

AROUND THE PARISH

September 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

- 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

PLANNING AHEAD

- 10/1 6:30pm, Prayer Beads, Annex
10/2 6:30pm, Girl Scouts, PH
10/7 7:00pm, Boy Scouts, PH
10/8 2:00pm, Altar Guild Mtg, PH
10/9 6:00pm, Table Talk, PH
10/10 6:00pm, Vestry, PH
10/14 7:00pm, Boy Scouts, PH
10/15 6:30pm, Girl Scouts, PH
10/16 6:00pm, Evening Prayer
6:30pm, Soup Supper, Reflections
10/19 8:30am-4:00pm, Habitat for
Humanity, Gold Bar



FABULOUS BRUNCH!!

Many thanks to Vestry for the wonderful brunch served between services on Sunday, September 8, to celebrate the beginning of our "new" year. There were egg casseroles, biscuits and gravy, sausage sliders, lots of baked goodies and fruit. Amazing variety!

It is always a good thing when the two service groups can get together for food, fun and fellowship. Thanks, Vestry, for making this possible!!



Fr. Greg Peters

THE SEASON GETS LONGER & LONGER

Someone recently sent me an email with some fact about one of the democratic presidential candidates. He's an Episcopalian. But then came the disclaimer, "I know, we're not supposed to talk about this in Church, but I thought it was an interesting fact."

I wrote back that I didn't see why we shouldn't be talking about political candidates in church. For one thing, the election is more than a year away, and, at this point, most everything is theoretical. For another, there are so many democratic candidates that just keeping them all straight, like at a baseball game, requires a program. And now, there are two republican hopefuls challenging the president, so things are even more complicated.

Just to be clear, we can talk about anything political we want; I just cannot explicitly endorse a candidate or initiative while acting in any official capacity, especially from the pulpit; nor would I.

I have to tell you, in my family growing up we NEVER discussed politics. It was a taboo and actually forbidden subject. I have no idea why. Even though I am a news junkie and we do in fact discuss politics at home with our children, I am, in many ways, naïve and unskilled in talking about it. So the more we talk politics, the better I'll get at it, the better we'll all get at it.

I find it helpful to discuss positions and merits rather than character traits and flaws. It's easy to disparage or exalt a candidate on their appearance, foibles, idiosyncrasies, and rhetorical skills. It is much more challenging

and interesting to discuss the merits and logical conclusions of their policy proposals.

I'd like to propose some ground rules:

1. When we speak about candidates or initiatives, let's be as objective as possible. For example, "Did you know that Candidate Q has thus and such experience? I think that will, or will not, help her or him govern. What do you think?"
2. Let's discuss the merits of the candidates' proposals rather than the defending or attacking the candidate's value as a human being. For example, "Candidate Z is proposing thus and such social program. I think this part is a good idea. I disagree with that part. What do you think?"
3. Let's compare candidates to each other rather than to angelic or demonic forces. For example, "Candidate L and Candidate K both have similar positions on International Trade, but Candidate J says this about it, which is really different. I'm not really sure which is better, but I'm inclined to think....What do you think?"
4. Let's talk about substance rather than appearance. "That plan is called V. I like how that sounds.
5. Let's discuss the candidates and issues not ourselves. Trying to figure out how we get to our opinions, inclinations, and decisions is much more important. "Tell me why you think that's a good idea. How does that rise up out of what you know of God, Jesus, the working of the Holy Spirit?"

A former Vestry member once told me that he thought that the church could be a place for healing the political chasm in our country. I agree. I know that talking about politics can be fraught with perilous division, but so can talking about religion and we do that all the time. Not discussing politics won't make it go away. Being open, honest, and inquisitive, exploring how our faith informs our politics, and struggling to listen to and learn from each other is really the only way to heal what divides us.

Lastly, in all our discussions, debates, and deliberations, let us be governed by those two vows we make in the Baptismal Covenant: "will you seek and serve Christ in all people, loving your neighbor as yourself? and will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?"

Politics is about finding ways to live together, with justice and equity; balancing freedom with responsibility. Those last two baptismal vows, obviously, are about how we live together, how our entry into the life of Jesus, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, to live among our fellow people and creatures in the *kingdom* of God. Politics and Faith are pretty much always in dialogue.



Fellowship Meal

DON'T MISS THIS SOUP SUPPER, INFORMATION AND FELLOWSHIP!!

Sign-up for the Soup Supper on **Wednesday, September 18**, beginning at 6:00pm with Evening Prayer, soup dinner at 6:30pm, followed by Reflections.

The topic for the evening features Theresa and Clark Chase discussing homelessness in our community.

A sign-up sheet is in the Parish Hall for soups, salads, breads and/or desserts, as well as volunteers to set-up and help clean up after dinner.

You are invited to attend whether or not you are able to contribute to the meal. This is an evening for information, sharing and fellowship.

(See the article below on Faith Formation and plans for upcoming events.)



MORE FELLOWSHIP – ECW COFFEE

Christine Sine will discuss her book, “The Gift of Wonder: Creative Practices for Delighting in God” at an ECW Coffee on **Saturday, September 28**. Coffee and refreshments will be served starting at 10:00am.

Come hear Christine 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.

YES, IT’S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN!

By Dan Mullene, Senior Warden,
2019 Stewardship Chair

Have you noticed that it seems like the simple act of changing your calendar from August to September seems to automatically bring on the start of Fall, even though it doesn’t officially begin until September 23rd? The signs are all around us; kids are back in school, leaves are turning colors, the days grow shorter, football on TV, and pumpkin spice seems to be the flavor of almost everything in grocery stores and coffee shops!

And (spoiler alert!) this is also the season that we begin again to move into our annual fall Stewardship program.

This year I have felt called to take on the role of Stewardship chair. I wouldn’t do this if I didn’t feel like I was standing on the shoulders of those who have been involved before, including (but not limited to) Maryellen Young, Steve Forsythe, Jeannie Wells, John Kistner and many, many others who have worked in the background to ensure our financial stability through many successful past campaigns and are here to help me.

If you’ve been reading your Around the Parish newsletters the past months, you know that the stewardship theme this year is “Shining Our Light.” This comes from Matthew 5:16: “In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”

I hope to add some thoughts on this theme during reflections and a future homily, as well as inviting others to share their own stewardship moments during services. And I want to bring some new ideas that I have about looking at the joy of giving from different points of view.

You will be seeing more about “Shining Our Light” in the coming days from Fr. Greg Peters, me and other members here in the Around the Parish articles, in sermons and testimonials, and in other communications. We hope that you will receive these messages prayerfully and with open hearts and minds.

I would like to leave you with a thought about our theme, and hope you will continue to follow along in the weeks and months to come:

Each of us is called to make sure we are letting God’s light shine through our work, our friendships, our service and our giving. We are called to be light bearers. I invite you to prayerfully consider where and how you are shining your own personal light and hope to help you to amplify its effect in our church community.

JOIN IN “TABLE TALK”

Table Talk is a conversation in which anyone can participate. Its focus is Christian Ethics/Character and Contemporary Issues. Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount and Parables are the springboard for our discussion of issues like truth and honesty, immigration, violence, peace, war, beginning and end of life issues, homelessness, hunger, poverty, _____ fill in the blank. All our welcome.

Our conversation resumes on the fourth-Wednesday of the month, **September 25**, at 6:00pm in the Parish Hall and then continues on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month. Next sessions are September 25, and

October 9th and 23rd. Bring your own food. For questions contact Jim Gilman (425) 409-1374 or namlig74@gmail.com.

EDIBLE HOPE FUNDRAISER

Join St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Ballard on **Monday, September 23, from 6:00-9:00pm**, as they hold their annual fundraiser to help feed their neighbors in need and encourage community.

The gathering will be a Lagunitas Brewing Company Taproom & Beer Sanctuary. Good beer, good food, good cause and great fellowship. Tickets are \$25.



ALERT! **Construction on 84th Ave W**

If you live near St. Alban's, you may have received a mailed notice from the City of Edmonds advising that construction on 84th Ave West will begin in early September and be completed by November, weather permitting.

This event will have two impacts on us: First, traffic delays can be expected traveling to and from church. The city says that the delays will be intermittent, but residential, pedestrian and business access will be open throughout the project.

Second, the firm doing the work, A&M Contractors, has contacted us to ask about storing some materials, mainly dirt and aggregate stones, on our parking lot for two to four weeks in September. They have offered to perform up to \$5,000 of repairs for our parking lot as compensation.

Because A&M needed to start on Monday, September 9, prior to our next Vestry meeting, Fr. Greg and the wardens met on September 1 to review their offer. Since A&M addressed all our concerns and we had positive input from all other vestry members, we voted to accept their

proposal. The materials will be stored in the northwest corner of our parking lot..



FAITH FORMATION AT ST. ALBAN'S

Susan Hanson, Vestry Worship Liaison

The writer of Hebrews tells us, "Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." The apostle Paul, in Ephesians, tells us, "For grace you have been saved, through faith."

At St. Alban's we have many opportunities to form, grow and strengthen our faith. The Worship Committee plans the calendar to ensure our main service, 8:00 Rite I and 10:30 Rite II, help us deepen our relationship with Jesus. Several times during the year, Taize services are held on Sunday evenings.

Following up on the information gathered last year by the Renewal Works Workshop Team, we will continue to focus on the desire for more and deeper scripture study.

Each Sunday we have Christian Education for our youth during the 10:30 service and for adults between services. Wendre Vaughan and Shannon Duggan continue to lead the children's program while Eric Hanson leads the adults.

At this time, the adults are studying the book of John. This is an interactive group with lots of discussion and welcomes all comers. Typically, the core group decides what to study next, and Eric prepares for and leads the discussions. This group meets from 9:15-10:00. Both 8:00 and 10:30 worshippers are welcome. Bring your coffee to the annex and join the discussion.

Soup suppers are held the third Wednesday of the month. This is a time to meet with friends, worship, break bread together and learn. Our first supper this fall will be September 18 with Clark and Theresa Chase speaking about our response to the issue of homelessness.

Our October 16 soup supper becomes a Stew Fest to introduce our stewardship program.

October is also the first time we are hosting a Habitat for Humanity building day. This is an opportunity to put our faith into action. Stay tuned for more information.

Then, November 20th, just in time for Advent, that season of preparation and waiting, Eric Hanson, with input from Fr. Greg Peters will encourage our scripture study with a look at How to Read the Bible.

The second and fourth Wednesdays, we'll continue with Table Talk sessions that focus on ethical responses to current issues.

Please join us for these and other upcoming events of Faith Formation.

MEET YOUR VESTRY

ATP will feature a member of our Vestry each month.

The featured Vestry member for this issue is **Kären Ford**, a life-long Episcopalian. She has been a member of St. Alban's for 20 years and attends our 10:30am service. Some of Kären's ministries include Vestry's current Worship liaison, Altar Guild, choir, facility use coordination and ECW.

Kären has been on Vestry several times, serving as warden and general member. Ensuring the future of St. Alban's by being pro-active and looking for ways to enhance our place in community and the Diocese are reasons why Kären serves on Vestry.

Kären's hobbies include reading, knitting, needlework and Sudoku. She has quite a few favorite authors – Louise Penny, Jane Austin, Charlotte Bronte, CJ Box, Martha Grimes, JA Jance, Rhys Bowen, PD James.

Born in Buffalo, New York, Kären's favorite part of Washington is its mountains. She visits Canada periodically. Preferred foods include liver and onions, stone fruits, MacIntosh apples and "stinky" cheeses.

St. Alban's is blessed by Kären and her gifts.



HABITAT FOR HUMANITY **Civic Saturday for St. Alban's**

Saturday, October 19, 8:30am to 4:00pm, is St. Alban's Habitat for Humanity WORK-DAY. 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 workday. We need 8-12 people to sign up and participate in this construction of affordable housing and a solution to homelessness. Rides will leave from church at 7:15am Saturday morning for a day of work, fun, and fellowship. The build is in the Gold Bar area of Snohomish County. Lunch is provided. Jim Gilman (namlig74@gmail.com) is coordinating.

Habit 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.



CAPITAL CAMPAIGN PROJECT UP-DATE

As of September 1, 2019, we have raised \$194,200 towards our Capital Campaign projects, including donations, pledges to be received, matching funds from our Endowment Fund earnings and initial savings account. After expenses for the roof and furnace, we have \$46,900 towards the parking lot. We have received \$1,140 in cash from our 4th week baskets plus several checks. If you would like to

donate, there are Capital Campaign envelopes in the pew racks; write Capital Campaign on the memo line of your check. Thank you for your support.

Make us worthy, Lord, to serve our fellow men throughout the world who live and die in poverty and hunger. Give them through our hands this day their daily bread, and by our understanding love, give peace and joy.
Mother Teresa



”RenewalWorks for Me”

St. Alban’s recently participated in the RenewalWorks program that started with an all-parish questionnaire followed by a dedicated team working with the results to identify priorities for our congregation. Based on input and feedback received, this team identified two areas for further emphasis: Focus on the Bible and Spiritual Growth. These areas are being incorporated within our Faith Formation planning for the future.

A follow-up program is now available for those who wish to continue their spiritual journey on an individual basis. “Renewal Works for Me” is a personal guide for the spiritual journey, providing coaching to help individuals grow. It begins with a brief online survey which assesses where you are in your spiritual life, called the Spiritual Life Inventory. This Inventory is simpler than the one taken as part of the earlier one for the church and focuses more on your individual perspective.

Once your responses have been processed, you will be emailed a helpful explanation of findings, along with some tips for improving your own spiritual journey. You will also be given a chance to sign up for an eight-week

series of emails that will offer some suggestions, coaching for how you can grow spiritually, and ways you can go deeper in love of God and neighbor.

To get started go to <http://renewalworks.org/resources/rw4me/> or more information is available at <http://renewalworks.org> and click on the “RenewalWorks For Me” tab at the top.



Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.

Martin Luther King

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS

September 15 – 14th Pentecost

Today’s Epistle talks about saving sinners and showing great mercy. Timothy says that we are saved in order that we might gratefully tell of God’s mercy by the example of our new lives in Jesus Christ. Does your prayer, giving, worship and service make you “*an example to those who would come to believe in Him to gain eternal life?*”

September 22 - 15th Pentecost

“*do not be anxious about earthly things, but love things heavenly,*” so that even in our daily lives, when all around us may continue to change, create problems and worries, or even fade away, we can, with faith, put our trust in God and those things He promises us shall endure forever.

September 29 – 16th Pentecost

What a difference it would have made for Lazarus if the rich man, had showed him even an iota of the mercy and favor God had modeled for him in his pampered life. But the scales are eventually balanced and Lazarus finds a lasting home near God, while the rich man is condemned to suffer for eternity. How often do we question why “bad things happen to good people”, but take little comfort in God’s promise to balance the scale gloriously in His good time? Must be because we’re human and can never know the many mysteries of God...we just have to trust...and how hard and unsatisfying that can be!

October 6 – 17th Pentecost

“...you are always more ready to hear than we to pray, and to give more than we either desire or deserve...”. A favorite stewardship saying is “you cannot out give God!” Go ahead, trust his adage and put Him to the test. See what happens when you give back sacrificially and with thanksgiving; the results may surprise you!

October 13 – 18th Pentecost

In the story of the two lepers, only one returns to Jesus to give thanks for his healing. Are we often like the other? Do we accept God’s many blessings and gifts, but fail to respond in a sufficiently grateful way? The use of our treasure, time and talent for the Lord’s work is a good indicator of our gratitude to our God who gives all.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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

September 15 – 14th Pentecost

Exodus 32:7-14; Psalm 51:1-11

1 Timothy 1:12-17; Luke 15:1-10

8:00 Lector: Martha Philippoff
EM: Sharon Joy

10:30 Lector: Shirley Clark
EM: Connie Forsberg

September 22 – 15th Pentecost

Amos 8:4-7; Psalm 113

1 Timothy 2:1-7; Luke 16:1-13

8:00 Lector: Martha Philippoff
EM: Jim Gilman

10:30 Lector: Susan Hanson
EM: Kären Ford

September 29 – 16th Pentecost

Amos 6:1a, 4-7; Psalm 146

1 Timothy 6:6-19; Luke 16:19-31

8:00 Lector: Sharon Joy
EM: Shannon Duggan

10:30 Lector: Susie Nichols
EM: Reilly Mannery

October 6

Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4. Psalm 37:1-10

2 Timothy 1:1-14, Luke 17:5-10

8:00 Lector: Sharon Joy
EM: Jim Gilman

10:30 Lector: Maureen Forsythe
EM: Dan Mullene

October 13

2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c, Psalm 111

2 Timothy 2:8-15, Luke 17:11-19

8:00 Lector: Judy Kistner
EM: Shannon Duggan

10:30 Lector: Shirley Clark
EM: Connie Forsberg