

AROUND THE PARISH

December 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

- 1/2 6:00-9:00pm, Eagle Scout Event, PH
1/6 7:00pm, Boy Scouts, PH
1/7 **6:30pm, Prayer Beads, Annex**
6:30pm, Girl Scouts, PH
1/9 6:30-9:30pm, Girl Scout Training, PH
1/11 9:30-12:30pm, Girl Scouts Training, PH
1/13 7:00pm, Boy Scouts, PH
1/14 **2:00pm, Altar Guild Meeting, PH**
6:30pm, Vestry, PH
1/15 **6:00pm, Evening Prayer**
6:30pm, Soup Supper Reflections, PH

PLANNING AHEAD

- 1/20 7:00pm, Boy Scouts, PH
1/21 6:30pm, Girl Scouts, PH
1/26 **9:30am, ONE SERVICE**
Refreshments/ANNUAL MEETING
1/27 7:00pm, Boy Scouts, PH



The Work of Christmas from
Howard Thurman's
The Mood of Christmas & Other Celebrations

When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and princes are home,
when the shepherds are back with their flocks,
the work of Christmas begins:
to find the lost,
to heal the broken,
to feed the hungry,
to release the prisoner,
to rebuild the nations,
to bring peace among the people,
to make music in the heart.



By Father Greg Peters

As I write this, I am thinking of the Feast of the Holy Innocents, which was December 28. You know, Matthew tells us that after the Sages from the East arrived, bringing their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, having been warned in a dream, they returned to their country by another way. Joseph, too, is warned in a dream about Herod, and flees with the child and his mother to Egypt. Then, Herod, in his wrath at being tricked by the sages and, more to the point, anxious about a threat to his power, sends his troops to Bethlehem and has all the boys under two years of age slaughtered.

We don't hear this story often, but it's actually a big part of the Christmas tradition. The powers of this world do not want to be overcome by creative, life-giving, Divine power. They do not and will not give up without a fight. And Herod, in keeping with tradition, attacks the most vulnerable.

A while ago, the Sunday after Christmas fell on December 28, so we observed the Feast of the Holy Innocents in the church I was serving. People came expecting to sing joyful carols and instead sang "the Coventry Carol."

*Lully, lullay, thou little tiny child,
Bye bye, lully, lullay.
Thou little tiny child,
Bye bye, lully, lullay.*

A mother's lullaby to her murdered babe.
People were not happy with me. They expected the pacifying nostalgic Christmastide of Norman Rockwell and Clement Clarke Moore, but came face to face with the bald honesty of Mat-

thew. They got it, they understood, but they simply didn't want to be confronted with it. For heaven's sake, I don't want to be confronted by it!

Matthew, and all the biblical writers, were honest. They do not present us with a sugar plum fairy God or photoshopped human psyche. God is concerned for the welfare of suffering, powerless humanity. God does not avoid or even come down and fix these dire conditions; God is born into them and suffers in them – with those who suffer.

Tyrants are all the same –ultimately insecure about the tentativeness of their power, they exert maximum force and control to maintain it. Beyond the very literal evil of their violence, tyrants exemplify unbridled human nature; the logical conclusion of human grasping, hoarding, self-obsession, and lust for power. We all have this potential. There is something of the tyrant in each of us.

Jesus really did live in our world; a world awash with power elites, wise and giving sages, fearful and traumatized parents, destitute migrant workers, people blown about by the whim and will of Empire, people forced from their homes and homelands.

The Incarnation was not and is not a romanticized fable; it was and is still flesh and blood and bone and psyche. And God, who created all this out of pure love, suffers with and redeems it still - out of pure love.

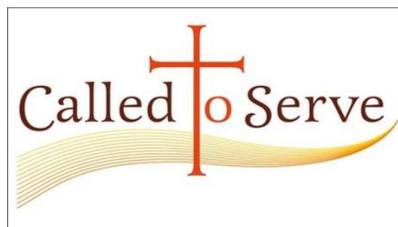


ANNUAL MEETING & ELECTIONS

On Sunday, January 26, St. Alban's will hold its Annual Meeting and election of Vestry members and Convention Delegates. There will be **one service at 9:30am**, followed by refreshments and the Annual Meeting.

We will be electing three new Vestry members and two Convention Delegates at this meeting. You are asked to prayerfully consider serving as a member of St. Alban's Vestry or a convention delegate; or if you would like to suggest a parishioner that we could contact, please talk with a member of the nominating committee (Pat Chandler, Karen Ford, Maureen Forsythe, Martha Philippoff). We hope to add new parishioners or formerly active parishioners to the 2020 Vestry.

Further information will be provided regarding our Annual Meeting in the next issue of ATP.



CONSIDER SERVING ON VESTRY? LISTEN TO THE HOLY SPIRIT CALL

Dan Mullene, Senior Warden

"For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline." 2 Timothy 1:7

Dear Friends:

I wanted to share a few thoughts with you regarding serving on St. Alban's Vestry, in case you have been giving this some thought.

We recently concluded what was by all measures a great Stewardship campaign for 2020, with all of us lovingly willing to "Shine

Our Light” in our examples of giving inside and outside of our congregation. It was my honor to act as the chair for this year’s campaign. But I have to say, I had never done this before, and did it with not a small bit of trepidation. Serve as Stewardship Chair? What on earth was I thinking?

The answer is, I felt called to do it this year. Perhaps it was an angel on my shoulder, or the Holy Spirit speaking in her sweet, small voice to me, but I knew that this was the right thing to do. And, by the Grace of God and with the help of many parish members who lovingly and encouragingly shared their own leadership abilities, we were successful. And I can never thank them enough.

So, here’s what I want to share with you:

If you are considering serving on our Vestry, or as one of two candidates attending next year’s Diocesan Convention, I ask you to listen to the voice you may be hearing encouraging you to step forward. And I can reassure you that you have the support of your fellow parishioners at St. Alban’s to help you succeed!

If you have any questions, you can speak with the members of the Vestry Nomination Committee: Pat Chandler, Kären Ford, Maureen Forsythe or Martha Philippoff. Please also watch for more information on informative opportunities for you to learn about service on the Vestry, and more chances to ask your questions.

Believe in the power, love and self-discipline the Holy Spirit gives you, and receive this opportunity for you to use it in service to St. Alban’s!



CHRISTMAS AT ST. ALBAN’S

A Blue Christmas Service:

In addition to our traditional Christmas Eve and Christmas morning services, this year we offered a

Blue Christmas Service on Wednesday evening, December 18. Advent and Christmas are times of celebration, hope, love, joy and peace, and yet times that some experience depression, sadness, loneliness, and grief. Blue Christmas was a special time of worship and music, acknowledging all the pains and longings, in the knowledge that in Jesus, God too, knows all these emotions and makes them holy. Likewise, being in the company of a caring and supportive faith community, helps make things bearable.

Eric Hanson, Sharon Joy, Reilly Mannery, Gretchen Munsey, Judy Kistner, Jim Gilman, Jeanne Wells, and Greg Peters all had a hand in planning and carrying out the service, and as ever, Music Director John Lehrack, provided beautiful Christmas music.

The sacristy lights were dimmed, and candles were flickering as a small group of parishioners gathered for prayers, readings, psalms and uplifting Christmas Carols. Worshipers were invited to light a candle in remembrance of lost or hurting loved ones, sorrow or pain. Healing prayers and anointing were offered for those desiring it. Our time together continued after the service as participants shared a light meal and refreshments. Like those at the first Christmas, we brought ourselves to the manger. We felt that, in all our humanity and raw honesty, we too were blessed, welcomed, received, and cherished by the holy child of Bethlehem.

Christmas Eve

The Church was full of parishioners, children, family and friends (128 in all) for the 5:00pm Christmas Eve service. Fr. Greg offered a story about an old man who’s whole life was a gift of generosity, especially to children, and, in the end, his simple gift was accepted by the Christ Child himself. The story was acted out by several children, even a few for whom this was their first time at St. Alban’s. From the level of voices coming from the congregation, there was great joy in the carols selected for the evening. Following our traditional, closing of “Silent Night” with hand-held candles, the congregation shared refreshments and fellowship in the Parish Hall.

Christmas Morning

Fr. Greg led the Eucharist Service at 10:00am on Christmas morning. Like Christmas Eve, a number of visitors added to our ranks. Some from out of town – way out of town - were visiting family and together they came to church. It was a real blessing to be included in their Christmas celebration.

Prayer for the End of the Day

The following prayer from the New Zealand Prayer Book was included in St. Alban's Blue Christmas service. It needs to be shared.

Lord,

It is night.

The night is for stillness.

Let us be still in the presence of God.

It is night after a long day.

What has been done has been done;
what has not been done has not been done;
let it be.

The night is dark.

Let our fears of the darkness of the world
and of our own lives rest in you.

The night is quiet.

Let the quietness of your peace enfold us,
all dear to us,
and all who have no peace.

The night heralds the dawn.

Let us look expectantly to a new day,
new joys,
new possibilities.

In your name we pray.

Amen

KNOW YOUR VESTRY

Pat Chandler joined us at St. Alban's four years ago and immediately jumped in with both feet as a frequent volunteer and to serve on Vestry as Senior Warden for 2017 and 2018. Pat is in her final year on Vestry and currently is serving as the Stewardship Ministry Liaison. Her favorite part of serving on Vestry is working with a caring, dedicated group that seeks God's leading in how to best serve St. Alban's. Pat attends our 10:30am service.

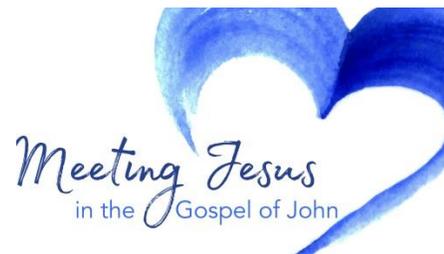
Pat was born in Portland, Oregon, but grew up in Spokane, Washington. Lake Crescent and Sol Duc Hot Springs are her favorite Washington places. Pasta and salads are her favorite foods. She loves travel and reading, with Laurie King her favorite author. Denmark and nearby Baltic countries are Pat's most recent visit to a foreign country.

As a five-year old traveling by train to California with her family, Pat sat near a woman

who spoke to her and her brother about God and the bible. With her encouragement (and a promised reward of a trip to the dining car for a treat), the first bible verse she memorized was John 3:16: "God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life." Pat's favorite ongoing verse is "Mine eyes look up to the hills from whence comes my strength. My help comes from the Lord." (Psalm 121)

Saint Anthony, St. Teresa of Avila and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton are Pat's favorite saints.

We are thankful for Pat and her dedication to St. Alban's and the many ministries and volunteer services she gives to her church.



THE GOSPEL OF JOHN: EPIPHANY 2020

During the season of Epiphany 2020 (January and February), the Presiding Bishop is once again inviting all Episcopalians to read the same portion of scripture. This year, during Epiphany, it is the Gospel of John.

Forward Movement has produced resources to help with this biblical adventure, creating a schedule of readings for each day as well as other resources. A schedule of readings will be available in the Parish Hall. You can also get information or sign up to get weekly emails at <https://www.goodbookclub.org/>

ChurchNext will offer an online course, led by Vicki Garvey, one of the great teachers of scripture in the Episcopal Church. Classes will meet live on Thursday nights via Zoom from January 23-February 27, and they will last an hour. The class is scheduled at 5:00pm PST. If you are interested in participating in community, this online class will be available in the Parish Hall. Plan on arriving at 4:45pm. Or

you can register to participate individually at <https://www.goodbookclub.org/resources/>
Any questions, contact Maryellen Young, maryelleny@comcast.net or 425-776-2461.

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

INTRODUCING THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

The Montreal Diocesan Theological College in the Anglican Church of Canada is hosting a 90-minute webinar about the Gospel of John on January 13 from 4:00-5:30pm (PST). This 90-minute online webinar provides a foundation for the Gospel of John by offering an overview of the gospel's content, structure, and key themes.

Learn about the gospel, and then read it throughout the season of Epiphany to come to a deeper appreciation of the text and hear it speak to your lives in new ways. Taught by the Rev. Dr. Jesse Zink, principal of Montreal Diocesan Theological College. You can join us in the Parish Hall or register to watch it on your own. For more information go to <https://montrealdio.ca/courses/john/>



GLOBAL OUTREACH OPPORTUNITY

Currently we have special basket offerings for the first four Sundays of the month. However, four times a year there are five Sundays in the month. From now on, we are going to add a global outreach offering on the fifth Sunday of

the month working with Episcopal Relief and Development.

ONE THOUSAND DAYS OF LOVE is a grassroots, Church-wide fundraising campaign dedicated to expanding the organization's global programs, improving the lives of children up to age six. Through this campaign, we have the opportunity to help children reach their God-given potential to learn, grow and thrive.



CELEBRATING EVIE ARNESON

At the ECW Christmas Coffee on Saturday, December 14, Evie Arneson was recognized and celebrated for her more than 30 years of dedication to St. Alban's. Evie is "hospitality extraordinaire" with her devotion and commitment to providing refreshments for special events and services and for Sunday Coffee Hours. She is also the chief purchasing agent for the Parish Hall supplies of cups, plates, napkins, paper towels, etc.

Evie is retiring from this week-to-week duty and hopefully will be able to sit and enjoy her coffee without having to jump up to refill coffee, tea, cookies, etc.

To honor Evie, she was presented with a framed certificate and a very generous money tree from her grateful parish family. If you missed the ECW event, please be sure to thank Evie for her years of caring for us and our church.

2020 OUTREACH DONATIONS SUGGESTIONS

Soon it will be time to start identifying charities to receive our quarterly outreach donations starting with the second quarter 2020. 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.
Our Vestry Liaison is Carol Gordon.

A meeting will be held on Saturday, January 11, 2020, at 11:00am in the Annex.

NOVEMBER FINANCIALS

Income for November was \$12,123 compared to the budget of \$ 11,369, slightly ahead of budget.

Expenses for November were \$12,746 compared to a budget of \$13,865 or about \$1,000 less than the budget. We started the year with a budgeted shortfall of about \$15,000, to be covered by our Budget Reserve Fund. It appears that our shortfall for the entire year will be significantly less than originally anticipated, thanks to your generosity. December is always a month with a significant percentage of our income, so if the trend continues we should end the year in a good position financially.

Total Income (actual year to date)	\$139,024
Total Income (budget year-to-date)	\$134,218
Total Actual Income minus Budget	\$ 4,806

Total Expenses (actual year-to-date)	\$148,156
Total Expenses (budget year-to-date)	\$153,507
Total Actual Expenses minus Budget	(\$ 5,331)

Net YTD Total Actuals Minus Budget	\$ 10,157
Net Total Income minus Total Expenses	(\$ 9,132)

MISSION TO SEAFARERS' THANKS

Dear Friends:

Thank you for your recent donation to the Mission. The Mission relies on its friends to sustain our ministry to the seafaring community at the Ports of Seattle, Tacoma and Everett. The people of St. Alban's are such good friends to us.

Blessings to you all! Merry Christmas!

*Barbara Blakestone
Assistant Director*

CONCERN FOR NEIGHBORS FOOD BANK (Mountlake Terrace)

Happy holidays and thank you for your 2019 financial support!

Food insecurity continues to be an issue among many of our neighbors. Every day, people are forced to make tough financial choices between food, rent, transportation and health care.

In 2019, your generous donations went directly to help feed 110 households and 350 individuals every week, right in your community!

Thanks again for your "Concern for Neighbors."



VESTRY MEETING REPORT

St. Alban's Vestry held its regularly scheduled meeting on December 11. The following are some of the topics covered.

1. Nominating Committee – New Vestry members and Convention Delegates are being sought for election at the parish Annual Meeting on January 26. Members of the nominating committee are Pat Chandler, Karen Ford, Maureen Forsythe, Martha Philippoff.
2. Buildings and Grounds – Approval has been given for the Preschool to remove a portion of the wall between the first and second rooms on the right of the building. This will provide a more efficient use and flow of the space. The Preschool has a contractor and is providing the funds for this modification.
3. Annual Meeting – Vestry is requesting reports from ministry groups by January 15 for inclusion in the Annual Meeting.



STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS

January 5 - Second Sunday after Christmas

Psalm 84 says in part, "*Happy are they who dwell in your house! They will always be praising you.*" The Christmas season is a comfortable and natural time to praise God through all the familiar carols and stories. How then will you covenant to continue that grateful praise in the New Year? How can you make your life as a faithful steward grow as a new year begins?

January 12 – First Sunday after Epiphany

Our Baptismal Covenant will be renewed in most churches today. Look at the verbs in the statements: Continue in the prayers and teaching; persevere in resisting evil and repent; proclaim the Good News; seek and serve others; strive for justice and peace. Are our time, talents and resources being used to further these "marching orders"?

January 19 – Second Sunday after Epiphany

"Grant that your people, illumined by your Word and Sacraments, may shine...that He may be known, worshippd and obeyed to the ends of the earth..." Quite a tall order! But even if we just start where we are, and share with those around us the wondrous blessings and gifts we have been given, the intentions of this prayer will be fulfilled.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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

January 5 – 2nd Sunday after Christmas

Jeremiah 31:7-14; Psalm 84

Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-19a; Matthew 2:1-12

8:00 Lector: Sharon Joy

EM: Jim Gilman

10:30 Lector: Carol Gordon

EM: Jim Gilman

January 12 – 1st Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 29

Acts 10:34-43; Matthew 3:13-17

8:00 Lector: Judy Kistner

EM: Shannon Duggan

10:30 Lector: Maureen Forsythe

EM: Connie Forsberg

January 19 – 2nd Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 40:1-12

1 Corinthians 1:1-9; John 1:29-42

8:00 Lector: Martha Philippoff

EM: Jim Gilman

10:30 Lector: Eric Hanson

EM: Susan Hanson

January 26 – 3rd Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 9:1-4; Psalm 27:1, 5-13

1 Corinthians 1:10-18; Matthew 4:12-23

(One service only – Annual Meeting)

9:30 Lector: Cindi Goergen

EM: Sharon Joy

Reilly Mannery

Acolyte: Emily Goergen

