

AROUND THE PARISH

August 18, 2023

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 – August 20

8:00 & 10:30am, In-person, Indoor Services. Masking is no longer required, but is strongly recommended.

9:15am, Adult Bible Study is on a brief break and will return on September 10.

2:00-5:00pm, Templo Emanuel, Parish Hall

NOTE: No Facebook account? Watch the Sunday service on YouTube or later as a video on Facebook



Fr. Greg Peters

The Vestry met for our regular monthly meeting last Monday evening, August 14.

We started out our meeting with a presentation about the Altar Guild from Sharon Joy. At the beginning of the Summer, the Vestry determined that we needed to be hearing from representatives of our many ministry groups so that we could serve, promote, and support them better. This was the first of many to come.

Sharon's presentation was informative and helped the Vestry members more fully understand the many responsibilities the Altar Guild members take on to ensure that all the services run smoothly, are beautiful, and are edifying for us – enhancing our praise and glorification of God.

One of the most important things we learned, though, was how stretched the few members of the Altar Guild are. At this time there are only 7 active members of the Altar Guild. There are also a couple of people who, though not members of the Altar Guild, regularly help after services, for which Sharon and the others are very appreciative.

Besides an influx of new members, which would be most welcomed, the Altar Guild needs a couple of things. First, someone or a small group to take on the task of providing flowers for our worship services. Second, if congregants are unable to become members of the Altar Guild, it would be very helpful if they could help clear the altar and otherwise clean up after services.

The Vestry was very appreciative of Sharon's presentation. Next month, we are scheduled to hear from those working on the website.

After this it was on to regular business, of which the Vestry wishes to report the following back to you:

First, addressing a request made by Carol Gordon in response to the wildfires, particularly the fires that raged through Lahaina, Hawaii, the Building and Grounds and/or Security Committees will have a fire

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- 8/21 7:00pm, Boy Scouts, Parish Hall
- 8/23 6:00pm, Evening Prayer, Facebook
- 8/24 12:00-2:00pm, Small Group Luncheon, PH
7:00-9:00pm, Templo Emanuel, Sacristy
- 8/25 7:00-8:30pm, Templo Emanuel, Sacristy
- 8/26 10:30am, ECW Coffee, Parish Hall
10:00-11:30am, Indigenous Circle, Parish Hall
- 8/28 6:30-8:30pm, Preschool Orientation (classrooms)
- 8/31 6:30-8:30pm, Preschool Orientation (classrooms)

Our Parish Administrator Jeannie Wells will be on a well-deserved vacation from Thursday, August 17, through Wednesday, August 23. She will be out of the office on September 1. The office phone and email will be checked regularly.



Fr. Greg Peters will be on vacation from Monday, August 28, through Monday, September 4 (Labor Day.) The Rev Danae Ashley will preside and preach on Sunday, September 3.

risk assessment made of our property. The first step is to contact the Edmonds Fire Department for their advice. We noted too, with thanks, that in the last couple of years under Phil McClelland's leadership, the amount of debris in our wooded areas has been significantly reduced.

Second, our Annual Welcome Back Sunday is coming up quickly – it's just over three weeks away – on September 10. In part, responding to what we heard from Sharon Joy (but we're hearing it from several other ministry groups, as well), the focus of this event will be on promoting the ministries of our congregation. We certainly will celebrate our coming back from Summer holidays and vacations. We'll do this with special coffee hours – lookout waistline!

The main focus of the day, however, will be the Ministry Fair. All the ministry groups are encouraged to have people ready to discuss and promote the ministries they are involved in. It is our intent that everyone will find some ministry that both nourishes them personally while enhancing our combined service to God in this community.

We really do a great number of things in this congregation. Sometimes it looks like we are just busy, busy bees. At the heart of it all, though, it's not the doing but the being. We do these things, these myriad services, because of who we are. We are lovers and followers of Jesus, who declared that he came to serve. We are lovers of our neighbors because we love our God with all our hearts, souls, minds, and strengths. We worship the living God through our services, liturgically, sacredly, and, yes, secularly. We, being filled with the Holy Spirit, share our gifts as best we can, for the glorification of God and the transfiguration of our community and world.

Ah, the Beloved Community, always coming into being. Come let's celebrate it while joining in this sacred work.



Greetings, People of the Diocese of Olympia,

Bishop Fitzpatrick of the Episcopal Diocese of Hawai'i has informed us about the best ways to support relief efforts for the fires in Hawai'i. You can support relief efforts in one of the following ways:

- The Episcopal Diocese of Hawai'i is coordinating immediate diocesan relief efforts to the Lahaina Fire disaster through the Diocese's **A CUP OF COLD WATER** (ACCW) (a separately incorporated subsidiary of the Diocese that serves the houseless on Maui).

- Make an online donation through the **Bishop's Pastoral Fund** on the website of the Episcopal Diocese of Hawai'i (the funds will be gathered and sent to ACCW).
- Mail checks to: A Cup of Cold Water, 2140 Main St., Wailuku, HI 96793

ACCW can then coordinate and donate to those agencies and groups giving aid on the ground.

Please consider supporting relief efforts amid this tremendous disaster, and please continue to remember all those affected by the fires in your prayers.

Blessings,

+Melissa Skelton

PARISH DIRECTORY ADDITIONS

Warren, Lorena & Amelia Specher
20823 70th Ave W
Lynnwood, WA 98036
360-731-4242
Warrenlynns@gmail.com

John & Linda Rowan
18602 Alderwood Pkwy #516
Lynnwood, WA 98037
202-714-3348
sharline@aol.com



ECW GATHERS TOGETHER

Our summer coffee is in two weeks – **Saturday, August 26, from 10:30am-12:00pm.**

We will have coffee, tea and light refreshments for you to enjoy, along with fun and good conversation. Our special feature will be Mona Carter relating her recent trip to Cambodia, Vietnam and Thailand. You won't want to miss this event!!

Thanks to Connie Forsberg for arranging these times of fellowship and those who contribute the treats.



CHASE LAKE SCHOOL SUPPLIES DONATIONS

We know how tough it must be for many families in our neighborhood to provide adequate food. Now add

the cost of back-to-school supplies. Let's help those children feel good about themselves and school by donating some of those supplies to Chase Lake Community School.

The collection box and lists of supplies needed are in the Parish Hall. If you prefer to donate money, please be sure to label your check or envelope with "Chase Lake."

Please have your school supplies donations to church by Sunday, August 27.

Below is a list of needed supplies. (Note, please pay attention to brand names where identified):

- Crayola Crayons (box of 24)
- Crayola colored pencils
- Crayola washable markers (box of 8)
- #2 Ticonderoga brand pencils
- Expo dry erase markers—(fine tip)
- Expo dry erase markers (black only)
- White board markers
- Sharpies (fine tip, black)
- Spiral notebook one-subject (wide rule, 70-100 pgs)
- Composition notebooks (wide rule)
- Plastic folders (pockets at the bottom)
- Pencil box
- Avery glue sticks
- Children's Fiskar scissors
- Pink erasers
- Baby wipes, unscented



DRIVE BY FOOD DRIVE – SEPTEMBER 9

Plan ahead for our next food drive on **Saturday, September 9, from 10:00am – 2:00pm.**

Lee Forsberg and his faithful crew of helpers (four-footed ones included) will be on hand to greet you and our neighbors who kindly donate food. Our Thank You letters from the food banks tell us how much the number of those needing assistance has grown and continues to grow. Additionally, the cost of food the food banks need to purchase to supplement donations has increased appreciably.

We are collecting non-perishable foods – mac and cheese, spaghetti and sauce, canned tuna and chicken, canned and bagged beans, canned vegetables and fruits, peanut butter, jelly/jam, etc. Also needed are diapers and pet foods.

You can bring food bank items to church at any time. Let's see if we can break a record with the pounds and pounds of food!!



LIAISON

SUMMARY OF LIAISON REPORTS

Jan Skidmore, People's Junior Warden

Administration

Finance - Will be reviewing the list of designated accounts and discussing options with potential future budget shortfalls.

HR – Jeannie on vacation 8/17 – 8/23 and 9/1. No Bulletins on 8/27. Greg on vacation 8/29 – 9/4.

Music Team - Enthusiastically endorsed John Palmer as our new Music Director.

Buildings & Grounds

Phil McClelland fixed the tumbler on the front door and reprogrammed the automatic door switch.

Evergreen Tree Care reduced the height of the problematic alder tree to 20 feet.

Contracts for the West Edmonds Cooperative Preschool and Templo Emanuel include a small rental increase.

Communications

Website - Roger Andersen will resume managing the website. We need to seek someone to assist him.

Constant Contact Resources - There are benefits of this resource, and Roger welcomes requests.

Evangelism

Boy Scouts – Working on pictures showcasing all the accomplishments that Troop 300 completes throughout the year. Plans are to work with Buildings & Grounds and Scouts to coordinate church projects and come up with unique projects that Troop 300 can accomplish.

Faith Expressions

Pastoral Care - Jim Gilman's dedicated group continues to visit shut-ins, those in the hospital or rehab facilities, adult homes, and those who are distraught.

Faith Formation - Shannon Duggan leads Sunday School for any kids in attendance. She plans activities related to the scripture readings for the day.

Fellowship

We managed to serve coffee throughout the month of July. In great need for more people to volunteer. Help for any number of Sundays would be especially appreciated.

Celebration for anniversary of Greg's Ordination was well attended.

We need to locate a refuse company to dispose of the piano in Parish Hall.

Worship Ministries

Altar Guild – In the past, Altar Guild had a membership of 16 people. Currently there are 7 members. At least a minimum of 8 is needed. Please consider joining Altar Guild.

Flowers - If you are signed up to donate flowers, you are asked to provide the flowers or plants of your choice. If you are unable to do this, or if you need assistance of any kind, or have questions in general regarding altar flowers, please contact Sharon Joy at least two weeks ahead of time.

Liturgical Service/ EM-Lectors – New lectors would be welcomed. A training session will be in September for all lectors and EMs.

Prayers of the People - We are starting over with a new list on Sunday, August 6th. We resumed using the new list of names on Sunday, August 13.

THOUGHTS TO PONDER...

Over 100 years ago, everyone owned a horse and only the rich had cars. Today, everyone has cars and only the rich own horses.

If people evolved from monkeys, why are monkeys still around?

I'm responsible for what I say, not for what you understand.

My tolerance for idiots is extremely low these days. I used to have some immunity built up, but obviously there's a new strain out there.

It's not my age that bothers me – it's the side effects.



DAY BY DAY REFLECTIONS

The following reflection is from Forward Day by Day.

Psalm 88:19 – My friend and my neighbor you have put away from me, and darkness is my only companion.

During our lives, there are times when the light seems to be gone. We see no way forward; our hopes have been crushed; we feel deserted, and it is hard to go on. These are the “dark nights of the soul” to which spiritual writers allude. If not depression, then they are the “no way out” times.

I remember the bleakest time of my priesthood. I had served a parish as well as I could, and our relationship still ended. I felt abandoned by God,

rejected by God's people, and remembered no more. And darkness felt like my only companion. I could have prayed Psalm 88 over and over, like a mantra of hopelessness. Some of the psalms are like that. It is what makes them so irresistible and compelling. They give no quarter to false hope and Pollyannaish wishes.

In these times, we don't need to hear false cheer – from friends of family or even scripture. Sometimes we must be in the shadows, and Psalm 88 is our theme song for those moments. The light is still there, even when we feel shrouded and forsaken. Don't skip over the darkness. God is still there.

FROM THE READER BOARD

Jim Gilman



STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS

AUGUST 20 – PENTECOST 15

In the Gospel which speaks of the pleas of the Canaanite woman (the Canaanites and Israelites did not enjoy amicable relationships), Jesus reminded the Disciples that he had been sent to seek the “lost.” How reassuring to know that He still to this day seeks the “lost” among us, and that if we continue to have faith as the woman did, God has promised to guide and support our lives.

AUGUST 27 – PENTECOST 16

Near the end of Psalm 138, it says: *Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe...your right hand shall save me. The Lord will make good his purpose for me...O Lord, your love endures forever.* As “stewards-in-training,” how can we strive to genuinely trust and believe these promises? Perhaps utilizing the Holy Habits (prayer, bible study, community worship and service, and thankful giving)

can help. Why not covenant to give them a new or renewed try in the days ahead?

SCRIPTURE READINGS

AUGUST 20 – PENTECOST 15

Genesis 45:1-15

Psalms 133

Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

Matthew 15: (10-20), 21-28

Collect for Pentecost 15

Almighty God, you have given your only Son to be for us a sacrifice for sin, and also an example of godly life: Give us grace to receive thankfully the fruits of His redeeming work, and to follow daily in the blessed steps of His most holy life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

AUGUST 27 – PENTECOST 16

Exodus 1:8-2:10

Psalms 124

Romans 12:1-8

Matthew 16:13-20

CHURCH PLEDGES & DONATIONS

Please continue donations and pledges by:

*Mail check – 21405 82nd Pl W, Edmonds, WA 98926

*Drop off through slot in Fr. Greg's door.

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

*Online, go to www.StAlbansEdmonds.org and click on "Donate Now."

WEEKLY SUNDAY BASKET OFFERINGS

1st week—Food Bank

2nd week—Discretionary Fund

3rd week—Outreach

4th week—Ukraine Refugee Offering

5th Week—Indigenous Women Support

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 – 4:00 pm

Please contact the Office, (425) 778-0371 or

stalbansedmonds@gmail.com to make an appointment.

In case of something urgent or an emergency, please call Greg Peters on his cellphone at (206) 778-1506.

GREG'S OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 8:30am – 2:30 pm, Home

Wednesday Church Office – 10:00am – 2:00 pm

(Available by appointment)

Via email: gwpeters.stalbansedmonds@gmail.com

Cell: 206-778-1506

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

(Available by appointment)

PRAYER MINISTRIES

Contact Sheilah Reidburn at sheilahreidburn@comcast.net or 206-427-1920.

Prayers of the People:

Prayers of the People are used during Sunday worship.

Prayer Chain:

About a dozen people pray regularly for members of the congregation or other friends and relatives as requested.

Prayer Shawls:

Prayer shawls are available for those in need of comfort during challenging times.

