

Gospel Grapevine



September 2009

What's Inside:

Canon Carey	3
Hands on Ministry	4
Touch of Inner Healing	5
Announcements	7
Readings	8



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 Communion, Rite I

10:00 a.m. Nursery Open

10:30 a.m. Sunday School

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

The Meeting Tree *by The Rev. John Leech*

Traditional cultures around the world speak of the meeting tree. African tradition includes the meeting tree – as does Native American tradition. In one place the people gather under the baobab tree, in the other they meet beneath the Council Oak.

Under the sheltering branches of the meeting tree the people gather to tell the stories that build their common life and to talk about the business of the community, about who they are and what they are called to be.

In America in places like South Bend, Indiana, the tree is the Council Oak. In 1681, under the shade of a great oak tree, the French explorer La Salle held a council with Indian leaders, which led to the Miami Treaties.

For nearly three centuries, a Council Oak tree stood near the Little Niagara Creek in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. The large tree served as a shelter, marker and gathering place for generations of Native Americans who lived in the area. During the 20th century university students met and studied under the branches of the grand old tree.

In Africa is kept the tradition of the meeting tree, a baobab tree, under whose capacious branches the village gathers to meet, trade, teach, and talk with one another. There they discuss community matters, relate the news of the day, or tell stories, thus the expression ‘under the baobab tree’. Children grow up to recall evenings spent listening to storytellers with their families, gathered under the baobab tree, illuminated in the glow of the moon.

This is the place the community gathers, the tree, the focus – or rallying point – around which they gather. It is there under the tree that the community is unified, in conversation around significant issues, in confrontation sometimes, finally in concurrence about what really matters.

What kind of tree does our community gather under? The answer is easy to obtain and yet difficult to accept.

The tree we gather under is the tree upon which Jesus hung: we gather at the foot of the cross, with his mother, and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene; with his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her.

Continued on page 2

Continued from page 1

St. Alban's Vestry

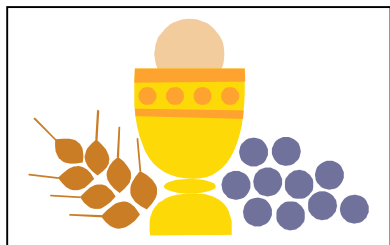
Kären Ford, *Senior Warden*
Phil McClelland, *Junior Warden*
Phyllis Becker, *Junior Warden*
Carrie Cone
John Greenlaw
Mark Gregory
Barbara Hatt
Sid Rathburn
Gaylord Sisk
Sarah Sweeney
Jeannie Wells
Shirley Wilson, *Clerk*

Staff

The Rev. John Leech, *Rector*
Lisa Coale, *Interim Parish Administrator*
JoAn Andenes, *Music Director & Organist*
Joyce Carver, *Director of Children's Education*
Ben Johnson, *Youth Leader*
Phil McClelland, *Webmaster*
Mona Carter, *Newsletter Editor*

Office Hours

Monday through Thursday
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon



That is where we gather. Whatever else we are, wherever else we might be, wherever we go, we end up here. At the feet of Jesus— as he hangs on the tree of Calvary, the cross, crucified.

The Son of Man— the Human One, as Walter Wink calls him; the representative of all humanity— and the Son of God: that is the one who gathers us, that is the one who calls us together. It is at his feet, acknowledging our common humanity and our common need, that we find ourselves together in community, and alone, each of us, where all that we have, all we have done and all that we are, is laid down like an unwanted burden, to rest.

It is at the foot of the cross that we discover our common humanity and our uncommon salvation, our despair and our hope. We find there peace, grief, and grace— at last. We find our true calling. And we find it together, made one in Christ.

—Fr. John

Collect for Holy Cross Day

Almighty God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ was lifted high upon the cross that he might draw the whole world to himself: Mercifully grant that we, who glory in the mystery of our redemption, may have grace to take up our cross and follow him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

Prayer for Mission

Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace: So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your Name. **Amen.**

Prayer for our own Reshaping

All: O Christ, the master carpenter, who at the last, through wood and nails, purchased our whole salvation, wield well your tools in the workshop of your world, so that we who come rough-hewn to your bench may here be fashioned to a truer beauty of your hand. We ask it for your own name's sake. AMEN.

On July 22, 2009, the Very Rev. Victor Atta-Baffoe, Canon Theologian of the Anglican Diocese of Cape Coast, Ghana, came to St. Mark's Cathedral to discuss the Anglican Communion, where we are in the Anglican covenant process, and what we are called to be as a global church. He reminded us where we all meet: at the foot of the cross.

The collect for Holy Cross Day was written by the Rev. Dr. Massey H. Shepherd, Jr., for the Book of Common Prayer (1979). The prayer for Mission is found in Morning Prayer. The prayer for our own reshaping is from the prayers of the Iona Community.

Sunday School

By Joyce Carver

Families of Sunday School age children and youth mark your calendars! We begin our programs September 13th at 10:30 a.m. The teachers and youth leaders look forward to having another productive and fun year learning about God and Jesus' love for us through stories (taken from the Gospel), art, drama, and play. This will be a lectionary based curriculum for the Sunday school age.

Nursery age children are supervised and cared for lovingly. Remember, children join their families in the service prior to the Eucharist.

We ask the congregation for prayers and assistance throughout the year. It *does* take a whole church to raise our children.



What it Means to be an Anglican Today

By The Rev. Grant S. Carey

One expression sometimes used to describe Anglicans is "a peculiar people" in the sense that we are not easy to define. Are we protestant or catholic? Are we evangelical or liberal or conservative? It is difficult for people who are not involved in the life of an Anglican Church Community to comprehend exactly where and who we are because, in a sense, we are all of the above.

The Protestant Reformation that rocked the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries affected the Church in England but didn't define it. The English Church does not trace its origin to Henry VIII but to the first missionaries to Britain early in the Second Century. There is evidence that Christian communities were founded in Southern Britain by tin traders from the Middle East, perhaps from Palestine itself. Later, the Faith was practiced by some of the Roman colonists who inhabited the island until the Fifth Century.

It was from Britain that Patrick, a young Christian, was captured and sold as a slave in Ireland and who, years later, played a key role in the Christianization of that land.

In the Seventh Century, the Church in Britain accepted the authority of Rome and its benefits in unifying the Church, but in later years, the Papacy became a burden, and during the reign of Henry VIII, for political reasons, the Church in England declared itself to be independent of foreign bishops.

While little seemed to change at first (the Mass was still in Latin, and the same bishops and priests continued in office) after Henry's death "The English Reformation" began with the creation of the first Book of Common Prayer in the year 1549. It was this book and its successors that defined the Anglican spirit or "ethos" which has prevailed throughout the subsequent periods of political and religious unrest. Elizabeth I steered a course of moderation which characterizes Anglicanism today -- "The Via Media" -- or "The Middle Way."

Extremism, whether catholic or protestant, was not condoned; there were to be no binding formularies except the historic Creeds as recited from the Prayer Book. And there were to be "No windows into men's souls."

As the Anglican Church developed and grew in England (even when suppressed by the Puritan Civil War led by Oliver Cromwell), the church's theological position was one of openness, its theology shaped by common prayer rather than by rigid confessions or pronouncements.

When the English Nation became an Empire, so did the Anglican Church spread, first to the American Colonies and the West Indies, then into such far away places as India, Australia and Africa, becoming what today is known as "The Anglican Communion" - - indigenous churches comprising more than 70 million people of all races and colors and languages.

What holds us together under the leadership of the Archbishop of Canterbury is our common prayer and worship and a willingness to be "a peculiar people" in the world -- both catholic and protestant, conservative and liberal, and, most of all, open to the work of God's Holy Spirit.

From Canon Carey's Corner (www.trinitycathedral.org) used with permission

Compass Center Adopt-A-Resident

By Barbara Lagozzino

The Hands On Ministry has decided to participate in the Compass Center's Adopt-A-Resident program. In August, we were introduced to our first adoptee, a gentleman named Bill. In October, Bill will be transitioning from the Center to his own apartment. In our adoption of Bill, we have committed to gathering household items for his new residence. As you can imagine the needs of setting up an apartment are awesome. This is a wonderful opportunity to put feet under our call to "Feed My Sheep" as well as "Love Thy Neighbor". We are asking you to help with donating some of the items needed.

The following is a "Wish List" from Bill: Cookware set and cooking utensils, dishes and glasses, eating utensils, bath towels, bed linens, Microwave, plastic food storage containers, iron, ironing board, vacuum cleaner, broom and dustpan, etc.

It would be fun to add something nice to hang on the wall and maybe a few knick knacks. Let's help Bill make his new dwelling place comfortable and homey. Remember, any of the items can be gently used and of course, in working condition. Money donations are also welcome and will be used toward the purchase of a microwave or needed items not donated.

All items will be collected by the first of October. Mark your calendars, you don't want to miss being a part of this mission. You can contact Barb Lagozzino at 425-774-9265 or Blagoz1@aol.com for pick-up and delivery information.



Hands On Ministry *by Maryellen Young*

Compass Center Dinner: On August 2nd, a chicken dinner was served at the Compass Center. Contributions from the Forsbergs and Mary Fowler were helpful for paying for the chicken. Salads were donated by Judy Fleenor, Judy Kistner, Susie Nichols and Maryellen Young. Susan Hanson joined Dan Mullene, Barbara Lagozzino and Lorrie Pruitt in helping serve at the Compass Center. The next dinner is planned for October 18th. Watch for opportunities to assist when Chef Dan sets the menu.

Back-to-School Supplies: Thanks to everyone who donated school supplies for Cedar Valley Community School and Camille Hartley's classroom. We had quite a collection to provide for teachers like Camille to share with students who are unable to provide their own supplies. A small group of us had fun helping prepare classrooms for the start of school.

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

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.

Next Meeting: The next Hands On meeting will be Thursday, September 17, 2009 at Barbara Lagozzino's 857 Walnut, Edmonds. All are welcome to join the meeting. Bring your ideas for potential projects or just come and participate in our fellowship.

NOLA mission trip October 4-11, 2009

The Diocese of Olympia is organizing another one-week mission volunteer work trip to New Orleans, staying at the Urban Ministry Center. Cost: \$250/person, which covers housing, meals shared at the center and the rental of vans to get us to and from the airport as well as the work sites. Each individual is responsible for making and paying for their own flights or travel to New Orleans.

To reserve your spot, please send either \$100 deposit or the full \$250 registration fee made out to "Diocese of Olympia" to: NOLA Mission Trip, P.O. Box 12126, Seattle, WA 98102. We will hold your spot, first come, first served. Please also send your e-mail contact information, name/address, and home and cell phone> Introduction and complete information for volunteers is available at <http://odr.edola.org>; it is recommended you look at this website before you decide whether to join the trip. Much more information is available by contacting Kathy Hamilton at khamilton@ecww.org or 206-325-4200/800-488-4978, ext.2032.



Touch of Inner Healing—Call to Me, and I Will Answer You *By Shirley Wilson*

We were experiencing one of those extremely hot July days recently, that both blessed us and caused us to wilt like tender flowers in the blaring sun. Those of us who live in this part of the country have been programmed not to complain about high temperatures, since we see the sun so seldom. Therefore, we try to be grateful and count nice days as blessings. However, after a couple weeks of over 90- 100+ degree weather, Dave and I were ready to say, "Enough!" On this particular day, by early evening, we were pretty wilted and in need of some relief. We had just purchased a new (to us that is) motorhome. At 27 feet, it is two feet longer than our old one, with a pop-out, giving us much needed space for traveling more comfortably. It has another benefit that was especially inviting that evening, AIR CONDITIONING. When Dave suggested we go out and sit in our newly acquired motorhome for awhile I readily agreed. There was instant relief. We quickly fell into the comfort offered by this fully-equipped home on wheels, and began to talk.

We shared our enthusiasm about our new purchase. But it wasn't all happy talk. Dave was very concerned about selling our old motorhome. He had put it on Craig's List a week earlier and had not received one call. He was beginning to worry, "Would it ever sell? Had we misjudged God's guidance?" I could see that he was becoming depressed about the whole thing so I made a suggestion, "Let's pray about it." We held hands and began to pray, "Heavenly Father, we want Your will only. We believed You were guiding us when we found this wonderful motorhome at such a good value. Now we pray that You will send just the right buyer for our old one; someone who will be just as thrilled as we are, at their good fortune. We thank You and praise You for all that You're going to do. In Jesus Name. Amen."

The instant we said "Amen", Dave's cell phone rang. You guessed it, it was someone calling about our add on Craig's List. Dave was so overcome with emotion, he couldn't talk. He asked the caller if he could call back a little later. Then we both laughed and cried at the same time in amazement at how awesome God is. We were reminded of the verse, "Call to Me, and I will answer you..." (Jeremiah 33:3). His Word is true. We just need to trust Him.

*We don't change the message,
The message changes us.*



Prayer Beads—To Donate to U.S. Troops

On October 8, 2009 starting at 9:30 a.m. a session will be held in the Parish Hall to learn about prayer beads and make a set. These prayer beads will be donated to Troops or can be made for yourself.

The January 2009 Episcopal Life had an article about a couple in McLean VA and a cadre of volunteers who have sent 3500 prayer beads to U.S. troops serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. This effort is part of the ministry On Beads of Prayer, an international ministry created at St. Alban's Parish in the Episcopal Diocese of Washington in the summer of 2005. There is a website with more information on this ministry as well as the opportunity to purchase prayer beads and jewelry (to support the ministry) or kits for making prayer beads for the troops at <http://www.onbeadsofprayer.org>

Maryellen Young has been in contact with the founder, Didi Smith to understand the requirements and to confirm that we can send beads we make to them for distribution to military chaplains. The cost for making beads for yourself is \$20. Donations are accepted to pay for the beads to be sent to the troops. For those who made the beads several years ago when Hisako

Beasley came to St. Alban's, you'll be happy to know that the technology has evolved and we are no longer using string or tying knots. Spacer beads have replaced the knots and wire has replaced the string so the effort is much easier.

Registration is required to ensure that we have enough sets of beads available for all who want to participate. Contact Maryellen Young at 435-776-2461 or maryelleny@comcast.net to register or for more information. Watch for a signup sheet in the Parish Hall.

Episcopal Church Women (ECW)

By Connie Forsberg

Get your favorite recipes ready for the September 15th church women's dinner! Bring your favorite food and stories from your summer travels to share. Doors open at 6:00 pm and dinner will be served at 6:45 pm. Be sure and bring photos and special treasures that you purchased. There will be a sign-up sheet for the 2010 ECW board.



Happy Birthday!

9/1 Melissa Hicks
9/6 Barbara Lagozzino
9/9 Elizabeth Eknes
9/19 Carol Hicks
9/26 Marjorie Garrard

Newsletter Articles for October Issue: Due Sept. 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:

Those who donated back-to-school supplies for Cedar Valley Community School and helped with classroom set-up;

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

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

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

A temporary farewell:

To Emily Bee and Miranda Timonen as they head back to college.

We ask God's protection of:

those serving in the military, including Doug Baer, David Benson, Robert Burnett, Zachary Conklin, Larry Dawson, Thomas Lee, Sok Li, Peter Lombardi, Christopher Mazzeroll, Monica McCreery, John McGlocklin, Kyle Millard, Derek Napier, Brian Perkins, Jonathan Springstead, and Joshua Berger.

May they rest in peace:

Ruth Guyot died on August 2. She had been a long time member of St. Alban's Church.

Announcements

Morning Book Club – The next meeting of the “Page Turners” will be at 11:00 a.m. on September 16. The current book read is *The Faith Club*, a book by three women, a Muslim, a Christian and a Jew, written in the wake of 9/11. Everyone is welcome to join the group.

Calling All Bridge Players – Anyone interested in playing bridge, call Hazel Shaw, 425-787-5191. She will make arrangements for play times.

Prayer Beads - Starting in September, Prayer Beads will begin meeting on the first Tuesday of the month instead of the first Wednesday. Prayer Beads are available for you to try. We meet in the Annex at 7:15 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. If you want information about Prayer Beads, just ask Maryellen Young, 425-776-2461

Author in Our Midst - St. Alban's will be hosting a special event on September 27th after the 10:30 service (12:00-1:00 p.m.). Rita Bennett's newest book, “Heaven Tours” will be introduced and celebrated. This book includes true and inspiring stories of people who have been touched by Heaven. It is an astonishing journey into truth and includes an amazing collection of illustrations inspired by the Bible. Hope you will decide to come join us for this special event. Together, we will get a glimpse of this amazing place God has prepared for us, where we will be spending eternity. For more information, please contact Shirley Wilson at 206-542-2944 or wilsaw@hotmail.com.

The Rev. Herbert O'Driscoll leads a seminar on preaching in Year C

“Burning Bushes, Sweet Wells, Rich Feasts”; Monday, Sept. 28, 2009 9:30 am-3 pm; St. Andrews Episcopal Church, 111 NE 80th St., Seattle 98115.

Herbert O'Driscoll, himself a master homilist, will guide clergy, and others who have a preaching ministry, in working with the lections of Year C. He will preface the day with a reflection on the homiletical task in today's culture. The seminar will focus particularly on Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany texts. Registration fee, including lunch, \$40 by September 21; \$50 after. Register By contacting thecenter@saintandrewsseattle.org or calling 206-517-3938. Sponsored by The Center at St. Andrew's and the Clergy Association of the Diocese of Olympia.

Herbert O'Driscoll will be teaching in Edmonds January 29-30, 2010.

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.

St. Alban's Episcopal Church

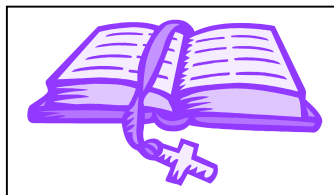
21405 82nd Place West
Edmonds, WA 98026

**NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 1003
LYNNWOOD, WA**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

The Lessons Appointed for Use on Sunday:



Sept. 6

Proper 18: Yr B, RCL

Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23
Psalm 125
James 2:1-10, (11-13), 14-17
Mark 7:24-37

Sept. 13

Proper 19: Yr B, RCL

Proverbs 1:20-33
Psalm 19
James 3:1-12
Mark 8:27-38

Sept 20

Proper 20: Yr B, RCL

Proverbs 31:10-31
Psalm 1
James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a
Mark 9:30-37

Sept. 27

Proper 21: Yr B, RCL

Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22
Psalm 124
James 5:13-20
Mark 9:38-50