

AROUND THE PARISH

September 30, 2018

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

- 10/1 7:00pm, Boy Scouts, PH
10/2 **6:30pm, Prayer Beads, Annex**
6:30pm, Girl Scouts, PH
10/7 **8:00/10:30am, Blessing of Animals**
9:30 Adult Education/Faith
Formation Ministry, PH
10/8 7:00pm, Boy Scouts, PH
10/10 **6:00pm, Evening Prayer**
6:30pm, Stew Fest, PH
10/13 8:00am-4:00pm, Private Event, PH
10/15 7:00pm, Boy Scouts, PH

PLANNING AHEAD

- 10/16 **2:00pm, Altar Guild, PH**
6:30pm, Girl Scouts, PH
10/17 **6:30pm, RenewalWorks Workshop,**
PH
10/20 **10:00am, ECW Coffee**
10/21 **12:30pm, Worship Comm Mtg, PH**
10/25 **4:00pm, RenewalWorks**
Conference Call for Comm, Annex
10/26, 27 **Diocese Convention, DoubleTree**
by Hilton, SeaTac
11/4 **8:00/10:30am, All Saints Day**
Ingathering
7:00pm, Taize Service
11/7 **6:30pm, RenewalWorks, PH**
11/19 **6:30pm, Renewal Works, PH**

FOOD BANK SUNDAY OCTOBER 7

The first Sunday of each month is St. Alban's Outreach for the local food banks. When you do your own food shopping, please remember to purchase non-perishable items to donate. See the article about the Edmonds Food Bank in this ATP issue.



"The Earth Brought Forth Her Bounty"

Fr. Greg Peters

This last Sunday, Susan Harewood and I attended the Episcopalians Squash Hunger Event at Chinook Farms near Snohomish. It was a blast!

This was the second year for this event, organized by Holy Cross, Redmond, and St. John's, Snohomish, and attended by about 100 people from at least 8 congregations and 3 generations (there very well may have been some great grandparents in the mix, so possibly 4 generations!). I saw several old friends, among them Sabeth Fitzgibbons, who brought Esteban and Isabella and her parents. Bishop Rickel and Marti – on her birthday – were there to pick squash, celebrate the Eucharist, and rejoice in the harvest.

Together, in just over two hours, we picked an estimated 18,700 pounds of organically grown acorn, butternut, and delicate squash; all of it headed for the 300 Western Washington foodbanks connected by Food Lifeline!

After the work, the Bishop led us in a harvest Eucharist under a clear blue September sky. Swallows overhead joined in, feasting on first days of autumn insects. A gentle breeze sang with and in the just-beginning-to-turn cottonwood leaves. Laughter from the neighboring up-pick pumpkin patch farm, the distant peaks of the Skykomish Valley, and the bright, warm sun joined in the Peace. Wheat for the bread was grown in the field next to the altar; grapes for the wine on the arbor near the barn. A skein of Canada geese honked overhead at the great Alleluia.

Then came the Harvest Feast. Eric Fritch, a parishioner of St. John's who owns Chinook Farms, provided a recently slaughtered pig, which he had been roasting low and slow beginning long before we all arrived for work, and bushels of corn on the cob so sweet that butter was superfluous. Some generous benefactors provided barrels of locally brewed beer, as well as ice tea and lemonade. The rest, a potluck that filled two long farm tables, came from the rest of us. We sat at tables or on benches around a fire. The kids ran around and played. There were introductions and talking and laughter.

There were, of course, blackberry thorns, shoulder-height weeds, a couple of puddles, and a little mud. The weather could have been quite different; just the day before, it had rained buckets. I'm pretty sure that I was not the only one, on Monday morn, that was a little stiff or had sore muscles that I didn't previously know that I had.

There were some deeper insights, too. I heard things like, "This is fun for us, for a couple of hours. It makes me appreciate those who do this 10 hours a day/6 days a week. I don't think they get paid enough." and "The next time I go to the supermarket and see all those fruits and vegetables, I'm going to be much more appreciative of what it takes to get it there – and so inexpensive." but also, "I know I'm going to be sore tomorrow, but look at all this food that is going to feed people who don't have enough. A little stiff and sore, and totally worth it!"

100 of us came together to work and talk and pray and eat. The earth brought forth her bounty. The sun, the trees, the birds, the mountains, the bugs, the breeze, and the blackberries all bore witness to this. The hungry will be fed; our spirits certainly were. Lives will be changed; ours certainly were. Sounds like church to me.

I hope this will be an annual event for our diocese and for our congregation. I hope more of us at St. Alban's will join in. We who feed so many. We who long for a deeper sense of the Spirit in our lives and in the world around us. We who long for community and commun-

ion. We followers of Christ, on the way into the harvest.

5th WEEK BASKET COLLECTION FOR DISASTER RELIEF

On September 30th we will have a special 5th Week Basket collection for Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD) designated for disaster relief for Hurricane Florence and Typhoon Mangkhut.

ERD continues to provide support and emergency assistance following the devastation of Hurricane Florence, as diocesan partners assess damage and respond to critical needs in impacted communities.

"One of the strengths of our Episcopal Church network is the ability to identify the greatest needs and leverage existing relationships and resources to serve and care for vulnerable communities after a crisis," said Katie Mears, Senior Director for Episcopal Relief & Development's US Disaster Program. "Please continue to pray for the individuals and families impacted by this devastating storm."

ERD also stands ready to support the Episcopal Community Action for Renewal and Empowerment Development Program (E-CARE) of the Episcopal Church in the Philippines (ECP) which is assisting four local dioceses that are assessing damage and preparing to launch relief operations for communities impacted by Typhoon Mangkhut.

If donating by check, please be sure to put "ERD" on the memo line.



BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Celebrate the Feast of St. Francis on Sunday, October 7. Bring your animals that are part of your families for special blessing by Fr. Greg. If you are unable to bring your pet but wish for them to be included, consider bringing a picture

of them or an item belonging to your pet. If you have a pet you wish to be remembered who is no longer with us, we will gladly honor their memory.

Bring a friend with his/her pet to share this special service.

The Feast of St. Francis is the day we honor Francis, who is generally depicted with cute animals, birds and such. He is often associated with animal blessing services this time of year. Francis was born into a family of means, but over time, he gradually came to reject financial wealth and to embrace poverty. Francis wanted the church – a place of wealth – to be concerned primarily with the poor and marginalized. He had a vision of Christ-like living, and he didn't stop with words. Though he was a lay person, he preached boldly and constantly, calling people to become committed disciples of Jesus Christ. To follow Jesus meant *not* following the way of material goods.

St. Francis info from Forward Movement

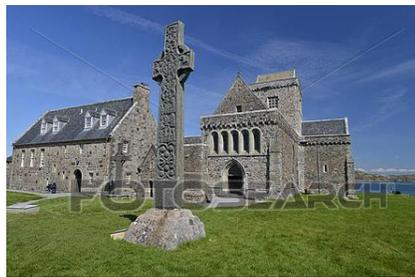


STEW FEST, October 10

On Wednesday, October 10, 2018, starting at 6:30pm, St. Alban's Stewardship group will be sponsoring the 5th annual "Stew Fest." Please NOTE: THIS IS THE 2nd WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH.

This evening will be an opportunity for us to come together in gratitude for God's blessings to St. Alban's. The Rev. Sabeth Fitzgibbons will be our guest speaker for the evening program. You will remember Sabeth when she was with us this summer during Fr. Greg's vacation time.

The dinner will feature a variety of stews. Salad, bread and dessert will be provided along with beverages including wine and beer. If you would be willing to donate a pot of stew, please contact Maryellen Young, 425-776-2461 (maryelleny@comcast.net).



ibloif03724390 www.fotosearch.com

ECW COFFEE on OCTOBER 20

Come enjoy food, fellowship and a used book sale on October 20th at 10:00 a.m. Special feature will be our own Maryellen Young sharing her story and pictures of her recent Celtic Pilgrimage to Lindisfarne and Iona. She will be sharing pictures on our new TV screen which will be a treat. Light refreshments will be served and a good time! With the weather changing this is a good time to bring your books and get some great new readings.

SOUP SUPPER

Fr Greg was our speaker at the first Soup Supper of the fall on September 19th, speaking about Spiritual Practices. He spoke about Seven Spiritual Disciplines using *The Restoration Project: A Benedictine Path to Wisdom, Strength and Love* by Christopher H. Martin, one of the books from the College for Congregational Development. The seven practices he discussed are:

1. Daily Personal Prayer
2. Weekly Corporate Worship
3. Service to the Least of our Neighbors
4. Generous Giving
5. Learning Scripture
6. Discernment of Vocation/Call
7. Commitment to the Group

The goal of spiritual disciplines is to truly be, and know, that we are made in the image and likeness of God and to model our lives on the example of Jesus.

Fifteen people attended this soup supper, feasting on many delicious soups, salads and desserts.

On October 10th we will have Stew Fest. Our next Soup Supper will be Nov. 28, moved

out one week because of Thanksgiving. Eric Hanson will be speaking about Path of Transformation: Conforming to the Image of Christ, Session 1.



**RENEWAL WORKS PROCESS UNDERWAY,
YOUR INPUT IS INVALUABLE**

Our RenewalWorks process is well underway with our official launch on Sunday, September 16. By participating in this program, we will be encouraging ourselves as a congregation to get back to basics by making spiritual growth a priority in our life and mission.

RenewalWorks will also help inspire our congregation and leadership to discover who Jesus is and what it means to follow him. Through a guided methodology of self-reflection, sharing and workshop discussion, we will begin the process of refocusing on spiritual growth and the ways that God is calling us to grow.

We are pleased to announce that Jim Gilman has been added to the Workshop team that will be working through answering four questions around this process. The questions are:

1. Where have we been?
2. Where are we now?
3. Where do we feel called to go?
4. How do we get there?

We thank the many parishioners who have already completed the "Spiritual Life Inventory" (SLI) that provides an assessment of your views of where you are and where you think our church is now about our common spiritual journey.

As of this point, we have had 29 responses, and hope to complete the 45 total replies needed to validate the inventory. The deadline for replying by internet is October 7, and by September 30th if you are completing a paper inventory.

An important part of this entire process is involving ALL of our congregation in learning the answers to these questions. If you haven't taken the inventory, please do so. The computer link is:

<https://www.research.net/r/RenewalWorks2170>

If you need assistance, we can set up a computer session at church, a local library or some other location with internet access. We will provide the computer, and you can provide the inventory answers. Please contact Fr. Greg Peters, Maryellen Young or Dan Mullene if you need assistance.

The inventory is entirely anonymous, so you should feel free to honestly respond to the questions. If you have questions, please speak with any member of our Workshop Team:

Roger Anderson, Phyllis Becker, Pat Chandler, Shirley Clark, Carrie Cone, Jim Gilman, Susan Hanson, Eric Hanson, Judy Kistner, Barbara Lagazzino, Dan Mullene, Martha Philippoff, Hazel Shaw, Wendre Vaughn, Maryellen Young and Shirley Wilson

FALL CLEANING

Our Parish Hall has had deep cleaning getting us ready for the fall. The carpet and tile floors were cleaned professionally. In addition, Kay, who does our regular cleaning, was hired to do deep cleaning in our kitchen and bathrooms.

**Reminder: Please Complete the
RenewalWorks Spiritual Life Inventory**

If you haven't already completed the Spiritual Life Inventory for the RenewalWorks process we are participating in, please do so before the deadline of October 7th. If you need to complete a paper inventory, please fill it out and submit it by September 30th.

Your input is important to our success, and we encourage you to participate. Please see another article in this newsletter for more details! The link for the inventory is:

<https://www.research.net/r/RenewalWorks2170>

AUGUST FINANCIALS

August's operating income was \$12,918 which is about \$1,000 above the budget of \$11,981. Expenses for August were \$13,529 which is below budget of \$14,307 by about \$800. Overall these results are very positive, especially since summer can be a time when contributions fall short.

Total Income (actual year to date)	\$110,427.68
Total Income (budget year-to-date)	\$103,246.00
Actual income minus budget	\$ 7,171.68
Expenses (actual year-to-date)	\$110,760.93
Expenses (budget year-to-date)	\$116,185.00
Actual expenses minus budget	(\$ 5,424.07)
Net income minus expenses	(\$ 333.25)



CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Thank you everyone who has so generously made donations and pledges for our Capital Campaign. As of **September 16th**, we have received **\$57,288** in donations and pledges towards our fund raising goal of \$100,000 in donations from members of the congregation. We have an additional total of **\$9,407** in pledges to be paid in Years 2 and 3. The rest of our total goal of \$200,000 will be met by adding the existing roof fund and matching funds from our Endowment Distribution Fund.

The first priority will be to do the roof and, with the Roof savings and matching funds from our Endowment earnings, the replacement of the roof will be doable. Investigation is underway for what would be involved to slightly enlarge our parking lot to make it easier to use.

If you haven't turned in a pledge card yet, please either mail them to the church or drop them in the collection plates any Sunday. In addition, the donation buckets will be passed every 4th Sunday. There are Capital Campaign

envelopes in the pew racks; please write "Capital Campaign" on the memo line of your check.

We've made a great start, and we should all be encouraged.

Capital Campaign Prayer:

Gracious God, we thank and praise you for the many ways you have richly inspired, blessed and guided us since we began as a congregation. Help us to maintain that legacy through strengthening our communion and continuing to grow in faith, hope and love as we repair our church. May we fulfill our calling with generous hearts, graciously giving back the gifts that you have bestowed upon us through your mercy. Bless our capital campaign with a deepening devotion to worship and prayer, a growing commitment for service, and increasing levels of generosity as we work to advance the life and ministry of our parish. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen

NEW DISTRIBUTION TIME FOR EDMONDS FOOD BANK

Article from myedmondsnews

Food Bank Executive Director Casey Davis has announced the Edmonds Food Bank has added a late Monday afternoon distribution time from 4:00-5:30pm – and could use additional volunteers to help start the new effort.

The new Monday distribution will be limited to two groups: Edmonds residents and Edmonds transfers. "Transfers" are people who might live in another food bank area, but live closer to the Edmonds Food Bank, or the timing is better for them. Edmonds transfers must commit to only using the Edmonds Food Bank.

The Monday 4:00-5:30pm time slot is aimed at serving those who work during the Tuesday morning distribution time. The food bank has been seeing fewer people on Tuesdays and Ms. Davis believes it's because parents can't come due to work obligations.

The food bank is open on Tuesday from 9:30am to 12:30pm.

If you are interested in volunteering, visit the Edmonds Food Bank website and fill out the application. There is a youth application also: ages 10-13 can volunteer with an adult and teenagers 14-18 can volunteer on their own.

Give Me Ears to Hear

Lord,
I believe
my life is touched by you,
that you want something for me,
and of me.
Give me ears
to hear you,
eyes
to see the tracing of your finger,
and a heart
quicken by the motions
of your Spirit.

Author Unknown



STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS

October 7, Pentecost 20

Jesus says *Let the little children come to me...for it is such of these that the kingdom of heaven is given.* Can we trust as children do? Can we lay our lives in His hands, trusting His plan for us...and respond with gratitude and thanksgiving for all? Will we let Him *lay his hands on us and bless us?*

October 14, Pentecost 21

In Mark 10, we read "*How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God.*" All of us have much wealth, you know, especially by the standard of many in the rest of the world. We are so blessed! As stewards and disciples, we are willing to live our lives and use all our gifts to honor God and follow His teachings?

SCHEDULE

October 7 – Pentecost 20

Genesis 2:18-24; Psalm 8

Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12; Mark 10:2-16

8:00 Lector: Sharon Joy

EM: Howard Hayden

10:30 Lector: Susie Nichols

EM: Reilly Mannery

October 14 – Pentecost 21

Amos 5:6-7, 10-15; Psalm 90:12-17

Hebrews 4:12-16, Mark 10:17-31

8:00 Lector: Denise Robertson

EM: Sharon Joy

10:30: Lector: Connie Forsberg

EM: Mary Fowler

October 21

Isaiah 53:4-12, Psalm 91:9-16

Hebrews 5:1-10, Mark 10:35-45

8:00 Lector: Martha Philippoff

EM: Jim Gilman

10:30 Lector: Carol Gordon

EM: Reilly Mannery

October 28

Jeremiah 31:7-9, Psalm 126

Hebrews 7:23-28, Mark 10: 46-52

8:00 Lector: Judy Kistner

EM: Shannon Duggan

10:30 Lector: Howard Hayden

EM: Dan Mullene