

AROUND THE PARISH

as of November 15, 2016

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

- 11/15 10:00-11:30am, Bible Study, PH
11/16 6:30pm, Soup Supper, PH
11/21 7:00pm, Boy Scouts, PH
11/22 10:00-11:30am, Bible Study, PH
11/24 12:00-5:00pm, Private Party, PH and
Kitchen
11/27 First Sunday of Advent
11/28 6:30-7:30pm, Girl Scouts, Sunday Sch
7:00pm, Boy Scouts, PH
11/29 10:00-11:30am, Bible Study, PH

PLANNING AHEAD

- +Monday, Dec 5, Celtic Christmas Concert,
7:00pm
+Saturday, Dec 10, 10:00am, ECW Coffee
with Susan Hanson sharing her recent
trip to France

DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Plans are underway for our upcoming
celebration of Christ's birthday with
services as follows:

Christmas Eve, December 24 –

6:30pm, Carols

7:00pm, Eucharist

Refreshments to follow service

Christmas Day, December 25 –

10:30am, Eucharist Service



Please be sure to read to the end of this issue of ATP. There is a wonderful remembrance of Helki written by Lorrie Pruitt on the last page. In order not to chop the article up, we have given it its own page.

SEASON OF ADVENT

Edited from Wikipedia

Advent is a season that invites us to wait in hope as we prepare to welcome God in new ways. We wait, anticipating that light that is to come, while we recognize the darkness in our world and in our hearts. Zechariah's Song (Luke 1:67-79) acknowledges the long dark years Israel spent waiting for a Savior. It reminds us of God's promises and his faithfulness in fulfilling his promises. And it helps us remember God fulfills his promises in his time and in his way, not in our time and our way.

It is for us the darkest time of the year. And yet in the midst of the darkness, we wait for God's light. We hope for what we cannot see and long to experience God's tender mercy, his light breaking in on our world and shining upon us.



ADVENT WREATH.

Edited from Wikipedia

The Advent wreath is a Christian tradition that symbolizes the passage of the four weeks of Advent in the liturgical calendar of the Western church.

It is usually a horizontal evergreen wreath with four candles and often, a fifth, white

candle in the center. Beginning with the First Sunday of Advent, the lighting of a candle can be accompanied by a Bible reading, devotional time and prayers. An additional candle is lit during each subsequent week until, by the last Sunday before Christmas, all four candles are lit. Many Advent wreaths include a fifth, Christ candle, which is lit at Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. The custom is observed both in family settings and at public church services.

The candles represent hope, peace, love and joy. Often the third candle, representing love, is a different color than the other three, representing the importance of love as the greatest of all the qualities that abide eternally.

ECW COFFEE – DECEMBER 10

The churchwomen (ECW) are having a holiday coffee with light refreshments on December 10 at 10:00am. You don't want to miss our special speaker, Susan Hanson, as she shares her and Eric's vacation trip to Paris this summer. Also, Carol Sodemani will have stocking stuffers for sale. Come share in the fellowship with each other at this blessed time of year.



CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Save the Date—

Monday, December 5, 2016

The Time—

7:00pm

What Is Happening?—

Celtic Christmas Concert

Admission Is—

**Donation to Support
Chase Lake Community School
Safety Net Program**

St. Alban's Endowment Fund will be sponsoring a concert of contemporary Celtic music, celebrating the season of Christmas for the benefit of Chase Lake Community School's Safety Net Program, aimed at meeting basic needs (such as food, clothing and extra help with homework) of Chase Lake families who live below the poverty line.

Performing are Windham Hill/ArkMusic recording artists Jeff Johnson (keyboards and vocal), Brian Dunning (flutes and whistles), Wendy Goodwin (violin) and special guest Eric Miller on guitar. This group's music has become a mainstay in the Contemporary Celtic music genre.

Refreshments will be served both prior to and after the concert.

Last December, this music group performed at St. Alban's to a standing-room-only crowd and was a total success with requests to bring them back again this year. Don't miss it!

If you would like to help collect donations or greet our guests as they arrive, please contact Maryellen Young, 425-776-2461 or maryelleny@comcast.net.

For more information about Jeff Johnson and his music, go to <http://arkmusic.com>.

PLEDGE REPORT

Thank you to everyone who has already submitted a pledge card. Pledge cards are available in the pew racks, if you haven't had a chance to turn in your pledge yet. Or you can mail your pledge cards to the church, using the envelope that was included in the stewardship letter mailed to your home.

If you need us to mail you a pledge card, please call the church on 425-778-0371.

As of November 10th, we have received pledges equivalent to 63% of the number of pledges we had for 2016. Thank you for your support of our church family.....your Stewardship Committee: Carrie Cone, Jeannie Wells, Maryellen Young.

ST. ALBAN'S OUTREACH DONATIONS

On the third Sunday of the month, we collect donations for outreach. It's time to start looking for proposed recipients for 2017. Members of our congregation are encouraged to nominate a charity to receive these funds. Special consideration is given to organizations supported by our members with time or treasure and to local charities. We also like to invite a representative of the charity to be present at one of our services, if possible, to receive the check and have an opportunity to share with us more about the ministry we are supporting.

We are interested in having more parishioners participate with us in selecting these ministries. By December 18th please complete the form, available in the Parish Hall, with your recommendation(s) and also indicate your interest in participating in the selection process. Any questions, contact Maryellen Young, Carrie Cone, Connie Forsberg or Mary Fowler.

OCTOBER FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Income for October 2016 is above budget. We did have five Sundays in October, so possibly some November income came in on October 30th. This increase brings year-to-date income slightly ahead of budget.

Expenses for October were slightly ahead of budget for those items for which we have expenditures. Because we budgeted for a priest, comparing our current expenses to the total budget is misleading, so those numbers aren't listed. However, had there been a priest and office administrator, our income would have covered our budgeted expenses. Our current net income will help with the ultimate expenses of calling a priest.

Income (actual year-to-date)	\$133,464
Income budget year-to-date	132, 840
Actual income minus budget	(624)
Expenses (actual year-to-date)	93,885

GRATITUDE CARDS

For our pledge ingathering we also presented Gratitude Cards, identifying "I am grateful to God this year for...." The most common response related to family and friends, including family life, home, neighbors, grandchildren, relatives and marriage. The next most common response related to health including healing, being alive, breath and prayers. The third most common response concerned St. Alban's including Fr. Greg, spiritual life, spiritual home and Vestry.

Some responses related to nature like fall colors and birds. Our country or nation and Edmonds were identified also. Christian attributes like God, Jesus Christ, Holy Spirit, grace, forgiveness, wisdom, mercy, service and blessings were listed by many. Others still wrote job, graduation, income, food, safety, music. This exercise reveals we have much for which to be grateful. Thank you for all who participated in this exercise.

Rev. Rachel Endicott sends greetings to St. Alban's. Maryellen Young saw her when she gave the Stewardship Homily at Christ Episcopal Church, Puyallup, on October 20th.



For the Human Family

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Book of Common Prayer

PRAYER FOR OUR CALL COMMITTEE

Almighty God, giver of every good gift:
Look graciously on your Church and so
guide with your Spirit the hearts and minds
of those who shall choose a priest for this
parish, that we may receive a faithful priest,
who will care for your people and equip us
for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our
Lord. Amen



STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS

November 20

The Last Sunday after Pentecost

God gave a most painful and extravagant gift to us – the Crucifixion of His beloved Son that we might be saved from everlasting death and granted eternal life. How can we possibly adequately respond to that overwhelming love for us? Why not try loving Him and our neighbors, and living generous and thankful life? It's a good start!

November 27 – Advent I

“Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming”. Perhaps this advice suggests that those of us who try to live a good and holy life need to particularly practice the Holy Habits of prayer, generosity, and caring for others daily. A FORWARD reading offered something like this: *“When I pray daily, it isn't necessarily that the day goes better, but that I do better with the day.”* If our days are grounded in prayer and service in God's name, it won't really matter when the Lord comes, will it?

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

November 20 – Last Pentecost

Jeremiah 23:1-6; Psalm 46

Colossians 1:11-20; Luke 23:33-43

8:00 Lector: Shannon Duggan

EM: Howard Hayden

10:30 Lector: Cindy Goergen

EM: Reilly Mannery

November 27 – 1st Sunday Advent

Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 122

Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 24:36-44

8:00 Lector: Karen Ford

EM: Shannon Duggan

10:30 Lector: Shirley Clark

EM: Dan Mullene

December 4 – 2nd Sunday Advent

Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12

8:00 Lector: Sharon Joy

EM: Shannon Duggan

10:30 Lector: Barb Lagozzino

EM: Reilly Mannery

December 11 – 3rd Sunday Advent

Isaiah 35:1-10; Psalm 146:4-9 or

Canticle 3 (Luke 1:46-55) or

Canticle 15 (Luke 1:46-55)

James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11

8:00 Lector: Shannon Duggan

EM: Howard Hayden

10:30 Lector: Susan Hanson

EM: Eric Hanson

Also serving as Crucifer/Acolyte

1st Sunday at 10:30: Sam Wells

Other Sundays at 10:30: Emily Goergen

WHO TO CONTACT:

The person(s) to contact about putting an article in the ATP or the bulletin are as follows:

Judy Kistner or Susie Nichols for ATP

John Lehrack for the bulletin.

Please send your information to the office via email stalbansedmonds@gmail.com, or contact the above.



IN REMEMBRANCE OF HELKI **by Lorrie Pruitt**

This Thanksgiving I'm realizing how blest I am to have had Helki in my life. Thank you for the many cards, prayers, phone calls, visits and condolences. While we all miss her, undoubtedly she is now very busy helping God in her loving ways.

Helki wore many hats here on earth; working with homeless and disabled veterans, hospice children, people in nursing and retirement homes. As a member of St Alban's, Helki always enjoyed our time at "Reading with Helki" at a local elementary school with other parishioners.

When I was the Eucharistic Minister, she walked down the aisle with us, then lay by the altar during communion. Sometimes she would be joined at the altar rails by her four legged friends - all tails a wagging. She wore a silver cross given to her by a parishioner and a beaded bracelet wrapped around it made by a Sunday School youth.

Helki was the second puppy that I raised for Canine Companions for Independence. Canine Companions is a national, non-profit organization that places assistance dogs with

adults and children with disabilities other than the blind.

Volunteer puppy raisers get the puppy when it is 8 weeks old and has it until they are 18 months old. Many of the puppy raisers are children and are often the best handlers. In this time we socialize and teach the puppy approximately 30 commands. We go to class once a week to learn how to train the puppy. It is a commitment; a volunteer one in which one gets **far more** than they are giving. A reporter who came to class once asked "which is the hardest thing about raising these puppies?" In unison, everyone said "giving them up." However, one has the mind set of knowing they are doing this to help those disabled to be more independent and make a positive influence in their life. Many puppy raisers have raised 5, 10 or more puppies.

After the 18 months as a puppy, the dogs go back to the Santa Rosa, CA headquarters for 6 - 9 months of "college." During this time, the Professional Trainers build off of the commands we puppy raisers taught them and teach them how to turn on lights, open drawers, open doors, retrieve dropped items and how to get a soda out of the refrigerator! Recipients of the dogs spend two weeks at the Santa Rosa campus getting matched with their forever dog trained to their specific needs. These amazing



working dogs enjoy playing, cuddling, swimming and all of the relaxing activities like pet dogs. There is nothing as wonderful as handing the leash of the dog you raised to a person in need at the graduation ceremony. It truly is a gift of unconditional love wrapped in fur with four paws.

Many of you may remember the first Canine Companion's puppy I raised. He was a black lab named Sharrow. He graduated with a 7 year old, non-verbal boy with autism in 2007. Within days of being "matched" with Sharrow, the boy said his dog's name. Sharrow taught his boy coping skills, confidence in talking and was his best friend. The boy is now 17 years old, talks up a "blue streak" and is in the top of his class. After Sharrow passed away, the young man said that he no longer needs an assistance dog because Sharrow gave him the confidence he needs in life. Someday, the young man does hope to raise a puppy for someone else in need.

I feel honored that Helki came back to me. People at church prayed that she would and God granted their prayers. Helki was special. Some say she was a four legged person. She was sweet and loved by many, many, many people. As a consequence, Helki helped hundreds of people in her therapy work instead of just one.

As I think of Thanksgiving this year, I have much to be thankful for. Foremost was that wonderful fur family member and partner who helped so many people including me. I thank God for the privilege and honor of knowing her and having her in our lives.

Thanksgiving Blessings to all,
Lorrie Pruitt