

AROUND THE PARISH

December 15, 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

- 12/15 9:30am, Altar Guild Clean up,
Sacristy, PH
12/15 9:00am-12:20pm Advent Quiet
Morning, St. Andrew, Seattle
12/16 1:30-4:30pm, Private Event, Sanctuary
12/18 6:30pm, Jobs Daughters, Annex
6:30pm, Girl Scouts, PH
12/23 "Greening of the Church" after
10:30am service
Coffee Hours, Cookie Sharing Event
12/24 5:00pm, Christmas Eve Carols
5:30pm, Christmas Eve Eucharist
12/25 10:30am, Christmas Eucharist

PLANNING AHEAD

- 1/2 6:30pm, Prayer Beads, Annex
1/6 7:00pm, Taize Service
1/7 7:00pm, Boy Scouts, PH
1/10 6:30-9:30pm, Girl Scout Training, PH
1/12 9:30-12:30pm, Girl Scout Training, PH
1/14 7:00pm, Boy Scouts, PH
1/15 6:00pm, Jobs Daughters, Sunday School
6:30pm, Girl Scouts, PH
7:00pm, Vestry Meeting, Annex
1/16 6:00pm, Evening Prayer
6:30pm, Soup Supper
1/27 9:30am, One Service
10:45am, Brunch, Annual Meeting

A BITTERSWEET SEASON

By Father Greg

"It's the most wonderful time of year." Is it Tony Bennett who sings that? I should know, I suppose, I've been hearing that song for most of, if not all of, my life. It's a nice enough song. I don't dislike it. It's just that it's not true, really.

For some, this is not the most wonderful time of the year. Even for those of us who are relatively happy, secure in our lives and families, with good and supportive friends, fulfilling jobs, and healthy communities, living in peaceful and prosperous nations, there's always something or more likely someone missing. And while social convention – and every advertisement in every possible medium – dictates that we are "supposed to be merry", there is always some sort of emptiness that no amount of mistletoe, ring bells on bobtails, or ho, ho, hoing can fill.

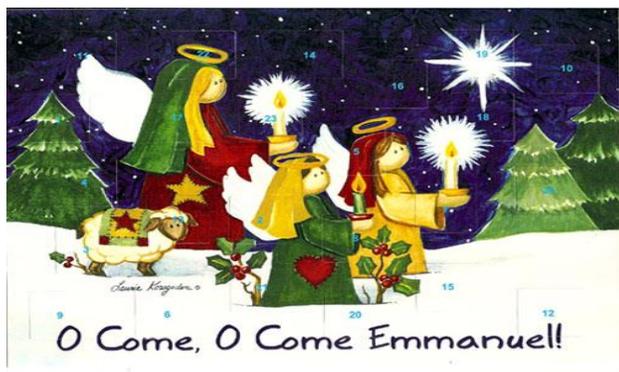
I, myself, really enjoy Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany. I celebrate all twelve days, that's for sure, but there are people I miss terribly, too. Family, friends, and folk, who ought to be seeing our girls grow up, who should be helping them become even better and deeper human beings, and who could be adding their harmony to great choir that is our life, but their visions are gone, their presence is lost, and their voices are stilled. So even with all the joy this is a bittersweet season.

God did not come into the world in Jesus to deny death or pain or sorrow or loneliness, but rather to be with us in all this stuff called life; to confront all this hollowness and hallow it – to make it all holy.

So, this Christmas, I ask you to be especially mindful of those in our midst, who find this the most difficult time of the year. Let's be sensitive to their need to grieve. Let's be open to the guidance of the Spirit to become more aware of when and where people are hurting. Let's be



courageous enough to walk alongside them in their pain. Recognizing our own share of emptiness, let us be watchful for signs of it in those around us. Let us be instruments of God’s deeper joy.



**O ANTIPHONS and
O COME, O COME EMMANUEL**

An antiphon is a short sentence sung or recited before or after a psalm or canticle (Google Dictionary). “O Antiphons” are a series of seven short sentences (antiphons) that were recited or chanted during Evening Prayer in the days leading up to Christmas. They have been used in the church since the eighth century. Each of the antiphons begins with “O” and refers to the titles of Jesus drawn from the Book of Isaiah.

These are familiar to us as paraphrased in the Advent hymn, “O Come, O Come Emmanuel.”

- O Sapientia (O Wisdom)—
Isaiah 11:2-3, 28:29
- O Adonai (O Lord)—
Isaiah 11:4-5, 33:22
- O Radix Jesse (O Root of Jesse)—
Isaiah 11:1, 10
- O Clavis David (O Key of David)—
Isaiah 9:6, 22:22
- O Oriens (O Dayspring)—
Isaiah 9:1
- O Rex Gentium (O King of the Nations)—
Isaiah 2:4, 9:5
- O Emmanuel (O God with Us)—
Isaiah 7:14

Advent is a season of waiting, of waiting with eager expectation for God’s promise to be fulfilled. The “O Antiphon” direct our attention to the promised Messiah and build our expectation for his coming. The repeated use of “O Come” underscores our desire for it.

Forward Movement publication, “O Wisdom”

O Emmanuel, God with us, you dwell beyond our farthest reach, yet are nearer to us than we are to ourselves: Come among us in these days of expectation, that we may give birth to what is true, just, beautiful and good; for you are the One whom we know as Lord and with the Creator and the Holy Spirit, you abide with us, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Forward Movement publication, “O Wisdom”



CHASE LAKE GIFT CARDS

At the request of Chase Lake Community School, Fred Meyer and WinCo Foods Gift Cards were purchased this year. Although cards have been delivered, it is not too late for you to make a donation. Mail in or put your donation in the Sunday plate designating Chase Lake on the check or envelop. Additional cards will be purchased and given to the school for their families.

Thanks to our generosity, we have been able to give \$1,175 in gift cards. You have helped make this a better holiday for our neighbors.

“Grace and gratitude belong together like heaven and earth. Grace evokes gratitude like the voice an echo. Gratitude follows grace like thunder lightning.”

Karl Barth

CELTIC CONCERT RESULTS

Thank you to everyone who helped with Monday's Celtic Christmas Concert. The program was a little more international this year with German & American vocalists Marc Gremm & Janet Marie Chvatal along with Irish flutist, Brian Dunning and American keyboardist and vocalist Jeff Johnson. Many positive comments were received, including some who thought this concert was the best yet.

As you can tell from the list below, this concert was possible thanks to the help of many hands. We are able to donate \$2250 to the Safety Net Program plus 248 food items. We had 191 attend the concert, with a full church and overflow in the Parish Hall. In addition, with the advertising and publicity in www.myedmondsnews.com, The Beacon, Herald, and the Edmonds Theater we were able to publicize the Safety Net Program and St. Alban's. We are donating \$100 to the Explorer Scouts in thanks for their assistance with parking. Thanks to everyone for making this event possible and the St. Alban's Endowment Fund for underwriting this event. Thanks also to everyone who attended, and invited guests.

- Lee Forsberg, Jim Nichols, Jim Gilman, Cindy Goergen —greeters and food donations
- Susie Nichols, Jim Nichols, Reilly Mannery —taking money
- Kay Hardie, Reilly Mannery, Jeannie Wells, Judy Kistner—reception and cleanup
- Phil McClelland--Sound
- Judy Kistner— publicity ATP
- Roger Anderson—publicity website, Constant Contact
- Connie Forsberg, Evie Arneson & team—decorations
- Calvary Chapel—parking (Jennifer)
- Jeff Jones & Explorer Scouts—parking



COOKIE SHARING EVENT

Do you like to bake cookies? Do you like to eat cookies? St. Alban's is having a **Cookie Sharing Event on Sunday, December 23**, during both coffee hours. If you would like to bake or contribute cookies, please bring them on December 23 to share during coffee hours. Baggies will be provided for you to take a few cookies home. Remaining cookies will be used on Christmas Eve.



IT'S NOT TOO LATE!

There is still time for you to contribute to the flowers to decorate our church for Jesus' birth. Altar Guild depends on your donations to provide flower decorations for Christmas and all services. Your contributions can be in thanksgiving, in memory or a celebration. For inclusion in the Christmas bulletins, your dedication needs to be in by Monday, December 17.

The **2019 Flower Chart** has been posted in the Parish Hall, and many dates are available beginning in January. Please print your name by a specific date, and you will be contacted by Sharon Joy, St. Monica's Flower Chair. Two persons may sign up for a date. Our flowers are arranged by Dusty's Floral in Edmonds, and they gift us with a very reasonable price of \$40 for two vases of flowers. If you have questions, please contact Sharon Joy.

2019 DONATION ENVELOPES

Weekly donation envelopes for 2019 can be picked up in the Parish Hall starting Sunday, December 16. If you requested donation envelopes on your 2019 Pledge Card, a set of donation envelopes has been assigned to you.

If you did not request a set, but wish to have 2019 envelopes, please sign your name on the sheet provided, and they will be placed in the plastic box on the Parish Hall shelf.

VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS

The RenewalWorks Workshop Team has completed the four sessions that focused on studying the results of the Spiritual Life Inventory that 63 of our parishioners completed, and then used suggested Best Practices to provide possible programs or cultural changes to address our stated needs. A draft report of the RenewalWorks process was presented to the Vestry for their input and suggested revisions. A final report will be presented to the congregation at the Annual Meeting on January 27, 2019.

Update on Boy Scout Projects: (1) The Eagle Scout Project of replacing the Annex ramp and stairs is underway and will be completed soon. (2) The Vestry approved the plan for the Boy Scout Canoe Storage and was impressed with the proposed detailed blueprints.

Pre-School Facility Use: Progress has been made on completing the Conditional Use Permit for the City of Edmonds.; The Vestry accepted the recommendation of the Building and Grounds Committee to allow Father Greg to sign and submit the form.

Vestry and Convention Delegate Recruitment: We are asking for one more parishioner to agree to join the Vestry for a 3-year term and for others to consider representing St. Alban's at Convention: 1 delegate to complete a term (1 year) and 2 Alternate Delegates (2 year term). Please contact Father Greg or Carrie Cone if you have questions about the Convention Delegates.



PREPARE AN EMERGENCY KIT BEFORE WINTER STORMS HIT

- o Three to five-day supply of non-perishable food that needs little or no cooking
- o Blankets and pillows
- o Portable , battery-powered radio and clock
- o Flashlights
- o Extra batteries
- o Manual can opener, bottle opener and utility knife
- o First-aid kit
- o Bottled water (preferably 1 gallon/person/day)
- o Candles (preferably battery powered)
- o Matches in a waterproof container or a lighter
- o Cooler (keep ice or ice packs ready in your freezer)
- o Personal hygiene, sanitary supplies
- o Cash (ATMs and banks may not be available)
- o Pet supplies for three to five days
- o Playing cards, games and books for entertainment
- o Prescription medications
- o Phone charger for a car

2019 EPISCOPAL CALENDAR

There are copies of the 2019 Episcopal Church Year Guide available in the Parish Hall. This calendar includes lectionaries and liturgical notes.

The cost of the Kalendar is \$3.00. Please place your money in the envelope provided.

NOVEMBER FINANCIALS

Income for November was \$12,629 compared to the budget of \$11,179.

Expenses for November were \$ 15,383 compared to a budget of \$14,196.

We anticipate both income and expenses in December will increase with end-of-year activities; however it appears income will be greater than budget and expenses will be less than budget.

Total Income (actual year to date) \$ 149,193
Total Income (budget year-to-date) \$ 140,423
Total Actual Income minus Budget \$ 8,770

Total Expenses (actual year-to-date) \$ 152,467
Total Expenses (budget year-to-date) \$ 156,298
Total Actual Expenses minus Budget \$ (3,831)

Net Total Income minus Total Expense \$ (3,274)

THANK YOU FROM FOOD BANK

Dear St. Alban's Congregation,

We are deeply grateful to you for your thoughtful support over the years. The food which you so generously supply us goes to our friends who are in distress. In receiving this vital nourishment, they are comforted in the knowledge they have been remembered by their neighbors in their time of need. This lends hope and encouragement to them, as well.

We join them in sending heartfelt thanks your way. For this, and for all you do for others, may you feel blessed in return!

Wishing the joys of this Christmas Season to be yours,

Carl Rowe Memorial Edmonds Food Bank



STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS

December 16 – Advent 3

Zephaniah describes God's love and joy in us. *"He will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing."* God yearns for us to respond to him in the same glorious and enthusiastic way he models for us. Caring stewards use the holy habits of prayer, study, worship in community, and generous giving to respond to the Lord's overwhelming, freely-given gifts.

December 23 – Advent 4

How blessed we are to hear again some of the phrases from Mary's song of praise: *"He has mercy in those who fear him...he has filled up the lowly...he has filled the hungry with good things...he has come to the help of his servant."* The blessings outlined in the *Magnificat* continue to be given to us in a multitude of ways. As this holy season begins, let us be especially grateful that God continues to be willing to uphold all of us in our daily lives.

December 24 – Christmas Eve

God's greatest gift is given to us – his very own self, incarnate, born to live on the earth as a daily witness of God's continual presence and love. Can we even begin to understand and value this priceless offering? How does our life as a Christian steward reflect our humble gratitude for this incomprehensible gift?

December 25 – Christmas Day

One of the Christmas Collects says in part:
“Grant that we who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit...”: perhaps we can add to that prayer, “and may we be given the extension of that grace to enable us to live and grow as your grateful stewards and disciples.”

December 30 – 1st Sunday after Christmas

“You have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word.” Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives...” could very well be part of the striving steward’s prayer. What kind of light shines through you to reflect your love of God, and your desire to spread that light in the service of others?

SCHEDULE

December 16 – Advent 3

**Zephaniah 3:14-20, Canticle 9, Isaiah 12:2-6
Philippians 4:4-7, Luke 3:7-18**

8:00 Lector: Phil McClelland

EM: Sharon Joy

10:30 Lector: Shirley Clark

EM: Reilly Mannery

December 23 – Advent 4

Jeremiah 33:14-16, Psalm 25:1-9

I Thessalonians 3:9-13, Luke 21:25-36

8:00 Lector: Howard Hayden

EM: Shannon Duggan

10:30 Lector: Susie Nichols

EM: Mary Fowler

December 24 – Christmas Eve

Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96

Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]

5:30 Lector: Susie Nichols

EM: Karen Ford

Sharon Joy

December 25 – Christmas Day

Isaiah 62:6-12; Psalm 97

Titus 3:4-7; Luke 2:[1-7], 8-20

10:30 Lector: Susie Nichols

EM: Reilly Mannery

December 30 – 1st Sunday after Christmas

Isaiah 61:10-62:3, Psalm 147

Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7, John 1:1-18

8:00 Lector: Gretchen Munsey

EM: Jim Gilman

10:30 Lector: Carol Gordon

EM: Dan Mullene

January 6 – The Feast of the Epiphany

Ephesians 3:1-12, Matthew 2:1-12

8:00 Lector: Sharon Joy

EM: Shannon Duggan

10:30 Lector: Shirley Clark

EM: Reilly Mannery

January 13 – First Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 43:1-7, Psalm 29

Acts 8:14-17, Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

8:00 Lector: Judy Kistner

EM: Jim Gilman

10:30 Lector: Claudia Walker

EM: Mary Fowler