

AROUND THE PARISH

December 31, 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

- 1/2 6:30pm, Prayer Beads, Annex
1/6 8:00/10:30am, Epiphany
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
1/13 12:15am, Adult Formation Mtg, Annex
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

PLANNING AHEAD

- 1/16 6:00pm, Evening Prayer
6:30pm, Soup Supper
1/20 12:30pm, Worship Committee Mtg
1/21 7:00pm, Boy Scouts, PH
1/27 9:30am, One Service
10:45am, Brunch, Annual Meeting
1/28 7:00pm, Boy Scouts, PH
1/29 6:30pm, Girl Scouts, PH



The Feast of the Epiphany

Herod commanded the Magi "to go and seek diligently for the child..." As grateful disciples and stewards, we need also to search for Jesus, to listen to his teachings, to worship together as a supporting community, and to carry out his mandate to love and serve others in his name. May we always be led by the star of his generous and eternal love.

Father Greg's column will be back next month!!



ADVENT O ANTIPHON: "O Key of David"

The following article is from Forward Movement's "O Wisdom" Advent publication, and refers to one of the "O Antiphons" sung or chanted at Evening Prayer services leading up to Christmas. It was written by Lynn Domina, a poet living in Michigan where she is a member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church. She serves as head of the English Department at Northern Michigan and is a creative writing editor.

When we bought our house, the previous owners had left half a dozen keys dangling above the kitchen counters. The purposes of some were obvious—one was attached to a tag that said "garage" and lo, it fit the garage door. Others fit doors we seldom use, and still others apparently unlock doors we haven't yet discovered. Those keys still hang on their hooks, less because I believe we'll ever actually need them than because their dark, weighty iron is interesting to see and pleasurable to hold. And I like believing there's more to be discovered, even about something as familiar as my own house.

That's one thing my faith teaches me. There's always more to be discovered. As a member of a community of believers, a communion of saints, a collage of images of God, I belong to the world I can see and a world I cannot yet see. I relish both the concrete and the mystical, and God opens both to me, creating me of flesh and breathing spirit into my being.

Someday, my lungs will no longer inhale, my heart will no longer beat and my brain will no longer send or receive electrical impulses.

My life, some will say, will be over. Except it won't be. In our bodily form, we are connected to all who have come before—Ruth, Boaz, David, Bathsheba, Solomon, Mary, Joseph, Jesus, our own grandparents and parents. We are connected to all who have come before us and all who will come after us, those we might suspect are saints today, those we haven't yet identified as saints. Jesus—born, died and risen—has shown us how God inhabits that mystical life whose door is never closed.

God of life,
we are fully alive
only in you.
Keep us faithful.
confident that the keys
you hold out to us
open doors of abundance
and joy
and peace.
Amen.



TAIZE SERVICE, JANUARY 6

Our next Taize service will be on Sunday evening, January 6, at 7:00pm. After all the hustle and bustle of the past weeks, come join us for this beautiful, quiet and contemplative service. A Taize service features lovely candle-light, lessons, prayers, silence and easy-to-sing, repetitive musical chants.

We are very grateful to John Lehrack, our outstanding music director, for providing this wonderful event. Refreshments will be served in the Parish Hall following the service.

JANUARY 27 – ANNUAL MEETING

St. Alban's Annual Parish Meeting will be on Sunday, January 27. There will be one church service at 9:30am. Refreshments will be served prior to the meeting.

If you are a leader of a ministry, please submit your reports to the church office (stalbansedmonds@gmail.com) by January 15.

We will be electing three vestry members to three-year terms and one to a one-year term. Also to be elected are two alternate delegates to the Diocese Convention for two-year terms and one delegate (preferably male).

Nominating Committee members are Shirley Clark, Phil McClelland, Jim Nichols and Martha Philippoff. Please prayerfully consider volunteering for one of these important roles.

This has been a successful, busy year and it is time to celebrate!



SOUP SUPPER, JANUARY 16

The next Soup Supper will be January 16, 2019. Jim Gilman will be leading the discussion about an Overview of the Old Testament. January's topic will be Creation/ Fall/ Recreation.

Evening Prayer will begin at 6:00pm, followed by Supper. There will be a food sign up in the parish hall. Come join the fellowship.

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.



GREENING OF THE CHURCH

Following the 10:30am service on Sunday, December 23, members of the congregation and Altar Guild prepared the sanctuary – and our hearts – for Christmas. Wreaths were put in the windows, poinsettias arranged and beautiful Christmas flowers placed on both sides of the altar. With so many hands at work, the transformation from Advent to Christmas was performed in short order.

Many thanks go to the many parishioners who donated to the Christmas flowers. Because of your generosity, we were able to spread Christmas joy and beauty throughout the sanctuary.

We also thank Altar Guild for their preparation efforts, especially Sharon Joy who, as our flower chairperson, orders the flowers and oversees the whole Greening process.

FIRST QUARTER 2019 OUTREACH RECIPIENT

HopeWorks is the final recipient of our voting process that we did a year ago to select our outreach recipients. HopeWorks Social Enterprises is an affiliate of Housing Hope, with the goal of helping families gain skills and training for in-demand jobs to enable them to start towards a living wage career. Each quarter we raise about \$450 in donations from our 3rd week basket collections. Thank you for your generosity.



CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

As of December 23rd we have raised \$177,000 towards our capital campaign goal of \$200,000. This goal was assisted with the initial roof fund we had accumulated and the matching funds from our endowment earnings. We are pleased sufficient funds to reroof the church buildings have been raised, and work is in progress to investigate potential contractors and materials. Come to the Annual Meeting to hear more specifics. We still want to raise more funds to redo our parking lot.

If you haven't made a pledge yet, you can still do so or make direct donations at any time. In addition the buckets will be passed every 4th Sunday. There are Capital Campaign envelopes in the pew racks; write Capital Campaign on the memo line of your check.

We'll be looking at more fund raising after the beginning of the new year. Thank you for your support.

Dear St. Alban's family,

Thank you so much for taking my family in and making us feel not only welcome, but family as well. We enjoyed the two years we spent getting to know everyone along with the great fellowship. After each service, my family was truly blessed to be a part of the community and will always carry a piece of each of you in our hearts.

Love,

Adam, Cleo, Autumn, Amber
& Shaun Ochs

(The money enclosed is what I've been adding to the dollar that Shaun got for finding the baby Jesus.)

(NOTE: Shaun found the baby Jesus in a 3 Kings Cake at last year's Epiphany celebration; the money will go to the Sno Isle Foundation for Literacy.)

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



LOGAN FAY BUILDS NEW RAMP FOR ST. ALBAN'S

Logan Fay, an Scout with Troop 300, recently built a new ramp and stairs for the annex building at St. Alban's Episcopal Church in Edmonds as part of his Eagle Scout project. The ramp was blessed by Fr. Greg and a group of parishioners on Sunday, December 23, and opening ceremonies included a ribbon cutting by Logan, with the first use of the ramp by parish member Robin McClelland.

The ramp and stairs provide complete access to the building located behind the church's main sanctuary and is used for meetings and

classes throughout the week, as well as on Sundays.

The Boy Scout Eagle Scout service project is the ultimate "application phase" of what a scout has learned from Scouting: leadership, responsibility, managing projects and applying the Scout Oath: "to help other people."

Boy Scout Troop 300 has been meeting in St. Alban's Parish Hall on Monday nights for several years and is supported by the church. For more information on Boy Scout Troop 300, visit their website at <http://www.troop300.org>.

2019 OUTREACH DONATIONS PROCESS

Soon it will be time to start identifying charities to receive our quarterly outreach donations starting with the 2nd quarter 2019. If you have a suggestion or are interested in participating in this process, please contact a member of the Outreach Donation Ministry: Carrie Cone, Connie Forsberg, Maureen Forsythe, Mary Fowler or Maryellen Young.



STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS

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?

January 6 – 2nd Sunday after Christmas

“Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity...”

How is the divine life reflected in us as we go about our daily lives? Do we strive to have others see the face and hands of Jesus in us? Perhaps it’s not too late to make such a resolution for the coming year.

January 13 – Epiphany 1

“You are my Son, the Beloved, with you I am well pleased.” In our own Baptism, we have been *“marked as Christ’s own forever.”* God is always with us, and we are his beloved children. He longs for us to build a real, holy relationship with him. Part of being a good steward is using the tools of prayer, study, corporate worship and generous giving to move steadily and intentionally toward that holy relationship.

January 20 – Epiphany 2

Psalm 36 details some of the gifts for which we need to be ever grateful. *“How priceless is your love, O god? Your people take refuge under the shadow of your wings. They feast upon the abundance of your house; you give them drink from the river of your delights. For with you is the well of life, and in your light we see light. Continue your loving kindness to those who know you and your favor to those who are true of heart.”* Lord make us ever true of heart.

January 27 – Epiphany 3

“Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be always acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.” The familiar phrase from Psalm 19 is perhaps most often used by those giving sermons or homilies, but the words are appropriate for all of us as well as we strive to lead the life of a faithful disciple and steward.

SCHEDULE

December 30 – 1st Sunday after Christmas **Christmas Lessons and Carols**

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 – Epiphany 1

Isaiah 43:1-7, Psalm 29

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

8:00 Lector: Judy Kistner

EM: Shannon Duggan

10:30 Lector: Claudia Walker

EM: Mary Fowler

January 20 – Epiphany 2

Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 36:5-10

1 Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2:1-11

8:00 Lector: Martha Philippoff

EM: Howard Hayden

10:30 Lector: Maureen Forsythe

EM: Connie Forsberg

January 27 – Epiphany 3

Annual Meeting

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10, Psalm 19

1 Corinthians 12:12-31a; Luke 4:14-21

9:30 Lector: Karen Ford

EM: Jim Gilman, Reilly Mannery

