

Gospel Grapevine



October 2009

From the Vestry *by Kären Ford, Senior Warden*

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St. Alban's Episcopal Church

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***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*

The September Vestry Meeting was probably the best meeting we have had in a long time. We had many issues to deal with and we made the time to make sure that everyone had an opportunity to express their point of view and concerns.

The last couple of months have been very challenging and we are trying to make the changes that will be most beneficial to the entire parish.

Sue Clary, from the Diocesan Council and the College for Congregational Development, met in July with the Vestry and we are inviting her back to continue the discussion. She made so many good points, we know we can really use her expertise to help us.

The last week of August and beginning of September were times of illness and injury for many and we want to thank Fr. Peter Snow for stepping in to fill Fr. John's shoes when he was ill.

The Finance Committee has been extremely busy. The good news is that we have been very frugal and our shortfall is not as large as anticipated but there is still a small shortfall. We are really attempting to live within our means. One issue the Committee has been looking at is updating our accounting software and our Sunday offering counting procedures. The vestry expressed its thanks for the hard work of the committee. Sarah Sweeney has developed a new counting procedure for Sunday offerings that will be put into place with the new calendar year. The committee has also found new software that is designed for parishes like ours. The cost to purchase the software, installation, training, and upkeep of this new software, compared to our current software, will show savings for the parish of well over a thousand dollars each year. The software chosen is the new standard for the Diocese and one that is very user friendly. The purchase of the new software was approved with the understanding that the Finance Committee will find the funds within the current budget. The new program will be implemented at the beginning of 2010 as will the new counting procedure.

Susie Nichols was elected to fill the Treasurer's position until the Annual Meeting, giving the Vestry additional time to find a permanent Treasurer. A professional accountant will be handling the audit of past years' accounts, as is required by the Diocese. She is doing this work for us pro bono.

The Vestry voted to approve funding the parish administrator job as a permanent, part-time position. Lisa Coale, who is serving in this capacity, has proved to be a real asset and a blessing to our parish.

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St. Alban's Vestry

Kären Ford, *Senior Warden*

Phil McClelland, *Junior Warden*

Phyllis Becker, *Junior Warden*

Carrie Cone

John Greenlaw

Mark Gregory

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*

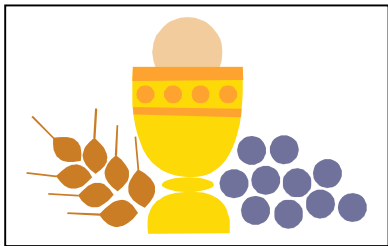
Phil McClelland, *Webmaster*

Mona Carter, *Newsletter Editor*

Office Hours

Monday through Thursday

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



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John Greenlaw reported the Kitchen Committee took the summer off but will be back looking at ways to improve the kitchen in the Parish Hall. One issue we may not be able to ignore is that our roof will need to be replaced in the very near future. The vestry will be looking at ways to finance this expense. There will be a Fall Clean-up Day; look for the flyers and signup sheets in the Parish Hall.

The Sunday School will be using a new curriculum, Seasons of the Spirit. The Adult Education class will be meeting in the Education Annex from 9:15 to 10:00 on Sunday mornings. Eric Hanson will once again be involved in leading this group. This fall we plan to study what we believe, beginning with a Bible Study on Paul's Letter to the Galatians.

The Outreach Committee has a new member, Nonie Swaim. This committee will be looking at all requests for assistance.

Eric Hanson was appointed to fill the unexpired term of Barbara McLain, who resigned from the Vestry this summer.

The Vestry voted to change its meeting day to the second Wednesday of each month, with the exception that no meeting will be held in August.

The Stewardship Campaign will begin in October, with the In-Gathering on a Sunday early in November.

Please be aware of all of the programs and opportunities that are listed in the bulletin and the Gospel Grapevine.

On a personal note, I want to thank all who have called or written or prayed while I have been out due to surgery for my arthritic shoulder. I so appreciate everyone's love and concern. The surgery was very successful and I am on the mend.

Three Special Sundays

St. Francis' Day, October 4th: Blessing of the Animals. Bring your pets to receive a blessing in return for the wonderful blessing they are to us. Gather in the courtyard outside the Sunday School wing at 9:45 am.

St. Luke's Day, October 18th: At both services we will offer special prayers with laying-on of hands and anointing, on the feast day of Luke the "Beloved Physician."

All Saints' Day, November 1st: We will welcome all members new to the church since last All Saints Day and remember the parishioners who have died in the past year.

All Saints' Day is one of the chief days in the church year for celebrating the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, Reception into the Church, and Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows.

This is a day to welcome new members of the body of Christ: Do you wish to be baptized? Are you ready to come forward and reaffirm your baptismal vows? Do you wish to be received into the Episcopal Church? Please speak with Fr John by October 11th to arrange for instruction.—*Fr. John*

Vestry Reminder and Invitation:

The next Vestry Meeting is Wednesday, October 14, 7 – 9 pm, in the Parish Hall. All are welcome! If you are approached to serve on the Vestry, please do not accept or decline immediately but really give some prayerful time to see where God needs you. St. Alban's needs you as we move forward together.

Sunday School

by Joyce Carver

Once again a new school year starts and the Sunday school begins its this year with a new curriculum, *Seasons of the Spirit*, which the teachers are excited about. It is lectionary-based, whether the lessons are from the Old or New Testament. It comes with music and art posters and activities for creative minds and fingers. The emphasis for the older child is learning how to use the Bible.

The nursery has its own set of Bible board books, posters, and music CD's.

We welcome visiting grandchildren, neighborhood children, our own St. Alban's children, of course, and any children who want a fun and loving place on Sunday morning.

The youth meet at 10 a.m. in the annex and welcome new and continuing members.

Bless the teachers and youth leaders for their continuing ministry: Shannon Duggan, Chris and John Greenlaw, Chris and Ben Johnson, Melissa Hicks, and Catharine Keesee.

We also welcome members of the parish to assist on a one-time basis in classrooms and the nursery. Come and get acquainted with our wonderful children and their families.

Pray for the Sunday school and Youth programs.



St. Alban's Fall Workday *by Lee Forsberg*

Mark your calendar now! There will be a **beautifying workshop** on Saturday, Oct. 3. The even will take place on the church grounds starting at 10:30am, and continue until your energy level has been depleted and/or until you get to the point where hunger prompts you to put down your beautifying tools. Bring your own tools as supply will probably not be fitted to your hand-size. See you all there – look forward to having fun!



Our Labyrinth—a Blessing to the Community

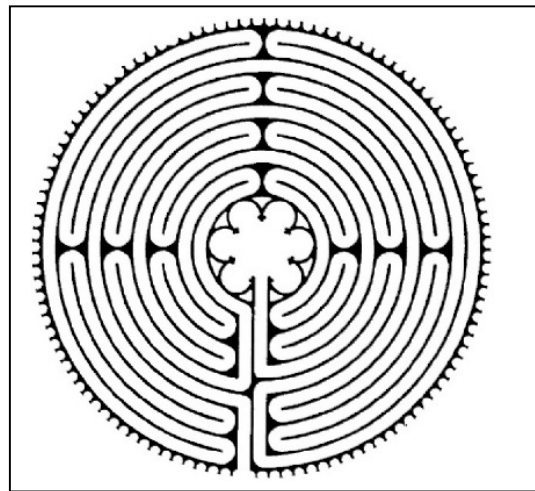
by Maryellen Young

We've recently had a couple of people sign the guest book for our labyrinth. We don't know how many people enjoy our labyrinth and don't take time to let us know. These two notes show how this space is a ministry to the outside world....what better use of a small piece of grass. Recently 15 people met at St. Alban's and started a tour of 2 other local area labyrinths with our grass labyrinth. This labyrinth is only possible due to the dedication and hard work of Lee Forsberg who diligently mows between the rows and prunes the dividers. We also appreciate Jim Nichols' service in mowing the rest of our lawn and leaving this space sacred. There still are a few more days before the cold and rains hit. If you haven't taken time to walk the labyrinth, you might want to take advantage of the opportunity to share the blessing our two visitors received.

9/13 - "It is ironic that I found out about this on Facebook although I guess it is a communication tool. I was once again struck how perfectly the labyrinth models life. I had set an intention around living my purpose and was reminded as I walked what a complicated path that is. Sometimes when we feel furthest away from our center, it is actually close at hand. It may seem that we're

lost, but there is only one path and it will always lead us home to our center if we just trust in the universe to guide us there and take the next step even if we can't see around the corner. And the peace. how little time I spend in and with silence and how blissful it is—how renewing. I asked for a message as I sat in the center and this is what I received: "There is no need for words when the heart is full and the mind is still." Thank you for creating and maintaining this space. What a blessing".....*a visitor to St. Alban's Labyrinth*

"Thanks! Peace was found here as well as a couple of answers I was needing. Maybe now the rest will come. Thanks for taking the time to create such a space, although "rustic and country", it is quiet and tranquil and wonderful".....*a visitor to St. Alban's Labyrinth*



Episcopal Church Women (ECW)

By Connie Forsberg

I'm very sorry to have cancelled the Churchwomen's dinner in September due to personal reasons. If anyone would like to step up and be in charge that would be wonderful. I have enjoyed the past nine years of being chairwoman, and the leader many years ago when we met in the daytime. At this time, I am going to alternate the months unless someone wants to take charge.

For October 20th, we will use the Halloween theme. Our dinner will be potluck. Don't forget to bring the recipe for the dish you bring. I have asked Lorrie Pruitt to provide information on the needs of her "Dog" program and ask attendees to bring the special food and snacks the dogs need. Please check the bulletin and the ECW board by the entrance to the church.

We are very blessed with our ladies and the care and love we have for each other! We will have our "angel" bringing us a surprise and other special things. The evening is open to all our ladies and friends.



Happy Birthday!

10/3 Reilly Mannery
10/8 Mary Fowler
10/13 Maryellen Young
10/16 Kären Ford
10/31 Judy Fleenor

Hands On Ministry

by Maryellen Young

Compass Center Dinner

Our next Compass Center dinner is October 18th. Chef Dan has selected an Oktoberfest menu where we'll prepare a chicken and sausage dish and scalloped potatoes. There are opportunities to donate bags of fruit (always popular), coleslaw and cider. Money donations are always welcome. We'll meet at 2 pm to cook at Edmonds Lutheran Church, 23525 84th Ave W. (come around to the side entrance to the kitchen off the street at the south end of the church). Watch for a signup sheet for donations or to help cook or serve.

Adopt-A-Resident: Thanks to Sarah Burns, Mona Carter, Marjorie Garrard, Donna Hoffman, Eric & Susan Hanson and Barbara Lagozzino for their donations to address the needs of Bill, a resident of Compass Center who will be moving to an apartment in October.

We've had many donations to help get him started in his new home.

Food Bank: On September 19th Carol Gordon, Judy Kistner, Reilly Mannery and Maryellen Young helped at the Lake City Food Bank. The 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 signup sheet in the Parish Hall or contact Maryellen Young, 425-776-2461 or maryelleny@comcast.net if interested in participating.

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

Packets to Troops: The Hands On committee is still interested in sending packets to the troops located in Afghanistan or Iraq. So far we have the names and contact information for three service people located there—Dave Benson, Adam Matuska and Drew Wilson. We have many people on our troop prayer list, but we don't have contact information for them. If you know the names of anyone that should be included in this project and have contact information for them, please call Lorrie Pruitt, 425-778-7709. Also if you have any suggestions of items to send, let us know. Watch for more information later on this project.

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

Touch of Inner Healing—They Shall See His Face

by Shirley Wilson

I saw the face of Jesus. It happened this summer on a hot August day in Sandpoint, Idaho. It was the kind of day that offered no escape from the oppressive heat unless you wanted to sit in an air-conditioned room all day. Since we were on vacation, that alternative was not an appealing one. Our friends, Dick and Marianne, came up with a better solution. Their suggestion was to take full advantage of the hot weather and go for a boat ride on the lake. Dave and I eagerly agreed.

Marianne packed up some chicken salad sandwiches and drinks and off we went, dressed in nothing more than bathing suits. Although Lake Pend Oreille is huge, when the weather is good, it is calm and warm enough to swim comfortably. We found a secluded cove to anchor our little runabout, and enjoyed relaxing in the balmy water. Life was good – especially that day, because I had seen the face of Jesus.

Our excursion started out at the Marina at City Beach in Sandpoint. We came out of the harbor and cruised south about 15 miles.

As we traveled along the coastline, I enjoyed seeing all the sights; new

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homes, old homes, beautiful landscapes, etc. Then, as we motored along the foothills of the Cabinet Mountains, a range of low hills, I looked to the left and was amazed at what I saw. It was clearly the face of Jesus, seemingly etched on one of the foothills. I kept watching to see if it would disappear, thinking it might be a figment of my imagination. But it remained as distinctive as ever for miles. Finally, I shared with Dave what I was seeing. He saw it too and took a photo. We were both amazed.

I wondered, since we were the only two to see the image clearly, was this a special message just for Dave and me? We had both just read the book, "The Shack." We were inspired by the truth the book imparted, that Jesus is always with us. Always. His face on the side of the hill, visible to us for miles, seemed to be a dramatic example of that truth. I could only praise and worship Him as I beheld His face for that long distance. Finally, I watched the image disappear as it ducked behind another foothill and was gone from my view. However, that foothill with His amazing face was still there even though I couldn't see it any longer. Jesus is likewise always here, there, and everywhere, even if we can't see Him. In Revelation 22:4 it says, "They shall see His face..." Thank you, Lord, that Your Word is true. P. S. I invite you to ask Dave to see the photo. See if you can see His face.

Newsletter Articles for October Issue:

Due Oct. 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.

Holden Village *by Maryellen Young*

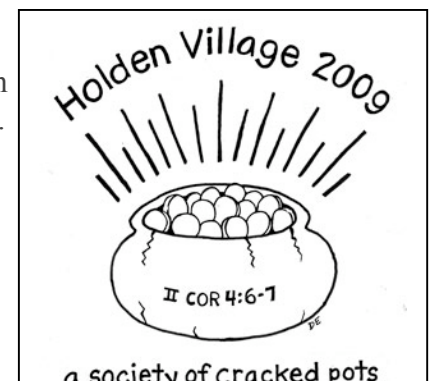
Many of us have heard about Holden Village. This year Barbara Lagozzino, Reilly Mannery and I took advantage of an opportunity to join a group from Church of the Ascension and spent a week at Holden from August 16-23.

Holder Village, located at the north end of Lake Chelan, is a center for renewal, a Lutheran ministry welcoming all people into the wilderness to be called, equipped and sent by God. While at Holden, you are invited to find your own pace and pursue your own unique renewal and interests. Summer at Holden is many-faceted. Each week notable presenters lead sessions in an array of disciplines, sparking conversation that enlivens the Village and spills down the mountain when people go out refreshed and renewed. Holden also offers programs for children and young adults, arts, crafts, music, hiking, great food, plus plenty of opportunities to volunteer. Our time at Holden was a celebration of life together in the light of God's love.

Each summer at Holden has a theme. The 2009 summer theme is from 2 Corinthians 4:6-7 "For it is the God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us." The passage reminds us that it was God who made light shine in our hearts to give us the face of God in Jesus.

One great thing about the image of "jars of clay" is that clay pots come in so many shapes and sizes, colors, textures and conditions. We celebrate the variety of vessels—jars, jugs, bottles, urns and vases—that God sees fit to bless us with. Every person who steps off the bus helps to shape the Village, and we enjoy all the color that radiates outward when the light of life shines through the cracks in our crockery.

Plans are being made to go again next year during the 3rd week of August. It's not too soon to save the date and join us.



Brian Perkins, Alex Roddy, Jonathan Springstead and Drew Wilson.

Turning Points

For this, much thanks:

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

To those who donated food items for the Food Bank and Gaylord Sisk who delivers the baskets to the Edmonds Food Bank every week.

To Evie Arneson and Marjorie Garrard for their tireless effort every Sunday for after-service snacks.

To Eric Hanson who agreed to fill the recent vacancy on the Vestry.

To Susie Nichols who agreed to serve as interim treasurer.

To Jim Nichols and his crew who assemble the monthly newsletter.

A special thank you to guest preachers and celebrants the Revs. Ralph Carskadden, George Wilson, and Peter Snow for filling in for Fr. John while he was on vacation and then under the weather. And to the Rev. Marilyn Cornwell, while he made his Cursillo.

We ask God's protection of:

those serving in the military, including David Benson, Johshua Berger, Robert Burnett, Zachary Conklin, Larry Dawson, Thomas Lee, Sok Li, Peter Lombardi, Adam Matuska, Christopher Mazzeroll, Monica McCreery, John McGlocklin, Kyle Millard, Troy Miller, Derek Napier,

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

Announcements

Fr. John's Days at St. Alban's – Sunday mornings, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. Regular office hours are Wednesdays 2-4pm and Thursdays 9-11am.

Fr. John out of town – Fr. John will attend a family reunion with his mother on October 25th. The Rev. Fred Jessett will be our celebrant & preacher that day.

Prayer Beads – Will meet Tuesday, Oct. 6th in the Annex at 7:15 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. Prayer Beads are available for you to try. If you want information about Prayer Beads, just ask Maryellen Young, 425-776-2461.

Vestry Meetings– Vestry voted to change its meeting day to the second Wednesday of each month, with the exception that no meeting will be held in August.

St. Alban's Men's Luncheon – Thursday, Oct. 22 at 11 a.m. at Family Pancake House on Hwy. 99.

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.

Alzheimer's Walk Team Thanks You! The Hatt family want to send a big thank you to everyone who donated to the Walk on Sept. 13. The total raised was over \$600! (\$560 from team sponsors, plus more than \$50 from the container in the Narthex.)

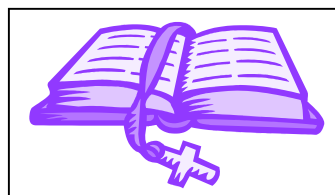
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The Lessons Appointed for Use on Sunday:



Oct. 4

Proper 22: Yr B, RCL
Job 1:1; 2:1-10
Psalm 26
Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12
Mark 10:2-16

Oct. 11

Proper 23: Yr B, RCL
Job 23:1-9, 16-17
Psalm 22:1-15
Hebrews 4:12-16
Mark 10:17-31

Oct. 18

Proper 24: Yr B, RCL
Job 38:1-7, (34-41)
Psalm 104:1-9, 25, 37c
Hebrews 5:1-10
Mark 10:35-45

Oct. 25

Proper 25: Yr B, RCL
Job 42:1-6, 10-17
Psalm 34:1-8, (19-22)
Hebrews 7:23-28
Mark 10:46-52