

AROUND THE PARISH

March 19, 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

SUNDAY ACTIVITIES

Sunday Eucharist on Facebook or YouTube, 10:30am

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84765370758?pwd=OEFMd20xL0NjNkzQ0xJbHdaRGJlZz09>

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



Fr. Greg Peters

I had intended to write a pretty little piece, more poetic and visual than usual, a little humorous and playful. In fact, I had started writing that piece a couple days earlier than my norm. But then, last night after dinner, while we were doing the dishes, Erika and I got talking about the shooting rampage in Georgia.

Since it happened and had been in the news a few days ago, I had been thinking about it; appalled by the rationale that the young white man had killed and maimed all those women because he was too sexually tempted by them that he had to eliminate them. As if it was their fault that he was tempted by them.

Of course, there are many issues here and many layers for each of those issues.

- The women were mostly of Asian descent; they worked at massage parlors and spas, so they may or may not have been sex workers; they may or may not have been recent immigrants.
- Some of the victims were customers getting massages. One man, originally from Guatemala, may have simply been passing by on his way to an adjacent business.
- The shooter is a young, white man, 21 years old, so hardly fully formed in mind or body.
- None of these folks was very high on the power and influence spectrum.

Compounding all this is the recent resurgence of violence toward people of Asian descent, apparently in response to the corona virus originating in China. As if Asians are to blame for the Covid-19 pandemic and all the woes that have been visited upon all of us by it.

But what really set me off was the statement by the spokesman for the Cherokee County Sheriff that the shooter "was at the end of his rope" and that "he'd had had a really bad day."

WHAT!?!? "He'd had a really bad day." That was the reason to shot so many people in three

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

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

3/24 - Soup Suppers during Lent

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86467078774?pwd=L08vdmdVVGtMRzNqVTRRczVjOEpldz09>

Meeting ID: 864 6707 8774 Passcode: Lent

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

3/21 Taizé, 7:00pm, available on website

3/23 Becoming Beloved Community, 6:30pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84587330526?pwd=amo2Y0dldlUxUmXUb2pGcUNuMGFpdz09>

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."

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."

locations and to be on the way to do some more? It sounded to me like the sheriff was offering some sort of justification.

Let's look at this a bit. The shooter is white. The sheriff is white. The victims are mainly non-white. If the shooter had been black, would the sheriff had said that he'd had a bad day? Would the shooter have been taken into custody? Likely not. Shot dead at the scene – justice done!

The sheriff also says that the shooter was not racially motivated. This wasn't a racist act, so not a hate crime. ????. What part of this didn't involve hatred? Hatred directed at these "foreign" women and hatred manifest as self-loathing by the shooter himself permeates every part of this horrible deed.

A young white man shooting minority women because they somehow threatened him, his place in society, his status, and his self-worth because they were a temptation to him amounts to a lynching. Killing "inferior" people because their existence threatens one's place in the great pecking order of society, regardless of the means or process of execution, is lynching.

I recently read that two of the great plagues of modern US society – mass killings and suicide – are predominantly committed by white males, and that both are often associated with loss of status in society. Both have ties to the myth of white supremacy. In the case of mass killings, the perpetrators feel victimized and threatened by others, usually minorities; the mass shooting of Mexican-Americans and Mexicans in the El Paso, Texas, Walmart a few years ago, for example. The threat is seen as coming from the other, so the violence is projected outward.

Within this myth system, if the white male sees himself not as a victim but rather as a failure, the violence is turned inward. Suicide, at least in these instances, is violence turned inward.

Both manifestations of this violence originate in hatred.

I write this on the Feast Day of St. Joseph. No doubt Joseph lived under oppressive circumstances. A carpenter living in Roman-occupied Palestine, low on the rung within Jewish society, far from the centers of political or religious power, did not have a lot going for him. Yet God chose him to care for, protect, nurture, and raise up our Lord and Savior.

Much of what Jesus taught about how to live and move and act in the world, toward others, toward God, undoubtedly came from what he learned from Joseph. When he encountered violence, Jesus responded with overwhelming love.

When he encountered hatred, Jesus responded with forgiveness. When he encountered alienation, Jesus responded with inclusive welcome. When he encountered sin, Jesus responded with life-giving mercy.

When he encountered oppressive denial, obfuscation, and indifference, Jesus responded with truth.

Crucifixion, like lynching, was a brutal means of intimidation to keep people in their place under the thumb of Roman power. Ultimately it didn't work—neither will lynching.

Father, help me to see this holy season of Lent as a time of spiritual renewal, rather than a time of deprivation. Motivate me to reach a new level of experiencing your grace .Guideposts.org



Holy Week

HOLY WEEK & EASTER SERVICES

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

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

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

Wednesday, March 31, 7:00pm - Tenebrae,
Zoom (see link below)

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

Friday, April 2, 7:00pm - Good Friday,
Facebook or YouTube

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 or YouTube

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

Zoom link for Wednesday, March 31, Tenebrae
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81453143674?pwd=Z3F1VHk0VHVVGZXPbHUUtlcXFMcVY1dz09>

Meeting ID: 814 5314 3674 Passcode: 32821



SATURDAY IS THE DAY!!!

Saturday, March 20, from 10:00am - 2:00pm, is the date for our Spring Food Drive. Bring your donations of non-perishable foods and say Hello to our wonderful volunteer greeters. They say it's a lot of fun to be here helping with this ministry for our church members and for those neighbors who contribute.

Peanut butter, jam/jelly, tuna fish, spaghetti and sauce, refried beans, canned fruits and vegetables, Spaghettio-Os, chili, and packets of hot chocolate are a treat.

Your family, friends and neighbors are generally happy to donate for the benefit of those families and individuals who are experiencing financial difficulties during these pandemic times.

I can do things you cannot, you can do things I cannot; together we can do great things.
Mother Teresa



LENTEN REFLECTIONS FINALE

The last edition of our Lenten Reflections group is **Wednesday, March 24**, beginning with Evening Prayer on Facebook at 6:00pm. We then switch to Zoom for a brief time of fellowship, followed by Reflections discussions at 6:45pm.

The topic on March 24 is Restoration/Restitution and will be presented by Maisy Hochstetler and Jim Gilman.

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

Meeting ID: 864 6707 8774 Passcode: Lent

ST. PATRICK'S BREASTPLATE PRAYER

At the March 17 Lenten Reflection, Sharon Joy led the program, ending with the following prayer. St. Patrick was praying for God's divine protection in his work and ministry in Ireland while facing powerful enemies.

As I arise today,
may the strength of God pilot me,
the power of God uphold me,
the wisdom of God guide me.

May the eye of God look before me,
the ear of God hear me,
the word of God speak for me.
May Christ shield me today.

Christ with me, Christ before me,
Christ behind me,
Christ in me, Christ beneath me,
Christ above me.

Christ on my right, Christ on my left,
Christ when I lie down, Christ when I sit,
Christ when I stand,

Christ in the heart of everyone who thinks of me,
Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me,
Christ in every eye that sees me,
Christ in every ear that hears me.



LABYRINTH AND REFLECTION

The Lenten Meditation theme this year is **Lament**. The second aspect considered was "Reflection" on Wednesday, March 10.

Jeannie Burpee introduced the labyrinth as a tool for reflection. By shared screen, the Zoom attendees were swept to the Oregon Coast, where, among the wind and waves, labyrinths were drawn in the sand. If you'd like to take the journey, go to

this web site for The Sand Labyrinths of Bandon, Oregon:

<https://www.opb.org/artsandlife/series/summer-series/bandon-oregon-beach-sand-labyrinths-things-to-do/>

(St. Alban's community has our own labyrinth for meditation and reflection.)



BETTER TOGETHER--A MINI-CONFERENCE FOR FAITH FORMATION

Recently some members of our Vestry attended a Faith Formation mini-conference, and they were asked to briefly share with the congregation some highlights. Jeannie Burpee is sharing the following highlight:

Registration included a book written by one of the speakers. Christine Sine's book *The Gift of Wonder* is the one I chose and read from those offered to participants. She grew up in Australia, became a doctor serving on a hospital ship, and now lives in Seattle where she is helping people delight in the playfulness of God. Editor's note: The Sines are former members of St. Alban's.

She had an image of God as a very serious workaholic. This uplifting book invites us to, instead, know a God who delights with joy when we laugh, play, and enjoy life. She emphasizes the childlike characteristics that God delights in: playfulness, awe and wonder, imagination, curiosity, love of nature, compassion, and unconditional trust. Suggestions are given for practices that engage all our senses as we live a new spiritual life that embraces the wonder and joy that God intends for us.



OUTREACH—AND THE WINNERS ARE:

Thank you everyone for your votes for our 3rd Week Outreach Baskets. We received 26 ballots this year. The following organizations are the top

vote getters this year:

Washington Kids in Transition—2nd qtr 2021

Pathways for Women—3rd qtr 2021

Everett Gospel Mission—4th qtr 2021

Domestic Violence Svcs. (DVS)—1st qtr 2022

All of our nominees are worthy recipients and almost all received votes. Interestingly DVS was a recipient in 2019, and the other three organizations selected this year were runners-up last year.



TAIZÉ SERVICE – MARCH 21, 7:00PM

Our talented music director, John Lehrack, has prepared another Taizé presentation for this Sunday, March 21, at 7:00pm, on Facebook.

Taizé originated in the small village of Taizé, France, and is a contemplative service of worldwide appeal. It incorporates beautiful music, chanting, readings, poetry and times of reflection. During the pandemic, John has prepared Taizé service programs for our at-home worship.

The following is John's selection of poetry for Sunday's program:

From I Have a Dream, Martin Luther King, Jr. (Delivered August 28, 1963)

Let us not wallow in the valley of despair, I say to you today, my friends.

And so even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream.

I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal."

I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia, the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood.

I have a dream that one day even the state of Mississippi, a state sweltering with the heat of injustice, sweltering with the heat of oppression,

will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice.

I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.

I have a dream today!

I have a dream that one day, down in Alabama, with its vicious racists, with its governor having his lips dripping with the words of "interposition" and "nullification" — one day right there in Alabama little black boys and black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls as sisters and brothers.

I have a dream today!

I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted, and every hill and mountain shall be made low, the rough places will be made plain, and the crooked places will be made straight; "and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together."



ST. JOSEPH DAY
(March 19)
Foster-father of Jesus

In the face of circumstance that might have distressed a man of less stature, Joseph graciously assumed the role of Jesus' father.

He is well remembered in Christian tradition for the love he showed to the boy Jesus who lived "under his roof" for at least twelve years. Joseph's tender affection and care for Mary has, likewise, been long celebrated in the church.

Joseph was a pious Jew, a descendant of David. He was a carpenter by trade, a man of very modest means, with no education outside the synagogue. It is generally believed that he died quietly and naturally prior to our Lord's active ministry.

The gospel writers tell us that Jesus was widely known as the "son of Joseph the carpenter," and Joseph's influence on him was, of course, inestimable. Jesus could not have had anyone less in mind than Joseph when he called God "father." Yet Joseph could not have had more than a vague inkling of the importance of his humble life. His life is a testimony to the value of simple everyday human things, especially that human thing called "fatherhood." Forward Movement, Calendar of Saints



WILL YOU HELP WITH SOUP SUPPERS?

Jean Burpee

When we are permitted to gather together again in person, **Soup Suppers** will be held in our Parish Hall with the savory and yeasty aromas of good food prepared by our friends. Programs engaging our minds and spirits will accompany the meals.

These gatherings have been a popular aspect of **Faith Formation** at St. Alban's. For this to happen, we'll need a committee to organize the monthly events. Please consider sharing your talents in this ministry, and let Jean Burpee, Vestry liaison for Faith Formation, know of your willingness to serve in this way. Her contact information is 541-430-1476 and jcburpee@msn.com.

PATRICK, BISHOP & MISSIONARY
Apostle to Ireland
March 17



Scarcely has any saint been as celebrated as Patrick.

Few have been more deserving. He was born of Christian parents in Roman Britain. At sixteen he was captured by barbarian raiders and carried off to Ireland as a slave. After sixteen years as a swineherd, he escaped and eventually returned to Britain as a missionary. To the astonishment of his parents and friends, he resolved to return to Ireland as a missionary.

Patrick was not the first Christian missionary to Ireland, but he was by far the most successful. Patrick himself has left us a record of his experiences in his *Confession* – how he confronted the fierce King at Tara and how he confounded the proud Druids.

Most of Patrick's work was done in the northern part of the island. He died at Saul in Ulster. It is said that he found a heathen Ireland, but left a Christian one.

Forward Movement, Calendar of Saints



DAY BY DAY REFLECTIONS

March's Day by Day devotions were contributed by Ellis Reyes Montes, a musician, writer and lifelong Episcopalian from Houston, Texas. The following was written for March 19, St. Joseph Day.

Romans 4:13 – For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith.

Today we remember Saint Joseph, who was the father of Jesus when Jesus walked the earth. Jesus' family tree is a little complicated when it comes to the details, theologically speaking, but I find this to be encouraging for us all.

In the Old Testament, the focus of the story is on the Israelites. But when Jesus preaches, he invites all people into God's family. As Paul explains, when we walk with God, we become part of God's family. There is no longer a need for a lineage or a family name to define a person.

Joseph was of the "correct" lineage, especially for Jesus to fulfill the prophecy, but that is not what made him part of God's household. As Jesus preached, Jesus' family consisted of students, followers, and the faithful – not just blood relatives of people belonging to a certain class.

I pray that we will remember Jesus' open arms, especially when we take the Good News into the world.

And thanks to the Winco March coupons, we recently saved almost \$55. The Hansons donation of \$600 from their Covid Stimulus check got us started on this adventure, but many others have continued to participate through their donations.

The staff at Chase Lake is so excited to see us coming with our car trunks loaded with food. Our funds are almost coming to an end, but as we receive donations, we'll keep shopping. Just note Chase Lake on the memo line of your donation check.



CHILDSTRIVE THANK YOU

We've received a Thank You from ChildStrive for our 4th quarter 2020 donation.

"Thank you! We are so grateful to you for the many ways St. Alban's Episcopal Church is supporting the children and families served by ChildStrive. Your generous gift of \$760 is helping to create a positive and lasting impact in the lives of the children and families."

Some ways ChildStrive has provided services during Covid are: Activity items and books so families can keep children engaged and learning; healthy meal kits for children enrolled in their Clever Sprouts Preschool; nutritious meals at their branch in Everett for Warm Meal Fridays; and nearly 30,000 diapers for families. St. Alban's is having an impact on families throughout the community through our kind donations.



CHASE LAKE BACKPACK SHOPPING

Maryellen Young

Thank you so much for your donations to the Chase Lake Backpack Shopping program. So far this year, Maryellen and Reilly have spent almost \$1,000 shopping to support Chase Lake families.



STREET SIGNS

Thanks to donations from Phyllis Becker and Jon and Jeannie Burpee, soon we are going to have new street directional signs. For those who haven't seen our signs recently, they are suffering from rust streaks from where they are attached to the hangers. The new signs will have stainless steel

grommets around the holes which will help protect them from damage.

To give us more flexibility, we won't have the smaller signs with the service times as that information is available on our web site. Also shown in the picture above is what the new sign will look like (but with St. Alban's name on it).



Contributed by Dave Wilson

HOW TO GET TO HEAVEN FROM IRELAND

A true story from an Irish Sunday School teacher—

I was testing children in my Dublin Sunday School class to see if they understood the concept of getting to heaven.

I asked them if I sold my house and my car, had a big garage sale and gave all my money to church, would that get me into heaven. "No," the children answered.

If I cleaned the church every day, mowed the garden, and kept everything tidy, would that get me into heaven? Again, the answer was "No."

If I gave sweets to all the children, and loved my husband, would that get me into heaven. Again, they all answered "No."

I was just bursting with pride for them. I continued, "Then, how can I get into heaven?"

Little Johnny shouted out, "Yuv gotta be dead!"

FROM THE READER BOARD..



STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS

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."

MARCH 29 – PALM SUNDAY

Psalm 31:16 says, *"Make your face to shine upon your servant, and in your loving kindness save me."*

And our ever-loving God reaches out with all his mercy, time after time, to bring help and consolation to those who put their whole trust in Him as faithful stewards of his blessings and gifts.

COLLECT FOR MARCH 21

Almighty God, you alone can bring into order the unruly wills and affections of sinners: Grant your people grace to love what you command and desire what you promise; that, among the swift and varied changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

LESSON READINGS

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

MARCH 29 – PALM SUNDAY

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalm 31:9-16

Philippians 2:5-11

Mark 14:10-15:47



ST. ALBAN'S CURRENT OFFICE HOURS

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

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.



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

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)