

AROUND THE PARISH

March 8, 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 – March 10

4th 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



Fr. Greg Peters

Transforming Communities Program

As you've heard, St. Alban's has entered a program of Seattle School of Theology and Psychology entitled "Transforming Communities," which is designed to train congregational teams in assessing the congregation's strengths, inclinations, and calling, while also connecting with neighbors to discover the needs of the surrounding community, and then to see where these overlap and find a way for the congregation to meet a specific need of the community.

Two things are going on here. The first is discerning a congregation's vocation. Friedrich Buechner famously (famous at least among clergy, theologians, and assorted church nerds, yours truly among them) defined vocation as "The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet." (See the full quote at the end of this article.) The Transforming Communities Program aims at just that, to discern a congregation's vocation in and among its neighbors.

The second is to forge relationships between the congregation and its neighbors that are lasting, durable, and mutually life-giving. In essence to do the work of making the congregation the church of the neighborhood, whether the neighbors become "members" or not, whether the neighbors are Christians or not, whether they are people of faith or not. It's an attitude of service. You may have heard this before, "I came to serve not to be served." (Mark 10:45).

So, this is where we are so far: We have our team: Clark and Theresa Chase, Dan Mullene, Anna and Nick Sharpe, and me. We've had our initial training with our mentor, Seth Thomas. Seth was raised in Edmonds, graduated from Edmonds-Woodway High School, attended Calvin Presbyterian Church in Shoreline, and now serves a church in Bellingham. He

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- 3/9 9am, Men's Circle, Third Place Commons, Lake Forest Park
10:30am-12:00pm, ECW Coffee
- 3/10 2:00-5:30pm, Templo Emanuel Anniversary - Sanctuary
6:30pm, Vestry Meeting, Hybrid-Annex/Zoom
- 3/11 7:00pm, Boy Scouts, Parish Hall
- 3/12 2:00pm, Altar Guild Mtg, Parish Hall
5:00pm, Girl Scouts, Parish Hall
- 3/13 3:00-4:30pm, Food Distribution, Parking Lot
6:00pm, Evening Prayer, Sacristy & Facebook
6:30pm, Soup Supper & Lenten Program
- 3/14 7:00-9:00pm, Templo Emanuel, Sanctuary
- 3/15 7:00-8:30pm, Templo Emanuel, Sanctuary
- 3/16 10:30am-12:30pm, Indigenous Circle, Parish Hall
2:00pm, Girl Scouts, Parish Hall
- 3/23 Habitat Build



Spring forward and fall back.

Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday, March 10, 2024.

knows the lay of the land here. He loves this community and wants to be a part of its thriving. He's getting to know our congregation and, I think, is on the way to loving us, and already wants to see us continue to thrive – to provide some tools, means, and strategies for our thriving.

The next phase of our team's work is to interview members of the congregation. Each team member will interview three parishioners – that's a total of 18 parishioners. Obviously, that's not everyone, but a good representative sampling of the congregation, none the less. We will soon meet to determine who to interview. We'll be thinking about long-time members, newcomers, the old, the young, week-in and week-out members, occasion attendees, 8 o'clockers, 10:30'ers, Evening Prayers, leaders, followers; you get the picture.

If you're asked, I hope you'll be able to make time for an interview. It should only take an hour or so and you'll probably get a good cup of coffee out of it. Our congregation will get a deeper sense of self-understanding. And really, we're out to discover our collective deepest gladness.

Vocation

It comes from the Latin *vocare*, to call, and means the work a man is called to by God.

There are all different kinds of voices calling you to all different kinds of work, and the problem is to find out which is the voice of God rather than of Society, say, or the Superego, or Self-Interest.

By and large a good rule for finding out is this. The kind of work God usually calls you to is the kind of work (*a*) that you need most to do and (*b*) that the world most needs to have done. If you really get a kick out of your work, you've presumably met requirement (*a*), but if your work is writing TV deodorant commercials, the chances are you've missed requirement (*b*). On the other hand, if your work is being a doctor in a leper colony, you have probably met requirement (*b*), but if most of the time you're bored and depressed by it, the chances are you have not only bypassed (*a*) but probably aren't helping your patients much either.

Neither the hair shirt nor the soft berth will do. The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet.

-Frederick Buechner, *Wishful Thinking* (1973)

Prayer for 4th Sunday of Advent

Gracious God, so often we have missed your presence because we are looking for you clothed in a particular way. Let this time of worship be an encounter with you that will enable us to behold you in all the people we meet and all the situations we greet. You are from everlasting to everlasting, so we are confident that you are here; help us to be aware of your holy presence. O Lord, enrich this act of worship with the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray in Jesus' name. Amen



SOUP SUPPER 4 – WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13

Our Lenten study of our Baptismal Promises resumes on **Wednesday, March 13, with Evening Prayer at 6:00pm**, in the Sanctuary and on Facebook. Supper is at 6:30pm, with the program at 7:00pm; the evening concludes with Compline at 8:00pm.

Using Forward Movement's publication, "Will You? A Lenten Study of Baptismal Promises," the program is designed for those who wish to be baptized and to make our baptismal renewal more meaningful. There is always room for questions and comments, and we encourage you to come even if you have not been able to attend all the presentations.

If you are considering baptism, please contact Fr. Greg.

Our Soup Supper consists of soup, salad, bread and dessert. As you are able, please bring one of these items to share. There is always plenty of food!



ECW COFFEE AND FELLOWSHIP

Join in the fun, fellowship and special program at ECW's Coffee on **Saturday, March 9, from 10:30am to 12:00 noon**. We will enjoy some snacks, along with coffee and tea.

Jeannie Burpee will be our guest at this gathering and will share events and memories from her cruise to the Canadian Maritimes last fall. You will enjoy her presentation and photos.

This is a good opportunity for you to invite family members, friends and/or neighbors to join us.

Holy Week and Easter Services



Come Worship With Us!



JOIN IN MEN'S CIRCLE ON MARCH 9

Jim Gilman

The Kick Off gathering of St. Alban's Men's Circle is

Saturday, March 9, at 9:00am, at Third Place Commons in Lake Forest Park. Harvey Smith and Jim Gilman are initiating this event for the men of St. Alban's to further fellowship, conversation and for mutual support.

Carpooling can be arranged if desired – contact Jim Gilman, 425-409-1374/text, or Harvey Smith 425-248-0518/text. Or, just meet us there!



Easter Flowers

EASTER FLOWER DONATIONS

Altar Guild will be ordering and arranging flowers for our Easter celebrations for Jesus' resurrection. You are invited to contribute to these flowers and dedicate your donation in memory of someone, in thanksgiving, or to honor a special occasion. Dedication information will be published in the Easter bulletins. Special Easter envelopes are in the pews for your use.

Please have your donations and dedications in the church office by **Sunday, March 17**, for their inclusion in bulletins.

PARISH DIRECTORY INFORMATION

Welcome to:

Kelly & David Swanson
2720 195th St NE, Unit B
Lake Forest Park, WA 98155
David: 206-637-9192
Kelly: 425-599-6322
davidandkellyswanson@gmail.com
Kaylee – 15 years old
Aubrey – 1 year old

March 24, Palm Sunday

8:00am, Eucharist, In Person

10:30am, Eucharist, In Person/Live Streamed
Easter Egg stuffing after each service.

March 25, Monday in Holy Week

6:00pm, Evening Prayer, Facebook only

March 26, Tuesday in Holy Week

6:00pm, Evening Prayer, Facebook only

March 27, Tenebrae (Psalms & Lessons)

6:00pm, In Person/Facebook

March 28, Maundy Thursday

6:00pm, Agape Supper with Eucharist, Foot/
Hand Washing, Stripping of Altar
(In Person only)

March 29, Good Friday

12:00pm, Service, In Person/Live Streamed

6:00pm, Service, In Person only

12:00-6:00pm, Stations of Cross, Labyrinth

March 30, Holy Saturday

12:00pm, Meditative Service, Facebook only

7:45pm, Easter Vigil, In Person/Live Streamed

March 30, Easter Egg Hunt, 2:00pm

March 31, Easter Sunday

8:00am, Eucharist, In Person only

10:30am, Eucharist, In Person/Live streamed



GIRL SCOUT SUNDAY, MARCH 10

This Sunday, March 10th, is Girl Scout Sunday and in honor of that, we've invited some of the Scouts and leaders to sell cookies after worship at both services.

This youth organization has been building compassionate leaders and teaching skills and values that help the members make the world a better place. St. Alban's is the meeting site for Girl Scout Troop 46254, and we are grateful for all they do in our community!

IN MEMORY OF DAVID LANGE

David Lange, beloved husband of parishioner Carrie Cone, died in his sleep on Thursday morning, February 29. Dave had been seriously ill for a long time and has been in our Prayers of the People. Dave and Carrie were married at St. Alban's over 24 years ago.

In keeping with Dave's wishes, there will be no service. Please keep Carrie in your prayers.

Positive Outlooks.com

One tree can start a forest;
One smile can begin a friendship;
One hand can lift a soul;
One word can frame a goal;
One candle can wipe out darkness;
One laugh can conquer gloom;
One hope can raise our spirits;
One touch can show your care;
One life can make a difference,
Be that one today.

BJ Gallagher
(Shared by Shirley Clark)



ANNUAL MEETING FINANCE COMMENTS —PART 4

Maryellen Young, Treasurer

2024 BUDGET INFORMATION

Bottom line

- With projected income and expenses, we are projecting a budget shortfall of \$29,000. The plan is to use \$20,000 of our Budget Reserve Fund towards this shortfall. We will continue to more closely monitor our income and expenses throughout the year. We have other funds available to cover any actual shortfall that happens.

Budget cautionary note for future:

- One reason the Finance Committee recommended, and the Vestry approved this budget, is we are blessed with options for covering an actual shortfall.
- There are very few options for making significant budget cuts. Clergy and staff represent 55% of our budget. And Buildings & Grounds makes up almost 20% of our budget. And our Diocesan Assessment is 14.5% of our income.

- This projected shortfall is a warning note for the future. Our budget reserve fund will help with potential shortfalls for at least the next three years.
- If you are interested in learning more or becoming a member of the Finance Committee, please contact me.



MINISTRY FOCUS- REPORT #2 (What and How We Operate)

Jan Skidmore, People's Warden

Pastoral Care Ministry provides emotional and spiritual support to all of St. Alban's by visiting and maintaining contact to shut-ins, anyone hospitalized or dealing with bereavement, sending birthday cards, and welcome cards, and following up with visitors. Contact is Jim Gilman.

Eucharist Visit - arrange contact with Jim Gilman. If you are interested *in serving* either way, contact Jim at (425) 409-1374 or namlig74@gmail.com.

Prayer Chain: About a dozen people pray for members, friends and relatives as requested. Requests should be submitted to Sheilah Reidburn at kiwicat1@gmail.com or 425-745-1390.



CHURCH DIRECTORY

An updated church directory is now available in the Parish Hall. The cover page has the contact information for Vestry members, and there is a page with their pictures. An updated ministry list showing ministries, key leaders and Vestry liaisons is also included. Finally, there is the directory information with names, addresses, telephone numbers and email addresses. When changes are made in your contact information, please notify the church office.



1st QUARTER BASKET DONATIONS

3rd Week Outreach

Washington Kids in Transition is committed to providing basic needs to homeless children residing in Washington State, including food, emergency closets,

motel vouchers, and transportation vouchers. Mark your checks "Donation."

4th Week International Relief

Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) cares for people affected by conflict, disease outbreaks, natural and human-made disasters, and exclusion from health care in more than 70 countries. Mark your donation "International Relief."

"OPPORTUNITIES"

Jan Skidmore, People's Warden

If You Are Interested In Using Your Spiritual Gifts in Any of the Following Ways – Please contact Jan Skidmore

Opportunity #1: If you would be interested in taking photos of events.

Opportunity #2: If you would be interested in promoting our services and activities via social media.

Opportunity #3: If you would be interested in assisting with the fall stewardship program.

Opportunity #4: If you would be interested in serving on a safety committee.

Opportunity #5: If you would be interested in assisting with the annual Mission to Seafarers.

Opportunity #6: If you would be interested in serving on a newcomers' committee.



RED BOX QUESTIONS

Jan Skidmore, People's Warden

One of our parishioners liked Music Director John Palmer's addition of ringing a bell to signify the service is beginning. She liked it so well that she asked if he could do that on a regular basis. I have emailed John and asked if he would agree to do as requested.

This parishioner also wanted to contact a ministry and inquired what had happened to the chart that had been on the Parish Hall wall showing the list of ministries and who is the contact person for each ministry. The list had been removed as it needed to be updated. She suggested it be included in the church directory. Good News! Thanks to Maryellen Young, an updated Ministry List is included with the latest

Directory which was just recently completed. Copies of the Directory are now available in the Parish Hall, and we hope all will make sure to get a copy.

Also, I will provide Connie Forsberg, the person who monthly redecorates the wall in the entry area, with an enlarged version to be added to the wall. That is probably a more visible location for all to use as a resource for contact information.

Thanks for sharing your ideas!

ADVOCACY TRAINING DAY

Saturday, March 16

General Sessions held 1:00pm-4:00pm

The Episcopal Dioceses of Western WA and Oregon are excited to welcome Alan Yarborough of the Episcopal Church's Office of Government Relations for a special hybrid training. This training day is available for individuals or churches interested in advocacy, faithful election engagement, and resources from the church like Episcopal Public Policy Network.

See last week's ATP for the attachment of an information sheet about this Advocacy Training Day. There is also a flyer in the Parish Hall with details.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Jim Gilman



Habitat for Humanity builds and restores houses with the help of volunteers. St. Alban's has been invited to help with a Build, which is the restoration and rehabilitation of a house in Everett. No skills are necessary for volunteers. Five volunteers is as large a group as can be accommodated for this Build.

If you are interested in helping with this project on **March 23, all day**, please contact Jim Gilman (425-409-1374 or namlig74@gmail.com). Additionally, there are volunteer opportunities at the Habitat Store located in Lynnwood at SR99 and 169th.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS

MARCH 10 – LENT 4

"For God so loved the world, that He gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not perish but have everlasting life." When we think about giving and receiving, there is no more unselfish

and eternally blessed gift than the one God has given us “with no strings attached” – except the desire to have us return that love to Him and share it with others in our lives.

MARCH 17 – LENT 5

“Whoever serves me must follow me and where I am, there will my servant be also.” What a blueprint for a steward to follow! Love the Lord, follow and serve Him, and reflect His immeasurable love to all whose lives touch yours – and a rewarding life both now and eternally is God’s promise!

SCRIPTURE READINGS

MARCH 10 – LENT 4

Numbers 21:4-9
Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22
Ephesians 2:1-10
John 3:14-21

Collect for Lent 4

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that He may live in us, and we in Him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

MARCH 17 – LENT 5

Jeremiah 31:31-34
Psalm 51:1-13 or Psalm 119:9-16
Hebrews 5:5-10
John 12:20-33

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.

