

## AROUND THE PARISH

July 24, 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 August

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84765370758?pwd=OEFMd20xL0NjNkZQ0xJbHdaRGJlZz09>

Meeting ID: 847 6537 0758

Meeting Password: SeekFirst

Join Zoom Coffee Hour, Link through July. NOTE this link has been extended through August

<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

### Fixing Jesus

The beautiful ebony Jesus I brought to church a while ago got broken. He's supposed to hang on the wall, safe and secure, but we didn't have a nail to put him on so we just propped him up on the altar, and relentless gravity finally had its way with him, and he fell and his arm broke off at the shoulder. The joint and the dowelling broke. So now I am fixing Jesus.

I've had to scrape and sand off the old glue and drill out the dowelling. Next, I'll have to find the right sized dowelling and cut it to the right length, then glue and clamp it up tight.

Even if I do it just right, though, he won't be just like new. The cracks will show and there'll be a tiny chip or two missing from the original joint. Maybe I'll be the only one to know or notice, but still he won't be his perfect self anymore.

I hope to have him ready and back to church for Sunday. It's always good when Jesus shows up to church on Sunday. It's nice to have him around, don't you think? I mean that's why I show up myself, to meet Jesus.

No, he won't be the same, but come to think about it, he never really is. He's always coming back a little more beaten up or broken. The world is like that. Life is like that when you go to the places Jesus is always going, hanging around the hard-living people Jesus hangs out with.

You know who I'm talking about, the hungry and thirsty, the meek and the poor of all sorts (of spirit and/or of means), the tired, the sick, the lonely, the beat down, the broke up, the contrite, the miserable. You don't hang out with folks like that and come away unscathed. I imagine Jesus' heart must break a couple of times a day, his arms must hurt from all that lifting up of the fallen, his back bruised from absorbing violent blows. How often does his head explode trying to understand wanton



### 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."

cruelty, self-absorbed neglect, or sallow indifference?

That kind of gravity must play havoc with the divine body.

So I'm fixing my beautiful ebony Jesus. I'm going to glue those outstretched arms of love right back on him. I know he'll just go back out there into the world and come back next Sunday with some other kind of scar, scrape, scratch, or sore, some other fever. And we'll start all over again with this little dance we do. I'll fix him up just right, but he'll just go right out, back for more.

If I do this dance long enough, I may come to my right mind.

I may believe that it's me doing the fixing, fixin' up poor ol' beat up Jesus, but, by some kind of patient grace, I may discover that I'm the one getting fixed up. I keep trying to make Jesus in my image, when really, it's me he's working at making into his. This is hard work; the work of love. Those scars he's carrying around on his body, they're mine. I mean, I inflicted them. It's the gravity of my indifference, negligence, and selfish abuse of my neighbor that throws him to the ground again and again.

I keep trying to make Jesus look like I think he should. Jesus patiently, lovingly, persistently is forming me to be as I could be – like him. It's my arms that need to be glued back on – in order to love those he loves like he loves them. It's me who needs to see in my neighbor - in the suffering and pain and grief of my neighbor - God. It's me who needs some arms of love put back on!

Oh, for heaven's sake, where's that glue?



*Outdoor Worship Service*

This coming Sunday, July 26, at 10:30am, we will hold our first in-person worship service since March!! It is hoped we will be able to continue to offer this service as long as the weather holds -- or maybe into September. The service will still be Live-Streamed for those who are unable or choose not to attend in person.

We will wear masks and observe safe distancing; we will be situated so that people can be on the grass or in their cars. Bring your own blanket or chair, as we will not be able to provide chairs. Thanks to Phil McClelland, we will have some canopies to sit under if you prefer to be out of the sun.

There will not be paper bulletins, but Jeannie Wells is sending them out to you via email, so bring your own copy or have it on your cell phone or tablet. You will want to have a copy since this is a less familiar service for us.

Since we cannot safely share Holy Communion, we will be using the Morning Prayer Service, so be prepared for something a little different. It is not what we have become accustomed to, but is part of our tradition and beautiful.

A Disclaimer: Please know that meeting together, even out of doors, safely distanced, wearing masks and taking every possible precaution, is still hazardous. If you are over 65, are in compromised health or suffer from respiratory disease, you probably should not attend this service. Much as we would love to see you, it would be perfectly understandable if you decide not to attend.

### **EVELYN ARNESON**

St. Alban's lost an amazing member of the congregation on Wednesday, July 22, when our Sister in Christ Evie Arneson passed away. She was recently diagnosed with advanced lung cancer and experienced a pulmonary embolism earlier this week in the hospital.

Evie has been a long-time member and was the Queen of Hospitality. Our many coffee hours and gatherings after church were mainly due to Evie's

Ever-present God,  
be with us in our isolation,  
be close to us in our distancing,  
be healing in our sickness,  
be joy in our sadness,  
be light in our darkness,  
be wisdom in our confusion,  
be all that is familiar when all is unfamiliar,  
that when the doors reopen  
we may with the zeal of Pentecost  
inhabit our communities.

Scottish Episcopal Church

thoughtful and continuing ministry. She had an amazing giving and serving spirit and was always working in the background. Praise and thanks were not her cup of tea even when we pushed them on her. Evie coordinated endless receptions over the years as well and always blessed ECW members with seasonal “party favors” at our gatherings.

We will remember her with love while mourning her loss. Evie will be in many prayers, as will her son Glen who came from Ohio and saw her before her death.

There are no plans for a service for Evie due to the current gathering restrictions. You will be notified should they develop.

*Depart, O Christian Soul, out of this world;  
In the Name of God the Father Almighty who created you;  
In the Name of Jesus Christ who redeemed you;  
In the Name of the Holy Spirit who sanctifies you.  
May your rest be this day in peace, and your dwelling place in the Paradise of God.*



**PRAYER LIST AND CHAIN CONTINUE**

Despite the congregation’s current required distancing, Sheilah Reidburn continues to coordinate requests for prayers, passing them on to Fr. Greg and the Prayer Chain Team. The Sunday Prayer List used in our service each week is also maintained by Sheilah.

Prayer requests are not limited to members of the congregation, but may include family, friends and/or neighbors. Sheilah can be contacted by email at [sheilahreidburn@comcast.net](mailto:sheilahreidburn@comcast.net) or phone at 425-745-1390.



Thanks to many generous donations, we have had two successful food drives at St. Alban’s. Another one is scheduled for **Saturday, August 8, from 10:00am-2:00pm.**

We have seen from the Thank You notes how much our contributions mean to the local food banks and the clients they serve. Covid-19 and its subsequent employment cuts have had an enormous impact on our neighbors and the food banks they

depend on. Please see notes on Page 5 for information on the growing need for food donations.

Help us help our neighbors in need. All packaged and/or box food is welcome. Lee Forsberg reminds us “the food bank cannot get enough peanut butter.”

Steve Forsythe, and perhaps Maureen also, will be helping at this Food Drive. They will be moving to Tulsa at the end of August. Stop by church to visit with Steve and send the Forsythes off with our prayers and good wishes for their future home.



**CONVERSATION ON RACE**

The conversation has continued, and will continue on **Wednesday, August 5, at 6:30pm.** Even if you haven’t tuned in before, please join in this interesting and thoughtful discussion.

On Wednesday, July 22, the group viewed a portion of an advocacy webinar sponsored in part by the Presiding Bishops of the ELCA and Episcopal Church. Discussions consist of personal experience, observation and the meanings and ideals of equality and justice.

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

Meeting ID 859 9640 0391  
Meeting Password **Alban**

**JUNE 2020 FINANCIALS**

Income for June was \$11,108 compared to the budget of \$14,505, or (\$3,397) under budget. Income for June is the lowest amount received this year. However, May had five Sundays and a larger-than-average income. Year-to-date we are (\$2,780) under budget. We sent out statements in July, so people know the status of their contributions.

Expenses for June were \$13,583 compared to a budget of \$15,444 or (\$1,861) under budget. Our year-to-date expense totals are (\$6,406) under budget. We have savings in utilities, maintenance, and fellowship because we aren’t meeting at the church.

Year to date we continue in a positive position based on expenses below budget.

<b>Total Actual Income (year-to-date)</b>	<b>\$ 88,461</b>
<b>Total Budget Income (year-to-date)</b>	<b>\$ 91,241</b>
<b>Total Actual Income minus Budget</b>	<b>\$ ( 2,780)</b>

Total Actual Expenses (year-to-date) \$ 86,514  
 Total Budget Expenses (year-to-date) \$ 92,920  
 Total Actual Expenses minus Budget \$ 6,406

Net Total Income minus Total Expenses \$ 1,947  
 Actuals Minus Budget \$ 3,626



(Many thanks to parishioner Carol Gordon for sharing her humor and the following item.)

**E-MAIL TO J\*H\*V\*H\*@Earthlink**

SIR:

Thank You for allowing us to read Your manuscript.

It has generated, as You will understand, much discussion within the board room.

We find the texture dense, the characters vast and varied. We admire Your liberal use of the anti-hero, but debated the introduction of your protagonist so late in the plot.

Magic realism is a good sell these days!

Occasionally you stray into the didactic. Would You consider extending some of the strong sexual material into the second section?

Our fact checker paled at the prospect of the geo-physics and the lineage.

In the end, we feel we can not justify the expense of editing this MS. We wonder, too, at the staying power of the subject matter.

We *would* like to see more of Your work.  
 Carol Gordon  
 For the Board



**PICK UP ATP HOT OFF THE PRESS!**

At the great suggestion of one of our parishioners, we will be putting several copies of Around the Parish in the box next to the Sacristy door every Friday by 1:00pm. By the time a mailed copy gets to your home, some of the “news” or dates are past.



**MARY & MARTHA OF BETHANY**  
**Companions of the Lord**

July 29 is the celebration of Mary and Martha. They lived with their brother, Lazarus, at Bethany, a village not far from Jerusalem. They seem to have been very sensitive and compassionate women and gladly entertained Jesus and the disciples in their home. Mary, on one occasion, anointed Jesus’ feet with expensive oil in an outpouring of emotion and love which drew criticism from some of the disciples. To them this act seemed sentimental and wasteful. On another occasion Mary was criticized by Martha for neglecting her household duties in order to “sit at the feet of Jesus.” On both of these occasions Jesus came to the defense of Mary.

It was Martha who met Jesus when he came to her family on the death of Lazarus and who confidently testified that had he been there Lazarus would not have died. It was to Martha that Jesus said, “I am the resurrection and the life...”

Jesus had no more loyal and generous followers than Mary and Martha of Bethany. Their examples of devotion and fidelity have inspired Christian women for generations.

*Almighty and everlasting God, who enkindled the flame of your love in the hearts of your servants Mary and Martha: Grant to us, your humble servants, a like faith and power of love; that, as we*

rejoice in their triumph, we may profit by their examples; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

(Calendar of Saints, Forward Movement Publication)

THANK YOU!  
We are grateful.



### **NOTES OF THANKSGIVING**

Dear St. Alban's Episcopal Church,

*These new and challenging times have called for readjustments to be made on the part of us all. We are indebted to you for maintaining our shared connection and for helping the work of feeding the hungry.*

*Your ongoing support is deeply meaningful to us, and to our friends and neighbors. Thank you very much for being our partners in this worthy endeavor! We so appreciate you.*

*Your friends at Edmonds Food Bank*

Dear Parishioners of St. Alban's,

*Thank you very much for your generous donation to the Lynnwood Food Bank.*

*We are currently in uncharted territory and both our larger and local communities have found themselves in higher need than has been experienced in many years. With the help of our community, the Lynnwood Food Bank has been working to meet the food needs of many new customers and many returning customers, as well.*

*During the Month of May, the Food Bank served 1,899 households and 6,854 individuals. This is nearly double our normal average number of households served, coming after April when we were at almost three times our usual number of households. With so many people out of work right now, the need has grown substantially, and it is with your support that we are able to meet that need.*

*These households are served only because our community provides countless hours of volunteer work and financial support. We thank you for your kindness and generosity towards our community; you are helping this be a better place.*

*Matthew J. Appel, Treasurer*

### **DAY BY DAY MEDITATIONS**

The following meditation is from years past, and the author unknown.

*Matthew 5:38-48: Be perfect.*

This is one of those sayings of Jesus that, on the face of it, seems incomprehensible. How can we possibly be perfect? Imperfect is surely what we most profoundly are. In fact, we are perhaps a shade too quick to affirm (under the guise of offended humility) the absolute impossibility of our own perfection,

Jesus himself knows our human frailty better than most, and he does not mock us.

So what can this possibly mean? Context is important. Jesus is speaking here of love of neighbor. He is not urging us to a kind of legalistic purity, but to whole-hearted love – rooted in our relationship with God our Father. This radical love knows no limits, extends beyond boundaries of family and nation, even to our enemies. Christian love is not a matter of deciding who is “worthy.” We have been loved beyond any deserving; we are to love others the same way.

Perhaps this commandment is a promise as well. After all. St. Athanasius reminds us, “Christ became what we are that he might make us what he is.” The more we live into God’s love for us, the more we will be able to love with his love. “Be perfect,” Jesus says, “as your heavenly father is perfect.”

### **DAY BY DAY REMINDER**

The August/September/October issue of Forward Day by Day is available and is provided by the church at no cost. Copies have been placed in the box outside the Sacristy door for you to pick up. 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



## PRAYER FOR RACIAL HARMONY

*(Thanks to Dan Mullene for sharing this prayer)*

God and Father of all,  
in your love  
you made all the nations of the world  
to be a family,  
and your Son taught us to love one another.  
Yet our world is riven apart  
with prejudice, arrogance, and pride.  
Help the different races  
to love and understand one another better.  
Increase among us sympathy,  
tolerance, and goodwill,  
that we may learn to appreciate the gifts  
that other races bring to us,  
and to see in all people  
our brothers and sisters for whom Christ died.  
Save us from jealousy, hatred, and fear,  
and help us to live together  
as members of one family at home in the world,  
sons and daughters of one Father  
who live in the liberty of the children of God;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Book of Common Order of the Church of Scotland  
(Edinburgh: St. Andrew Press, 1994)*

Forgive me, Lord, for a mind  
that turns so readily to weigh my troubles,  
so seldom to count my blessings.  
Teach me the practice of recollection,  
the habit of thankfulness,  
the art of praise.  
And may I deal as generously with others  
As you deal with me;  
for Jesus Christ's sake.

Family Prayers, 1984

## STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS

### 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.*

### AUGUST 2 – 9<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY aft PENTECOST

There is an old table Grace which says. *"Christ is  
the wilderness five thousand fed, with two small  
fishes and five loaves of bread. May the God above,  
who made that division, descend upon us and our  
provision. Amen."* Perhaps you can use it this  
week as you thank God for the great variety of gifts  
He gives us.

## LESSON READINGS

### 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

### AUGUST 2 – 9<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY aft PENTECOST

Genesis 32:22-31  
Psalm 17:1-7, 16  
Romans 9:1-5  
Matthew 14:13-21

#### ST. ALBAN'S CURRENT OFFICE HOURS

Monday	10:30 - 12:30pm
Tuesday	10:00 - 12:00pm
Wednesday	2:00 - 4:00pm
Friday	1 0:30 -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 appointment.
- Call the Office to inform them that you have arrived.
- Wait car, 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.

