

AROUND THE PARISH

August 15, 2019

St. Alban's seeks to be a welcoming, Christ-centered community,
committed to sharing Christ's love, empowering people to grow spiritually,

COMING EVENTS

- 8/19 11:00 to noon, Preschool Mtg, PH
7:00pm, Boy Scouts, PH
- 8/26 6:30-8:00pm, Preschool Mtg, SS
7:00pm, Boy Scouts, PH
- 8/27 6:30-8:00pm, Preschool Mtg, PH
- 9/2 **Labor Day, Office Closed**
7:00pm, Boy Scouts, PH
- 9/3 **6:30pm, Prayer Beads, Annex**
6:30pm, Girl Scouts, PH
- 9/8 **Welcome Back Sunday**
Brunch between services
12:15pm, Worship Comm Mtg, PH
- 9/10 **6:30pm, Vestry Mtg, PH**
- 9/11 **6:00pm, Table Talk, PH**

PLANNING AHEAD

- 9/15 **9:15am, Adult Sunday School, Annex**
- 9/16 7:00pm, Boy Scouts, PH
- 9/17 6:30pm, Girl Scouts, PH
- 9/18 **6:00pm, Evening Prayer**
6:30pm, Soup Supper, Reflections
- 9/23 7:00pm, Boy Scouts, PH
- 9/25 **6:00pm, Table Talk, PH**
- 9/28 **10:00am, ECW Coffee, PH**
- 9/30 7:00pm Boy Scouts, PH
- 10/1 **6:30pm, Prayer Beads, Annex**
- 10/9 **6:00pm, Vestry, PH**

ECW COFFEE – SEPTEMBER 28, 10:00am

Don't miss the fellowship and inspiration coming September 28, 10:00am, with Christine Sine discussing her book, *The Gift of Wonder: Creative Practices for Delighting in God*.

Christine will share some insights about reshaping our spiritual practices to delight in God and appreciate the delight that God takes in us. She will have copies of her book available for purchase if you desire.

Refreshments will be served starting at 10:00am.



Fr. Greg Peters

Danny Westneat, writing in the *Seattle Times* Local section Wednesday, lamented about the seeming demise of salmon runs in the waters of Seattle and Puget Sound. His example was the video of salmon going through the Chittenden Lock fish ladder. There's a video screen with a swimming fish above the actual viewing windows, which are devoid of fish; a stark and dismal photo.

Westneat noted that the count of this year's sockeye run going through the Locks on their way to Lake Washington and the Cedar River was a paltry 17,064 fish, half as much as last year. And further, that only one quarter of those 32,100 fish last year made it to the spawning beds. They simply disappeared between the Locks and the hatchery.

There hasn't been an open sockeye fishing season in Lake Washington for 12 years. I had the good pleasure of fishing that year. Keith Wasser and Bob James, from All Saints, Rainier Beach, took me out in Keith's boat. It was a blast; a big party; people in anything that floated filled the south end of Lake Washington; laughter and good spirits; and the fish beautiful, fairly plentiful – even I caught one – and delicious. The season lasted about a week.

Now, it looks like there aren't enough fish to keep the run going.

And that's just the sockeye. The numbers of coho, chinook, and steelhead going through the Locks and up the Green/Duwamish are also way down.

Meanwhile, there are so few chinook in the Salish Sea that the resident Orca normally here

this time of year are absent. News of their health and population is a constant concern. Though, we may deny it, subconsciously, in our bones, we know that we are linked to the salmon, the orca, the Salish Sea itself, and that what becomes of them, will become of us.

Erika's folks have a cabin up on the North Fork of the Stillaguamish. It's an old fisherman's cabin; a one room log cabin. The steelhead used to be thick there, on their way up to Deer Creek. A land slide, the result of clearcutting, on Deer Creek three or four decades ago smothered the spawning beds there and greatly diminished the number of steelhead.

I've been fishing near that cabin for close to two decades; still looking for my first steelhead. Summer or winter fish, hatchery or wild; doesn't matter to me. Some of my friends laugh at me for being so obsessed with fly fishing for steelhead anyway around Puget Sound. There are so few fish. Even Fritz, my father-in-law, who got me started in the mad endeavor, laughs at me for fishing the Stilly. It's a pained laugh. "There are no fish there," he says, "but you keep fishing anyway." Still, he says, "One day you'll catch one, and that will be glorious. That will change your life."

I've caught some small fish, rainbows; maybe steelhead that haven't gone to sea yet. My fishing buddy, Mark, once hooked one there - briefly. He and I have this joke between us that steelhead are mythic beasts; not actual fish, just piscine fables dreamt up by addled fishers.

It's become an act of faith for me; steelhead and salmon fishing. I go because I still believe they are there. I still believe we can change the way we live in this region, change to ways that will restore the Salish Sea, its tributary rivers, and all its inhabitants to health - to thriving health and abundance.

If the first two chapters of Genesis had been written by a person of the Northeast Pacific, Adam and Eve would have been charged with keeping and tending the sea. They would have been river and sea keepers.

Now, for me every cast has become a prayer. A prayer not simply for catching fish,

though it still is that, but a prayer of drawing the fish back. "Come back salmon, come back brothers and sisters. Fill these rivers. Fill this sea. Feed the hungry. As fellow creatures of our loving Creator, you are our sisters and brothers. May God heal you, this land, this sea, all of our bodies and souls."

We may be filled with despair, but we live in hope. We continue to pray at all times, in all ways, without ceasing. We glorify God who created the seas and all that is therein.

NOTE: Bishop Rickel's letter in response to the shootings in El Paso and Dayton is printed on the last pages of this issue of ATP.



WELCOME BACK SUNDAY is SUNDAY, SEPT 8 at 8:00 & 10:30

We've been here all summer, but September is rapidly approaching and it's time for "Welcome Back Sunday." We will celebrate the return from vacations, back from summertime activities on Sunday, September 8 at both services, as we enter into the "new" year and the many activities coming up.

Eric Hanson's 9:15am Sunday class will resume on September 15, and will be finishing up the Gospel of John. New members of the group are welcome at any time. Stop by the Annex.

Children's Sunday School continues at the 10:30am service.

Wednesday night Evening Prayer, Soup Suppers and Reflections begin again on September 18 at 6:00pm

There will be coffee and refreshments between services, starting at 9:30am. This between-service fellowship gives the whole parish the opportunity to spend time together.



VESTRY NEEDS YOU...
...AS OUR CLERK!!

St. Alban's Vestry is looking for someone to fill the position of Clerk of the Vestry. This important job helps us to record the activities at our monthly vestry meetings so that we can refer to them at future meetings and maintain a history of our actions.

Requirements for the position include the ability to attend monthly vestry meetings, usually held on the second Tuesday of each month, and computer word processing skills to create the minutes.

Minutes can either be written as notes taken at the meeting and later transcribed to a document, or entered using your own laptop computer. Vestry members will provide training as to how minutes are formatted.

If this is something that you might be interested in doing for your vestry and church, please contact Fr. Greg Peters, Senior Warden Dan Mullene or Junior Warden Carrie Cone.



TAIZÉ SERVICE & LABYRINTH WALK

It was a warm summer night with gentle breezes when our Taizé service was held in our labyrinth on August 4th. There were eight of us present. The music, singing, silence and prayers were a peaceful way to spend the evening. Walking the labyrinth was an open option dur-

ing the service, and several of us partook of the opportunity as well as lighting candles in the center as prayer offerings. We also enjoyed neighborhood noises such as distant traffic, tweeting birds, a crow cawing, the ferry in the distance and a couple of planes overhead.

As always, we are very grateful to our Music Director, John Lehrack, for sharing his talent and organizing this special prayer offering.

Come join us and invite someone to come with you for our next Taizé service on November 3rd at 7:00pm, in our Sanctuary.

GREAT PICNIC...GREAT TIME

Lee Forsberg

Thanks to all who came to St. Alban's annual picnic in Edmonds Park on August 4. All I talked with felt it was a great success. And, that is because of you parish members taking part in the day.

Those who helped organize and do the work of making it fun and a good thing have our many thanks for their efforts. However, all the work making the day would have been for naught if YOU had not attended.

For my count, we had 45 fun-filled participants, and they brought some of the most wonderful food. All the food was great

So, members of St. Alban's, give yourself a pat on the back and a hearty self-thanks, as it was your day and you made it great!!



3rd QUARTER 2019 OUTREACH
CHANGE IN RECIPIENT

Jim Gilman has scheduled a St. Alban's Habitat for Humanity work day for Saturday, October 19th. If you are 21 or older and thoroughly unskilled and untutored in the art of building homes, then you qualify for St. Alban's Habitat Work Day. We need 8-12 people to sign up and participate in this contri-

bution to affordable housing and solution to homelessness. Rides leave from the church at 7:15am Saturday morning, October 19, for a day of work, fun and fellowship. The build is in the Gold Bar area of Snohomish County. Lunch is provided. Contact Jim Gilman (namlig74@gmail.com) to sign up.

Because we had designated Habitat for Humanity as one of our outreach donation recipients, we are going to make this organization our recipient for our 3rd quarter outreach donations. **Habitat for Humanity** is an international, non-profit organization that “envisions a world where everyone has a decent and affordable place to live.” Volunteering helps local families “build strength, stability, self-reliance and shelter,” and helps St. Alban’s volunteers fulfill Christ’s vision of caring for everyone, especially those who have limited resources. Habitat Snohomish builds houses affordably, using primarily volunteer labor and sells them at cost to working families in Snohomish County.

We will collect donations for **Housing Hope** in the first quarter of 2020. If anyone who donated in July would rather their donations be retained for Housing Hope, please contact the church office and let us know the amount that was donated and we will set it aside.

**“VANITY OF VANITIES...
ALL IS VANITY”**

The Gospel reading for August 4 was from Ecclesiastes, Chapter 1. Forward Day by Day’s reading for that Sunday was: *“I saw all the deeds that are done under the sun, and see, all is vanity and a chasing after wind.”* The meditation quoted below was contributed by Cathy Tyndall Boyd, rector at St. Martin’s Episcopal Church in Williamsburg, VA. A native of Missouri and a graduate of the University of Missouri and Seminary of the Southwest, Cathy has served a variety of parishes and schools.

“All things pass away, and our priorities change over time. As we grow older, we realize that the toy at Christmas, the crush on that person, or the effort to make more money

matter less than they used to. Not that those things weren’t or aren’t important — it’s just that with time, some things lose their meaning.

“But the gift of our faith in God is this: We know that the changes and chances of life are not meaningless. We live amidst things that are passing away – and we ourselves will pass away – but this doesn’t mean that nothing matters.

“We are one with God – the One who creates, redeems, and sanctifies us. We are united with each other in the eternal heart of God. Eternal life begins *now*, and we are invited to rest in God’s eternal changelessness.”

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DONATION

On Sunday, August 18, Debra Bordnan will attend our 10:30am service to receive a check for \$718 for Domestic Violence Services. This contribution is in response to our second quarter Outreach Basket donations.

Work upgrading and replacing the furnace will begin August 19th and will take about a week



“Let your light so shine before others, that people will see your good works and give glory to God.” — MATTHEW 5:16.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS

August 18 – 10th Pentecost

“to follow daily in the steps of his most blessed life...” The Holy Habits of daily prayer and study, giving, corporate worship, and serving

others can be good reminders of the disciple's (yes, you are, or can be one!) daily quest for ways in which to serve the God who gives all.

August 25 – 11th Pentecost

“Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us give thanks, by which we offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence and awe...” The world may often be topsy-turvy, and our lives in turmoil, but the bottom line for believers is that God's kingdom cannot be shaken...we are safe if we commit ourselves to His protection.

September 1 – 12th Pentecost

“Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels unaware...” Blessed are those who make service to others an ingrained part of their stewardship lives. “Pay it forward” and “pass it on” are current mantras for some in our society. We have been so blessed by our Creator that these reminders should be welcome and, yes, sought out tasks for us.

September 8 – 13th Pentecost

Psalm 139 begins, *“Lord, you have searched me out and known me; you know my sitting down and my rising up; you discern my thoughts from afar.”* Even for those (or perhaps, especially for those) trying to be faithful stewards, God's discerning our thoughts from afar has to give us pause. How can we possibly keep our minds thinking and acting in the way God would have us respond to life? It's the old Holy Habits again which can help to keep us on the path. How are you doing with prayer, study, service to others, giving, and being faithful in community worship and activity?

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

For a link to the weekly readings, click <http://www.lectionarypage.net>

August 18 – 10th Pentecost

Jeremiah 23:23-29, Psalm 82

Hebrews 11:29-12:2, Luke 12:49-56

8:00 Lector: Martha Philippoff

EM: Jim Gilman

10:30 Lector: Herman Siqueland

EM: Connie Forsberg

August 25 – 11th Pentecost

Isaiah 58:9b-14, Psalm 103:1-8

Hebrews 12:18-29; Luke 13:10-17

8:00 Lector: Sharon Joy

EM: Shannon Duggan

10:30 Lector: Susie Nichols

EM: Karen Ford

September 1 – 12th Pentecost

Sirach 10:12-18 and Proverbs 25:6-7

Psalm 112

Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16, Luke 14:1, 7-14

8:00 Lector: Sharon Joy

EM: Jim Gilman

10:30 Lector: Jean Burpee

EM: Eric Hanson

September 8 – 13th Pentecost

Deuteronomy 30:15-20, Psalm 1

Philemon 1-21, Luke 14:25-33

8:00 Lector: Judy Kistner

EM: Shannon Duggan

10:30 Lector: Maureen Forsythe

EM: Dan Mullene



The following is a letter from Bishop Greg Rickel in response to the shootings in El Paso and Dayton.

Dear Ones,

Yesterday, I was just about to blog some reflections on the Camino after being off the trail and home, and that will come... but it

seemed so trivial when I received the word of yet another mass shooting in our country. I completely understand why the Mayor of El Paso felt the need to say the words to his fellow citizens, “Don’t worry, we are all safe.” But I had to wonder, how can any of us make that assurance? I am sure those words would be cold comfort indeed to the 20 families who lost loved ones yesterday, and those fighting for their lives in the hospital still, on a day that started by shopping for back to school supplies. The Mayor, and other trusted officials, went on to make other claims, such as, “this person came from outside our community” which is true, and “no El Pasoan would have ever done this.” Again, a claim I am sympathetic to in the moment, but wonder how anyone can make, and stand by, as a leader.

We are always grasping to explain it, and often, to explain it away, so we can keep living with the absurdities we cannot let go of, the lack of reason so many in power run to defend just a few days after these events. I was glad when a woman standing behind all the men talking, took the microphone from the Governor of Texas and stated plainly that this was again fueled, yes, perhaps by mental illness, but gasoline was thrown on that, as it always is, by the racism and hate which are so prevalent in our public discourse.

And where is that coming from? Our supposed leaders foment this on sometimes an hourly basis, and yet we continue to wonder. I just can’t believe we are that dumb, but sadly, I fear, we actually are becoming that numb. I will say how pleased I was to hear the Governor of Texas say that after the Sutherland shooting, and others in Texas, they held hearings and the universal plea was that we address mental illness more in this country. Perhaps we might find something to agree on and work toward. This is certainly needed.

However, not one mention was made at this press conference, not a question asked that I saw or heard, about the fact that a military assault rifle once again was used. An implement of death, built for one purpose, to rapidly

kill as many human beings as you can at one time. And the gunmen legally purchased it. Not once was it questioned, why in this country is this kind of gun not only legal, but protected and celebrated, by those same leaders?

And then, as I was preparing to send this today, word of another mass shooting in less than 24 hours, in this “great” nation. Nine more killed in reports at this hour. Words are so important. They are also sometimes useless and always should be questioned. You cannot simply call this nation great, or compassionate, or giving, or peaceful, or safe and make it so. The proof is in the results, in what happens each day, not in words. We need to pull our faces out of our computers, out of our delusions, and pay attention to what is actually happening. Unless your only concern is your personal wealth and the stability of the stock market, things are not looking very great right now.

And so, it’s “thoughts and prayers” all over again. Thoughts and prayers, which as I have said before, we need, and I believe in. But as C.S. Lewis and many other wise and faithful people have said, in so many ways, before:

The prayers are not for God, the prayers are for us.

And we need to start not just saying them, but doing something. Taking action to change the racist, divisive rhetoric and taking action to make changes to a system that allows too easily the carnage we are now witnessing on a weekly basis, and as of today, daily basis.

So, sabbatical continues, and I am sad today. In my thoughts and prayers this keeps coming up – what really has changed since Columbine? If anything, it has gotten easier to do such a thing, not more difficult. We need to think, and pray, on that. And then we need to act.

Blessings to all, and pray for those who died, those who are injured, those who grieve, and for this country and world, then write down three things you are going to DO to try to change this sad reality.

+Greg



Christ has no body now on earth but yours;
Yours are the only hands with which he can do
his work,
Yours are the only feet with which he can go
about the world,
Yours are the only eyes through which his
compassion can shine forth upon a troubled
world.
Christ has no body on earth now but yours.
St. Teresa of Avila
The Little Book of Prayers