

AROUND THE PARISH

February 23, 2024

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 – February 25

2nd Sunday of Lent

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

Go to <https://stalbansedmonds.org/> and click on either YouTube for Facebook to watch service online.

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

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- 2/26 7:00pm, Boy Scouts, Parish Hall
- 2/27 6:30-9:00pm, Girl Scout Meeting, Parish Hall
- 2/28 1:30-3:30, Endowment Meeting, Parish Hall
6:00pm, Evening Prayer, Sanctuary & Facebook
6:30pm, Soup Supper & Lenten Program
- 2/29 7:00-9:00pm, Templo Emanuel, Sanctuary
- 3/1 7:00-8:30pm, Templo Emanuel, Sanctuary
- 3/1-3 Restore Seminary & Retreat, Seabeck, WA
- 3/2 10:30am-12:00pm, Indigenous Circle, Annex
12:00-3:00pm, PSMA Recital, Sanctuary
- 3/7 12:30-3:00pm, Small Group Mtg, Parish Hall
- 3/9 10:30am-12:00pm, ECW Coffee

God of wilderness and water,
your Son was baptized and tempted as we are.
Guide us through this season,
that we may not avoid struggle,
but open ourselves to blessing,
through the cleansing depths of repentance
and the heaven-rending words of the Spirit.

Amen.

(Vanderbilt Divinity Library)



PARISH ADMINISTRATOR VACATION

Our Parish Administrator Jeannie Wells will be on a well-deserved vacation break from February 21 – 29. The office phone and email will be monitored for messages.

ST. ALBAN'S VESTRY WARDENS

At their Orientation meeting on Sunday, February 18, Vestry members nominated and elected Junior Wardens Jan Skidmore as People's Warden and Phil McClelland as Buildings & Grounds Warden. Both have previously served in these capacities.

Liz Bee had already been appointed as Senior Warden for another year.



SUPPER #2 – WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28

Join in the fellowship and study of our baptismal covenant and vows. We begin with Evening Prayer in the Sacristy, on Facebook, and share dinner at 6:30. The program begins at 7:00pm and closes with Compline at 8:00pm.

The program is to help prepare those who are not baptized or ready for baptism and to make our own baptism renewal more meaningful. Our study guide is a Forward Movement book, "Will You? A Lenten Study of Baptismal Promises." We will be discussing Week 2 on February 28. Please join us even if you don't yet have a book or haven't had a chance to do the reading. Please contact Fr. Greg if you are considering baptism.

Please bring soup, salad, bread and/or dessert to share at supper as you are able.



ECW COFFEE GATHERING

Our next ECW Coffee social event will be on **Saturday, March 9, from 10:30am-12:00pm.** There will be time for visiting and catching up with each other, followed by a program of Jeannie Burpee sharing events and memories of her cruise to the Canadian Maritimes last fall. Just what we armchair travelers need at this time of year!



RESTORE SEMINAR & RETREAT
Shirley Wilson

You are invited to attend a three-day Restore Wholeness Seminar and Retreat at Seabeck, WA, from March 1-3. The retreat is led by CEO Diana Ingle who will help you learn how to pray effectively for in-depth healing for yourself and others.

There is no charge for the retreat to St. Alban's members due to Rita Bennett's generous scholarship fund. Please call or email Shirley Wilson, 206-542-2944, or wilsaw@comcast.net. Informational flyers are available in the parish hall.

INDIGENOUS CIRCLE EVENT

Jim Gilman

On **SATURDAY, MARCH 2, at 10:30am**, St. Alban's Indigenous Circle group is streaming a poetry reading by Muscogee Poet Joy Harjo. She is an American poet who recently served as the 23rd Poet Laureate of the United States. Coffee, tea, and water will be served along with snacks.

MEND

This Lent, God's invitation is to join in the great work of mending. That's what redemption means: mending something that is torn or broken. Each one of us is called to share with God in mending that which is broken: our relationship with God, our relationship with one another, our relationship with our broken planet.
Geoffrey Tristram, SSJE



EASTER FLOWERS

Donation envelopes are in the pews for those who wish to donate to the flowers beautifying our Sanctuary for Easter. Your dedications can be made in remembrance or thanksgiving. To be included in the Easter bulletins, your dedications should be to the church office by Sunday, March 17.



ANNUAL MEETING FINANCE
COMMENTS -- PART 2

Maryellen Young, Treasurer

The End-of-Year Financials

We ended December on a positive note with Total Income minus Total Expenses a positive \$18,919.

Income:

- End-of-year income was almost \$14,000 over budget.
- Income was greater than expected because some people contributed more than pledges, and we had one new significant contributor.

Expenses:

- End-of-year expenses were almost (\$13,000) under budget.
- Having a supply organist instead of an employee for three-quarters of the year resulted in a savings of about (\$7,000) or more than 50% of our savings.
- With every budget, there are items that don't get spent, even though we have to plan for them. For example, we budgeted for eight weeks of a supply priest, but four weeks are for coverage if Greg is sick or takes professional development leave, which didn't happen this year. We also had budgeted \$2,500 in case we needed and found someone to pay to help with our website. These items provided another \$5,500 of savings or about 40%.
- Other small savings occurred in a variety of budget categories.

The Finance Committee recommended, and the Vestry approved, that the surplus be allocated as follows:

- \$16,000 to Budget Reserve Fund. The Finance Committee has also recommended to the Vestry

that the Budget Reserve Fund be spread over three years to help with projected budget shortfalls.

- \$2,000 to Buildings & Grounds Savings Fund. This amount replaces part of what we used for projects in 2023.

Part 3 will discuss 2024 Budget.

Part 4 will discuss Bottom Line and Notes for future.



JANUARY FINANCIALS

Maryellen Young, Treasurer

Income for January was \$13,405 compared to a budget of \$13,360 or \$45 over budget. Unpledged contributions were greater than budget and pledges were under budget.

Expenses for January were \$15,925 compared to a budget of \$18,281 or (\$2,356) under budget, primarily because of timing and adjustment of bills received.

We have spent **(\$2,520)** more than we have received, but that is normal for this time of year.

Total Income	\$13,405
Total Budget	\$13,360
Income minus Budget	\$45
Total Income	\$15,925
Total Expenses	\$18,281
Expenses minus Budget	(\$2,356)



DAY BY DAY REFLECTIONS

Julia Ayala Harris, who wrote this reflection, serves as the president of the House of Deputies, the first Latina and woman of color elected to the position. She is passionate about issues of immigration, race and ethnicity, truth-telling, LGBTQ+ inclusion, and justice initiatives.

John 17:22 – The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one.

As I reflect on this passage, I am struck by the depth of love and togetherness that Jesus desires for his followers. He prays that we may be in harmony with

one another, not just superficially, but at the core of our being.

Yet, we live in a world plagued by division, conflict and hatred. It can be easy to become discouraged and lose sight of the togetherness that Jesus desires. But this passage reminds us that our harmony is not something we can achieve on our own. It is a gift from God, given us through the Holy Spirit. We need the help of the Holy Spirit to guide and transform us from the inside out.

By seeking a deep relationship with Jesus, opening ourselves up to understanding others' perspectives, and actively working for reconciliation and healing, we can move toward the kind of connection and agreement that Jesus desires. In this way, we can be powerful witnesses to the love and truth of the gospel and help bring hope and unity to a world in need.

PONDERINGS....

The older I get, the more I understand why roosters scream to start their day.

You know you're over 50 when you have "upstairs ibuprofen" and "downstairs ibuprofen."

How did doctors come to the conclusion that exercise prolongs life when the rabbit is always jumping but only lives for around two years; and the turtle that doesn't exercise at all lives over 200 years.

The biggest joke on mankind is that computers have begun asking humans to prove they aren't a robot! So now cocaine is legal in Oregon, but straws aren't. That must be frustrating.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS

FEBRUARY 25 – LENT 2

"No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God...(he was) fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised." Are we striving to bring the same faith to our spiritual and stewardship lives? The idea of absolute trust in our Creator can be an elusive idea to wrap our hearts and minds around.

MARCH 1 – LENT 3

Not only as part of the Penitential Order, used often during Lent, but in Sunday's Old Testament lesson, are the Ten Commandments outlined. Even as we remember and honor those mandates, we look toward Maundy Thursday and Jesus' offering not

only of Himself, but of a new Covenant – that we should *love one another as He has loved us*. If we seriously commit to making this love and respect an integral part of our daily lives, we have our spiritual/stewardship work cut out for us indeed!

SCRIPTURE READINGS

FEBRUARY 25 – LENT 2

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16
Psalm 22:22-30
Romans 4:13-25
Mark 8:31-38

Collect for Lent 2

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy; Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ your Son; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

MARCH 3 – LENT 3

Exodus 20:1-17
Psalm 19
1 Corinthians 1:18-25
John 2:13-22

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—International Relief
- 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.

