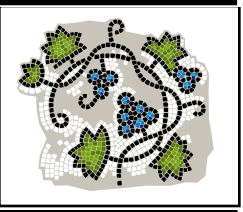




Gospel Grapevine

I am the vine, you are the branches. John 15:5



December 2011

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Getting Ready for the Baby *By the Rev. John Leech*

This is the season of Advent – a season of joyful preparation and solemn anticipation. We know that the Child will come – but the season begins with portents of the end of time.

We know that at the end of all things, when the constructions of the last empire are down for good and all creation groans for redemption, our savior comes. He comes to judge and he comes to redeem.

He comes, not on our timetable, not when or where we want him to come, nor how. He does not come riding to our rescue in the last reel of the movie. Much as we want him to.

He comes to us, first, not in power and might, but in mystery and quiet.

He comes to us, he is already here.

Here, in our hearts – if we follow the one true God, adoring and worshipping him who created all things.

Here, in our hearts – if we ask him to come.

If we are ready.

On my mother's kitchen bulletin board is a snapshot of a mother with three children, one standing and looking toward the camera, one squirming out of her lap, and another holding in his hand a cowboy hat on top of a stick. Why?

Because this is to be a photograph of my mother with all her children – and the one with the hat knows a fourth child is coming. So he represents the fourth child with a cowboy hat. He does not know much else about the coming child – he just knows that the child is coming and that the family is getting ready for the baby.

The family with the snapshot (you can see Dad's shadow from behind the camera) knows they want their new member to be safe, and they want to get the stuff together they will need to welcome the baby. They are getting excited.

Maybe they will paint the baby's room – not sure whether to paint it pink or blue they might paint it yellow or green. They are going to be getting gifts – things they will need to take care of the baby, things that will be fun or silly, toys for the baby to play with, or objects that it will admire.

They will want to nurture the baby. And they will be thinking about names.

Mary and Joseph had a slightly different situation. They knew some things about the baby that was on the way. In fact, a lot, if they had been reading the Hebrew Scriptures.

Continued on page 2



**St. Alban's
Episcopal Church**

21405 82nd Place W
Edmonds, WA 98026
Phone: 425-778-0371
Fax: 425-778-1583

Email: stalbansedmonds@gmail.com
www.stalbansedmonds.org

**Worship Schedule
Sundays**

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I
9:15 a.m. Adult Education
10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II
10:30 a.m. Sunday School

Children are welcome at all services;
childcare is available during the
10:30 service.

St. Alban's Vestry

Karen Cresse, *People's Warden*
Kären Ford, *Rector's Warden*
Eric Hanson
Barbara Hatt
Keith Oles
Sarah Sweeney
Patty Timonen
Morrie Tugby
Shirley Wilson, *People's Warden*
Susie Nichols, *Treasurer*
Judy Kistner, *Clerk*

Delegate to Convention 2010-11
Emily Bee

Alternate 2011-2012
Kären Ford

Staff

The Rev. John Leech, *Rector*
Lisa Coale, *Parish Administrator*
JoAn Andenes, *Music Director*
& *Organist*
Kendra Long, *Sunday School*
Director
Ben Johnson, *Youth Leader &*
Webmaster
Mona Carter, *Newsletter Editor*

Office Hours

Monday through Thursday
9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.;
2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Fr. John's cell - 425-244-0067

Continued from page 1

They had already received a suggestion of what to name the baby – Emmanuel, “God with us.” They probably counted on a boy. They certainly wondered if the baby would be safe. And if they had any ambitions about painting the baby’s room first they would need to know where that room would be.

They were soon to be amazed with an array of gifts. Gifts were coming that would tell them a lot about their baby – or confirm for them what they already suspected.

Strangers would deliver the gifts they were going to receive: first came shepherds and angels, and then Magi, wise people from the East who had “seen his star.” (Other visitors would come but they would come too late – and miss the baby.)

This baby was bound to cause excitement. All babies do. And each baby is special. This one had some extra excitement to generate.

The wise people came to adore him. They greeted him as King of the Jews.

Nobody else would call him that for a long time. And when anybody did again, it would be – a sign that he was not safe, and confirmation that his name really mattered and that he really was King.

But for now – there is a baby on the way.

A baby – not very royal looking at all. A baby – defenseless, quiet or crying, in need of nurture and safety and warmth, and in need of love.

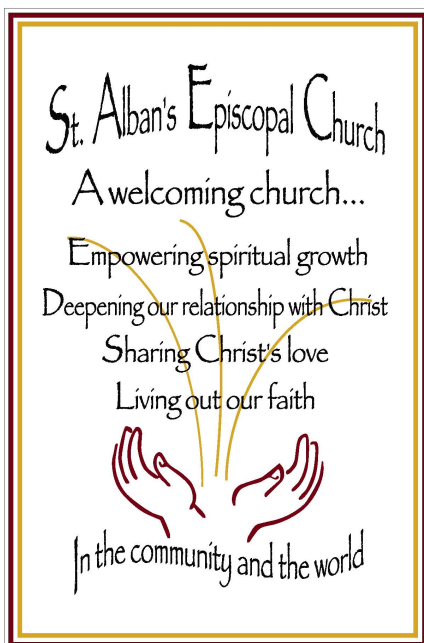
A baby – in whom the hopes of all humanity are raised.

A baby...

The One who will come in power, the one who will bring with him the consummation of time – the Alpha and the Omega – first comes to us like this.

He comes to us, quiet, mysterious, in longing for us just as we are longing for him.

How shall we get ready for the baby?



Parish Care Team

By Shirley Wilson

The Parish Care Team met on October 20th. Many people have been visited, sent cards, or prayed for. It was reported by Mary Ellen Gardiner that 73% of St. Alban's people have email. In an emergency situation, that is how parishioners will be contacted. Those who don't have email will be called on the telephone unless they do not want to be on the list.

Don't forget Stir Up Sunday, December 11th, the third Sunday in Advent. On that Sunday people will be asked to sit in a different place than they usually sit. The purpose is to promote enthusiasm and foster relationships.

Next meeting will be January 5, 2012 at 7 p.m. in the parish hall. All are welcome to join us. Shirley will report on the Care Conference she attended at Shoreline Community Church. The conference provided tools that equip people to respond effectively when providing care for others.

If you have a need, or know of someone who does, please contact Shirley Wilson or Mary Ellen Gardiner.



The sounds of Christmas songs
Echoes through my mind
And brings much joy to my heart
As I sing those happy rhymes
But so much more than that
I think of God's great gift
Of sending Jesus Christ a babe
To heal and to forgive
So as we sing with joyful hearts
Let's think of Jesus Christ
And how He came that first
Christmas
To give to us new life

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Life in the Body of Christ* - Time and Chance

By Shirley Wilson

We rush to get to places on time. We don't like to be late, but sometimes it's unavoidable. And sometimes arriving late can be life saving. That was the case for members of two St. Alban's families when they attended the Reno Air Races on September 16, 2011. Here are their stories:

Kenneth Hicks served in Viet Nam with the Air Force, and is retiring from Boeing as an Aircraft Engineer at the end of this year. Needless to say he enjoys airplanes and his family shares his interest. Ken and Carol, along with their daughter Melissa, were looking forward to a warm beautiful day in Reno with their flying friends. They would be sitting in special box seats where they would be able to see every loop, roll, and maneuver of the old World War II era aircraft. However, life intervened. As a result, they were running late that afternoon. They decided that it would be too late to see the whole race so they decided to change their plans. That's when a friend from Lynnwood phoned and told them that there had been a horrible accident. A P-51 Mustang had crashed into the grandstands. It nosedived into the very box seat area where the Hicks family would have been sitting had they been on time. Melissa expressed it this way: "Now I understand how it was for the people who went to get coffee just before 911."

Tex and Millie Salmon's son, Michael, has a similar story. He grew up at St. Alban's and later taught school in Puyallup, but his real love was flying. He became a pilot, built his own airplane and learned aerobatics. After retirement he started teaching Special Education classes. He now volunteers at Fly-In's, allowing special needs kids to experience the fun of flying. Michael, too, would have been in a special box seat with his pilot friends who had invited him to Reno as their guest. But the group was delayed and while they were at lunch the crash happened.

This was the first accident at the Reno Air Races that involved spectators. A total of 11 died and 74 were injured. It is still to be determined whether the races will continue in future years. We are so happy that Michael and the Hicks family came home to us safely, but they all lost good friends. The vintage planes fly at high speeds and undergo tremendous stress; however, the pilots understand the risks they take for the love of flying.

I don't know why some were spared while others were lost at Reno this year. We never know what tomorrow will bring. It's been said that we should live each day as though it were our last and to keep a short account of wrongs. It says in Ecclesiastes 9:11-12, "...Time and chance happen to them all. For man also does not know his time." Every day, every minute, every breath truly is a gift from God. Let's praise Him for the gift of life.

** If one member suffers, all suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice (I Corinthians 12:26).*

Newsletter Articles for Next Issue-Due Dec. 10th

Send articles and photos via email to Mona Carter at mikenmona2@comcast.net. Be sure they have a .doc extension on the file for text files. Or, place hard copy 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. Please include your name and contact information.

ECW Birthdays December

12/08 Joyce Carver
 12/08 Claudia Walker
 12/09 Phyllis Becker
 12/11 Cheryl Healy
 12/14 Mary Ellen Gardiner



Pastoral Visits

Would you like a visit from your priest? Please do not hesitate to contact me directly. My cell phone number is 425-244-0067. If I am talking with someone else or in a service or meeting I may not be able to answer immediately. Just leave a message and I will call you back as soon as I am able.

You may also call the office at 425-778-0371. —Fr. John

P.S. Hospitalized? Ask the chaplain to let me know

It is the festive season
 To celebrate Christ's birth
 To rejoice in knowing He came
 Bringing peace throughout
 the earth
 He came a tiny baby
 Then grew to be a man
 The saviour of the world
 With healing in His hands
 So celebrate this season
 With joy and expectation
 For Jesus is so worthy
 Of our praise and adoration

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Treasurer's Report *By Susie Nichols*

(as of October 31, 2011)



	Oct. 2011	Oct. 2010
Income	\$18,264.32	\$ 17,101.27
Expenses	\$17,748.46	\$ 19,021.32
Difference	\$ 515.86	-\$ 1,920.05
Income YTD	\$140,786.00	\$137,848.12
Expenses YTD	\$162,768.33	\$154,353.49
Difference	-\$21,982.33	-\$16,505.37

The Rummage Sale earned a little over \$2,000. A special thanks to Morrie Tugby for all his work on organizing this event.

I will be retiring as Treasurer as of the annual meeting on December 4th. Should you have any questions regarding finances after that date, feel free to contact Lisa Coale at the church office.

Go Fish! *By Kendra Long*

The children of the Sunday School will be leading the congregation in their Advent giving with a project through World Concern that provides fish. Lots of fish. For \$65, they can stock a pond with 2,000 fish fingerlings, giving struggling families an ongoing protein source and way to make an income. Fish farms employ many people and are highly sustainable.

The children will be making posters and offering baked goods for sale to help raise money for this project, and there will be a church-wide offering on December 18.



Left: Fish gathering in Bangladesh.
 Below: Fish fingerlings.
 Photos provided courtesy of World Concern.



Vestry Notes

By Kären Ford, Senior Warden

The Vestry met in the Annex on Tuesday, November 8. After dispensing with the minutes and agenda, Maryellen Young made a presentation on Year Round Stewardship, similar to the one she presented at Annual Convention in October. The presentation helped the Vestry see how everything we do as a parish and in our everyday lives is a reflection on our stewardship of all that God has given us.

The current Stewardship Committee has been using the template during the last few months. The goal has been to make parishioners aware of the emphasis on a single concept and show how we at St Alban's celebrate the stewards of our gifts. During the month of November the focus has been "Thanksgiving." December will be "Sharing" and January will be "Light." Maryellen shared several ways other parishes have used the template to keep their parishioners informed and involved. In the coming months you will be hearing more about Year Round Stewardship.

Susie Nichols, Treasurer, reported that as of Sunday, November 6, a total of 54 pledges have been received. If you have not submitted your Pledge Card, please send it to the church office. The Finance Committee needs to have the most up to date information so the 2012 Budget is as accurate as possible.

Fr John reported that he attended a Clergy Training Day in Everett where the clergy learned more about working with adult survivors of childhood abuse.

The Southern Snohomish County Ministerial Association helped to organize the Concern for Neighbors Food Bank, based in Mountlake Terrace. This group works with our neighbors in need in the Edmonds School District.

Morrie Tugby was given accolades for all the work he and the 35 volunteers accomplished at the "Out of the Garage" Sale. We all agreed it was a success and as an added bonus we got to meet many of our neighbors. The sale raised \$2,016.61 after expenses of about \$45.00.

Shirley Wilson reported on a workshop she attended on End of Life issues for the Parish Care Team. She was impressed with the content of the workshop and plans to share the information with the rest of the team.

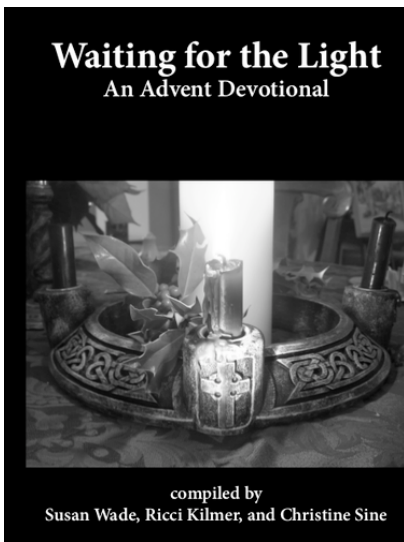
Altar Guild requested funds from the Unrestricted Memorial Funds to replace Book of Common Prayer books that are falling apart.

Chase Lake Community School has requested cash cards for their Needy Families Christmas Outreach Program in the amount of \$500. Shirley did note that there are individuals within the parish who have all ready sent funds for this Outreach program. If you would like to contribute to this outreach, please place your check in the Offering Plate on any Sunday through December 4th marking in the memo line for Chase Lake Community School. Your gift will be acknowledged on your Pledge Statement for your tax records.

The Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, December 4th at 9 AM. If you have a committee report, please send a written copy to the church office as soon as possible. The meeting will be held immediately after the service during the Coffee Hour. There will be elections for three new Vestry members; Delegate to Convention (male and female); and an alternate Delegate to Convention (male). Please consider serving on either Vestry or as a Delegate or Alternate to Convention. The work is rewarding and it is interesting to serve the Church in a different way.

This is my last Vestry Notes as I will be retiring from Vestry at the Annual Meeting. It has been a pleasure keeping you informed of the activities of your Vestry.





Hands On Activities *By Maryellen Young*

St. Alban's Hands On activities provide us an opportunity to be good stewards of the gifts God has given us by sharing our time, our money, our food and cooking for others in need. These activities are a chance for us to reach out and share God's love ministering to the needs of the community beyond St. Alban's doors.



Sock Collection: During the month of October we collected 67 new men's and women's socks. These socks were donated to the Compass Center. Thanks to everyone who donated.

Compass Center Dinner: Our special Veterans' Day Compass Center Dinner was Friday, November 11th. Thanks to those who donated money and food: Liz Bee, Sarah Burns, Mona Carter, Kären Ford, Lee & Connie Forsberg, Mary Fowler, Mary Ellen Gardiner, Camille Hartley, Georgia LaBelle, Jim & Susie Nichols, Hazel Shaw, Patty Timonen, Dave & Shirley Wilson. We also appreciate those who cooked or served: Phyllis Becker, Barbara Lagozzino, Reilly Mannery, Dan Mullene, Patty Timonen, Maryellen Young. We provided thank you notes written by members of our congregation (sorry we were unable to get to the 8 a.m. service to give you a chance to participate with the notes) and small flag pins. Our next Compass Center Dinner will be Sunday March 25th

Food Bank: On November 19th Phyllis Becker, Joyce Carver, Judy Kistner, John and Vicki Taylor and Maryellen Young served at the North Helpline Food Bank. This was a busy and fun day as it was the Saturday before Thanksgiving. Our next Food Bank opportunity will be Saturday, February 25th.

Pink Lids: Thanks to everyone who donated pink Yoplait yogurt lids. For each one donated, \$0.10 is donated to fight breast cancer.

We welcome anyone interested in outreach to join us at our meetings. Our next meeting is Thursday, March 1st at Maryellen Young's home. We are always looking for ways that we can reach out to those around us that appeal to the interests of our community and we need your suggestions.

Snippets from Women's Retreat: Joy in the Journey - Part 2 *By Kendra Long*

For those that attended the retreat, below are reminders of the reflections that were shared. If you were not able to attend, you can still participate by reading the book of Ruth and then reflecting on these Snippets.

The Psalms are at the heart of our Christian journey...

Teaching us about the world we are journeying through, both it's glory and its brokenness.

Helping us to see, even in our pain, how God is with us.

Giving dignity to our suffering.

Providing us a safe place to go with our anger and complaints toward God.

Giving us language that speaks that which we cannot express.

As we pray our own lives into the Psalm, the Psalm begins to shape our lives. *You show me the path of life. In your presence there is fullness of joy; in your right hand there are pleasure forevermore. Psalm 16:11*

St. Alban's member, Christine Sine, has announced the publication by Mustard Seed Associates of a new Advent devotional resource, *Waiting for the Light*, compiled by Susan Wade, Ricci Kilmer, and Christine Sine, from various sources. For more information go to <http://msainfo.us/2011/10/28/pre-order-waiting-for-the-light-an-advent-devotional/>

Chase Lake Christmas Outreach

By Susie Nichols

Chase Lake Community School has asked St. Alban's to participate in the Christmas Outreach Program as we did last year. Gift cards will be purchased from various grocery stores in the area and will be given out by the school to needy families in the Chase Lake area. If you would like to donate, please put a check in the offering with "Chase Lake Cards" on the memo line. Cards will be dropped off to the school by December 4th. Thank you in advance for your generosity.



Turning Points

For This much thanks:

To Ben Johnson, who has agreed to co-teach Sunday School with Kendra Long To Enrique Henao, "guitarist extraordinaire," who donated his time and talent to present a concert at St. Alban's on Nov. 19th.

All find a welcome:

Kathryn Miller transferred in from Church of the Ascension, Seattle.

We ask God's protection:

Those living or serving in areas torn by war, civil strife, or natural disaster. For those serving in the military: David Benson, Joshua Berger, Robert Burnett, Zachary Conklin, Landon Douglass, Daniel Fullerton, Bruce Gritten, Ariel Harvey, Trevor Hawes, Kris Jacobsen, Kirk Johnston, Thomas Lee, Sok Li, Adam Matuska, Christopher Mazzeroll, Mike McCready, Monica McCreery, Brian Perkins, Johnathan Springstead, Rachel Teall, Matthew Wilson, and Drew Wilson.

May they know God's healing

power: Marilyn Council, John Gardiner, John Kistner, Robin McClelland, Jeff Munsey, and Aleene Sullivan.

May they rest in peace: Thelma DeLong.



Dear St. Alban's,

Your caring generosity and thoughtful donation will help provide food for the many who are in need. You have their heartfelt thanks. We also wish to thank you, not only for your wonderful gift but for all that you do in our community. May your kindness bless you in return.

Have a Happy Autumn!

Carol Rowe Memorial Food Bank

* * *

Thank you so very much for your \$189.28 contribution to the Lynnwood Food Bank.

Sincerely,
Barbara Yates

* * *

Dear Friends at St. Alban's,
Thank you for your recent donation of \$189.28. Your assistance provides tangible relief to those in our community who are struggling through this time of economic hardship.

North Helpline Emergency Services & Food Bank

Announcements

Prayer Beads will meet Tuesday, December 6, at 7:15 p.m. in the Annex. **ECW Christmas potluck** will be Tuesday, December 20. Details to be announced.

Adult Education will continue to be led by Eric Hanson. The class is on Sundays at 9:15 a.m. in the annex.

Prayer Requests: Sheilah Reidburn is now the contact person for prayer chain requests, as well as updates for Sunday Prayers for the People. Sheilah can be reached by email at sheilareidburn@comcast.net or phone 425-745-1390.

Calendar Notes (looking ahead)

February 3-5, 2012 - Vestry Retreat at Camp Huston

Common Ground Seattle - Reveling in the Dance Between Faith & Culture

Summarized by Mona Carter

This fall, at the Shoreline Community College Theatre, Common Ground Seattle is putting on a series of special presentations that you may want to attend.

Common Ground performances provide compelling and provocative ways of looking into life and faith by weaving together popular film, images, stories, and narration with live music. The typical program lasts 70-90 minutes, and all you need to do is sit back with friends and take it in.

Common Ground is a group of artists, theologians, musicians, speakers, and others who use the art of popular culture to provoke deeper insights into the Scriptures and God's activity in the world, exposing the fingerprints of God within our everyday life. They have created and produced series for Seattle Pacific University, Mustard Seed Associates, the Seattle Art Museum, and other places as well.

In addition to being stimulating for followers of Jesus, they have found that some of their biggest fans would not consider themselves Christian. It is important to them to create an atmosphere where each person feels welcome, inspired, challenged, and free to explore God at their own pace.

There will be two special Christmas performances on Sunday, December 11th and 18th. For more information email them at info@cgseattle.org or call 206-452-3294.

Church Humor - Untimely Answered Prayer

During the minister's prayer one Sunday, there was a loud whistle from one of the back pews. Tommy's mother was horrified. She pinched him into silence and, after church, asked, "Tommy, whatever made you do such a thing?"

Tommy answered soberly, "I asked God to teach me to whistle, and He did!"

St. Alban's Episcopal Church
21405 82nd Place West
Edmonds, WA 98026



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Annual Parish Meeting Sunday, December 4

*We will all celebrate together in one service at 9am and gather
together afterward in the parish hall for the annual parish meeting.*



Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Services

*Christmas Eve family service at 4pm (children's pageant)
Candlelight service at 10pm (lessons & carols)*

Christmas Day service at 10:30am

**Merry
Christmas**