

AROUND THE PARISH

March 12, 2021

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



Fr. Greg Peters

**Don't want to be late for church on Sunday?
Then be sure to set your clocks ahead one
hour as Daylight Savings Time starts this
Sunday, March 14.**

SUNDAY ACTIVITIES

Sunday Eucharist on Facebook or YouTube, 10:30am

Adult Bible Study, 9:30am; Ecclesiastes led by Eric Hanson. Link through April

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84765370758?pwd=OEFMd20xL0NjNkkzQ0xJbHdaRGJlZz09>

Meeting ID: 847 6537 0758 Password: SeekFirst

Zoom Coffee Hour, Link through April

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

Meeting ID: 851-7482-2634 Password: 657057

NOTE: If you don't have a Facebook account, you can watch the Sunday service on YouTube or later as a video on the Facebook link

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Wednesdays--Evening Prayer at 6:00pm: Facebook

3/10, 3/17, 3/24 - Soup Suppers during Lent

6:00pm, Evening Prayer; 6:45pm, Fellowship

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86467078774?pwd=L08vdmldVVGtMRzNqVTRRczVjOEpldz09>

Meeting ID: 864 6707 8774 Passcode: Lent

3/20 Spring Food Bank Drop, 10:00am-2:00pm

3/23 Becoming Beloved Community, 6:30pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84587330526?pwd=amo2Y0dldlUxUmxB2pGcUNuMGFpdz09>

Meeting ID: 845 8733 0526 Passcode: BBC

ZOOM COFFEE HOUR

Zoom Coffee begins at 12:00pm. 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."

Your Vestry met last Tuesday evening for their monthly meeting. I want you to know that they are a dedicated, hardworking, and forward-thinking bunch. Here's a rundown of what we accomplished.

First, there is quite a list of improvements being made around the church.

- We approved another Boy Scout's Eagle Project, placing one of the storage sheds near the playground, which will be used by the Pre-school.
- We approved new "the Episcopal Church Welcomes You" street signs to replace the now faded ones on 84th Avenue West and 212th Street Southwest. These signs will be paid for by the generosity of two of our families, Phyllis Becker and Jon and Jeannie Burpee.
- We gave thanks for the new handrails at the north entrance and the work being done to make a secure storage place for Troop 300 canoes on the eastside of the Sunday School wing.

Phil McClelland quipped that people will not recognize the place when they come back!

Second, we approved a scholarship for Maisy Hochstetler to attend a Lay Ministry Counseling course. This training will improve the pastoral care opportunities within our congregation and to any neighbors in need.

Third and complimentarily, Maisy presented a project that she and Wendre Vaughan are coordinating to provide Easter Egg Hunt Kits for families in our congregation (POP) and to our neighborhood (POP OUT). You can read more about this project elsewhere in the ATP. The Vestry enthusiastically supports it and hopes you all will too.

Fourth and also complimentarily in the sense of ministry to the neighborhood and local community, the Vestry unanimously approved a proposal from

the Edmonds Food Bank to make St. Alban's a remote distribution site. Beginning in mid-April, the Food Bank will provide prepackaged food boxes to preregistered recipients. This will be a drive through process for up to 50 people. If all goes well, and we believe it will, this could increase to more frequent distributions of once a week. This is a joint effort between the Edmonds Food Bank and St. Alban's. Volunteers will be needed to help set up and host (ensuring that Food Bank personnel have access to Parish Hall restrooms.) Look for more information as the project is more thoroughly organized.

From my perspective, I am so thankful for the leadership the Vestry continues to provide developing ministries within our congregation and to our neighbors. As I noted in the meeting, since I joined you in ministry, the Vestry has been seeking ways to connect with the neighborhood. Maryellen Young named it a while ago, to be "the Church in the Neighborhood"; that's one of our principle goals. This seeking is finding fruition.

Realistically, we may or may not see these neighbors in our pews on Sunday mornings, but we can and will be their church in whatever ways they need us to be, in whatever ways the Spirit directs us. Obviously, we want to be such a serving and welcoming place that people will want to join us in faith and in ministry, but filling the pews is not the mission of the church; seeking and serving Christ in all people is.

I am so proud and happy for your faithfulness, diligence, and dedication to the ministry of our Lord and Savior. Your focus on mission and generous welcoming is such an inspiration. You bring to my mind Jesus' teaching to the disciples that "the son of man came not to be served but to serve and to give himself as a ransom for many." (Mark 10:45 and Matthew 20:28).

Thank you all for your leadership through service!

O Lord Jesus Christ, by your almighty power you opened the eyes of the blind, and showed yourself to them. Turn our eyes away from worthless things, and lead us to love you sincerely through your mercy.

O our God, you are blessed, and live and govern all things, now and forever. Amen



HOLY WEEK & EASTER SERVICES

Sunday March 28, 10:30am - Palm Sunday
Eucharist, Facebook

Monday, March 29, 6:00pm - Evening Prayer

Tuesday, March 30, 6:00pm - Evening Prayer

Wednesday, March 31, 7:00pm - Tenebrae,
Zoom

Thursday, April 1, 7:00pm - Maundy
Thursday/Altar Stripping, Facebook

Friday, April 2, 6:00pm - Good Friday,
Facebook

Self-Guided Stations of the Cross,
12:00 -7:00pm, Labyrinth

Saturday, April 3, noon - Holy Saturday,
Facebook

Saturday, April 3, 8:00pm - Holy Vigil,
Facebook

Sunday, April 4, 10:30am - Easter Eucharist,
Facebook



CONTINUING LENTEN REFLECTIONS

There is still time for you to jump into our Lenten Reflections Zoom group. It's not a continuing "story," but an opportunity to learn from a fellow parishioner and to share your own thoughts and reflections. These evening programs are based on the Episcopal Relief and Developments Lenten Meditations.

Our next program is **Wednesday, March 17**, with Sharon Joy leading the week's topic of Repent. The program begins with Evening Prayer on Facebook at 6:00pm. Then switch to Zoom for a bit of fellowship, and Reflections discussions which begin at 6:45pm.

The ERD Meditations are online so you can receive one daily direct to your email or you can print the daily meditations for your use. If you aren't able to get online for information, please contact the Church Office, and we will get a hard copy printed for you. This program series will continue on Wednesday evenings through March 24.

The Zoom link for all Wednesday evening programs is:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86467078774?pwd=L08vdmdVVGtMRzNqVTRRczVjOEpldz09>

Meeting ID: 864 6707 8774 Passcode: Lent



MARCH 20 FOOD DRIVE

Our early Spring Food Drive is approaching fast! Hopefully you have been able to find some good buys at your favorite store.

The Food Drive is **Saturday, March 20, from 10:00am – 2:00pm.** Donations of non-perishable foods are welcome – tuna fish, canned chicken, spaghetti and noodles, spaghetti sauce, peanut butter, jam/jelly, canned fruits and vegetables, etc.

Volunteering at this event is always a joy – you get a chance to meet and greet parishioners, as well as those in the neighborhood who contribute. And, all the faces are smiling!! If you can volunteer to spend a few hours at the Food Drive, please let Lee Forsberg know (425-563-3544).



BIBLE STUDY OF ROMANS BEGINS

Eric Hanson

Starting this Sunday, the Adult Christian Education class will embark on a study of Paul's letter to the Romans. Composed originally as a corrective to some of his intemperate language in the letter to the Galatians, which offended some of the Jewish Christians in Rome, it became the most elegant,

most complete explanation of Christian systematic theology that we have. It beautifully integrates Hellenistic and Jewish points of view.

Please join us at 9:30am on Sunday mornings for this wonderful study.

“POP” – PIECE OF THE PARISH

Maisy Hochstetler



Easter POP

This is the second Easter that we are apart from one another, and the ministries of St. Alban's would like to give you a Piece of the Parish, or Easter POP, this year to help you celebrate Easter.

An Easter POP is an Easter bag full of St. Alban's love, including consecrated communion kits (one per communed person per household), an Easter Worship Bulletin, treats from Hospitality, and other surprises and delights from other St. Alban's ministries! Please specify if you need gluten-free communion kits.

We are accepting donations of pre-wrapped items for the Easter POP Bags if you or your ministry's committee would like to donate and volunteer to help assemble the Easter POP Bags! Drive-By Pick-up is Palm Sunday, March 28, 12:00-2:00pm. Fr. Greg is able to participate until 1:00pm.

Please RSVP with Maisy Hochstetler via text or phone call at 425-780-9970.

Easter POP-OUT Egg Hunt Kits



This would be our second Easter without an Egg Hunt for the children of St. Alban's, and we want to have an outreach to both our Preschool and our neighborhood children, as well as our own children and grandchildren of St. Alban's members.

The Hospitality Committee is teaming up with Outreach to make Easter Egg Hunt Kits! We are making kits that have 10 prefilled eggs per child, and we need donations of candy and volunteers to help us fill them! This is an awesome opportunity to reach out to them, especially before they all get back to school soon!

If you can donate candy, funds, or time towards this endeavor, please contact Maisy Hochstetler. Also, if you want to RSVP your family for a POP OUT Egg Kit, please contact Maisy and let her know how many children you wish to reserve yours for!

Pick up is Saturday, March 27, 10:00am - 12:00pm. **You can reach Maisy via phone or text at 425-780-9970.**

God never tires of forgiving us; we are the ones who tire of seeking his mercy. Pope Francis

FRONT ENTRY HAND RAILING!



Thanks to our Boy Scout Troop 300, a wonderful safety railing has been installed beside the church's front walk. It's clean looking and will give needed security to the path.

Several years ago, Vestry asked Phil McClelland to obtain bids for a railing, but maintenance funds were needed elsewhere. This is another donated project from a potential Eagle Scout who has blessed St. Alban's and our parishioners. Thank You and congratulations for reaching the rank of Eagle Scout.

The following poem was recited by Music Director John Lehrack for his March 7 Taizé service.

The Ten Commandments

“Commandments” is a “Thou Shall”
Humans find it natural to rebel,
Or may be a “Thou shalt not”
Won't give up what they've got.
It's all a matter of God's will
As opposed to any until
God decides He's had enough
Man goes his merry way and rough.

I don't want one God, I've got my car.
One God won't get me very far.
There's my house and my bank account,
Why respect one when there's more to count.
I'll use God's name in vain to ease my pain.

As for giving time to reflect on Him,
I'd rather react on a whim.
Parents to respect
What for?
They'll quickly show to me the door.
I'm not allowed to go out and kill
But my country is still at war.
Adultery..... Well it's the norm
Monogamy not in a storm.
I will steal and not get caught,
Take anything that I have sought,
Tell lies and slander my neighbour's name
And envy his possessions just the same.

Do you think now I have room for pride?
Or from God that I can hide?

Author Audrey Christophersen is 77 years young, married with two daughters and three grandchildren. She was born in Adelaide, South Australia, but presently lives near Port Augusta, South Australia. She paints in water color, oil, acrylic and pastel, sometimes mixing media. Audrey loves poetry and short form prose, both as a reader and writer. Her favorite book is the Bible.

Love begins at home. And it is not how much we do, but how much love we put in that action.
Mother Teresa



DAY BY DAY REFLECTIONS

Meditation by Ellis Reyes Montes, a musician, writer and lifelong Episcopalian from Houston, Texas. He is the music director of Grace Episcopal Church.

John 2:16 – (Jesus) told those who were selling the doves, “Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!”

When I think of home, I think of the kitchen. My family has had many conversations while eating food prepared on the counters. It is the place where we remember where our family has come from: the long trek from Peru to Guatemala and then to Texas, and our stories of growing up together under the same roof. The kitchen is the place where we have made so many decisions.

I like to think of my church as a kitchen. We gather to remember the stories of faith: of Jesus, of the faithful figures in the Bible, of our congregations. We also gather to share communion, a spiritual meal that has been provided to us through tradition, prayer, and blessing. At its core, the house of God is where we strengthen our faith.

Jesus invites all people into the kitchen, and whenever we try to exclude people with discriminatory structures, Jesus will tear them down. As we follow Jesus' commands to welcome, to love, and to serve, we will find unity and peace in God's house.



March is the last month for donations to Compass Health, our 1st quarter 2021 Outreach Donation recipient. Compass Health is a private, non-profit, state licensed organization providing mental health and chemical dependency services. Members of our congregation have commented positively about the services this organization provides.

The Kistner's daughter Nancy is a unit clerk at the Mukilteo Compass behavior modification facility, where she maintains client's daily records of treatment, medication, etc. She also serves the clients with telephone calls, storage of personal items and various other tasks.

FROM THE READER BOARD...



Contributed by Dave Wilson

I just spent 15 minutes searching for my phone. While using my phone as a flashlight.

At this point, I am 97.3% feral and will not be able to be integrated back into society.

I am not buying a 2021 planner until I see the trailer.

You'd think I was wanted for murder the way I react when someone knocks on my door!

If you ever get an email about pork, ham, salt and preservatives. Don't open it. It's Spam.

Never in my life would I imagine my hands would consume more alcohol than my mouth.

I told my wife how thankful I was to have someone I enjoyed being quarantined with. She said, "it must be nice."

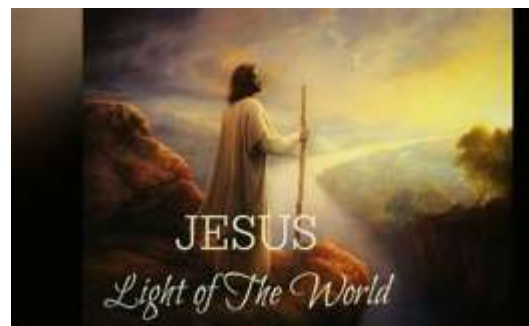
I haven't tried Yoga yet, but I have tried bending over to pick up my keys. So I am pretty sure I hate Yoga.

To get rid of unwanted junk during the holidays, put it in an Amazon box and leave it on the porch.

Brain cells, hair cells and skin cells all die constantly. But fat cells seem to have eternal life.

I need to get in shape. If I were to be murdered right now, my chalk outline would be a circle.

Do you remember, before the internet, that people thought the cause of stupidity was the lack of access to information? Yeah, it wasn't that!!



STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS

MARCH 14 – 4 LENT

For God so loved the world, that He gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have everlasting life." When we think about giving and receiving, there is no more unselfish and eternally blessed gift than the one God has given us with "no strings attached" – except the desire to have us return that love to Him and share it with others in our lives.

MARCH 21 – 5 LENT

“Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also.” What a blueprint for a steward to follow! Love the Lord, follow and serve Him and reflect his immeasurable love to all whose lives touch yours – and a rewarding life both now and eternally is God’s promise”

COLLECT FOR 4 LENT

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

LESSON READINGS

MARCH 14, -- 4 LENT

Numbers 21:4-9
Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22
Ephesians 2:1-10
John 3:14-2

MARCH 21 -- 5 LENT

Jeremiah 31:31-34
Psalm 51:1-13 or Psalm 119:9-16
Hebrews 5:5-10
John 12:20-33



ST. ALBAN’S YouTube CHANNEL

There is an alternative option for viewing our Worship services, and you now have two options for your viewing: Facebook or YouTube. In the center of our website front page, there is a link to YouTube, pictured above. If you have problems with Facebook, try YouTube.

GREG’S HOME OFFICE HOURS

Monday to Thursday 8:30am – 2:30 pm

Via email: gwpeters.stalbansedmonds@gmail.com

Cell: 206-778-1506

WEDNESDAY in CHURCH OFFICE—discontinued for now due to increase in Covid cases.

SUNDAYS--after church coffee hour until 2:00pm

Available by appointment

ST. ALBAN’S CURRENT OFFICE HOURS

Monday 10:30 - 12:30pm; 2:00 – 4:00 pm
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.

To maintain social distancing and minimize any possible exposures to Covid-19, please observe the following:

- Please contact the Office, (425) 778-0371 or stalbansedmonds@gmail.com to make appointment.
- Call the Office to inform them that you have arrived.
- Wait in 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.

WEEKLY SUNDAY BASKET OFFERINGS

1st week—Food Bank

2nd week—Discretionary Fund

3rd week—Outreach – Compass Health

4th week—Capital Improvements

5th Week—One Thousand Days of Light (ERD)

CHURCH PLEDGES & DONATIONS

Please continue donations and pledges by:

- Mail check to church
21405-82nd 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 go to www.StAlbansEdmonds.org and click on “Donate Now.”