

AROUND THE PARISH

November 30, 2019

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

- 12/1 6:00pm, CHRISTMAS CONCERT**
- 12/2 7:00pm, Boy Scouts, PH
- 12/3 6:30pm, Prayer Beads, Annex**
6:30pm, Girl Scouts, PH
- 12/7 9:30am, Altar Guild Clean-Up, PH**
- 12/9 7:00pm, Boy Scouts, PH
- 12/10 6:00pm, Vestry Meeting, PH**
- 12/14 10:00am, ECW Christmas Party**

PLANNING AHEAD

- 12/16 7:00pm, Boy Scouts, PH
- 12/17 6:30pm, Girl Scouts, PH
- 12/18 7:00pm, "Blue Christmas Service"**
- 12/23 7:00pm, Boy Scouts, PH
- 12/24 5:00pm Christmas Eve Carols**
5:30pm Christmas Eve Eucharist
- 12/25 10:00am, Christmas Day Eucharist**



ECW CHRISTMAS COFFEE

Our ECW Coffees offer great fellowship and the opportunity to get to know each other better. We are a two-service church, and all joint gatherings are treasures.

On **Saturday, December 14, at 10:00am**, there will be an ECW Christmas Party in the Parish Hall. It's an occasion for fun stories, good food, holiday cheer and an enjoyable gift exchange. Please bring a wrapped gift for the exchange – not to exceed \$10. There will be extra gifts in case Santa (or you) bring friends or family as guests.



TAKING A TECH SHABBAT

Fr. Greg Peters

In his editorial of Monday, November 25, New York Times columnist David Leonhardt espouses a Tech Shabbat. A Shabbat is the weekly day of rest observed by our Jewish cousins. So a Tech Shabbat is, as you might have already reasoned, a day of intentionally going without our tech devices, specifically the internet and smart phones. He suggests this for one of the 24 hour periods of the Thanksgiving Weekend.

Mr. Leonhardt has a very busy schedule, a career that is dependent on connecting with people, and, perhaps most significantly, a wife and teenaged children. Taking a Tech Shabbat, for him had the potential for real challenges, if not outright disaster. On top of that, he wasn't sure he'd like it and he admits as much.

But he and his family tried it and "it was wonderful. We hung out with friends, without distraction. We never had to ask, guiltily, 'Sorry, what'd you say?' because we had been only semi-listening. In between scheduled activities, we took a walk and played a board game I spent time thinking about long-term projects instead of replying to unimportant emails. It felt productive, rejuvenated, and, yes, fun." (See the full editorial online at www.nytimes.com/2019/11/24/opinion/thanksgiving-technology)

What a wonderful way to celebrate Thanksgiving, to be as fully present to our family and loved ones as possible; to be fully present with our surroundings and with ourselves.

Personally, I really like being able to keep track of what's going on in the world and in the congregation. Even if I don't respond to emails

immediately, I like to know what's going on. And I like the instant gratification of having answers to questions about the random things of life – where exactly are the Muslims political prisoners being held in Xinjiang? What's the weather like in Rhinelander, right now? I am terrible at spelling; I really, really need an online dictionary. How much is that doggie in the window? You get the picture.

So I am going to give it a try. I may modify the practice a little, in case of pastoral emergencies. For example, I will check for messages at 8 a.m., Noon, and 6 p.m., but other than those times, I'll have it off.

I think, too, that this could be a great Advent discipline. There is so much to do to prepare for Christmas that sometimes – okay, often – I simply forget about what all the busyness is about. If the first Tech Shabbat goes well, I may try to practice it weekly, for Advent. I hope to be more mindful about preparing for God entering into the world, and less consumed and distracted by the preparations I have imposed on myself and on the season.

If you try it, let me know how it goes, what you experienced, what you learned.

VESTRY MEETING INFORMATION

Our Vestry held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, November 12. The following are some of the topics considered:

- Our Preschool currently had a Read-A-Thon fund raiser. Thank you for those who donated.
- Vestry approved a new gutter system, which will first be installed on the east side of the Church and Preschool building. This will protect the gutters that get the most debris.
- Vestry approved a Life Project for a prospective Eagle Scout.
- The upcoming Christmas Concert is for the benefit of Chase Lake Community School's Safety Net Program. Parishioners are encouraged to invite family, friends and neighbors.

- Vestry has formed a committee to find three new members and two Convention delegates. These will be elected at January's annual meeting.

DIRECTORY CHANGE:

Jan Skidmore
Apartment # is 250



CHRISTMAS FLOWER DONATIONS

Envelopes are in the pews for Christmas flower donations. Altar Guild depends on your contributions to provide beautiful flowers and arrangements to celebrate Jesus birth.

Your donations can be as a memorial, in thanksgiving or for a celebration. Please have your contributions in by Sunday, December 15, for inclusion in the Christmas bulletin. We welcome donations after that time also.

OCTOBER FINANCIALS

Income for October was \$15,111 compared to the budget of \$ 13,290. Expenses for October were \$14,125 compared to a budget of \$14,885.

Total Income (actual year to date)	\$126,000
Total Income (budget year-to-date)	\$12,849
Total Actual Income minus Budget	\$4,051
Total Expenses (actual year-to-date)	\$135,419
Total Expenses (budget year-to-date)	\$139,642
Total Actual Expenses minus Budget	(\$4,232)
Net YTD Total Actuals Minus Budget	\$ 8,284
Net Total Income minus Total Expense	(\$8,509)

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WINTER'S RETURN
DECEMBER 1 AT 6PM

A benefit for Chase Lake Community School's Safety Net Program.

Bring a friend or neighbor to our Celebration in Music on December 1 at 6pm.

Donations of cash or non-perishable food will be collected at the door.

YOUR VESTRY NEEDS YOU:

Three Positions to fill at

January 26 Annual Meeting

By Dan Mullene, Senior Warden

As we draw closer to the end of 2019, we begin planning for our Annual Meeting, set for Sunday, January 26th. An important part of that meeting will be to elect three new members to the St. Alban's Vestry as well as two Diocesan Convention Delegates.

As is our tradition, the outgoing Vestry members, Pat Chandler, Kären Ford and Maureen Forsythe, along with a continuing member, Martha Philippoff, make up the nominating committee and will invite parishioners to consider serving on the Vestry. You may have the good fortune of being contacted by these four servants over the next few months.

To help you understand just what it might mean to accept a call for Vestry service, here is some helpful information.

According to our Bylaws, to be eligible to serve on the Vestry, a candidate "shall be, and shall remain throughout his/her term, an adult communicant in good standing in the Parish."

According to General Convention Canon I.17 of the Episcopal Church, a *confirmed adult communicant in good standing*:

- has been confirmed or received by the laying on of hands by a Bishop of this Church or by a Bishop of a Church in communion with this Church;
- has received Holy Communion in this Church at least three times during the preceding year;
- is at least 16 years of age;
- for the previous year has been faithful in corporate worship, unless for good cause prevented, and has been faithful in working, praying, and giving for the spread of the Kingdom of God.

Here are some of the things that Vestry members do:

- Meet monthly on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. Meetings include a scripture reflection, review of the Treasurer's and Rector's report, discussion of the parish business, and other matters that may require action.
- Attend an annual Vestry retreat, normally in the spring, to get to know each other better and to review goals and plans for the year.
- Act as a Vestry liaison with one of St Alban's ministries, such as Worship, Faith Formation, Pastoral Care, Outreach, Finance, Fellowship, Stewardship, Communications, and Buildings & Grounds. (Parish officers who are also Vestry members are not required to take on this role).

Vestry terms are usually limited to three consecutive years, but it is possible for someone to serve out another Vestry member's unexpired terms on occasion. Once the three-year term has expired, an individual may not serve on Vestry again until another year has passed. New Vestry terms will begin at the February 2020 Vestry meeting. At that time, the Senior Warden will be appointed by Fr. Greg, and the Junior Warden(s) will be elected by the Vestry.

In addition, delegates are elected each year at our Annual Meeting to represent St. Alban's at the Annual Diocesan Convention, usually held in the fall. Delegates serve a two-year

term and are supported by two Alternate Delegates. Our current delegates are Maryellen Young and Carrie Cone, who have completed their terms. Delegates have a number of responsibilities at convention, and Maryellen or Carrie can provide you with more information. Senior Warden, Dan Mullene, Junior Wardens Carrie Cone or Steve Forsythe, or any other member of the Vestry. And if you feel called to serve, please pray about it, and be ready to respond to the invitation you may soon receive or talk with Pat, Kären, Maureen or Martha!



SMILE AMAZON Program

St. Alban's is now a participant in the Smile Amazon program. It is very simple to do by following these simple instructions:

- Log onto <https://smile.amazon.com> (NOT the www.Amazon.com site) using your regular Amazon User Name and Password
- You will be prompted to select a charitable organization.
- Type in: St. Alban's Edmonds as "Your current charity." (Make sure it is the one located in Edmonds, WA!!)

Then, start shopping!

MEET YOUR VESTRY

Carol Gordon has been a parishioner at St. Alban's for 15 years. She has been on vestry for two years, and her Ministry Liaison is Outreach. She attends church at 10:30am and serves as one of the lay reader. Interaction with other vestry members is Carol's favorite part of being a member.

St. Francis is Carol's favorite saint; her favorite scripture passage is Luke 2:10 –“And Mary kept these things and pondered them in her heart.” She loves to write poetry and read, with too many favorite authors. Stuck on a de-

sert island, Carol would like the complete works of Shakespeare as her companion.

Carol was born in Los Angeles, California, and her favorite place in Washington is the San Juan Islands. Her last foreign travel was to England. Chili Rellenos is the food she likes best.

Thanks to Carol for her dedication and service to our church and parish.

ADVENT PARTY AT ST. PAUL'S

St. Paul's Episcopal Church is celebrating its Annual Advent Party on Saturday, December 7, from 5:00-7:00pm. There will be good food and drink, and live music with Ethan Anderson. This is a family-friendly event. Activities for all children of all ages will be available, as well as childcare for little ones.

This year's event at St. Paul's will benefit friends at Chaplains on the Harbor and Harbor Roots, mission and ministry of the Episcopal Church in Grays Harbor County. St. Paul's is located at 15 Roy Street in the Queen Anne area of Seattle. For further information, contact www.stpaulseattle.org.



CHASE LAKE GIFT CARDS There is still time for you to donate to Gift Cards for Chase Lake for Christmas on December 1st. Mail in or put your donation in the Sunday plate. All money received will be used to purchase gift cards and given to Chase Lake for their families. Fred Meyer gift cards enable families to purchase gifts, food, clothing, etc. Thank you to all who help make this a better holiday for our neighbors.

PLEDGE STATUS

If you want to know where you are with contributions towards your pledge before the end of the year, please call the Church Office on 425-778-0371, and a special report can be sent to you.

When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

John 8:12



STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS

December 1 – Advent 1 - Year A

“Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.” Perhaps this advice suggests that those of us who try to live a good and holy life need to particularly practice the Holy Habits of prayer, generosity, and caring for others daily. A FORWARD reading offered something like this: *“When I pray daily, it isn’t necessarily that the day goes better, but that I do better with the day.”* If our days are grounded in prayer and service in God’s name, it won’t really matter when the Lord comes, will it?

December 8 – Advent 2

An Old Testament lesson says in part: *“The spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding...the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.”* How can we better seek those spirits than by daily prayer,

scripture reading, study and sharing with others? We need to search on a daily basis to discern just what God is asking of us in return for all He has given.

December 15 – Advent 3

Because of this week’s Collect, some call Advent 3 “stir-up” Sunday. As stewards, how do we seek to be stirred-up so we may faithfully respond to God’s will for us in this journey of life we travel? What are the tools we use so we might be fashioned into the bread and nourishment God wants not only for us, but for us to share with others?

December 22 – Advent 4

“My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,” If we truly believe these words, as Mary witnessed she did (though the best and the worst), how are our love of God and response to His commission to us reflected in our daily lives and interactions with others – not just at this “official” season of giving, but all year through?

December 25 – Christmas

“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth to those whom he favors”. And we are among the favored ones. He has showered us with blessings too many to count – and now at Christmas time, we remember the glorious gift of his Son. In how many ways can we offer thanks and gratitude for this awesome gift?



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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

December 1 – Advent 1

Isaiah 2:1-5, Psalm 122

Romans 13:11-14, Matthew 24:36-44

8:00 Lector: Sharon Joy
EM: Jim Gilman

10:30 Lector: Susie Nichols
EM: Karen Ford

December 8 -- Advent 2

Isaiah 11:1-10, Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

Romans 15:4-13, Matthew 3:1-12

8:00 Lector: Judy Kistner
EM: Shannon Duggan

10:30 Lector: Jean Burpee
EM: Dan Mullene

December 15

Isaiah 35:1-10, Psalm 146:4-9

James 5:7-10, Mathew 11:2-11

8:00 Lector: Martha Philipoff
EM: Sharon Joy

10:30 Lector: Shirley Clark
EM: Reilly Mannery

December 22

Isaiah 7:10-16, Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18

Roman 1:1-7, Matthew 1:18-25

8:00 Lector: Gretchen Munsey
EM: Shannon Duggan

10:30 Lector: Herman Siqueland
EM: Connie Forsberg

December 24 – Christmas Eve

Isaiah 9:2-7, Psalm 96

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

5:00 Lector: Susie Nichols
EM: Jim Gilman

December 25 – Christmas

Isaiah 62:6-12, Psalm 97

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

10:00 Lector: Susie Nichols
EM: Mary Fowler

December 29 – 1 Christmas

Isaiah 61:10-62:3, Psalm 147

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

8:00 Lector: Sharon Joy
EM: Jim Gilman

10:30 Lector: Cindy Goergen
EM: Mary Fowler
Acolyte: Emily Goergen