

## AROUND THE PARISH

November 10, 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 – November 12

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

9:15am, Adult Bible Study is taking this Sunday off, but will return on Sunday, November 19

9:30-10:10am Chalice Bearer Training

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



### *Generosity*

*A Conversation between The Rev. Charles L. Fischer III and the Rev. Sheleta Fomby*

I am blessed to be able to have individuals in my life who are willing to discuss their faith lives. Over the course of my years in ministry, I have met some wonderful people. Recently, I have become acquainted with a powerful preaching sister from Washington, D.C., the Rev. Sheleta E. Fomby. She has become both a friend and a spiritual guide in my life. In a recent conversation, Rev. Fomby and I were discussing how blessed we were in our individual and collective lives. And in a quiet moment, she stated that she lives a great life because she has experienced God's abundance. "If it were not for that, how could she be generous to others."

I was intrigued by her comments and asked for her to explain further. She stated that for her there is a distinct difference between abundance and generosity. "Abundance is what God has made available. And generosity is what we do with what God has made available."

When God created the earth, God deposited upon the earth and gave to its inhabitants all that they would need for survival. God provides more than enough for all to live fully and completely.

Rev. Fomby blessed me with sharing this simple lesson. The more she reflected upon her own life and the lives of those who have poured into her own ministry, I had a moment of understanding the distinction. She was generous in her sharing because of all that others had given to her out of their own abundance. And now the cycle continues because now I can share with others out of the abundance of love, care and prayers that others have showered upon me.

### *Questions for Reflection*

How has God's abundance formed your generosity?

*The Rev. Sheleta Fomby is the Pastor at New Life AME Church in Laurel, Maryland and is fully committed to liberating lives, encouraging hearts, and inspiring hope through the faithful proclamation of God's word.*

### UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- 11/13 6:30pm, Vestry Meeting, Zoom  
7:00pm, Boy Scouts, PH
- 11/14 2:00pm, Altar Guild Meeting, Parish Hall
- 11/15 6:00pm, Evening Prayer, Soup Supper & Program
- 11/16 7:00-9:00pm, Templo Emanuel, Sacristy
- 11/17 7:00-8:30pm, Templo Emanuel, Sacristy
- 11/18 10:00am-12:00pm, Indigenous Circle, PH  
10:00am-2:00pm, Drive by Food Drive
- 11/22 6:00pm, Evening Prayer & Hors d'oeuvres;  
Guests from St. Hilda/St. Patrick
- 12/9 10:30am-12:00pm, ECW Coffee

**PLEASE NOTE:** The next issue of Around the Parish, Friday, November 17, will be an abbreviated version, but will include calendar dates, what's coming up, readings, etc.





**REMEMBER THAT GOD IS GOOD**

- Gratitude gives us reason for celebrating all we have been given, whether because of, or in spite of, what it might be. This is the day that the Lord has made; I will rejoice and be glad ... be grateful ... come what may, just because I got to be in it.
- Gratitude can be misunderstood when we think that it exists on the condition of our getting something, especially something pleasant or desired or hoped for.
- Gratitude goes deeper than simply finding the right words to respond to what we get, though words are perhaps the most convenient way we have to express it. But it, too, must come from a deeper place. It, too, must reside within us; otherwise, it becomes mere lip service.

*Excerpts from article The Joy and Gratitude Within by Kathy Culmer, an author, storyteller, speaker, teacher and retreat leader.*

**CHALICE BEARER TRAINING**

**Sunday, November 12, 9:30-10:10am**

If you are already a chalice bearer or are thinking about becoming one, this is the training for you! We will review the procedure for administering the consecrated wine, and talk through the challenges that have become apparent since we moved from the altar rail to the floor!



**SOUP SUPPER ON WEDNESDAY, NOV. 15**

The next scheduled third Wednesday Night Soup Supper is **Wednesday, November 15**. We begin with **Evening Prayer at 6:00pm** in the Sanctuary. At 6:30pm, we move to the Parish Hall for our supper and the “Getting to Know Your Neighbor in The Pew” program.

Our guest parishioner will be **Sharon Joy**, who sometimes goes to the mountains to fill her spirit and will tell us something about herself. Sharon usually attends the 8:00am service, serves as chair of the

Altar Guild and is responsible for the lovely flower arrangements.

If you are able, please contribute soup, salad, bread and/or dessert. There is always plenty of food to share!



**DRIVE BY FOOD DRIVE – NOVEMBER 18**

Please keep our next Drive by Food Drive on your heart, your calendar and your grocery list. What is a special time of year for many of us is not for those living with food shortage.

Lee Forsberg and his volunteer helpers will be out at the side of the church on **Saturday, November 18, from 10:00am – 2:00pm** to collect donations from parishioners and neighbors alike. Some of our generous neighbors contribute regularly, and some of our volunteers and neighbors have gotten to know each other. It’s a happy and rewarding experience to come by and add to the collection.

All non-perishable foods in cans, packages, and boxes are welcome. This is a great time to consider donating sweet potatoes – great for a casserole dish or pie.



**GIVING THANKS – WEDNESDAY, NOV. 22**

Our annual Thanksgiving Eve Celebration is being expanded this year to include **guests from St. Hilda/St. Patrick Episcopal Church in Edmonds**. We will mark the event with a simple **Eucharist Service at 6:00pm**, followed by a meal of hearty hors d’oeuvres and various drinks.

We invite you to contribute foods that either can be heated in the kitchen or cold foods that go straight to the table. The only limitation about the food is that nothing can be Thanksgiving related.

This is an opportunity to take a little time before the busyness of Thanksgiving Day to relax, fortify your body, mind and spirit by meeting some new people and praising God for all the blessings in our lives.



Loving Creator,

Our hearts overflow with gratitude for the men and women who have selflessly placed themselves in harm's way to safeguard the freedoms we hold dear. Their sacrifices, both seen and unseen, have woven the fabric of our nation's history.

With each step they took, they paved the way for a future defined by liberty and opportunity. As we honor their service, may our gratitude echo through the heavens, a chorus of appreciation that spans generations. Grant us the wisdom to recognize their sacrifices and the courage to live lives worthy of their efforts.

In Jesus' name, Amen.



**CHASE LAKE CHRISTMAS GIFT CARDS**

We have an opportunity to gladden the hearts of many children and families at our adopted Chase Lake Community School. The holidays can be very sad and difficult for families who have low incomes. Many years ago, Jim Nichols initiated this project of donating gift cards to Chase Lake families at Christmas, and we continue this program in his honor.

Gift cards from Fred Meyer or Winco enable families to purchase food, clothing, gifts, etc. They are included in Christmas baskets given to families in December prior to the holiday break.

Please donate gift cards by **Sunday, December 3**. Cards received after that date will be used for families as needed (and there is always a need). We prefer to receive gift cards that can be given directly to Chase Lake. If you to prefer to donate money, please designate your donation as "Chase Lake" on your check. Cash can be placed in an envelope labeled "Chase Lake." Include your name on the envelope so we can give you credit for your contribution.

**A READING OF "A CHRISTMAS CAROL"**  
**LOOKING FOR READERS**



If you would like to participate in a reading of "A Christmas Carol" on Saturday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> at 1:00 pm, with no additional obligations, please contact Jan Skidmore at 425-315-5412 or [janskidmore72@gmail.com](mailto:janskidmore72@gmail.com)



**ADVENT WORD – AN ONLINE ADVENT CALENDAR**


Forward Movement convenes another year of AdventWord, an inspirational online Advent calendar featuring a daily prompt word selected from the Sunday lectionary readings. Followers receive a daily meditation and image inspired by the day's word, and are invited to share their own personal reflections, art, poetry, or other creative expression.

As we await the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, we invite you to find quiet moments of reflection to help you stay connected to your faith, to others, and to God.

There are many ways to participate in AdventWord! Sign up to receive the daily meditation and image from <https://adventword.org>.

Each week during Advent, ATP will publish the AdventWord reflection prompt words. The following are a bit early, but we wanted to give you a chance to sign up. Look for further prompts in ATP issues.

Wind	December 3
Hidden	December 4
Presence	December 5
Peace	December 6
Grace	December 7
Watch	December 8

		
Reminder for Flower Donors		
Nov 12	S. Reidburn	Dec 17
Nov 19	H. Small	Dec 24 ) Christmas
Nov 26	People of St. A.	Dec 25 )
Dec 3	P. McClelland	Dec 31
Dec 10	P. Chandler	



**ECW CHRISTMAS PARTY**

Save the date: **Saturday, December 9, from 10:30am-12:00pm**, ECW Christmas Party. We gather for fun and fellowship, enjoy some coffee/tea and goodies. There will be a gift exchange of \$10 wrapped gifts. Also please consider bringing a donation of women’s hygiene (period) items to give to the Food Bank.

**OUTREACH THANK YOU**

To our Friends at St. Albans,  
Thank you so much for your generous donation to Hand in Hand. We are blessed by your kindness and your support. Your donation allows us to serve some of the most vulnerable children and families in Snohomish County.

Thank you and God bless you all!

Jordana Halkett

*(We recently donated \$620 to Hand in Hand from our 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter basket donations.)*

**MATCHING GRANT CHALLENGE TO SUPPORT MINISTRIES OF EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF JERUSALEM**

Episcopal Church Office of Public Affairs

The United Thank Offering – in partnership with the Good Friday Offering – will match up to \$100,000 of donations given through December 15 to help sustain outreach ministries in the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, which operates across several countries or territories and includes churches, schools, medical facilities and other ministries.

“United Thank Offering has supported the diocese with over \$1 million in grants since 1973, thanks to the generosity of Episcopalians everywhere,” said UTO Board President Sherri Dietrich. “We know people want to help those projects continue their work through and after the current heartbreaking conflict; this challenge grant will allow us to make a powerful contribution to those impacted by this conflict.”

Matched donations to the United Thank Offering will be given in 2024 as a grant to the diocese to disburse where the needs are the greatest.

The impact of the conflict in the region is “grave,” impacting the diocese’s guesthouses, medical centers, training centers, schools, and more noted Sawsan Arani-Batato, programs development officer. “Sustaining our institutions is an urgent need for the diocese, and this initiative responds directly to this need.”

The Good Friday Offering of The Episcopal Church has been funding work in the region for more than 100 years.

If you wish to send a donation, designate as: United Thank Offering-Ingathering-Jerusalem

Mail ingathering checks to:

United Thank Offering

DFMS – Protestant Episcopal Church US

PO Box 958983

St. Louis, MO 63195-8983

Or <https://unitedthankoffering.com>.

**STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS**

**NOVEMBER 12 – PENTECOST 24**

We are warned about being unprepared when the Lord calls. How can we best assure that we will be ready? Living a life under-girded by the Holy Habits of prayer, study, sacrificial giving and intentional involvement in a worshiping community, may help us to be ever responsive to God’s call – for whatever – and whenever He asks.

**NOVEMBER 19 – PENTECOST 25**

The Gospel story of the parable of the talents may seem harsh in terms of the master’s treatment of the distrustful slave. But we need to remember that God will provide for all our genuine needs. How many of us live in a mentality of *scarcity* like the timid servant, rather than rejoicing and using our own talents (money and otherwise) to show appreciation for our great *abundance*, and in thanksgiving for God’s eternal beneficence?

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**NOVEMBER 12 – PENTECOST 24**

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25

Psalms 78:1-7

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Matthew 25:1-13



### **Collect for Pentecost 24**

O God, whose blessed Son came into the world that he might destroy the works of the devil and made us children of God and heirs of eternal life: Grant that, having this hope, we may purify ourselves as he is pure; that, when he comes again with power and great glory, we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen

### **NOVEMBER 19 – PENTECOST 25**

Judges 4:1-7

Psalm 123

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Matthew 25:14-30

### **PRAYER MINISTRIES**

Contact Sheilah Reidburn at [sheilahreidburn@comcast.net](mailto: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 82<sup>nd</sup> 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](http://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

5<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto:gwpeters.stalbansedmonds@gmail.com)

Cell: 206-778-1506

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

(Available by appointment)