

AROUND THE PARISH

March 5, 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; Ecclesiastes 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

When I took my three-month trip to Thailand in 1991, I had the opportunity to make several smaller trips in different parts of the country. One of those trips was to northwest Thailand along the Burmese border. This is hill country – the eastern extent of the Himalayan Mountains.

In Mae Hong Song, I met another traveler from the States. Kevin was a motorcyclist, so we rented a motorcycle together. This made traveling much easier since the only other options were buses and hitchhiking. Together we traveled much farther and saw more than we would have alone. We went to the most northern city in Thailand, Mae Sai, before heading back south through the vast agricultural plains to the winter capital of Chang Mai.

Mae Sai is a border town, the only river crossing into Burma. In 1991, Burma was still under military rule; Aung San Suu Kyi was still under house arrest, and the populace under strict dictatorial oppression. The border was closed.

I remember going to the bridge over the Sai River. Half-way across, it was gated. Guard posts on the far side were manned and armed. I walked on that two lane, concrete bridge right up to the gate, looking beyond to the beautiful, lush hillside that rose up from the river, and lamented that I could go no further. You know me, I always want to go further, to explore more, to see and learn more, to make more connections. I lamented more for the oppressed people on the other side of that gate.

Now 30 years later, after a brief taste of democracy, things in Burma – now named Myanmar – have returned to that oppressive state. I don't know if you've been following it in the news, but after the election late last year, in which they lost in a landslide to Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy party, the Military has staged a coup.

After weeks of peaceful protest, which employed nonviolent rallies, work stoppages, strikes, and creative, artistic ridicule of the top

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=L08vdmdVVGtMRzNqVTRRczVjOEpldz09>

Meeting ID: 864 6707 8774 Passcode: Lent

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

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

3/23 Becoming Beloved Community, 6:30pm

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

Meeting ID: 845 8733 0526 Passcode: BBC

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."

ZOOM COFFEE HOUR

Zoom Coffee begins at 12:00pm. 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."

generals, the military has begun aggressively suppressing the protesters, violently attacking with tear gas, rubber bullets, and now live rounds. 54 protesters were killed so far this week.

I don't think anyone is surprised by the coup leaders' response. Fear brings out the most repressive violence. You may have noticed that for the last several weeks we have been praying for Myanmar in the Prayers of the People. This is why.

You may have noticed, too, that we have been praying for Xinjiang in Northwest China, where the Uyghur Muslims are being brutally oppressed by the Chinese government.

I'm not throwing stones – the glass house that is US history also holds its horrific stories of oppression and repression, from the conquest of Native Peoples to laws of Jim Crow – but I do mean to pray, fervently for those places and those people, for the sanctity of life, “for the dignity of every human being.”

I confess a gnawing sense of impotence in being unable to change anything for the better. Can't do anything but pray, but then I remember that prayer takes many different forms.

Those protesters on the streets of Mandalay and every other city, town, and hamlet in Myanmar are praying out loud – out in the streets and loudly – for justice. Our Congress, united in both Houses and from both Parties, in making legislation sanctioning both the Myanmar military and the Chinese government, along with our State Department, using all the tools of diplomacy, are praying for justice. The efforts of the United Nations and advocacy groups worldwide are essentially collective prayer.

There is something Lenten about confronting one's own powerlessness. Lent ultimately leads to the powerlessness of an itinerate preacher confronting religion and empire. It leads to a violent politically oppressive death. It leads to the death of one man. It leads to the death of God the Almighty.

Easter, though, lies beyond death. And Resurrection is always a possibility. Resurrection, which is somehow more than the simple return to life, happens in spite of unbridled power, in spite of fear-soaked oppression, in spite of overwhelming force, in spite of all the evidence to the contrary. Resurrection is *the spite* of all of those things.

Resurrection happens because God the Almighty lays aside omnipotence and takes on non-retaliatory powerlessness to confront and heal the sin of oppression, domination, and dehumanization.

You may have noticed, too, that we are praying for our enemies – for our enemies, and for those who consider us their enemies. That is what Jesus taught and lived and died. Remembering that we are all made in the image and likeness of God, we know that dehumanizing hatred is, at its core, the blasphemous denial of the divine likeness in enemies.

Compassionate love – the ultimate prayer in action – is the only way to counter the sin of hatred. “Where there is hatred, let us sow love.

Make us worth, Lord, to serve our fellow men throughout the world who live and die in poverty and hunger. Give them through our hands this day their daily bread, and by our understanding love, give peace and joy.

Mother Teresa



Lenten Reflections continues on **Wednesday, March 10**, with Jeannie Burpee guiding our discussion on Reflect/Remember. The program begins with Evening Prayer on Facebook Live at 6:00pm. Then switch to Zoom for a bit of fellowship, and Reflections discussions which begin at 6:45pm.

We are using Episcopal Relief and Developments Lenten Meditations for this year's series of evening programs.

The topic for Wednesday's discussion is Reflect and Remember. The ERD Meditations are online so you can receive one daily direct to your email. Also, you can print the daily meditations for your use.

<https://www.episcopalrelief.org/church-in-action/lent/>

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=L08vdmVVGtMRzNqVTRRczVjOEpldz09>

Meeting ID: 864 6707 8774

Passcode: Lent



GETTING READY FOR FOOD DRIVE

In only two weeks, **Saturday, March 20, from 10:00am to 2:00pm**, St. Alban's will hold another Food Drive. Now is the time to look for bargains and buy non-perishable foods to help our neighbors with their food needs. Peanut butter is always a great item, as are Spaghetti-Os, tuna fish, Spam, canned fruits and vegetables, sugar, noodles, spaghetti sauce, jam/jelly, etc.

Our neighborhood Edmonds Food Bank is in great need of donations as more and more families and individuals are in need of assistance with groceries.

Spread the word to your family, friends and neighbors. Lee Forsberg started a wonderful ministry with food drives years ago. The need is even greater at this time. Let's keep the ball rolling and continue to help those who are hurting.

There is also a need for volunteers to greet donors and take their donations. Let Lee know if you can help.



A FEW WORDS FROM YOUR "ALMONER" ABOUT THE LOVING HEART OF ST. ALBAN'S

Written by Dan Mullene

Many of you may know that I serve as the "Almoner" for our congregation. An almoner is the person who has the official position of distributing alms. And, of course, "alms" are money or other resources given to those in need.

I work together with Fr. Greg Peters and Deacon Jim Gilman in responding to the requests for assistance received from folks inside and outside our congregation when they are in need. Their stories are varied, but the thread is almost always the same: temporary circumstances beyond their control affecting their financial, physical or familial stability.

Thanks to your regular contributions to the Discretionary Fund, we are able to respond to those needs, so we couldn't do this without your support.

In the February 5th Around the Parish, Fr. Greg shared with us that we had a request for help with unexpected medical expenses which would have put one of our fellow parishioners in danger of missing a mortgage payment. We did not then have enough money in the Fund to cover all their needs.

Fortunately, with some additional individual contributions to funds on hand, we were able to help. But that left us with nothing in the Discretionary Fund to help upcoming requests.

To address this, Fr. Greg also made a special request in the ATP article that we all consider donating to the fund so that we could be able to help others.

And you opened your hearts, and you answered. Oh, boy did you answer!

As of Monday, February 22, our Discretionary Fund account has a balance of almost \$2,800! And I have no doubt that it will continue to grow.

Given this wonderful support of the Discretionary Fund, and also the continued support of our food drives, it is abundantly clear that this congregation exemplifies Christ's words in Acts: 20:35 when He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'

Fr. Greg, Deacon Jim and I all say thank you, thank you, thank you! Your love for one another and our community is simply awe inspiring, and we are proud to represent you.



TAIZÉ SERVICE, SUNDAY, MARCH 7

Our gifted Music Director John Lehrack continues to prepare Taizé programs for our at-home worship. Tune in this **Sunday, March 7, 7:00pm**, on St. Alban's website. The program offers quiet time, meditation, prayers and chanted music.

All previous Taizé presentations are available on the website for your viewing at any time.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Psalm 51:10



THE DOME OF THE SKY

This article from "For the Beauty of the Earth" was written by The Rev. Sister Diana Doncaster, a member of the Community of the Transfiguration in Cincinnati and a priest of the Episcopal Church. Writing is one of her greatest pleasures and privileges, followed by making beaded jewelry that she sells to raise money for micro-loans, which she believes is one of the most effective ways of helping people help themselves and their community. Forward Movement 2018

The dome of the sky is gray this morning. The clouds look as though they are storing more rain to pour on already-saturated land and overflowing rivers. The news tells of drought-fueled wildfires in some places, record depths of snow in others, and unseasonably hot temperatures in yet others. Weather is only sometimes idyllic – death and destruction can come from the sky as easily as life. The first two chapters of Genesis could sing a hymn of praise, telling of the Creator speaking our world into being, naming each new part.

The painting of a sky spoken into existence invites us into these contrasts: darkness and light, hints of shadow, grays and blues and greens, all speaking of a roiling, primeval atmosphere. Our world is uncertain. Our climate, our political and social situations are rapidly changing. Yet we are still privileged to be on this amazing planet, spoken into being by our wildly exuberant Creator. We can choose to respond in praise, living in awareness that God proclaims all of creation to be very good and using that awareness in loving and caring for each other under this unpredictable sky.

Holy God, you have given us this world and these free choices. Thank you!

REST IN PEACE, REV. DICK O'DRISCOLL

The Rev Richard A. O'Driscoll, who has died at age 90, was rector of St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Ballard from 1968-1986. During those years, Fr. O'Driscoll and the Rev. Canon Dennis Bennett played an important role in the charismatic renewal movement in the Episcopal church.

Fr. O'Driscoll is survived by his wife Shade. They both attended St. Alban's for a time after Dick's retirement.

If you wish to send a card to the family, please call the Church Office for an address.



FROM THE READER BOARD...

St. Albanites, neighbors and those driving by benefit from our reader board messages keeping us up to date and with readings that reflect the week's Gospel lesson.

Lee Forsberg took this ministry on years ago and has continued to maintain the reader board and create timely and interesting messages. Needless to say, he must spend a great deal of time selecting his communications.

Thank You, Lee, for taking time and energy to share your faith and creativity with us all!



OUTREACH BALLOT

You can still vote for St. Alban's next round of outreach recipients for the next four quarters. Ballots are due by March 15. You can mail yours in, drop off, send via email to church or to maryelleny@comcast.net. If you need another ballot, contact the church office.

You can vote for up to four organizations. The top four vote getters will be selected. We like to have as many voters as possible to clearly identify the organizations to be selected.

For your convenience below are the organizations on the ballot:
Chaplains on the Harbor's Harbor Roots Farm; Clothes for Kids; Diocese of Olympia Refugee Resettlement; Domestic Violence Services; Early Life Speech & Language; Edmonds Waterfront Center; Everett Gospel Mission; Faith Action Network; Habitat for Humanity; Hopelink; Hope Works; Kairos of Washington; Ladybug

House; Literacy Source; Matthew House; Pathways for Women; PAWS; South Snohomish County Emergency Cold Weather Shelter; Washington Kids in Transition; World Vision.

Remember when you were little and all your underwear had the days of the week on them. Those would be helpful right now.

FAITH FORMATION CONFERENCE

BETTER TOGETHER 2021: A FAITH FORMATION MINI-CONFERENCE

The Diocese of Olympia is sponsoring this on-line, conference-in-a-day on Saturday, March 13, from 9:00am – 4:00pm. The conference is geared for church staff, clergy, musicians and volunteers.

Better Together is for those who are deeply involved with faith formation in its many aspects – programs, special events, curriculum, liturgy, music, arts, service, outreach, social justice, and community building. There are two brilliant keynote speakers and several workshop options.

Those attending from St. Alban's are Jean Burpee, Shirley Clark, Maisy Hochstetler and Maryellen Young. There is still time to register if you are interested.

[Better Together | The Episcopal Diocese of Olympia \(ecww.org\)](http://ecww.org)

jokes

Contributed by Dave Wilson

THOUGHTS TO CLOSE OUT 2020

1. The dumbest thing I ever bought was a 2020 planner.
2. I was so bored, I called Jake from State Farm just to talk to someone. He asked me what I was wearing.
3. 2019 – Stay away from negative people.
2020 – Stay away from positive people.
4. The world has turned upside down. Old folks are sneaking out of the house and their kids are yelling at them to stay indoors.

5. This morning I saw a neighbor talking to her dog. It was obvious she thought her dog understood her. I came into my house and told my cat. We laughed a lot.
6. Every few days try your jeans on just to make sure they fit. Pajamas will have you believe all is well in the kingdom.
7. Does anyone know if we can take showers yet or just continue washing our hands?
8. The virus has done what no woman has been able to do. Cancel sports, shut down all bars and keep men at home!
9. I never thought the comment, “I wouldn’t touch him/her with a 10-foot pole” would become a national policy, but here we are!
10. I need to practice social-distancing from the refrigerator.
11. I hope the weather is good tomorrow for my trip to the backyard. I am getting tired of the living room.
12. Never in a million years could I have imagined I would go up to a bank teller wearing a mask and ask for money.



STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS

MARCH 7 – 3 LENT

Not only as part of the Penitential Order, used often during Lent, but in Sunday’s Old Testament lesson, are the Ten Commandments outlined. Even as we remember and honor those mandates, we look toward Maundy Thursday and Jesus’ offering not only of Himself, but of a new Covenant – that we should *love one another as He has loved us*. If we seriously commit to making this love and

respect an integral part of our daily lives, we have our spiritual stewardship work cut out for us indeed!

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.

COLLECT FOR 3 LENT (Contemporary)

Almighty God, you know that we have no power in ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen

LESSON READINGS

MARCH 7 – 3 LENT

Exodus 20:1-17
Psalm 19
1 Corinthians 1:18-25
John 2:13-22

MARCH 14, -- 4 LENT

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

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)

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

Faith
does not
make things easy
it makes them
POSSIBLE
luke 1:37