

AROUND THE PARISH

October 13, 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 – October 15

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

The Vestry met on Monday, October 9, Indigenous People's Day, for our monthly meeting. And here's what we want to report back to you.

First, we encourage everyone to attend StewFest this Wednesday, October 18. We start worship with Evening Prayer at 6:00pm. It's the Feast Day of St. Luke the Evangelist and Physician. After that is our feast of stews, salads, and savories. Then at 7:00pm the program begins. We'll see you there!

Second, we formed a review committee for the Mutual Ministry Agreements (MMAs). The committee includes Jan Skidmore, Eric Hanson, and Greg Peters. As you'll recall, these are agreements about the priorities, direction, and emphasis for the congregation in the coming year. The agreements are made among the congregation, the Vestry, and the rector. The committee will begin reviewing our current agreements, seeing what we've accomplished, determining if what we have left to accomplish is still pertinent, and suggesting any changes.

Just as a reminder these are the current agreements:

1. To deepen our spiritual lives and relationship with Christ.
2. To improve communication within St. Alban's and outward as outreach to the community.
3. To reembrace Evangelism as an important ministry of our congregation and an outward and explicit expression of faith emphasizing neighborly love.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

10/14 9:00am-1:00pm, Boy Scout Church Clean-Up

10/16 7:00pm, Boy Scouts, Parish Hall

10/18 6:00pm, Evening Prayer; 6:30pm, StewFest

10/19 7:00-9:00pm, Templo Emanuel, Sanctuary

10/20 7:00-8:30pm, Templo Emanuel, Sanctuary

10/21 10:00am-12:00pm, Indigenous Circle, PH

10/26 1:00-3:00pm, Small Group Mtg, Parish Hall



Third, the Vestry expresses gratitude to Denise and Tom Robertson for painting the office work area and bathroom. These spaces are much more cheery! Thank you, Robertsons.

Fourth, the Vestry is also thankful to Jeannie Burpee for her on-going and dedicated work on the Grounds, particularly the flower beds (including flowering bushes) on the north side of the church building. These are attractive, inviting, and welcoming. Evangelism and Hospitality via the garden and grounds! Thank you, Jeannie.

Last, the Nominations Committee has been formed in preparation for electing new Vestry members and delegates and alternates to Diocesan Convention at our Annual Meeting coming up in January. That committee includes Jeannie Burpee, Jeannie Wells, Susan Hanson, and Liz Bee.



Greetings, People of the Diocese of Olympia,

It's with humility that I offer you words and a prayer related to the horrific situation in Israel, Gaza, and the entire Middle East.

The violent, shocking October 7 attack on Israel, including the taking of hostages, was an unspeakable act. The oppression, terrorizing, and targeting of innocent civilians - Israelis or Palestinians - recently or in the past - is wrong.

At the same time (and I will speak just for myself here), the history, the political dynamics, and the religious circumstances within and among those in the region are complex and fraught beyond my comprehension - though I am doing my best to comprehend them.

And so, I offer you this brief prayer for now, a prayer I will be praying daily.

Loving and liberating Creator, send your healing Spirit upon all involved in the current conflict and violence in the Middle East. Comfort those who mourn or who have been harmed by brutality. Stand with those who are fearful. Protect and provide for the powerless and the vulnerable. Inspire a spirit of forbearance and understanding

within all and uphold those who even now work for a just and durable peace. In the name of Christ. Amen.

In Christ,
+Melissa



COME ONE, COME ALL -- STEWFEST

Join the group for our annual StewFest on **Wednesday, October 18, beginning at 6:00pm with Evening Prayer in the Sanctuary, followed by a wonderful meal together.**

If you are still dashing home from work and running late, please come at 6:30pm for a hearty dinner of stew, salad, bread and desserts. There are always several stews to choose from, including vegetarian. Beverages of water, wine, beer, or sparkling cider will be provided.

Our speaker this year is Beth Hoyt, a local environmentalist and play therapist. She will share both her knowledge of trees and plants and her warm and lively spirit. There may be even an interactive experience for us all.

You do not need to bring food for this meal, just come, eat, and enjoy. If you have a great desire to share one of your specialties, please contact Liz Bee at eabee@juno.com.



In Potawatomi culture, an understanding of being “Rooted in Abundance” comes from the notion that, through the gift of creation, the Creator provides enough for all of nature to thrive. In the Creator’s abundance there is enough, though not necessarily extra, for everyone. When we are caretakers of the garden of creation as the Creator intended, all creatures live in harmony and abundance.

Through the gift of creation, I am rooted in the generosity of God and my life is found in the rich soil of gratitude and generosity. Natural theology sees

Father Sky as bringing forth fruit from Mother Earth. Christianity, in the same way, sees God the Father bringing forth Jesus, the Incarnate One, from his human mother. The Word of God made flesh, Jesus the Son, came that we might have life and have it abundantly.

In the spiritual practice of Lectio Divina, a slow and deliberate meditation on the word, I am rooted in the living and abundant and incarnate Word of God. From those roots, I am able to draw the Creator's own nutrients into my life. This enables me to grow in a life of gratitude and to bring forth the fruit of generosity. God blesses me to be a blessing for others and I show my gratitude for my own life "Rooted in Abundance" chiefly by being generous because the Creator has provided enough for everyone.

Question for Reflection

How does gratitude for your own life impact your generosity?

The Rt. Rev. Michael Smith is an Assistant Bishop for the Episcopal Diocese of Dallas and a citizen of the Potawatomi Nation in Oklahoma.



Great Spirit Prayer

Oh, Great Spirit,
Whose voice I hear in the winds
and whose breath gives life to all the world.
Hear me! I need your strength and wisdom.
Let me walk in beauty, and make my eyes
ever hold the red and purple sunset.
Make my hands respect the things you have made
and my ears sharp to hear your voice.
Make me wise so that I may understand
the things you have taught my people.
Let me learn the lessons you have hidden
in every leaf and rock.

Help me remain calm and strong in the
face of all that comes towards me.
Help me find compassion without
empathy overwhelming me.
I seek strength, not to be greater than my brother,
but to fight my greatest enemy: myself.
Make me always ready to come to you
with clean hands and straight eyes.
So when life fades, as the fading sunset,
my spirit may come to you without shame.

Xavior University, jesuitresource.org
- Translated by Lakota Sioux Chief Yellow Lark in
1887

ECW COFFEE WITH DEBBIE DIMITRE, STORYTELLER

Those who came to ECW coffee to hear Debbie Dimitre, storyteller, share the story of the first woman mayor of Seattle had a wonderful time. On October 7, 22 women gathered for fellowship, coffee and refreshments.

Debbie shared with us the 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!



The story was fascinating to hear how this woman used her organizational skills gained in working with a wide variety of women's groups and her management skills gained in managing a home to help her win the campaign and lead the city. She was successfully elected to city council and then to mayor, helping to address corruption, crime and improving management of the city's finances.



MISSION TO SEAFARERS

We are collecting donations for Ditty Bags for Mission to Seafarers. Every year, the Seattle Seafarers' Center provides about 1,000 ditty bags stuffed with basic personal necessities for merchant seafarers. Suggested items are full size shampoo and/or body wash, deodorant, toothpaste, decks of cards, notepad and pen/pencil, knit hat, and something fun, like candy. You can also purchase \$25 gift cards for Seafarers at Target and Wal-Mart.

These bags are one way we help Seafarers celebrate Christmas while they are far from home during the holiday season. Seafarers help make Christmas possible by transporting lots of goods to the US. Help make a Seafarer's Christmas by providing them with a ditty bag to say thank you!



4th WEEK UKRAINE BASKET

Episcopal Relief & Development is our 4th quarter recipient for donations to support the crisis in Ukraine. ERD is partnering with the Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe to help local congregations throughout Europe provide assistance to Ukrainian refugees. Assistance varies depending on the needs but will likely include food, shelter, emergency supplies and trauma counseling. Please designate your gift “Ukraine.”

3rd Quarter Results

Thanks to your generosity, we are donating \$570 to **World Central Kitchen (WCK)**, our 3rd quarter recipient of our donations to support the crisis in Ukraine. WCK is serving millions of fresh meals to Ukrainian families fleeing home as well as people remaining in the country. WCK is also partnering with restaurants inside of Ukraine to get hot meals to anyone in need.



BUDGET INPUT

Now is the time to start thinking about input for the 2024 St. Alban’s budget. If you are responsible for an area of the church’s budget, we need input about any potential changes for 2024. Our budgets are already tight, and we will have limited ability to expand areas of spending, depending on the results from our pledge ingathering. However, it is still good to be aware of our needs and desires.

Please provide any changes along with an explanation of the reason for change to Maryellen Young, Treasurer, or in writing to the Treasurer’s inbox in the office by November 1st. The Finance Committee will be meeting on November 8th for our first look at expenses for 2024 budget. If you have questions, you can call Maryellen on 425-776-2461.

YOUR DISCRETIONARY FUND CONTRIBUTIONS AT WORK

Dan Mullene, Parish Care Minister

As you probably noticed from the back of our service bulletin, our Weekly Sunday Outreach Basket

Offerings on the second Sunday are dedicated to the Discretionary Fund.

Have you ever wondered just how those funds are used? Let me share an example of how the generosity of our congregation helped a member of our community.

A few weeks ago, Maryellen Young received a phone call from a gentleman named James C. He asked if we could help him with any gift cards for food and gas, as he was about to undergo some minor surgery that would take him away from his job.

I followed up with James and learned his story. While he retired at the age of 71, but like many in these times, he still needed to work as an Uber driver and a Door Dash Delivery person. But he began experiencing some pain in one of his legs, limiting his ability to walk very far.

Long story short, he was diagnosed as having some blood clots in his leg and underwent surgery a week ago to insert a stent. He is much better now, and very appreciative of the gift we gave him. He asked us to pray for him, and we have added him, his family, and his special needs daughter to our prayer list.

So, please, never doubt that the generosity of your contributions to the Discretionary Fund on the Second Sunday has the power to change lives.

USHER REQUEST & FOOD BANK REQUEST

Lee Forsberg

Calling all ladies and gentlemen in the Parish! Do we have an opportunity for you!

How would you like to have a very interesting and visible position just prior to church on Sunday? Greeting members and especially newcomers as they arrive provides a very special touch. Presently we need more people to commit to helping. Even if you commit to one Sunday a month or two or three months, it will be helpful. Please call Lee Forsberg (425-774-4571) to volunteer or ask any questions you may have regarding the Ushers’ duties. He’s got all the answers – he just needs a bit more help!



Secondly, Lee thanks you for all your support for the food bank and encourages you, each time you enter church to bring a little something for the donation table in the Parish Hall. We all need to realize that a can of this or a jar of that adds up to being a star performer for



providing help to people in need. Every little bit helps!! Watch Around the Parish for the date of the next food drive.



Vestry Notes

OCTOBER LIAISON REPORTS RELAYED TO VESTRY

Jan Skidmore, People's Warden

- * Sunday morning Adult Bible Study – The hybrid class has begun the study of Corinthians.
- * Thursday Women's Study Group continues with the Story of Ruth by Joan Chittister.
- * Hall Piano has been removed.
- * Phyllis Becker shared her life story and faith at the September Soup Supper.
- * Date set to inventory tablecloths.
- * A new name tag solution is being researched.
- * October 7th - an ECW successful event with Debbie Demetri presenting "The history of the first Black Mayor of Seattle."
- * September 30th, the Episcoplayers presented "Without You There Would Be No Church" event. The 3-act play honored St. Alban's past, the present and what the future might be.
- * The Worship Committee met and planned for the services and events up to Advent.
- * Money has been donated for knitters requiring help buying yarn.
- * Finance Committee to begin working on a proposed budget for next year. All Ministries are asked to inform Maryellen of projected expenses.
- * A St. Alban's Personnel Manual is being created.
- * A Letter of Agreement was signed with John Palmer, and he officially became our music minister as of 10/1/23.
- * The Boy Scouts are scheduled to do a cleanup of the grounds on October 14th.
- * Some roles at St. Alban's require background checks be done every 5 years on those serving in those positions. They are being scheduled.
- * Denise Robertson has been painting in the Office area.
- * Jeannie Burpee and others have been tending the garden area.

WE'RE STILL LISTENING!!

Jan Skidmore, People's Warden

Last week's ATP discussed your opportunity to give you ideas, comments, and suggestions by making an appointment with Fr. Greg or requesting to attend a Vestry Meeting. You can also check the Ministry List in the Parish Hall to determine which Vestry member is assigned as a liaison between the appropriate committee and the Vestry. Contact that ministry liaison or any Vestry member who can relay your concerns to Vestry.

Also, there is a "We're Listening" red box in the Parish Hall where you can place your comments. The box will be checked each week. I will consult with Fr. Greg and/or Senior Warden Liz Bee to write a response which will be published in Around the Parish.

We are listening!!

<u>Reminder for Flower Donors</u>			
Oct 15	J. Palmer	Dec 3	P. McClelland
Oct 22		Dec 10	P. Chandler
Oct 27		Dec 17	
Nov 5	J. Kistner	Dec 24)
Nov 12	S. Reidburn	Dec 25) Christmas
Nov 19		Dec 31	
Nov 26	Christ the King		

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS

OCTOBER 15 – PENTECOST 20

We pray that God's grace "may always precede and follow us, that we may continually be given to good works." We must not allow that grace to surround us like a protective bubble and insulate us from being mindful of the needs of others." But the paradox is, the more we break out of the bubble to care for and about others, the more flexible and God-enriched the bubble becomes.

CTOBER 22 – PENTECOST 21

Jesus talks about being a responsible citizen of the world, but balancing that with “*giving to God the things that are God’s.*” The government makes sure to tell us what we owe them, but how ever do good stewards begin to calculate how to faithfully return a share of their blessings to the gracious provider who has given us everything we have in life?

SCRIPTURE READINGS

OCTOBER 15 – PENTECOST 20

Exodus 32:11-14
Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23
Philippians 4:1-9
Matthew 22:1-14

Collect for Pentecost 20

Lord, we pray that your grace may always precede and follow us, that we may continually be given to good works, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

OCTOBER 22 – PENECAST 21

Exodus 33:12-23
Psalm 99
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10
Matthew 22:15-22

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.

