

AROUND THE PARISH

As of October 31, 2015

St. Alban's seeks to be a welcoming, Christ-centered community,
committed to sharing Christ's love, empowering people to grow spiritually,
deepening our relationship with Christ and living out our faith in the community and the world.

COMING EVENTS

- 11/1 10:30am, All Saints Day, Holy
Baptism
11/2 7:00pm, Boy Scouts, PH
11/3 10:00-11:30am, Bible Study, PH
6:00pm, Altar Guild, PH
7:15pm, Prayer Beads, Annex
11/4 6:30pm, Bible Study, PH
11/8 8:00/10:30am, Stewardship Ingathering
10/9 6:30-7:30pm, Girl Scouts, SS
7:00pm, Boy Scouts, PH
11/10 10:00-11:30am, Bible Study, PH
7:00pm, Vestry, PH
10/11 6:30pm, Bible Study, PH

(PH = Parish Hall; SS = Sunday School Rm.)

PLANNING AHEAD

November 1, Sunday:

All Saints' Day, Holy Baptism, 10:30am

November 8:

Stewardship Ingathering, 8:00/10:30am

November 30, Monday –

Celtic Christmas Concert, 7:00pm



DEACON JENNY

This Sunday, November 1, is Jenny's last day with St. Alban's. For months, she has blessed St. Alban's with her gifts and much of her time. She and her husband Brian are off to Port Townsend to finish the building of their new home. Please join us in thanking Jenny for all she has done for us. We wish them many blessings and happy days in their new home.

AN IMPORTANT MINISTRY

Constant Contact is a wonderful program that helps us transmit information quickly via email to many in our congregation. It has been a great addition to our ability to communicate.

We have been blessed in many ways with Deacon Jenny's time with us, and she was instrumental in getting Constant Contact up and running at St. Alban's. With her departure, we are in dire need of having someone take on this ministry.

Constant Contact is something that can be done by anyone who is comfortable working with Word and email...and it can be done from home. Training, of course, will be provided! Please consider this ministry as we look forward to our future together.

Sunday, November 1,

Daylight Savings Time ends.

Turn clocks back one hour.

Food Drive



November 1 is a busy Sunday with lots of activity at church. Also, please remember the Food Bank! Contributions of packaged and/or canned goods are desired for our neighbors in need. And, of course, money is also very welcome. If using a check, please indicate "Food Bank" on your check.

A Note from Father Bob



In the Baptismal service we pray ***“Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon these servants the forgiveness of sin, and have raised them to the new life of grace....”***

This moment of baptism is not a magical occasion, but rather it is a beginning; a change of attitude; a relationship that we grow throughout our lives. We are not baptized into a spiritual kingdom with no practical consequences. Baptism, mine and yours, is a commitment of the whole person to God, and that includes our money. On a human level, our use of money becomes an accurate indicator of our faith in God. ***“Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”***

“All things come of thee, O Lord, and of thy own have we given thee.” One of the things that has helped me to form my understanding about tithing has been the example of some beautiful people I have been privileged to know. These are people who give gladly to the Lord. They have come to know that 100% of what they are, and 100% of what they have, is from God. And, because of this, they are aware that all they do is a giving back to God.

The former archbishop of Canterbury was asked about Christian stewardship, and he said, ***“Christian stewardship is about our need first to respond with thanks to God for all His blessings, and then to offer God through Jesus Christ our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice.”***

Your pledge of money to St. Alban’s Church comes out of gratitude for God’s blessings in your lives.

This year there is an added dimension to consider. For quite a few years this church has been growing smaller and limping along with very part time clergy and limited ministry. I believe this congregation is at a “tipping point”... a Crossroads. It is time to recognize the many gifts from God and put them to work for Jesus.

- God is calling new people to join this ministry.
- For many years, the church has owned a home, called a rectory, that has increased in value.
- It is time to use that money for ministry in Jesus’ Name.
- With full-time clergy leadership by a person who is able to strengthen the leadership of this church and who is able to help all of you respond to God’s call to ministry, St. Alban’s can move forward in God’s ministry.
- Now IS the time!

This will cost some real money. \$40,000–\$50,000 more than our costs this past year.

When I look at what we have done in this past year, I am thankful to God for all of you; however, I am very aware that so much more could have been done if I had more time with you as your priest. The gaps in pastoral care for those who have left St. Alban’s and for those in need loom large. Many of the opportunities for fellowship, education and outreach ministry remain untouched. The call of God for all of us to discover and use our God-given gifts is left on the table. Our worship may be enriched and open to many

people if additional services are offered that may be of value to families, young people and others who do not yet know God's love and forgiveness.

This will not happen if your next priest is half time or less. This will take some "real" money.

I hope you will think about and pray about the future of God's vision for St. Alban's Episcopal Church in Edmonds, WA. I believe that God has, and is, and will continue to bless you. And I pray that you will consider an offering of yourself, your time, your talent, AND your money, in thanksgiving to God.

ALSO COMING UP:

Fr. Bob's last Sunday with St. Alban's is November 22. There will be a reception for him between services on that day. Further information will be coming.



FUTURE OF THE RECTORY

St. Alban's has had our current Rectory since the 1960's. Barney Young, George Wilson, Dorsey McConnell, John Leech and now Fr. Bob Dunn have made good use of our Rectory, and it has served the congregation well in providing part of the compensation for our priests. Guidelines have recently increased the value of providing a rectory from 20% of salary to 30% of salary.

With Fr. Bob leaving us at the end of November, it's time to evaluate the future of the Rectory. For many years we have been one of the few churches in the diocese with a functioning Rectory. However, now with the cost of housing in the Northwest increasing, more churches are starting to get rectories, especially when calling a priest without local housing who may not be able to afford the cost of a house in the Northwest. However, is our current rectory the best option? A committee has been formed of Dave Finnell, Phil McClelland and Maryellen Young to explore alternatives. Here are the options being considered:

- Keep current Rectory (estimated value per tax assessment about \$550,000).
- Sell Rectory and buy another house in better shape.
- Sell Rectory, invest money and use earnings to pay 30% of rector's salary.
- Sell Rectory and use part of proceeds for equity sharing and part to augment salary.
- Sell Rectory and use money for priest's salary.

No decision will be made until we know if our next priest-in-charge has use for the Rectory. We will keep the congregation informed as this analysis proceeds. If you want to give input or have other suggestions or options that should be considered, please contact any member of the committee:

Phil:McClelland: 425-446-2355

Dave Finnell: 206-422-7685

Maryellen Young: 425-776-2461



Stewardship is really about spirituality. As we grow spiritually, we grow in generosity, and we're able to be good stewards of all that God has given us.

LENTEN PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND BEING OFFERED

St. Hilda St Patrick Episcopal Church is planning a “Lenten Pilgrimage, Advent to Easter in the Holy Land,” from February 22 – March 3, 2016. The tour is being led by Rev. Cynthia Espeseth and Rev. Chris Jillard. The cost is \$4,225 inclusive of room, board and airfare from Seattle.

”The pilgrimage will have a unique Lenten focus as we journey through the lands where Jesus taught, healed and confronted the authorities. We will travel from Advent to Easter, visiting the shrines devoted to the significant events of Jesus’ life and ministry. However, the shrines are empty unless experienced in a context both ancient and modern. So we will meet with people of the land, we will share meals and worship with them. We will hear stories and explore the realities of the Israeli/Palestinian conflict. We will see the Wailing Wall, walk the way of the cross and walk along the separation wall.”

More information is available from Rev. Cynthia Espeseth, St. Hilda St. Patrick Episcopal Church, (425)743-4655.



HOW TO DETERMINE THE AMOUNT OF YOUR PLEDGE FOR 2016

Each fall many churches provide an opportunity for people to pledge. So, why do we do this? Yes, it is true that pledges help the church plan for the upcoming year. A pledge is an intention, but if circumstances change, so can a pledge. But pledging is more than giving the church an opportunity to plan. Making a pledge is an opportunity for you to give back to God in thanksgiving for all of the gifts God provides to you. Pledging is an opportunity for you to strengthen your relation-

ship with God by thinking about the grace you receive from God, being grateful and responding with generosity.

People have a variety of ways to determine the amount of a pledge. Some people:

- Give a little when they are at church.
- Give whatever is left over at the end of the month.
- Pledge the same even if finances improve.
- Give a little bit more than they did last year.
- Give a set percent of their income.
- Title 10% of their income.
- Seek God’s guidance on the amount to give.
- Give less because their circumstances have changed.

Giving brings delight, joy, and is catching. It’s never about “dues” or “my fair share” or “keeping the doors of the church open” or even “meeting our budget.” Motivating ourselves and others to give to God does not flow from guilt or fear—it is not “you better do it or God will get you.” Christians give themselves away in love because that is what Jesus modeled for us in his life, ministry, death and resurrection.

Whatever method you use, the first step is to spend time with God and ask Him what He wants you to do. Reflect on the blessings that you have received in the past year. Think about your church community and the future, and how you are able to contribute.

Soon you will receive a pledge card in the mail. St. Alban’s pledge in-gathering will be Sunday, November 8. You can either mail your pledge card to the church or bring it that Sunday.



STEWARDSHIP PRAYER

Loving God,

We thank you for the rich abundance of our lives.

Open our eyes to see that, in being so blessed, we can in turn abundantly bless others.

Open our hearts to feel the powerful generosity of your Spirit.

Open our ears to hear the needs of this church and community.

Open our minds that, whenever called, we offer the world our measureless love, our generous time, our unique talents and treasure.

Quicken our hands to your service, breathe your Spirit into us and touch us with the life of Christ.

DIOCESE OF OLYMPIA CONVENTION

The annual convention of the Diocese of Olympia will be held at the Lynnwood Convention Center on Friday and Saturday, November 13-14. Hosting with the theme, "The Jesus Movement," will be the diocesan young adult and campus ministries.

Representing St. Alban's are delegates Dan Mullene and Carrie Cone. Please keep the church, priests and convention delegates in your prayers.

CELTIC CHRISTMAS CONCERT CELEBRATES HOLIDAY

This event begins a 7:00pm at St. Alban's on Monday, November 30. The concert features an evening of contemporary Celtic Christmas Music with Windham Hill/Ark Music recording artists Jeff Johnson (keyboard and vocal), Brian Dunning (flutes and whistles) and Wendy Goodwin (violin). This American/Irish trio's music is a mainstay in the Contemporary Celtic music genre.

Admission to the concert is your donation to benefit Chase Lake Community School's Safety Net Program. This program is aimed at meeting basic needs (food, clothing and extra help with homework) of Chase Lake families who live below the poverty line. Donations of cash or non-perishable food will be greatly

appreciated. For more information, email stalbansedmonds@gmail.com or call (425-778-0371). An article written by Jan Mellow will be submitted to the Edmonds Beacon and Everett Herald.

"Post cards" are available in the Parish Hall for sharing with family and friends.



STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS

November 1 – All Saints Day

The Summary of the law says it all... "love God with all your heart, mind and soul, and your neighbor as yourself." It seems like such an insurmountable task. Who could possibly do this adequately? But as some of the 12-step groups say, "We strive for progress, not perfection." God knows we can't possibly completely attain these goals, but he is honored and satisfied if our efforts are reflected in a life lived in faith, gratitude for his gifts, and loving service to others.

November 8 – Pentecost 24

"For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in all that she had." This is frequently the time when we as congregations make our financial commitments to the parishes (and hopefully to the gracious God we profess to love) whose programs and ministries we want to support. Just for a moment, imagine what our offerings would be if we all faithfully gave from our abundance in thanksgiving for our uncountable blessings. As the young often say, it would be truly "awesome"!

November 15 – Pentecost 25

Today’s Collect is the well-known (at least in the Episcopal Church), “*grant that we may read, mark, learn and inwardly digest*” plea for understanding of the Scriptures. Part of life as a disciple and steward is taking intentional time for prayer and the study of those Scriptures. Have you made that part of your daily routine?

November 22 – Last Sunday in Pentecost

As we come to the end of the Church Year, and look forward to the quiet of Advent and then to the wonderful stories of the Gift of our Savior’s birth retold, take some time to reflect on how your life as a disciple and steward has gone this year. Pray for discernment and guidance to “grow your gratitude” and serve God in new ways in the months to come

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

November 1, All Saints Day

Isaiah 25:6-9; Psalm 24

Revelation 21:1-6a; John 11:32-44

8:00 Lector: Sharon Joy
EM: Jeff Tobin

10:30 Lector: Susan Hanson
EM: Eric Hanson

November 8, Pentecost 24

I Kings 17:8-16, Psalm 146

Hebrews 9:24-28, Mark 12:38-44

8:00 Lector: Shannon Duggan
EM: Howard Hayden

10:30 Lector: Barbara Lagozzino
EM: Claudia Walker

November 15 – Pentecost 25

Daniel 12:1-3, Psalm 16

Hebrews 10:11-25, Mark 13:1-8

8:00 Lector: Jeff Tobin
EM: Phil McClelland

10:30 Lector: Susie Nichols
EM: Dan Mullene

November 22 – Last Sunday after Pentecost

Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14; Psalm 93

Revelation 1:4b-8; John 18:33-37

8:00 Lector: Howard Hayden
EM: Shannon Duggan

10:30 Lector: Shirley Clark
EM: Reilly Mannery

Also serving as Crucifer/Acolyte

1st Sunday at 10:30: Sam Wells

Other Sundays at 10:30: Emily Goergen



CONTACTING FR. BOB

Fr. Bob will be in his office:

Wednesdays: 10:00am – noon

By appointment 1:00 – 3:00pm

Evening by appointment

Thursdays: 10:00am – noon

By appointment 1:00 – 3:00pm

Fr. Bob’s phone numbers:

Church office 425-778-0371

Fr. Bob’s cell 425-350-5065

Rectory 425-640-5443

Fr. Bob’s Email:

stalbanpriest@gmail.com