



Gospel Grapevine



June/July 2010

The Legacy of Saint Alban *The Rev. John Leech*

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"I worship and adore the true and living God, who created all things." --Alban, First Martyr of Britain (3rd Century A.D.)

A third of the way around the world and over seventeen centuries ago, in a town about an hour's drive north of London, there lived a Roman Briton named Alban. This was in the latter days of the pagan Roman empire, and the church was still living under persecution. One day an itinerant Christian priest, on the run from the imperial troopers, came to Alban's door seeking shelter. A hospitable and courageous man - not to say a curious one - Alban let him in. They began to talk. Alban was so impressed with what the priest had to say about this newfound faith that it became his own faith too. So when the knock on the door came, as inevitably it would, Alban answered the door - in the priest's clothes. He was arrested and hauled before the magistrate, who demanded to know his name, his origins, and what he believed. My name is known to you as is my family, Alban replied, and I worship the living and true God who made all things. That was enough for the magistrate. Take him away! They led him across the river and up to the top of a hill, where they beheaded him with a sword. For his faith, his courage, his charity, and the hospitable abundance of God he showed in his witness, Alban is remembered to this day in that town, once called Verulamium, now renamed Saint Albans in his memory.



Alban, by turning from pagan idols to the Christian faith, embrace a complete change of worldview. He let it cost him something precious: the life he knew. He did not, however, cling to his life when he was called upon to lay it down in service to Christ.

Alban extended hospitality to a stranger, and in so doing allowed his guest to challenge and change him. Later, on the strength of his new faith and his own charism of courage, he faced down the empire's representatives. He knew his allegiance to the one true living God mattered more than pleasing the court. He knew that life in abundance, eternal life, meant more than grasping onto his place in the world.

St. Alban's Episcopal Church

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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

And so his life, a witness to all, inspires us - as an example, a model, and a sign pointing beyond itself to the One he worshiped: the living God whose love is ultimately revealed to us in his son Jesus Christ, and whose inspiration comes to us all through the Holy Spirit.

This is the legacy of Saint Alban. May hospitality, courage, faith, and an eagerness for the abundance of life everlasting, show forth in our lives as well, as a church dedicated to God's glory, and the memory of Alban, first martyr of Britain.

Sources: *Cathedral and Abbey Church of Saint Alban*
Bede, Ecclesiastical History

May we live by faith, walk in hope and be renewed in love, until the world reflects your glory and you are all in all. Even so, come, Lord Jesus. Amen.
(*Book of Common Prayer, Church of Ireland, 2004*)

St. Alban's Vestry

Eric Hanson, *Senior Warden*
Shirley Wilson, *Junior Warden*
Carrie Cone
Karen Cresse
Kären Ford
Barbara Hatt
Phil McClelland
Sarah Sweeney
Susie Nichols, *Treasurer*
Sharon Joy, *Clerk*

Delegates to Convention 2010-11
Emily Bee
Phil McClelland

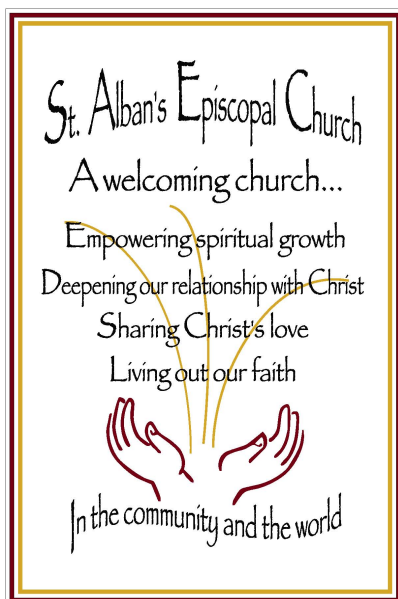
Alternates 2010
Sarah Sweeney

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 Office Hours:
Thursday mornings and by
appointment



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 the author's permission

Hands On - Adopt-A-Resident Update

By Barb Lagozzino

Just a little note to let you know a bit about our new adoptee, Kevin, currently a resident at Compass Center. Firstly, thanks to all who have responded to Kevin's needs and wish list. When Hands-On served May dinner to Compass Center, we asked if Kevin was available and he was. We told him we had some items for him to keep, until he moves to his own quarters. Kevin was invited to the car where the lid of the trunk was opened at which time we took each item out and handed to him. Oh my gosh!!!, It was like he could not believe his eyes. In this first delivery, we gifted kitchen towels, a complete set of eating utensils, a full set of pots and pans, coffee maker, toaster and gently used blender. I wish each one of you could have seen Kevin's expressive face. His eyes sparkled and a great big smile broke out and the "Thank You's" were never ending. This truly was God's love in action.

As we continue to check and select items to give Kevin as he prepares for his transition to independent living, we need to remember that our sharing of the abundance given by our Lord Jesus Christ is revealed in our giving to others. When we reach out to Kevin, it is a way of offering him God's love.

Again, please continue to check the list of needs, (found in the narthex), and consider being a part of this outreach project. The word "Giving", gives a new meaning to the word "Blessing", I think you will find these two words are not just words, but feelings of the heart. Let us go forward remembering we are God's servants.

A Touch of Inner Healing-The Best Memories

By Shirley Wilson

We were traveling somewhere between Spokane and Sandpoint, Idaho, when I realized that the deadline for the next Grapevine was only three days away. Having just left a busy and stressful week behind, I hadn't even begun to formulate an article for this column. After my initial panic, I went into action. Since I have been doing articles about Vestry Members for a few months, I thought of Barbara Hatt as my next candidate for an interview. I suspected it wouldn't be easy, however, because Dave and I were traveling in our motor home where road noises could make it difficult to hear on my end of the phone. But as it turned out, we had a great connection and we just ignored the traffic sounds.

Barbara was born in a little town called Lebanon, New Hampshire. I learned that the town is near Dartmouth University. In fact, the Doctor who delivered her was head of the medical school there. But Barbara didn't spend much time on the east coast; her family soon moved on to Southern California. She grew up in Los Angeles, the San Fernando Valley and Thousand Oaks, eventually graduating from Camarillo High School. She met her husband-to-be, Gene, in Ventura and the pair married when Barbara was twenty-six. She worked at Ventura County Employees Credit Union and sold Real Estate for awhile in Oxnard. Along the way son Alex was born, then four years later, Elliott joined his brother. Sadly, after fifteen years the marriage ended so Barbara and her small family moved to Lynnwood to be near her parents.

Some of you may remember Barbara's parents, Bernie and Doris Hatt. Doris passed away ten years ago, but Barbara honors her mother's memory every year when she does the Alzheimer's Memory Walk in September. Her father died on Father's Day of 1998 after a long battle with Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma.

After moving to Lynnwood, Barbara worked for her father for six years as a bookkeeper and attended Business College. She also worked for City University in the Payroll Department and later did some temp work. She eventually had to take an early retirement because of back problems which ended with two back surgeries. Barbara tried working again for awhile. In fact one of the jobs she did from 1999 to 2001 was her all-time favorite; she loved working for Princess Cruise Lines as a Reservationist. But eventually she had to quit because her continuing back problem wouldn't allow her to sit for very long. Then just last year, her back problem was instantly healed at an Emotionally Free Seminar in Lynnwood. Barbara has helped out at the Seminars many times over the years, but this time the Lord touched her during small group prayer, and her pain was instantly healed. It happened on the last day of the Seminar. Some of you may remember Barbara coming to church the next Sunday happily showing everyone how she could now bend all the way over without pain!

I can't end this story without mentioning Twinkie. Barbara has had a special relationship with her cat for many years. Many of us at St. Alban's think of Twinkie as a member of Barbara's family. In her leisure time, besides playing with Twinkie, Barbara enjoys playing computer games, reading mysteries, and taking special trips with Elliott who is still happily single. Spending time with Alex and his wife, Kim, is also high on Barbara's list - Kim is like the daughter she never had. Barbara has a lot of memories, but the best memories have to do with God, her church family at St. Alban's, and the wonderful memories of being a mom.

If you would like to learn more about the Emotionally Free Seminar coming July 19-24, please call Shirley Wilson at 206-542-2944 or email wilsaw@comcast.net.

Alban:

Britain's first Christian Martyr



THE ALBAN PRAYER

Almighty God,
We thank you for this place
built to your glory
and in memory of Alban,
first martyr of Britain.

Following his example in the fellowship
of the saints,

may we worship and adore
the true and living God,
and be faithful witnesses

to the Christ, who is alive and reigns,
now and for ever.

AMEN

Vacation Bible School

By Joyce Carver

Vacation Bible School is scheduled for July 19--22, 9:00a.m. - 12:00 p.m. The Jerusalem Marketplace will again take place on the playground. There will be opportunities for making jewelry, musical instruments, pottery and an array of other crafts.

This is an opportunity for everyone to serve the Sunday School children three hours for four days! Quick and easy! All supplies and instructions will be provided. This is a great setting and a wonderful opportunity to get to know the children.

Joyce Carver will be seeking you out if you don't first seek her out to volunteer! Many thanks for your support.

Celebrate St. Alban's Day

On Sunday, June 20th, come celebrate St. Alban's Day with the Rt. Rev. Cabell Tennis, Assisting Bishop, and the Venerable Gen Grewell, Archdeacon, Diocese of Olympia.

This will be an occasion for celebrating the ministries of St. Alban's Church, and for the sacrament of Baptism, and the rites of Confirmation, Reception into the Episcopal Church, and the Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows.

Baptism at St. Alban's

Do you seek Baptism? The next dates for Holy Baptism at St. Alban's are: the Feast of Saint Alban (June 20) and a special summer date for baptisms (July 4).

We will also offer baptism on November 7th, the Sunday after All Saints Day, and on January 9th, 2011, the first Sunday after the Epiphany, which is the Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord. If you or someone in your household would like to be baptized at any of these services, please contact Fr. John (425) 778-0371.

Sin and Forgiveness *By The Rev. Grant S. Carey*

Asked recently if Episcopalians really take sin seriously, I quoted the words in the Prayer Book: "*If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us ...*" (I John 1:8).

Saint Paul perceived sin to be contrary to what we know is right, and even though we are aware that what we do is wrong and hurtful, we do it anyway! (See: Romans, Chapter 7). In the story of Adam and Eve, man and woman, (you and I) were told by God that they must not eat of the fruit . . . but they ate it anyway.

The Ten Commandments provide an outline for life-affirming behavior within community. Stealing, lying, cheating, unfaithfulness, and murder are sinful because they lead to brokenness and ultimately, to the death of faithfulness, trust and love. The effect of this involves each one of us.

The 17th century poet and priest, John Donne, had it right when he observed: "*No man is an island, entire of itself, every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main ...*" (Devotions, XII).

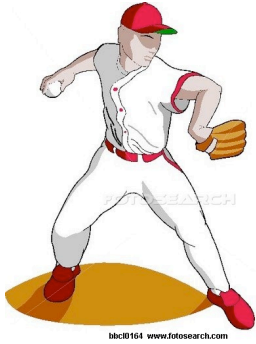
Episcopalians do take sin seriously ... as well as forgiveness and new life. We know that forgiveness is a bridge to a new relationship with God and with one another, and that penitence, absolution and amendment of life are essential if healing is to take place in our lives and in the life of the world. The Good News of Easter is that, while none of us is free from sin, Jesus, through his Community of Faith, offers to each one of us the free gift of grace and the opportunity to begin again.

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Take Me Out to the Ballgame

By Ben Johnson

Once again, the Diocese of Olympia will offer tickets for “Baseball with the Bishop” on Saturday, August 28th. It is the M’s against the Minnesota Twins with game time at 1:10pm. If you are interested, please sign up in the Narthex, or call Ben Johnson at 206-819-2319. The deadline for ordering tickets is June 12th.



“Jane’s Prayer”

Jane Leonaitis, who was with us in worship this year, passed away recently. She was a person of compassion, of joy, and of prayer. She wrote frankly and honestly, and with love. She wrote a prayer that was read at the celebration of her life, March 27, 2010.

Here is Jane's prayer, heartfelt and unwithholding. What would your prayer be?

Thank you for giving me a prayer voice, Lord, but I feel wordless in your presence. Help me to overcome my Christian insecurity.

I recognize that you are a fathomless mystery, God, and yet that you are a reality and not an illusion. I know that my concept of you matters. Help me to spend more time in reflection, without getting too off-track.

We live in a sea of many belief systems. Help me to swim in the current that is right for me, and to accept that other currents are right for other people.

I am firm in the belief that you are the God of all people. Give me global consciousness and compassion. Help me to appreciate the good that is in those who are different from me.

The world's problems are so big (nuclear - economic - overpopulation . . .). Show me how to make sense of that without damaging my optimism.

Help me to believe rightly. Lord, I do not see you as judge and punisher. Help me to recognize what is true and to know if there is something I should be doing about it. What do you want me to be doing?

Help me, Lord, to have a sense of your reality in my life. Fill me with a recognition of your love, and let me enjoy the surprise of finding you where I least expect you.

Lord, help me to clear my mind of the things I don't have answers for. Give me patience, knowing that we will never have all the answers.

Give me strength of purpose, especially in the inevitable hard times of my life.

Give me confidence to enjoy the sweetness of life.

Use me as your imperfect instrument in nurturing others, Lord.

Give me tolerance of my own imperfections, and understanding that you are not finished with me yet. Let me apply similar understanding to others and their imperfections.

I see you as our God who listens, who loves, who is beyond us but also with us, who permits as well as causes things to happen in our lives, who is patient, who is all-knowing and totally good.

I pray that I will think more on these things and apply them in my life. Amen.

*--Based on notes of May, 2003, considered and rephrased Feb. 2009. JL
A prayer by Jane R. Leonaitis (March 28, 1927 - March 3, 2010)
© 2010, Jane R. Leonaitis estate*

Thank You

Mary Fowler and the Fowler Family thank St. Alban's and our church family for your prayers and kindness during this difficult time. So many did so much to make sure that Ed's funeral was done well and we appreciate all your time and efforts. Thank you.

O GOD,

who has made us the creatures of time,
so that every tomorrow is an unknown
country,
and every decision a venture of faith,
Grant us,
frail children of the day,
who are blind to the future,
to move toward it with a sure confidence
in your love,
from which neither life nor death can
separate us.

Reinhold Niebuhr

Troop 300 Court of Honor

Two Futures *By Herbert O'Driscoll*

Jurgen Moltmann once wrote ... that in Latin there are two words for the future. One is *futurum*. *Futurum*, he said, is the future we see stretching out in front of us by our brainstorming, trend spotting, number crunching etc. It comes from *our* wrestling. He calls this the *Future of Social Calculation*. But, he says, there's another future that comes towards us from beyond us, over which we have no control. We can't fashion its outline or calculate it. We grapple with this future by asking a question. "What kind of X (parish, diocese, state, country, family, etc., etc.) would we like to have in (fill in a date)?" In other words we in a sense "dream" this future. Moltmann says that this dreaming can be very powerful. When a society starts dreaming of a different future to what it now has, it can produce tremendous energy. Sometimes all the tanks in the world can't stop it. Walls can tumble. He calls this future the *Future of Ethical Anticipation*. He then says that each is incomplete without the other. Both are needed for future planning.
(email to Fr. John 11/23/09)



Treasurer's Note *By Susie Nichols*

I am aware that there has not been a "Treasurer's Report" for this year but let me explain what has been going on.

At the end of 2009 it was decided to purchase new software for our finances which we had hoped to have on line by January 2010. The best laid plans don't always work out. We are now, finally, on line with the Parish List, all finances up to date, etc. The really good news is our bank accounts are in balance which we discovered was not the case when we started this process.

Currently we are staying within our budget which was approved by the Vestry for 2010. In September I will be giving you actual figures on our income and expenses. Right now I'm laid up with a very sore knee and under orders to stay down and walk as little as possible until the swelling goes down, which is happening but not as quickly as I would like.

Also, if there is someone who would be interested in learning the new software and possibly being a back-up person on the new system I would love to hear from you. I have told the Vestry I will stay on as Treasurer for one more year, until fall of 2011, and plan to step down at that time. There will be classes on the new software which will be held in September so it would be great if we could have someone come forward before that time in order to take the classes.

I want to thank everyone for their patience and assistance so far this year especially Lisa Coale our Parish Administrator. Have a wonderful summer.

Turning Points

For this much thanks:

The organizers, speakers and volunteers of the "Little Feast."

The Sunday choir for their weekly inspiration.

JoAn Andenes for her musical direction and inspiration.

The Sunday greeters for their enthusiasm.

All the volunteers who showed up for the grounds work party.

Lee Forsberg who maintains the Labyrinth grounds monthly.

Liz Bee for Acolyte training in April and May.

We ask God's protection:

For those living or serving in areas torn by war, civil strife, or natural disaster, Haiti, Sudan, and the Middle East.

For those serving in the military including, Travis Allen, David Benson, Joshua Berger, Shane Braten, Robert Burnett, Zachary Conklin, Larry Dawson, Andrew Embury, Trevor Hawes, Thomas Lee, Sok Li, Adam Matuska, Christopher Mazzeroll, Monica McCreery, John McGlocklin, Derek Napier, Brian Perkins, Jonathan Springstead, Rachel Teall, Drew Wilson and Geoff White.

May they know God's healing power:

Ashley Aven, Joan Biegal, Thelma DeLong, Abe & Barb Garcia, Greg Hartley, Shirle Hartley, John Kistner, Bill & Lia MacDonald, Jeff Munsey, Keith & Lee Oles, Chris Perry, and Carl Potter.

May they rest in peace: The Rt. Rev. Robert Cochrane.

ECW June Birthdays

03 Millie Salmon

07 Margaret Ainsley

08 JoAn Andenes

19 Mary Ann Simons

24 Lorraine Parks

29 Carolyn Clayton



Announcements

Prayer Beads - Will meet Tuesday, 6/1 at 7:15pm in the Annex.

Thalia Symphony Concert - Thursday, 6/3 at 7:30pm; First Free Methodist Church. This is Eric Hanson's final season as conductor of Thalia Symphony. For more info. go to www.thaliasymphony.org

Legacy Sunday - Will be Sunday, 6/6 with Carl Knirk, Canon for Planned Giving/Stewardship and Evangelism for the Diocese. The Founding Members of St. Alban's Legacy Society will be recognized at the service. Be sure to stay for coffee hour where special treats will be served.

Episcopal Relief and Development - Receives third consecutive four-star rating from Charity Navigator. Awarded annually, Charity Navigator ratings reflect an organization's accountability, transparency and quantifiable results in comparison with other nonprofit organizations. Charity Navigator president Ken Berger reports only 14 percent of the charities they rate have received at least three consecutive four-star evaluations. To learn more or support the work of Episcopal Relief and Development, please visit www.er-d.org or call 800-334-7626, ext. 5129.

Fr. John will be away - For professional development on 7/11.

July Vestry meeting - Will be on Sunday, 7/18.

Parish Picnic - 7/25 at Edmonds City Park; 9am to 1pm; Shelter No. 1

The Mission to Seafarers

Caring for seafarers around the world



Mission to Seafarers annual benefit luncheon takes place 10:30 a.m. -2 p.m. Saturday, June 26 aboard Princess Cruises' Golden Princess at Seattle's Pier 91. You must register ahead of time by June 16; cost is \$45/ticket and attendance is limited to the first 200 people. For more information, including financial assistance, contact the Rev. Jerry Shigaki or Elsie Dennis at 206-325-4200

Looking Ahead: Save the Date

Friday, October 22nd, and Saturday, October 23rd, 2010

A Hundred Thousand Welcomes: an autumnal celebration of spiritual fruitfulness with the Church of the Beloved

Featuring Tom Cashman and Carla Pryne

- Friday evening October 22nd, 7-9pm, Celtic ceilidh ([an evening gathering of song and story](#))
- Saturday October 23rd, 9.30am-3pm, a presentation and celebration of Celtic Christian spiritual traditions - <http://ceadmilefailte.eventbrite.com>

* *Ceilidh* : an evening's gathering, where stories and tales, poems and ballads, are rehearsed and recited, and songs are sung, conundrums are put, proverbs are quoted... [and merry is made!] gleaned from —Carmichael, Alexander, Carmina Gadelica, 1900, tome I, p. xxviii

Friday, March 25, and Saturday, March 26, 2011 - Feast of the Ascension

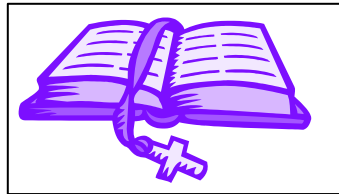
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Readings for Sundays:



June 6

The Widow of Zarephath
1 Kings 17:8-16 (17-24)
Psalm 146
Galatians 1:11-24
Luke 7:11-17

June 13

Naboth's Vineyard
1 Kings 21:1-10,(11-14),
15-21a
Psalm 5:1-8
Galatians 2:15-21
Luke 7:36-8:3

June 20

Feast of St. Alban, Martyr
1 Kings 19:1-4, (5-7), 8-15a
Psalm 42 and 43
1 John 3:13-16
Matthew 10:34-42

June 27

Elijah Ascends to Heaven
2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14
Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20
Galatians 5:1, 13-25
Luke 9:51-62

July 4

The Healing of Naaman
2 Kings 5:1-14
Psalm 30
Galatians 6:1-6, 7-16
Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

July 11

A Plumb Line
Amos 7:7-17
Psalm 82
Colossians 1:1-14
Luke 10:25-37

July 18

A Basket of Summer Fruit
Amos 8:1-12
Psalm 52
Colossians 1:15-28
Luke 10:38-42

July 25

Lord, teach us to pray . . .
Hosea 1:2-10
Psalm 85
Colossians 2:6-15, 16-19
Luke 11:1-13