

AROUND THE PARISH

September 8, 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 – September 10

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

9:15am, Adult Bible study, Annex & Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86545992628?pwd=d08vTmZNBmk1SW1PUXFybmdpMXNYdz09>

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



Fr. Greg Peters

Welcome Back Sunday!

As we regather after the Summer, I have an exciting announcement to make.

Last year, we were invited by the **Seattle School of Theology and Psychology** to take part in their **Transforming Communities Program**. The program looked intriguing and like a great follow up to the College for Congregational Development that we were involved in a few years ago. And the price was good too – free. But the logistics and schedule weren't quite right, so we declined but asked if we could be considered for this coming year when we would have more time to prepare and arrange schedules. The answer was yes.

So, I am happy to announce that all the difficulties have been worked out and that we have been accepted into the program. It will begin for us in Epiphany.

Here's what the program is designed to do:

- First, to engage our Congregation in understanding and celebrating our identity.
- Second, to take a deep dive into the surrounding Community to discover the needs, issues, and hopes of those who live in our neighborhood.
- Third, working together with members of the Congregation and Community to look for ways to meet these needs, desires, and aspirations.
- Fourth, to develop an action plan, with funding up to \$3000, to put that plan into action.

I am personally very excited about this program and the Vestry has enthusiastically endorsed our participation.

In the coming months we'll be forming a team of 4 – 8 people (representing both the 8:00 and 10:30am services) to be part of this exciting program. We will do this work from Epiphany of 2024 to Epiphany of 2025. Epiphany, the season we celebrate the revelation of the Jesus the Messiah to the world, what could be more fitting?

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- 9/9 10:00am-2:00pm, Food Bank Drive By
- 9/10 8:00-10:30am, Welcome Back Sunday
6:00-8:00pm, Girl Scout Bridging, Parish Hall
- 9/11 6:30pm, Vestry Meeting, Zoom
7:00pm, Boy Scouts, Parish Hall
- 9/12 2:00pm, Altar Guild Meeting, Parish Hall
7:00pm, Taste of Inner Healing, Parish Hall
- 9/13 3:00-4:30pm, Food Bank Distribution, Park Lot
6:00pm, Evening Prayer, Facebook
7:00pm, Boy Scouts, Annex
- 9/14 1:00-3:00pm, Small Group Meeting, PH
7:00-9:00pm, Templo Emanuel, Sacristy
- 9/15 7:00-8:30pm, Templo Emanuel, Sacristy
- 9/18 6:30pm, Worship Committee, Zoom
- 9/19 4:00-6:00pm, Girl Scouts, Parish Hall
- 9/20 6:00pm, Evening Prayer, Soup Supper, Program
- 9/30 10:00am-1200pm, "Celebrating You," Parish Hall
- 10/7 10:30am-1200pm, ECW, Debbie Dimitre



PRAYER FOR THE RIGHT USE OF MONEY

Lord of our lives, teach us how to use our money and our possessions. Deliver us from stinginess and wasteful extravagance; inspire our giving with the spirit of true generosity. Help us always to remember your generous love for us, that we may be wise and faithful stewards of the good gifts you have given us. Amen.

From Prayers Old and New, Forward Movement booklet

This is certainly not a new idea for us. Several years ago, Maryellen Young noted that St. Alban's is a congregation that is "in the Community," always looking for ways to connect and serve. Our Outreach ministries demonstrated this. Then more recently, Maisy Hochstetler and Wendre Vaughn were instrumental in engaging the community with the Easter Egg Hunt for All Ages and Abilities and Community Animal Blessing in honor of St. Francis. And, of course, Lee Forsberg's establishing the Drive-by Food Drive and Jim Gilman's follow up with the Food Bank's satellite monthly distribution in our parking lot are both examples of this.

This kind of ministry and service, this Living Faith, is in our DNA!

I'm looking forward to what we will learn about ourselves, our community, and our future together.

Welcome back!

Our Administrative Assistant Jeannie Wells will be out of the office from September 6, returning September 18. Emails to stalbansedmonds@gmail.com and phone messages left on 425-778-0371 will be checked in her absence. Volunteers will be in the office on Mondays and Fridays from 10:30am until 12:30am.



FOOD DRIVE ON SATURDAY

All is ready and set for another Drive-By Food Drive on **Saturday, September 9, 10:00am-2:00pm**. There is still time for you to stop by your local grocery store and pick up some non-perishable items for the benefit of our many neighbors who are in need of food assistance! Cash is also welcome; please indicate "Food Drive" on your donation envelope or check.

Thanks to the many of you who have supported these food drives in the past and continue to do so. We are providing hope and relief to many families and individuals who are struggling.

Our faithful volunteers, led by Lee Forsberg, will be on hand to greet those folks contributing. But they can always use more helpers. All our efforts are needed to make this a successful Food Drive. Most important,

we are feeding God's children who are hungry and in need of our help! And, you can bring food to church on any Sunday!



WELCOME BACK SUNDAY

Join the gathering on **Sunday, September 10, after both services**, as we celebrate the "new year" of our church ministries and look forward to worshiping and fellowship in the months ahead.

Ministry leaders will be on hand to answer questions about their group and encourage parishioners to help out. All are in great need of additional help. You won't be signing your life away, but hopefully will be able to assist and lighten the load for those who are currently multi-tasking for several ministries.

Sunday, September 10 – fellowship, fun and coffee hour treats. Rumor has it that there will be a couple of espresso machines ready to whip up your favorite coffee drink.



8 They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought, and never fails to bear fruit."

Jeremiah 17:8 New International Version.



ENDOWMENT BOARD UPDATE

Mona Carter

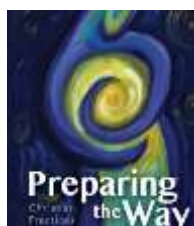
The Endowment Board met on August 23rd. The following was discussed:

- Endowment Funds performance rebounded by 2.84% in the 2nd quarter 2023 compared to the previous quarter.
- Based on the guidelines governing the administration of the funds, we will be unable to make a distribution of earnings in 2023 from the Permanent Endowment Fund and Clare Fisher Fund.

- The Distribution Fund, invested in the Diocesan Investment Fund, is currently \$14,679.99 as of the end of June. These funds are available to be used for ministries of the church in accordance with governing guidelines.
- There are several opportunities to serve on the Endowment Board. We are grateful to Mona Carter upon the completion of her six years of service (two terms of three years each). In addition, because of two resignations for personal reasons we have two partial terms—one with two years remaining and one with one year remaining.

The Endowment Board meets quarterly (Feb., May, Aug. & Nov.) and consists of five members appointed by the Vestry for three-year terms. The Board oversees the funds invested in the Diocesan Investment Fund: Permanent Endowment Fund, Clare Fisher Fund, Rectory Fund, Distribution Fund Memorial Fund and Building & Grounds Fund. The funds' earnings enable the Parish to fulfill its mission more completely by developing its Christian-based ministries beyond what is possible through its annual operating funds.

If you are interested in filling one of the three Board positions please contact Maryellen Young, 425-776-2461 or maryelleny@comcast.net.



ADVENT
REFLECTIONS

Forward Movement offers Advent reflections each year. This year the book is **Preparing the Way: Christian Practices for Advent.**

For Christians, the season of Advent should be a time of reflection, of waiting and watching for Jesus's miraculous birth. The secular celebrations of the weeks before Christmas often whip us into a frenzy of shopping, decorating, baking, and scheduling encounters with Santa (and the elves!). But our faith beckons us to a gentler way, one focused on the divine.

These daily meditations invite you into a more faith-filled observation of Advent and Christmas. Some devotions explore traditional Christian ways to make the seasons, from the Advent wreath to Christmas pageants, from favorite hymns to setting up the creche. But on other days, the reflections offer ideas about how to infuse a sense of the holy into popular traditions

such as decorating the tree, sending Christmas cards, and exchanging gifts.

In these remarkable seasons of Advent and Christmas, the preparations we make to welcome Jesus should not only be in our homes but also our hearts.

As part of the bequest we received from Rita Bennett, we are ordering a small supply of these books and offering them to members of St. Alban's. Think of it as a Christmas present from Rita. If you would like to receive a copy, please contact the church office at stalbansedmonds@gmail.com or 425-778-0371 and a copy will be set aside for you while supplies last. We will be placing the order by the end of September so it would be helpful if you could respond by then.



WE HAVE NAME TAGS
BECAUSE....

.....I want to get to know more of the people at church. It helps if I can know who I am talking to.....



Our Wednesday evening worship resumes on **Wednesday, September 20**, with Evening Prayer at 6:00pm in the Sanctuary, supper at 6:30pm, and our program beginning about 7:00pm.

Continuing with "Getting to Know Our Neighbors in the Pews," Phyllis Becker will be the featured guest. Phyllis will share with us the spirituality she finds in the mountains.

Please contribute soup, salad, dessert or bread as you are able. A sign-up sheet will be in the Parish Hall. Please note on the sign-up that we are in need of people who can help clean up after our supper gathering. Many hands make light work!

THANK YOU!
THANK YOU!

Many thanks to Denise Robertson who decided the office bathroom had looked dark and gloomy for way too many years! Who knows how many hours she spent wiping



down walls and ceiling, applying two coats of primer and finally painting the entire space a bright and happy shade of pale green. Denise has donated a couple of pictures to complete the redecorating project. It is an amazing, very welcome and greatly appreciated change!

Denise is one of many “in the background” volunteers at St. Alban’s – serving on Altar Guild, lay reading, operating the electronic boards periodically to give Phil McClelland a break, and being ready to offer a hand whenever the need arises. Thank you!!



September 30th, Saturday
10:00am – 12:00pm

Save these two hours.

You are invited to a super, fun event that you should not miss. This celebration is for each and every member of St. Alban’s.

We will be celebrating YOU.

Just come.....Nothing you need to do or bring. Includes hot entree.



ECW COFFEE
WITH DEBBIE DIMITRE,
STORYTELLER

SAVE THE DATE:

Saturday, October 7, starting at 10:30am

You won’t want to miss the presentation by our guest speaker, Debbie Dimitre: Patch-Work Politics -- The daring story of Mrs. **Bertha Knight Landes**, who in 1926 became not only Seattle’s first woman mayor, but the first woman mayor of any major metropolitan city in the United States! Since 1987 N.W. Storyteller/Actress Debbie Dimitre has been entertaining, inspiring, and educating audiences of all ages with her historical and dramatic storytelling presentations.



ALTAR FLOWER DONORS

To help us remember when we signed up for altar flowers (and most of us signed up months ago), the following chart will be published in each issue of Around the Parish. There are a few slots open if you wish to provide flowers on one of these dates. Please contact Sharon Joy if you have questions.



Reminder to Flower Donors

Sept 10	C. Sodetani	Nov 5	J. Kistner
Sept 17	C. Jacobson	Nov 12	S. Reidburn
Sept 24	L. Bee	Nov 19	
Oct 1	M. Carter	Nov 26	Christ the King
Oct 8	C. Forsberg	Dec 3	P. McClelland
Oct 15	J. Palmer	Dec 10	P. Chandler
Oct 22		Dec 17	
Oct 27		Dec 24)
		Dec 25) Christmas
		Dec 31	

FROM THE READER BOARD

Jim Gilman



STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS

SEPTEMBER 10 – PENTECOST 15

“For wherever two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.” I read or heard somewhere that Jesus said, “feed my sheep, don’t count them!” But in reality, numbers do count and the support we give each other by faithful attendance at worship and

by our personal and financial participation for parish ministries is a morale booster to all who are involved. Pray (and do your part) to be an active part of a lively, God-centered congregation!

SEPTEMBER 17 – PENTECOST 16

“Not seven times, but seventy times seven,” says Jesus about how often we should forgive others. How hard is it for us not to hang on to our hurts and (real or imagined) “sins against us.” But if we truly want to live our lives in God, we need to use His extravagant model, and not allow the “energy leak” of nursing those grudges and hurts to affect our own serenity and acceptance.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

SEPTEMBER 10 – PENTECOST 15

Exodus 12:1-14
Psalm 149
Romans 13:8-14
Matthew 18:15-20

Collect for Pentecost 15

Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so you never forsake those who make their boast of your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

SEPTEMBER 17 – PENTECOST 16

Exodus 14:19-31
Psalm 114
Romans 14:1-12
Matthew 18:21-35

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.

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)



