

AROUND THE PARISH

July 21, 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 – July 23

8:00 & 10:30am, In-person, Indoor Services for those fully vaccinated

9:15am, Adult Bible study, Annex & Zoom - *No Bible Study during August; it will return Sept 10.*

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86545992628?pwd=d08vTmZNBmk1SWlPUXFybmdpMXNYdz09>

Meeting ID: 865 4599 2628 Passcode: SeekFirst

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



For the **BEAUTY**
of the **EARTH**

The following is from Forward Movement publication, For the Beauty of the Earth (2018), a book of daily devotions that explore and celebrate the wonders of creation and the beauty of the Creator. Its author is Richelle Thompson, the wife of a priest and the deputy director and managing editor of Forward Movement.

Near our former home in North Miami, Florida, is a park with shaded paths where I used to walk regularly. A pond flows into a canal, and often ibis roost in the trees or graze in the mud and grass at the edge of the water.

Stopping to watch the ibis one day, I noticed a bird that was moving with an awkward, lurching gait. As I drew closer, I saw that the claws of the bird's right foot curled into a kind of fist – a clubfoot. How would an ibis with a clubfoot survive?

It could fly, but it couldn't grab a branch to roost in the trees with the rest of the flock. Except in flight, it would be stuck on the ground, at the mercy of every other animal in the park.

But *it did* survive – I would miss it for a week or so and think that surely it had been killed, but then I'd walk down by the pond and see it hobbling along. "Stumpfoot! You're still alive" I'd whisper, hoping no one was around to hear.

Sometimes we assume we're so limited by our own defects that we can't possibly be the face and voice of God's love in the world – we're too old or too young or too damaged by our own bad choices and the world's unkindness. But this is simply not true.

God pronounces creation good, not perfect; we are works in progress. Like Stumpfoot, we may struggle on the ground, but we can still soar.



My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know now that if I do this, you will lead me by the right road though I may know nothing about it. Therefore will I trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.

-Thomas Merton



JUNE 2023 FINANCIALS

Maryellen Young, Treasurer

Income for June was \$13,301 compared to a budget of \$14,799 or (\$1,498) under budget. Year-to-date income was \$105,775 compared to a budget of \$100,386 or \$5,389 over budget. Both Unpledged Contributions and Pledges are ahead of budget.

Expenses for June were \$15,711 compared to a budget of \$16,859 or \$1,148 under budget. Year-to-date expenses were \$99,514 compared to a budget of \$105,026 or (\$5,512) under budget.

About (\$3,900) of the underrunning of expenses continue to be the difference with paying a supply organist instead of a salaried employee. There are not any other significant differences of note.

We have received \$6,260 more than we have spent.

Year-to-Date Totals

Actual Income	\$105,775
Budget Income	\$100,386
Income minus Budget	\$5,389

Actual Expenses	\$ 99,514
Budget Expenses	\$105,026
Expenses minus Budget	(\$5,512)



Give away your life, you'll find life given back, but not merely given back—given back with bonus and blessing. Giving, not getting, is the way. Generosity begets generosity.

Luke: 6:38 from The Message, The Bible in Contemporary Language, Eugene Peterson

EVENING PRAYER & JOINT BBQ AT ST. HILDA/ST. PATRICK

We have been invited for a joint **BBQ** and Evening Prayer on **Sunday, July 23, 5:00pm**, at St. Hilda/St. Patrick Church in Edmonds. (15224 52nd Ave W, Edmonds). Fr. Greg and Fr. Joseph Peters-Matthews, Vicar of St. Hilda/St. Patrick have been exploring opportunities for joint activities between our two congregations. This event is the first of what we hope to be more opportunities for us to gather together.

Pull out your favorite recipes for sides, salads or desserts to contribute to this event.



ECW COFFEE SCHEDULED FOR AUGUST 5

Join in the fun and fellowship of an ECW Coffee on **Saturday, August 5, at 10:30am**, in the Parish Hall. This is a perfect time for you to visit with your fellow parishioners, catch up on your families, travels, etc.

The speaker at this event will be our own Mona Carter who will share her five-week trip to Cambodia, Vietnam and Thailand.

Light refreshments will be provided. All are welcome to join in for this gathering.



ST. ALBAN'S ANNUAL PARISH PICNIC

Time for food, fellowship and fun!

Our traditional picnic will follow the 10:30am service on August 6. Hot dogs, hamburgers and non-meat alternatives will be grilled right before your eyes. Please bring your choice of sides, salads and desserts. There is a sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall and a SignUpGenius [Annual Picnic SignupGenius link](#).

Again this year, there will be a breakfast picnic following the 8:00am service. If you work it right, you could come for breakfast, attend the 10:30 service and stay for the picnic. Two meals down and no dishes; what could be better??

The food is going to be good and the fellowship a blast. Why not invite a friend or five?

On top of all that, this year's picnic includes a special celebration program. Come find out what that's all about.



COUPLE OF REMINDERS –

FOOD BANK: The need for food assistance in our area doesn't take a vacation during the summer. In fact, some children are missing those breakfasts and lunches served at school. Our "official" food bank donation schedule is the first Sunday of the month. However, the Food Bank table in the Parish Hall calls

out for donations any and every day. The need for food is great, and we can help feed our brothers and sisters!!

WomenSpirit Coalition: Fifth Sunday Outreach for WomenSpirit Coalition is next week, July 30. Our donation to this cause promotes policies and programs that protect indigenous women, and provides services that establish and maintain their safety. Our donations can help them expand their services to local tribes.

EGYPTIAN BAZAAR
Archangels Coptic Orthodox Church
Saturday, July 22 – 11:00am-7:00pm

Immerse yourself in the vibrant streets of Egypt and embrace a multitude of captivating experiences awaiting you – Church Tours, Live Music, Henna Tattoos, Photo Booth, Kids Arcades, Souvenirs.

Enjoy the tantalizing flavors of Egypt’s cuisine and beverages – Savory Cuisine, Desserts, Turkish Coffee.

Archangels Coptic Orthodox Church
3120 Wetmore Ave, Everett, WA



A BLESSING FOR THE SOIL

I bless the soil I walk on
I bless the richness of the life
I can neither see
nor understand.
I give thanks for the fruitfulness
of the earth.
I give thanks for the falling and rising of green things.
I greet the creatures, many legged, single celled,
that do the work of life-from-death.
May we protect and cherish this foundation.
May we nurture good soil.
May it be sheltered by plants,
free from rocks and thistles.
May we learn in humility what it needs.

— Andrea Skevington

Concentrate on counting your blessings and you'll
have little time to count anything else.

ChristianQuotes.info

BURDENS

What are you carrying today, that you have been carrying for weeks, months, or even years? What burdens or cares are sapping your strength? Take a moment to name them and then picture handing them over to Christ. He assures us that we need not carry life’s burdens on our own. He is ready to shoulder them with us, to make light whatever is weighing us down.

Br. David Vryhof, SSJE

FROM THE READER BOARD

Jim Gilman



STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS

JULY 23 – 8 PENTECOST

“Mercifully give us those things which for our unworthiness we dare not, and for our blindness we cannot ask...” If we truly believe God’s promises, and trust that, in his unfathomable love and desire to be in meaningful relationship with us, he will indeed hear us, and provide for, not our wants, but our real needs. God is eternally faithfully to those who love him.

JULY 30 – 9 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.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

JULY 23 – 8 PENTECOST

Genesis 28:10-19a
Psalm 139:1-11, 23
Romans 8:12-25
Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Collect for 8 Pentecost

Almighty God, the fountain of all wisdom, you know our necessities before we ask and our ignorance in asking: Have compassion on our weakness, and mercifully give us those things which for our unworthiness we dare not, and for our blindness we cannot ask; through the worthiness of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

JULY 30 – 9 PENTECOST

Genesis 29-15-28
Psalm 105:1-11, 45b or Psalm 128
Romans 8:26-39
Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

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 425-745-1390

Prayers of the People:

Prayers of the People that are used during the 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.

