome. Members of our team are going to various ministries in the church to encourage all members to notice newcomers, seek them out and introduce them to other members of the parish. The more of us who are tuned-in to the presence of newcomers, the more welcoming our parish will be.

Fr. John will begin offering "Instructed Eucharist" this fall, accomplishing this over various Sundays during regular worship.

We plan to welcome newcomers in a special way at Christmas, which is traditionally a peak time for visitors at the church.

Hands On Ministry

By Maryellen Young

Compass Center Dinner

Our Compass Center dinner was October 18th. Our Oktoberfest menu of chicken and sausage dish, scalloped potatoes and coleslaw was well received. One resident asked where St. Alban's is located and expressed an interest in coming to visit us. Thanks to the Forsbergs, Greenlaws, Wilsons and Nichols for donations of food or money. Dan Mullene, Barbara Lagozzino, Susan Bailey, Reilly Mannery and Maryellen Young were on hand to cook and serve.

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. November 21st is also the date for filling the ditty bags.

Food Bank: Our next Food Bank opportunity is Saturday, November 21st in the morning. This is always a busy, fun time with the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday. Watch for a sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall or contact Maryellen Young, 425-776-2461 or maryelleny@comcast.net if interested in participating.

Next Meeting: The next Hands On meeting will be 7p.m. Thursday, November 19, 2009 at Barbara Lagozzino's 857 Walnut, Edmonds. Everyone is welcome. Bring your ideas for possible projects or just come and participate in fellowship.

Touch of Inner Healing—'Tis the Season to be Thankful

By Shirley Wilson

Why do we have a holiday called Thanksgiving? The Senior Historian at Plymouth Plantation, James W. Baker, teaches that Thanksgiving is actually an invented tradition. He explains, "It doesn't originate in any one event. It is based on the New England puritan Thanksgiving which is a religious Thanksgiving, and the traditional harvest celebrations of England and New England and maybe other ideas like commemorating the pilgrims. All of these have been gathered together and transformed into something different from the original parts."

Whatever the origins, I believe the holiday was meant to be. No. I believe it *had* to be. As Jesus said in Luke 19:40, "I tell you that if these should keep silent, the stones would immediately cry out;" people have a need to give thanks and praise. It is the only way to come into right relationship with the Almighty. He is the only one who is "worthy to be praised" (Psalm 18:3).

There is a very helpful note in my Spirit Filled Life Bible that reads, "With our praise we are throwing the spotlight on our God who is worthy and deserves to be praised and glorified. The more we put the spotlight on Him, the more He causes us to shine. Modern medicine attests to the value of bringing a depressed person into a brightly lighted room, acknowledging that light greatly helps to heal their depression. How much more will praise introduce the light of God and bring us into the joy of the Lord."

In our family, we don't have our Thanksgiving feast on the traditional holiday. Because Dave and I are usually in Mexico at that time, we have our family get-together one or two weeks early. You would never know it, though; the food, the fellowship, the enjoyment of each family member is not any different than if we were doing it on the fourth Thursday of November. Each family brings a potluck dish to complement the delicious turkey, done by Dave in the smoker. We all find our spot at the barely large enough dining room table. Dave says his family blessing and Thanksgiving prayer. Then as tradition holds, we all proceed to eat way too much turkey and pumpkin pie. Sound familiar?

Food seems to do the trick of bringing us together, but it's the praise and thanksgiving that acknowledges God in our midst and He is worthy to be praised. Since we owe Him everything, I'm glad our founding fathers saw fit to set aside a special day and season to be thankful.



All hands on Deck!

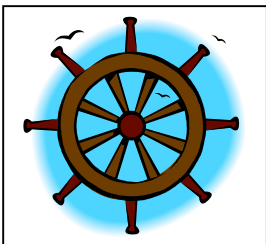
By Ben Johnson

The Mission to Seafarers needs volunteers to help stuff ditty bags for the seamen coming to Port of Seattle in December. Volunteers are needed November 21 from 10am to 1pm. This will be done at St. John the Baptist in West Seattle (3050 California Ave. SW). There is a bin in the parish hall, under the coat rack, for Mission to Seafarers donations.

We are planning a Youth Group trip around this event. Any other volunteers are welcome to tag along. We will meet at St. Alban's between 8:30-9am to carpool to St. John the Baptist. If you drive yourself, be aware that the Internet map directions are incorrect. The main key to the trip is to get to California Ave., turn right, and keep going until you get to West Seattle High School. For questions, call Ben at 206-819-2319.

DITTY BAG CONTENTS

Deodorant
Shaving Cream
Shampoo (16oz bottles)
Toothpaste (5.6-6.2oz)
Bar Soap
Disposable Razors
Toothbrushes (single packs only)
Knit or Fleece Hats
Warm Gloves (no work or ski gloves)
Small New Testaments or Gospels of John
Playing cards
Pens/Pencils/Notepads



Dear St. Albans,

After moving to Camano Island 3 years ago, we are finally making it official and becoming members of St. Aidens.

Bob and I and our family have been so blessed over the 19 years we attended St. Albans—from the very first night we moved to Washington from California. That afternoon, when we pulled in with our U-Haul truck and two small sons, I pulled out a phone book to find a church. St. Albans was the first one I found and that wonderful Lisa Coale was the one who answered and gave us directions to the church and mentioned there was a service that night. We went and were right at home with the Wednesday night group of worshippers. Over the years this church became our extended family. We continue to be blessed by your prayer commitment for our son Chris (who is still living with brain cancer and so grateful for your continued prayers for strength and healing).

This is definitely not "good-bye"—just thank you from the bottom of our hearts. God bless and we will keep you all in our prayers.

Much love,

Bob and Sue Perry

Dear St. Albans Family,

Thank you so very much for all of your kindness and generosity to me and the students at Cedar Valley Elementary! The students were very excited to see all of the supplies, and we have been using them for all kinds of projects. We were able to share them with several other classrooms too.

I also appreciate so much wonderful help in getting my classroom ready for the first day of school. It was very fun to have a group of friends working together and made it so much quicker to get those important jobs done. I am overwhelmed, blessed, and grateful to everybody for all of your loving support, donations, time, thoughts and prayers. All of those things have made it a wonderful start to the school year! Thank you!

Love,

Camille Hartley

Have You Remembered St. Alban's in Your Will or Estate Plans?

By Maryellen Young

What will your legacy be as a Christian, how will you be remembered? For many of us, our relationship with Christ is the most important thing in our lives. Leaving a gift to carry on God's work, long after you die, is an act we need to do while we are in health. As a member of the St. Alban's Legacy Society, you can give thanks for all your blessings and share God's wealth with others. By remembering your church in your will, you make your memories and your Christian values live on. By joining St. Alban's Legacy Society before May 2010, you can become a charter member. To join, just fill out the form in the brochure in the Narthex. If you have any questions, call a member of the Planned Giving Board.

Happy Birthday!



11/2 Becky Dawson
11/4 Connie Forsberg
11/5 Hazel Shaw
11/11 Doris Eaker
11/18 Susie Nichols

Episcopal Church Women (ECW)

By Connie Forsberg

Halloween was the theme of this month's Episcopal Churchwomen's meeting and potluck. A special Angel (Evie Arneson) left cute Halloween baskets full of pumpkin seeds for the ladies attending the dinner.

Lorrie Pruitt and Riley Mannery talked about their experience with listening to student readers at Cedar Valley Elementary in Lynnwood. Helke tags along and is very popular with the students. Lorrie Pruitt also discussed the "Companion/Therapy Dog" training program that she is involved with. The puppies are sent to trainers' homes for 18 months and receive a training certificate. After that time, some dogs receive additional specialty training. Baskets of snacks and food were collected to present to the new puppies and their trainers coming to town this fall. Helke was in attendance and shared her appreciation of all the snacks and love.

Susan Bailey shared her recent experience traveling to New Orleans. She brought treats and snacks that she picked up during her trip.

The November meeting will likely be a no-host luncheon at a local restaurant. Stay tuned for the date, time and location.



Newsletter Articles for December Issue: Due Nov. 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.

Turning Points

For this, much thanks:

To John Greenlaw, Phyllis Becker, Gaylord Sisk, and Jeanne Wells, who will be completing three years of dedicated service on Vestry this December.

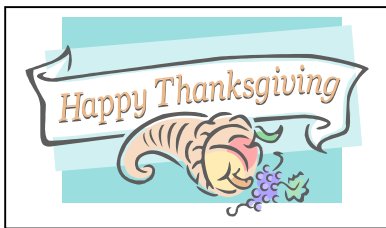
To those who donated food and volunteered to cook dinner at the Compass House

A special thank you to guest preacher and celebrant the Rev. Fred Jessett while Fr. John was away at a family reunion.

We ask God's protection:

For those living or serving in areas torn by war, civil strife, or natural disaster, those serving in the military including, David Benson, Johshua Berger, Arthur Braten, Robert Burnett, Zachary Conklin, Larry Dawson, Andrew Embury, Thomas Lee, Sok Li, Adam Matuska, Christopher Mazzeroll, Monica McCreery, John McGlocklin, Kyle Millard, Troy Miller, Derek Napier, Brian Perkins, Alex Roddy, Jonathan Springstead, Rachel Teall, and Drew Wilson.

May they know God's healing power: John Elliott, Kären Ford, Jeff Hanson, John Kistner, Sally LeBoeuf and daughter, Phil and Robin McClelland, Jeff Munsey, Chris Perry, Sid Rathburn, Jean Start, and Mike Young.



Thanksgiving

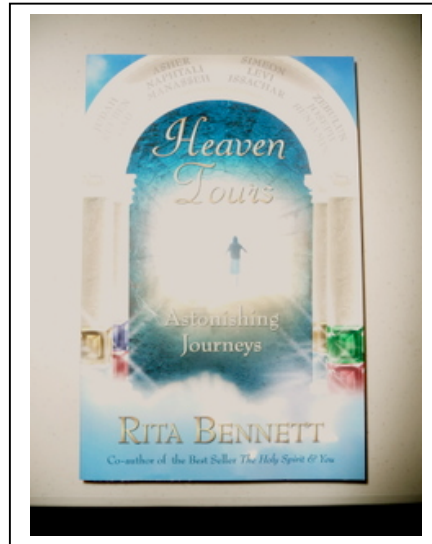
*For each new morning with its light,
For rest and shelter of the night,
For health and food,
For love and friends,
For everything Thy goodness sends.*

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

Book Signing Party

By Mona Carter

Following the 10:30 a.m. service on September 27, St. Alban's hosted a book signing party for Rita Bennett, author of *Heaven Tours – Astonishing Journeys*. The event was planned by Shirley Wilson, Director of Inner Healing Ministry at St. Alban's. Sarah Leech graciously represented her husband, Fr. John and read his affirmation of Rita Bennett's contributions to the church. A dozen or so visitors joined us for the event. There were door prizes, an array of delicious food, and fellowship. A good time was had by all.



Stewardship Pledge Time for 2010

... All things come of thee, O Lord; and of thine own have we given thee. ...

- I Chronicles 29:14

With fall upon us, I find myself looking toward the coming year. That's an academic year for some of us, like our Sunday School and like those of us that work in traditional education, or for others it is the coming of the new calendar only a few months away. The holidays begin to come into view, and the church's Vestry begins to look toward its a new fiscal year beginning. Thus, it is the time we begin to ask each of you to consider your plans for giving back to God in 2010 of the blessings He has provide you, and we begin to build a budget for the church around that.

While the fiscal part of giving is important to the functioning of the parish, it is secondary to the reason why many of us choose to give. Margaret Ainsley put it so beautifully over a decade ago—and she assures me this is still true for her—when she said:

"Money advisors always advocate "paying yourself first."
If we change this just a little to "pay God first"—
what will we gain?
I can tell you what I gain:
A peace in my heart that completely washes away
all concerns about what I shall wear,
what I shall eat, and where I shall live
for I know all that petty stuff has already been taken care of
by someone who loves me so much he was willing to die for me."
- Margaret Ainsley, Nov 1995

I agree with her. Please begin to pray about your giving for the coming year and how your giving back to God impacts your life. And watch in the coming months for additional testimonies, like this one from Margaret, as well as scripture that talks about why we should give and why we do give.

A letter from Fr. John Leech should have arrived to you by now with a pledge card. Please read it carefully and prayerfully consider your giving in 2010.

God bless you and all our church family,

**Your Stewardship Pledge Team,
Carrie Cone, Maryellen Young, and Gaylord Sisk**

Announcements

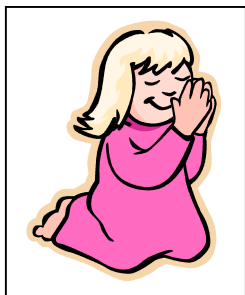
Prayer Beads – Will meet Tuesday, Nov. 3rd in the Annex at 7:15 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. Prayer Beads are available for you to try. For information contact Maryellen Young, 425-776-2461.

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.

Children in Church

One particular four-year old prayed, “And forgive us our trash baskets as we forgive those who put trash in our baskets.”



Save the Date
Saturday, January 30, 2010
for a day with Herbert O'Driscoll
at St Alban's, Edmonds
Registration - \$25 (includes lunch)

In a time of great change and shifts in perspective, to draw on the wisdom of the past as we envision and imagine and live into a hopeful future

To deepen and broaden our appreciation of our heritage as Christian peoples

To explore further into ancient sources of Christian experience and wisdom

- Come join us as we inquire:

How are we to live in a time of immense change and transition?

How have the people who came before us dealt with change in their times - and what can we learn from them?

The Rev. Herbert O'Driscoll, who has served as dean of the cathedral in Vancouver BC and as warden of the college of preachers at Washington National Cathedral, is author of "Emmanuel", "Four Days in Spring", "Prayer Among Friends", and many other titles.

Details to follow - please check these pages <http://www.ecww.org> and our website <http://www.stalbansedmonds.org> for updates

A Syncopated Song of Welcome **The Rev. Dr. Flora Wilson Bridges** **Thursday, March 4, 2010**

7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Student Center – LeRoux Conference Center, Room 160

Seattle University

RSVP Recommended

Contact: Susan Hogan, sueh@seattleu.edu or 206-296-5330

The Rev. Dr. Flora Wilson Bridges is a member of the faculty of the School of Theology and Ministry and the Spehar-Halligan Professor of Ecumenical Collaboration in Inter-Religious Dialogue. Her lecture will focus on peacemaking and reconciliation between Christians, Muslims and Jews.

St. Alban's Episcopal Church

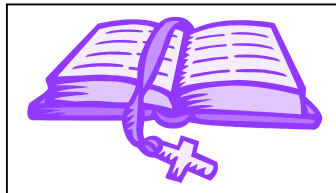
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The Lessons Appointed for Use on Sunday:



Nov. 1

Wisdom of Solomon 3:1-9
Psalm 24
Revelation 21:1-6a
John 11:32-44

Nov. 8

Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17
Psalm 127
Hebrews 9:24-28
Mark 12:38-44

Nov. 15

1 Samuel 1:4-20
1 Samuel 2:1-10
Hebrews 10:11-14, (15-18), 19-25
Mark 13:1-8

Nov 22

2 Samuel 23:1-7
Psalm 132:1-12, (13-18)
Revelation 1:4b-8
John 18:33-37

Nov. 29 8:00 am

Jeremiah 33:14-16
Psalm 25:1-10
1 Thessalonians 3:9-13
Luke 21:25-36

Nov. 29 10:30 am

Advent Lessons and Carols