

AROUND THE PARISH

May 17, 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 – May 19

Day of Pentecost

8:00 & 10:30am, In-person, Indoor Services. Masking is currently voluntary; those who prefer to continue wearing their masks are encouraged to do so.

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

Prayer for Life-Changing Power

Breath of Life, on this Pentecost Sunday, we ask that You breathe on us once again. Make our consciences tender to Your touch. We hunger for the life-changing power that Your Holy Spirit brings. May our lives exemplify the fruit of Your Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. May we use the gifts of the Spirit that You have distributed to bless the church and build Your Kingdom on earth. Amen

(connectusfund.org)



IT ONLY TAKES A SPARK; A PENTECOST REFLECTION

Some time ago, I incorporated a fashion show into a sermon titled “Who Are You Wearing.” The congregation had great fun participating in this impromptu opportunity to show off “who” they were wearing or to walk down the red carpet in “what to wear” and “what not to wear,” depending on whether they were wearing words that were edifying and encouraging or that were hurtful, demeaning affixed to their garments.

Each displayed a particular gift uniquely their own. Some hammed it up. Some took on the posture of the word pinned to their garments. Some let their faces tell the story. It was the gift of themselves. And of course, the winning garment was “Designed by Jesus.” It only took a spark for the congregation to be drawn into the created scenario of the first ever “Spirit of the Lord Awards.”

Pentecost reminds us that we are rooted in abundance. We all have been given gifts through the work and presence of the Holy Spirit for the building up or the edification of God's beloved community, for transforming lives and caring for all of creation. A significant gift is the gift of ourselves warmed by the fire of the Spirit – it is the thing we bring to the table that no one else has and creates an abundance of gifts and resources manifested in that of which we are most

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- 5/18 10:30-12:30, Indigenous Circle, Parish Hall
- 5/20 10:00am-12:00pm, Episcoplayers Rehearsal
- 5/20 7:00pm, Boy Scouts, Parish Hall
- 5/21 4:00-6:00pm, Girl Scouts, Parish Hall
- 5/22 6:00pm, Evening Prayer, Face Book
- 5/23 7:00-9:00pm, Templo Emanuel, Sanctuary
- 5/24 7:00-8:30pm, Templo Emanuel, Sanctuary
- 6/1 7:00pm, Episcoplayers Event, Sanctuary/PH
(8:00am-10:00pm, Episcoplayers Setup, etc.)



passionate. Like the Kurt Kaiser song, “It only takes a spark to get a fire going.” It is a spark of generosity of spirit and a willingness to share the love.

I first heard this song when I was in college. It was sung as a gift to the newly initiated into a sisterhood grounded in service, love, and faith. I would hear it years later, and like the first time, again it was sung as a gift of love and encouragement to those seeking a deeper relationship with Christ. It only took a spark to spread the love. When sparks fly things are set ablaze and something wonderful emerges.

Like the giving of the Holy Spirit on the first Pentecost, when tongues like fire rested on the heads of those gathered, and they were given gifts to proclaim the good news in a way that everyone could understand. Gifts are intended to be shared with others, no strings attached. Freely we have received and freely we give. It only takes a spark.

Question for Reflection

- In what ways might sharing your gifts create sparks or lead to the emergence of something wonderful and transformative in your ministry or in the lives of others – in your family, community, or other environment?

Rev. Debra Q Bennett serves on the TENs board. She lives in Akron, OH and is the Rector at Church Of Our Saviour (Episcopal) in Akron.



Saturday, June 22, 2024
5:00 – 7:00pm
St. Alban’s Parish Hall

On Saturday, June 22, 2024, there will be a celebration of St. Alban’s sponsored by the Endowment Board and the Vestry. This year we will be celebrating our 70th year of being recognized by the Diocese as a congregation.



LIAISON

APRIL LIAISON REPORTS TO VESTRY

Jan Skidmore, People’s Warden

***Administration – Jeannie Wells**

Working with Pastor David Hahn for the next three months on some changes (or opportunities

for growth) during his time with us. To prepare each week, I rely on other people for timely info.

***Evangelism & Social Justice - Brad Goergen**

Sponsoring a Habitat Build Day, Saturday, June 8, and a field trip to Hibulb Cultural Center/Tulalip, Saturday, June 15. The 5/4 food drive was a great success. The team collected over \$400 and nearly 1,000 pounds.

***Faith Formation** – The Adult Bible Study Group that meets between the services has recently begun to develop a theology of prayer.

***Parish Life – Theresa Chase**

Coffee Hour: We are always looking for people to clean-up and pick up donuts or other treats.

Children’s Play Area has been created in the back of the church. A carpet will be installed. There is a new bin of toys in the back row of the church for kids. This does NOT take the place of Children’s Church or the play area in the Parish Hall. Rather it adds to the options for parents to feel welcome with children in the church if that is their choice.

Blessings Pantry: For the last two years, we have had a Pantry in the Parish Hall as an extension of the Edmonds Food Bank which was filled with food from the food donation table. We propose the pantry be moved outside and be part of the “Blessings Pantry Movement” across the country. Edmonds Food Bank doesn’t host outside pantries. We need to ask the Vestry to approve using the food brought to be used for the pantry as well as the local Food Banks. Jim Gilman and Theresa Chase will try to keep it stocked, but we are also looking for other people to help. We will need to secure the pantry to the building.

*** Pastoral Care – JL Krilevich**

The Committee recently went through the church directory to make sure everyone is being cared for who need visits and care. We discussed the issue of Euthanasia, Washington State’s law regarding it; an issue that sometimes arises in caring for those nearing the end of life.

***Website/Constant Contact - Roger Andersen**

A web feature called the Episcopal Asset Map was developed by Episcopal Relief to catalog vital information on each of the churches in the Episcopal Church. In our diocese, we will also use it for keeping information current for people who may be searching for a church.

***Worship – Shirley Clark**

Evening prayer has been delegated to Debby Wilson, Jim Gilman, or Shirly Clark. Readers are scheduled through July. Knitters are needed to make prayer shawls.

WHO DO THEY SAY THAT WE ARE?

By Dan Mullene

You may remember that in the Gospel of Mark Jesus asks the disciples, “who do people say that I am?” I wonder, if we asked our neighbors a similar question, “who do they say that we are,” what would their answers be?

Here’s what I would hope that they would reply:

That we are the people who feed our neighbors through frequent food drives and a monthly pop-up truck that makes food available to any and all who need it.

That we are the people who support a local elementary school by collecting backpacks and supplies and food for them throughout the year and provide holiday gift cards at Christmas to make that season a joyous one for them.

That we are the people that provide space in our church for a community preschool to help their children grow up in a caring and thoughtful educational environment.

That we are the people who share our sanctuary with a Hispanic congregation to provide more opportunities to share God’s “good words” to more of our brothers and sisters in Christ.

That we are the people who open our facilities up to welcome both a Boy Scout and a Girl Scout Troop and their activities for improving the lives of their members.

That we are the people who hold special open house events throughout the year to celebrate the arts, to inform the public, and to entertain our community.

That we are the people who believe in the fundamental dignity and worth of every human being, and that we work hard every day to be a welcoming congregation to all.

What would you tell others who ask you “who do you say that you are?” No doubt, you can think of many more answers to that question.

In 1 John 3:18, we hear “Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.” Our actions always speak louder than words we say. When we accept that we are here not to “be served, but to serve,” we are following Christ’s example.

May we always remember that is why He was here, and that is why we are here! Amen.

Friends are angels who lift us to our feet
when our wings have trouble remembering
how to fly.



EPISCOPLAYERS RETURN WITH KLKL

Our talented group of thespians, the Episcoplayers, are returning on **Saturday, June 1, 7:00pm**, for another performance of their celebrated KLKL broadcasts.

This second broadcast will feature what was happening in the 1940’s world of radio. To finish off the evening, there will be a time of “meet, greet and eat,” thanks to Shannon Duggan. (She is looking for volunteers to assist her with this part of the evening.)

You won’t need a ticket for this program, just donations of non-perishable foods to benefit the food bank. Cash donations are also welcome! Please invite family, friends, and/or neighbors to this event.

Mark your calendars for Saturday, June 1, 7:00pm.



MINISTRY FOCUS (What and How We Operate)

Jan Skidmore, People’s Warden

Coffee Hour is a special time for fellowship and refreshments. Beverages are provided by St. Alban’s. Parishioners are asked to sign up to provide refreshments. Some items are purchased to ensure there are always protein, fruit, and gluten free items. A donation basket is used to collect money to fund items. The 8:00am service coffee hour is coordinated by Shannon Duggan and Ron Sodetani. Theresa Chase coordinates the 10:30am coffee hour. Enjoy good discussions with others and delicious treats.

Episcoplayers – A group using a rather unique format to provide information and/or entertainment to our parish meetings or gatherings. They also provide major events to benefit the Food Bank. These events are opportunities for our members to invite family, friends, and any others to attend.

Notes to Visitors – Mary Fowler sends written notes to our Visitors expressing appreciation to him/her/them for attending St Alban’s.

THANK YOU FROM DISCRETIONARY FUND

Thank you once again for your generosity.

In last Sunday’s bulletin, there was a request for help to support the Discretionary Fund. Because of a

generous donation from our support of Hazel Jong's family at her graveside service, plus donations from several members of our congregation, as well as cash in the 2nd week basket, our Discretionary Fund has been replenished. We are now in a better position to help people who contact us for assistance.

Donations to the Discretionary Fund are made with the 2nd week basket, but can be made at any time. Just put "Discretionary" on the memo line of a check or on your donation envelope.

WISDOM FROM BISHOP CHARLESTON

Somewhere on this crowded planet, in a place I have never been before and will never visit in my lifetime, someone I do not know and will never meet has just said a prayer in a language I do not understand as an expression of faith in a religion I do not accept. And yet, the prayer was for me.

"Please bless all those who are in need," the stranger prayed, and that includes me.

The wonder of faith is not that we all agree, but that we all care, even when we are strangers.

So, I return the prayer: "Please bless all who are in need. All, please, not some: for they are praying for me as I pray for them.

The Rt. Rev. Steven Charleston

(From Jeannie Burpee: Roseburg OR church newsletter.)



DAY BY DAY REFLECTIONS

The author of the following reflection is Kira Austin-Young, an Episcopal priest, currently serving at the Episcopal Church of St. Mary the Virgin in San Francisco. She also has roots in Texas and Tennessee.

Ephesians 2:8-9: For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God – not the result of works, so that no one may boast.

One Sunday morning during our Christian formation time, an older woman who had been a churchgoer her whole life said, "I don't think I understand the concept of grace." I chuckled and responded, "I don't think I understand it either!"

In all seriousness, grace runs counter to the Protestant work ethic and the tenets of capitalism and

can indeed be difficult to understand. We learn from a young age that people deserve what they get, both bad and good. The Christian narrative of grace, of God's love freely given to us while we were in a state of sin, does not compute.

Every day, I try to understand grace, to rest in the knowledge that nothing I do can either lose or win God's love for me, and I'll probably be trying to understand it for the rest of my life. No one can boast because grace is the free gift of God.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS

MAY 19 – DAY OF PENTECOST

Psalm 104 says in part, "*All of them look to you to give them their food in due season. You give it to them ... you open your hand, and they are filled with good things.*" How's that for a faithful steward's reason to always and everywhere give thanks? God gives us everything we have – how can we thank Him adequately except by returning a faithful share of all those gifts to Him and to others in His name.

MAY 26 – TRINITY SUNDAY

For God so loved the world that he gave his Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not perish but may have eternal life. If we believe in Him, He will know that by the lives we live, and the thanks we give for that (as the 1928 BCP says) inestimable gift – and that's what stewardship is all about!

SCRIPTURE READINGS

MAY 19 – DAY OF PENTECOST

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Psalm 104:25-35, 37

Acts 2:1-21

John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

Collect for Day of Pentecost

O God, who on this day taught the hearts of your faithful people by sending to them the light of your Holy Spirit: Grant us by the same Spirit to have a right judgment in all things, and evermore to rejoice in His holy comfort: through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,

who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen

MAY 26 – TRINITY SUNDAY

Isaiah 6:1-8

Psalms 29 or Canticle 2 or Canticle 13

Romans 8:12-17

John 3:1-17

NOTE: Fr. Greg is currently on Sabbatical Leave. For emergency or other inquiries, please contact:

Administrative/Business: Liz Bee, Senior Warden,
eabee@juno.com, 206-795-5594

Pastoral Care: Jim Gilman

Discretionary Fund: Dan Mullene, Jim Gilman

Church Office: stalbansedmonds@gmail.com o
425-778-0371

Sabbatical Pastor: Pastor David Hahn

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 Liz

Bee at 206-795-5594.

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.

