

## AROUND THE PARISH

July 17, 2020

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



### VIDEO SERVICE INFO

Sunday Bible Study is on Zoom at 9:30am

Sunday Eucharist is on Facebook, 10:30am

Sunday Zoom Coffee is on Zoom at 11:30am

Wednesday Evening Prayer on Facebook, 6:00pm

Join Bible Study Zoom on the Gospel of Mark led by Eric Hanson, Link through July:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84765370758?pwd=OEFMd20xL0NjNkZQ0xJbHdaRGJ1Zz09>

Meeting ID: 847 6537 0758

Meeting Password: SeekFirst

**Sunday, July 19 - Taizé is on Facebook, 7:00pm**

Join Zoom Coffee Hour, Link through July:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85174822634?pwd=aW0vdTYrNGtZTGVBQmdzbEJQYm9BZz09>

Meeting ID: 851-7482-2634 Password: 657057

NOTES If you don't have a Facebook account, you can watch the Sunday service later as a video on the Facebook link.

All other events and activities have been cancelled or postponed until further notice.



Fr. Greg Peters-

### Report back from Vestry

Your Vestry met, via Zoom, last Tuesday for our monthly meeting. Here are the highlights.

At the suggestion of Junior Warden Phil McClelland, we resumed the practice of having a social time before the actual meeting. This gave us all a chance to catch up, something for which we all hunger since the pandemic keeps us from meeting in person. It also gave us an opportunity to meet the Osenga Family. Jeremy, Amanda, and Jonathan are all settled in with their travel trailer in the south parking lot. It was good to begin to get to know them. This Sunday, we're going to bless their home during the service; please join us in praying over them.

After that we began our regular meeting. The things to report back to you are:

1. Beyond the normal business, the heart of this meeting involved a lengthy, spirited, and good discussion about the Black Lives Matter sign, the Rainbow flag, the American flag, and signs and symbols in general around the altar. We did not all agree about what was appropriate to have there, but we shared what these symbols meant to us individually, the emotions they brought up, the congregational history some of them reminded us of, and the larger social and cultural issues that they, well, symbolize. Most importantly, we listened respectfully to each other, even when we disagreed; we listened to understand the others' perspectives, and we stated those perspectives simply to inform rather than defensively or aggressively to win. This leads to the next.
2. As you will have observed announced in the ATP, Constant Contact, and at Sunday services, there have been some Wednesday Night, following Evening Prayer, discussions about



### ZOOM COFFEE HOUR

Zoom Coffee will begin at 11:30am.

There are two ways to join, click on Zoom link above. OR go to "zoom.us" on Internet, click on "Join A Meeting" in upper right hand side, at the prompt enter meeting code and then password (noted above). Next prompt is "Enter Meeting." Click on "Join with audio" so you can chime in. Hope to see you there!

### CHURCH PLEDGES & DONATIONS

Please continue donations and pledges by:

Mail check to church

21405-82<sup>nd</sup> Pl W, Edmonds, WA 98026

Drop off through the slot in Greg's door.

Bank Bill Pay – ask bank to send check to St. Alban's

Online donation, go to

[www.StAlbansEdmonds.org](http://www.StAlbansEdmonds.org) and click on "Giving" and then "Donate Now."

systemic/institutional racism, white privilege, Black Lives Matter, and our church's perspective on and response to these. The Vestry commends these discussions to you, encouraging people to participate. The next meeting is Wednesday, July 22 at 6:30pm via Zoom

3. We will be purchasing some new video equipment to enhance our live-streaming capacity and quality. After doing a good deal of research, Phil has found the right equipment for our space, long-term needs, and budget. We plan to continue live-streaming our worship services even after the pandemic passes and we can meet together again.
4. Jan Skidmore who has served so well as our Clerk has had to retire from that position. Several pressing personal issues require more of her energy and attention. We discussed possible people to ask to take on this role and encourage parishioners, who are interested in serving as Clerk, to contact Vestry members or me.
5. This was the last meeting for Steve Forsythe. He and Maureen will be relocating to Tulsa, OK at the end of August to be closer to their daughter and her children. After weeping and wailing, we rallied to thank him for his service to our congregation, leadership, vision, wisdom, and dedication on Vestry, and wished them well in their journey. We generated a list of people to invite to fill Steve's position through the end of the year and commissioned Martha Philippoff, Steve Forsythe, and Dan Mullene to contact candidates and generate a list of interested persons from which to choose to fill the open position.

#### Additional and associated news:

Before the Forsythes leave for Tulsa, we will have a Sunday service outdoors, which will include a blessing of the parking lot. Steve and Maureen were integral in the process of getting the parking lot repaved – envisioning it, coordinating the work, and raising the funds to pay for it. This service will also provide a time to wish Maureen and Steve well in the next phase of their lives.

I will be taking a couple of weeks' vacation in August.



#### TAIZÉ ON FACEBOOK – JULY 19

Be sure to catch the next Taizé service presentation on **Sunday, July 19, 7:00pm**, on Facebook. Our wonderful, gifted music director John Lehrack has prepared several programs to help us enrich our at-home worship.

Taize is a calming and peaceful program of prayers, music, quiet time and several readings. Taizé can be accessed from a link on the front page of St. Alban's website [www.stalbansedmonds.org](http://www.stalbansedmonds.org). Previous presentations are also available for your viewing and listening.

*Let's Talk  
about it*

#### CONVERSATION ON RACE

On **Wednesday, July 22, at 6:30pm** (after Evening Prayer at 6:00pm), the discussion on race will continue. Even if you did not participate in the previous discussions, we invite you to join the group.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85996400391?pwd=dENwN2VuOWFFeGVXcEJsMmVIZWZzQT09>

Meeting ID: 859 9640 0391

Meeting Password: Alban

During our previous Zoom meeting, we discussed further exploration by looking for programs, films, books, articles and other actions we can take that will help us as a faith community understand systemic racism. Our goal is to discern what we can do to make our society more just.

The Episcopal Church has some materials that begin with the Baptismal Covenant, and we plan to begin this discussion starting in September.

**NOTE:** Our next Drive Up Food Drive will be **Saturday, August 8, from 10:00am to 2:00pm**. This also will be an opportunity to say good-bye to the Forsythes before Steve and Maureen return to Oklahoma.



**QUESTIONS FROM YOU;**

**ANSWERS FROM US**

Dan Mullene, Senior Warden

Welcome to a new occasional column in the Around the Parish Newsletter called, "Ask the Wardens," an opportunity for parish members to ask the wardens questions and hopefully get informative answers.

Your wardens, Senior Warden Dan Mullene and Junior Wardens Carrie Cone and Phil McClelland, look forward to hearing from you with any questions you might have. You can email them to us at [askthewardens@gmail.com](mailto:askthewardens@gmail.com).

We will then review them and determine the best person to answer (we may use other experts as well!) and get back to you as soon as possible. Questions and answers with general interest to all will be published in the ATP (identities of the questioners will be omitted) as they become available. Don't have an email account? You can call the wardens (we are in your church directory), and we will be happy to take your questions over the phone. Just to refresh you, the roles of the wardens are as follows:

Senior Warden: Often known as the "priest's warden," the senior warden is the liaison between the vestry, congregation, and the priest. The senior warden is appointed each year by the rector.

Junior Wardens : Generally known as the "people's warden," these wardens represent the congregation and the church properties, and act as a liaison between them and the Vestry.

We look forward to hearing from you!

**CHANGES TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD**

We've received notice about upcoming changes to the neighborhood. Calvary Chapel (formerly St. Matthew's Lutheran Church) has sold parcels of their property that face 82<sup>nd</sup> Pl W. The grassy area and small house closest to St. Alban's will probably become two houses. We also received a notice from the City of Edmonds about a short plat request for the house just north of this area to become a four-unit townhouse building.

The parking at Calvary Chapel will remain (and hopefully the access road we have used to

enter Calvary Chapel's parking lot for major events like the Celtic Concert). These changes make our grassy area north of our parking lot an oasis of green in a more densely crowded neighborhood.



**MARY MAGDALENE**

July 22 is the day to honor Mary Magdalene, a disciple of the Lord. She was one of several women of ill repute whose lives were radically changed by Jesus. She was said to be "possessed by seven demons" and was considered "lost," beyond redemption, by the authorities of that time. The scriptures are not explicit about the nature of her many sins, but it is made very clear that Jesus gave her the will and power to abandon them. Nevertheless, the authorities were not impressed, and Jesus seems to have been criticized for keeping the company of such people.

Tradition has held that she was a very emotional person and our English word "maudlin" derives from her name. Mary of Magdala followed Jesus into Galilee and helped care for him and the disciples there. She witnessed the Lord's suffering on the cross. She took oil to anoint his entombed body and therefore she is often represented with a jar of ointment. Her tearful reaction on finding an empty tomb is still a favorite line to many faithful, "They have taken my Lord away and I do not know where they have laid him." When the Lord appeared and called her name, "Mary," she recognized him and exclaimed, "My Master!" She was the first to see the risen Lord.

*(Calendar of Saints, Forward Movement Publications)*

Heavenly Father, in our journey through life, teach us to  
look back with gratitude and count our blessings;  
to look around with compassion and serve those in  
need;  
to look forward with confidence and trust you for all  
that's to come;  
in the faith of Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Family Prayers, Forward Movement



**DAY BY DAY MEDITATIONS**

Shannon MacVean-Brown, the eleventh bishop of the Diocese of Vermont, contributed the following to Forward Movement’s Day by Day.

*Psalm 117: Praise the Lord, all you nations; laud him, all you people. For his loving-kindness toward us is great and the faithfulness of the Lord endures for ever. Hallelujah!*

Benedict’s response to a world out of order was to develop a rule of life – or pattern for living – that called for refuge in scripture, prayer, work and rest.

I have never quite understood monastic life that requires one to retreat from the world, but I am grateful for the wisdom that has been born from this way of living out a vocation. We all struggle at times to make sense of our lives and need some way to be anchored to the One who gives us life – to have our awareness of God’s goodness restored and reawakened.

Presiding Bishop Michael Curry’s invitation to follow the Way of Love is an invitation to a rule of life we all can adopt. As we turn, learn, pray, worship, bless, go and rest, we will find peace, purpose, and joy in a Jesus-centered life.

**LATEST ISSUE OF FORWARD DAY BY DAY**

Copies of Forward Day by Day for August/September/October 2020 are currently available. This publication is provided compliments of St. Alban’s.

With the current health restrictions, copies are being placed in the box by the outside of the Sacristy door. If you need a copy mailed to you, please call the church office (425-778-0371). You can also subscribe to have a copy mailed to you.

<https://www.forwardmovement.org/>

Regular Print (English)  
Price: Two-year (8 issues); One-year (4 issues)  
United States: \$22 / \$13

The Christian does not think God will love us because we are good, but that God will make us good because He loves us.  
C. S. Lewis



**VOTER REGISTRATION**

Every registered citizen is encouraged to vote in all elections. This is a big voter year with a General Election on November 3. Primary ballots have been mailed to registered voters for election on August 4.

There is time for you to register if you are not currently registered. You may register on line, by mail or in person.

**Snohomish County** 3000 Rockefeller Avenue #505  
Everett, WA 98201-4060  
**Office Hours:** 9:00am - 5:00pm **Phone:** 425-388-3444  
**Email:** [elections@snoco.org](mailto:elections@snoco.org)  
**Website:** <http://snohomishcountywa.gov/224/Elections-Voter-Registration>

**King County** 919 Southwest Grady Way  
Renton, WA 98057-2906  
**Office Hours:** 8:30am - 4:30pm **Phone:** 206-296-8683  
**Email:** [elections@kingcounty.gov](mailto:elections@kingcounty.gov)  
**Website:** <http://www.kingcounty.gov/elections>

**2020 U.S. CENSUS**

A census count of the United States and its five U.S. territories is mandated every ten years.

The census provides critical data that lawmakers, business owners, teachers and many others use to provide daily services, products and support for our communities. Every year, billions of dollars in federal funding go to hospitals, fire departments, schools, roads and other resources based on census data. It also determines the number of seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives, and the results are used to draw congressional and state legislative districts.

The U.S. Census Bureau has extended the 2020 census deadline, originally set for the end of July, to October 31 in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

**COVID-19 BLUES??**  
**YOU’RE NOT ALONE**

If you or someone you know are struggling with stress, anxiety, trauma or depression, you can call 2-1-1 to get connected with help at no charge. This service is provided by Community Covid Outreach Counselors, Volunteers of America.



## WHAT IS SPIRITUAL GROWTH?

Part of the RenewalWorks ministry is an effort to focus on spiritual growth opportunities and to make those opportunities the priority in our congregations. As that work has unfolded over the past seven years, they have often been asked what is meant by spiritual growth. How would you answer that?

Jay Sidebotham in a recent Monday Matters Column shared RenewalWork's working answer: "spiritual growth is about love, about growing in love of God and neighbor, following Jesus' instruction that this kind of love is the path to his abundant, endless life. We believe we grow in love by deepening the relationship with God and neighbor, engaging in spiritual practices that help us know God better, being of service to those around us, spending time in God's presence, in conversation with God and neighbor. It seems to me those are ways that love grows."

## **WHAT IF**

### AND THE SUN

By Lotus Kay

Lotus Kay is a teen writer whose writings have been in various publications. She received a grant from Jane Goodall's *Roots & Shoots* program for her work creating an educational campaign to educate youth about endangered species and wildlife.

*Thanks to John Lehrack for sharing this poem from his July 19 Taizé presentation.*

It's been honking all morning  
The highway is filled with cars  
Of people trying to make it someplace different than  
where they are  
Trying not to be late  
But the traffic's making them wait.  
The cars pass by a school  
They pass by some stores and shops  
They pass by some restaurants and salons  
All working non-stop  
The day had only begun  
And there's so much to be done  
Today's a morning  
Just like any other morning

Of human civilization under the sun.  
And so the sun  
When looking down  
Thought "What would happen  
If things changed around?  
The world is just like a sun  
That will not set  
When will the world  
Ever rest?  
What if these cars had no place to be?  
What if these stores and shops closed  
And people were forced to focus only on the  
things they really need?  
What if people were forced to spend time with  
themselves?  
Forced to reflect and focus on their health?  
And I'm not talking about just one town  
What if the whole world changed around?  
Everyone together  
All connected  
All going through the same thing  
All equally affected.  
What if instead of putting them to waste  
People appreciated the resources they had?  
Not constantly taking for granted  
What's in their grocery bag?  
What if all this pollution started declining?  
With the highways mostly empty  
And fewer planes flying?  
What if families were forced to bond  
Whether or not they got along?  
And the glitter and glamour of a celebrity life  
What if you took away all the hype?  
And forced everyone to live the same way  
Forced to see they're all alike.  
And what if parents watched their kids learn and  
grow?  
Not sending them away each day  
But keeping them at home?  
What if people were forced to connect  
In a place where countries don't have boundaries  
Called 'the internet.'  
What if there was a deeper feeling of unity?  
With more people being aware of their  
communities?  
What if people had to redefine  
The things that they find fun  
Without being able to go to parties and clubs?  
What if an extroverted society  
Had to find a way to do things more quietly?  
Just for a while  
What if there was a collective pause?  
So the upcoming mornings

Wouldn't move so fast  
And people could reevaluate  
The way they were living in the past?"  
And so the sun  
When looking down  
Thought "What would happen  
If things changed around?  
Wonder how this would shake things up?"  
I guess we'll find out in a couple of months.

## STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS

### **JULY 19 – 7<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY aft PENTECOST**

*"mercifully give us those things which for our unworthiness we dare not, and for our blindness we cannot ask..."*. If we truly believe God's promises, and trust that, in his unfathomable love and desire to be in meaningful relationship with us, he will indeed hear us, and provide for, not our wants, but our real needs. God is eternally faithful to those who love him.

### **JULY 26 – 8<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY aft PENTECOST**

*"For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."* The big "but" here is that we need to accept that offer of eternal grace with loving and thankful hearts, and respond to his awesome promise by, in turn, living lives dedicated to serving Him and those in the world around us in his name.

## LESSON READINGS

### **JULY 19 – 7<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY aft PENTECOST**

Genesis 28:10-19a  
Psalm 139:1-11, 22-23  
Canticle: Wisdom 12:13, 16-19  
Romans 8:12-25  
Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

### **JULY 26 – 8<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY aft PENTECOST**

Genesis 29:15-28  
Psalm 105:1-11, 45b or Psalm 128  
Romans 8:26-39  
Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

### ST. ALBAN'S CURRENT OFFICE HOURS

|           |                               |
|-----------|-------------------------------|
| Monday    | 10:30 - 12:30pm               |
| Tuesday   | 10:00 - 12:00pm               |
| Wednesday | 2:00 - 4:00pm                 |
| Friday    | 10:30 -12:30pm; 2:00 – 4:00pm |

The office isn't open on Sundays, but there are people around from 9:00am - 1:00pm. Before and after services, people are available for quick business activities.

In order to maintain social distancing and minimize any possible exposures to the Coronavirus, please observe the following protocol:

- Please contact the Office, (425) 778-0371 or [stalbansedmonds@gmail.com](mailto:stalbansedmonds@gmail.com) to make an appointment.
  - Call the Office to inform them that you have arrived.
  - Wait in your car or outside in the garden or under the eaves.
  - Wait for further instructions – to be let in, to meet your party, to pick up or make a delivery.
  - Wear a mask.
- In case of something urgent or an emergency, please call Greg Peters on his cellphone at (206) 778-1506.

