

AROUND THE PARISH

September 13, 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 – September 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

Wednesday Night at Evening Prayer, using the liturgical resources of Season of Creation, we prayed this prayer.

“God of peace, let us your people know, that at the heart of turbulence there is an inner calm that comes from faith in you. Keep us from being content with things as they are, that from this central peace there may come a creative compassion, a thirst for justice, and a willingness to give of ourselves in the spirit of Christ. *Amen.*”

It's a Collect of Creation and Redemption, from the New Zealand Book of Common Prayer. And while those who compiled the liturgical resources mainly intended it to remind us of our interdependence with, and responsibility for better stewardship of Creation, the other species, the environment, and the systems that maintain stability of this planet, it spoke to me as we confront all the dis-ease in our society, our nation, and among the nations of the world.

It was, after all, the anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks. The terrorist attackers were inspired by a misguided – heretical – interpretation of Islam. But to assume that is the truth of Islam or that all Muslims understand their faith as violent, reactionary, and lethally regressive, is simply wrong. It is akin to thinking that the truth of Christianity is that espoused by White Christian Nationalists.

Let me unequivocally say that White Christian Nationalism itself is simply wrong. Jesus, the disciples, their people, and the early converts were not white. Jesus, his disciples, and their people were Jewish. The early converts were Jewish, Samaritans (an offshoot of Judaism), Hellenists (Greek/Roman polytheists), and animists and polytheists from Northeast Africa to the Indian subcontinent. From this, one can plainly see that Christianity has been, from its

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

9/14 10:30am, Men's Circle, Parish Hall

9/16 6:30pm, Worship Committee Mtg, Zoom
7:00pm, Boy Scouts, Parish Hall

9/17 4:00-6:00pm, Girl Scouts, Parish Hall

9/18 6:00pm, Evening Prayer, Sanctuary/Facebook
6:30pm, Soup Supper & Program

9/19 7:00-9:00pm, Templo Emanuel, Sacristy

9/20 7:00-8:30pm, Templo Emanuel, Sanctuary

9/21 10:30am, Indigenous Circle, Parish Hall

9/25 1:00pm, Finance Committee Mtg, Parish Hall
6:00pm, Evening Prayer, Facebook

9/26 1:00-2:30pm, ECW Setup in Parish Hall

9/28 10:30am-2:00pm, ECW Coffee & Program

With COVID cases on the rise, the virus has made its way to St. Alban's. Father Greg tested positive for COVID on Wednesday. He began to feel a bit run down Monday and developed a small cough Tuesday but tested negative both days. Wednesday his symptoms worsened, and his test came back positive.

If you were at the service on Saturday or Sunday, please monitor your health and test if you begin to feel ill. Please note that you may not test positive right away, but may still be contagious.

While no RSV or flu cases have been reported by parishioners, please note these viruses are on the rise as well. Though not required, it may be prudent to mask while in crowded spaces or in gatherings such as church. We pray you all good health!

inception, unconcerned about – and not limited by – nationality, political system, or geography.

Christian Nationalism in its broadest sense, is part of the legacy of Constantine’s conversion to Christianity. In his zeal, Constantine made Christianity the religion of the Empire, but it can be argued that he never lost his will to power and, though converted, he ultimately misused Christianity to further his goals as emperor. He began the process by which the liberating religion of the Prince of Peace became the oppressive religion of the empire, an instrument of imperial domination and control.

This misuse of religion as part of nationalist, imperial, and economic interests has played out again and again in the history of Christianity: from the Holy Roman Empire, the Spanish Inquisition, the colonial conquests of the Africa, Asia, and the Americas by the several European Powers (including our own Anglican forebearers), the National Socialists in Germany and Italy to the subjugation of Native Americans and enslavement of Africans in our country.

We hear these voices again in this time of change and uncertainty, not just in our political discourses, but in Europe and Asia as well. It is also not limited to Christianity. Listen to what comes out of Central and Eastern Europe, Turkey, India, Myanmar, and China regarding war refugees; asylum seekers; religious, climate, economic, disease, and disaster refugees. “*They are diluting our blood; destroying our culture; harming our citizens; filling us with wicked ideas and harmful customs; threats to our nation; taking, taking, taking from us . . .*”

This is not to say that these voices of fear – aggressive to be sure, but so much of it is based in fear – do not have legitimate concerns. How will we muster the resources to welcome all these strangers? How will we have the capacity to care for them properly? What will it be like for us to serve rather than rule? How could there possibly be enough?

These are turbulent questions of turbulent times. But Christianity, Islam, and Buddhism have always been religions that transcend nation, state, and tribe. To say otherwise is a falsehood, a misrepresentation. And at their core, they profess the unity of humanity and inclusivity of all. Their founders knew that there is always enough room, resources, and abilities.

So, Redeemer of the world, help us to see in this turbulent time your universal redemption and your inclusive vision. Give us the mind, strength, and courage of Christ to struggle for welcome, justice, and true peace. And give us the compassionate creativity

to address the needs of our times, with all these whom you have created and love.

Report from the Vestry meeting of September 8.

The things we want to report to you are:

1. Stew Fest and our annual stewardship program is being planned by the Stewardship Committee led by Debby Wilson. Stew Fest is scheduled for Wednesday, October 16.
2. Our first “5 Corners” program will be a Voter Registration drive. It is being organized in coordination with the help of the League of Women Voters. And we hope to provide translation services for speakers of other languages. Look for more information about this.
3. Our new Diocesan Bishop, Phil LaBelle, will be making a visitation at St. Alban’s on November 24. We will be one of his first visitations, so we look forward to welcoming him and establishing a good precedent for his work and leadership among the congregations of the Diocese.
4. Lastly, at the request of Treasurer Maryellen Young, we established the position of Assistant Treasurer and named Jeannie Burpee to that position. Additionally, we authorized Jeannie Burpee and Parish Administrator Jeannie Wells to have full access to information concerning our bank accounts. We acknowledge that Maryellen has been doing so much for so long, as Treasurer, and we recognize that the responsibilities are enormous, so establishing an Assistant Treasurer is prudent. There are details that will be worked out in the near future, among them length of terms, specifics about roles and responsibilities, and accountability; all part of good governance.

I’d like to make an observation about Maryellen asking for an Assistant Treasurer. This is, to use a sports analogy, deepening our bench, having multiple people be able to, and empowered to, take on ministries, and it is kind of thing I have been encouraging for some time. Another example of this is how Phil has been building a team to produce our livestreaming.

I so appreciate both Maryellen’s and Phil’s leadership in this regard. This is the kind of thing that will keep our ministries sustainable and keep our congregation growing. Well done, both of you! Greg

The Ordination and Consecration of the Rev. Dr. Philip N. LaBelle Saturday, September 14th

God willing and the people consenting, The Rev. Dr. Philip Noah LaBelle will be ordained and consecrated as ninth bishop of the Diocese of Olympia on Saturday, September 14, 2024, at 11:00 am at the Meydenbauer Center in Bellevue. Everyone in our Diocese is invited!

The Most Reverend Michael B. Curry, Presiding Bishop and Primate of the Episcopal Church will be the chief consecrator. Co-consecrators of Record are The Most Rev. Melissa M. Skelton and The Rt. Rev. Carol J.W.T. Gallagher. The Rev. Pamela L. Wertz will preach. The newly ordained bishop of the Diocese of Olympia, The Rev. Dr. Philip N. LaBelle will preside at the Eucharist.

The service will also be live-streamed at this link: <https://ecww.org/the-ordination-and-consecration-of-the-rev-dr-philip-n-labelle/>

MEN'S CIRCLE GATHERING

For their next meeting on **Saturday, September 14, at 10:30am**, in the Parish Hall, the Circle has invited women of St. Alban's to also attend. The guest speaker will be Rick Rouse, retired pastor of Trinity Lutheran. If you plan to attend, please TEXT Harvey Smith, 425-248-0518, so Chief Cook Eric Hanson will know how many Swedish Pancakes to make.



SOUP SUPPER ON SEPTEMBER 18

Join us for the next Soup Supper and Program on **Wednesday, September 18**. Evening Prayer is at 6:00pm in the Sacristy and Facebook and followed by a presentation about the Congregational Vitality Assessment which parishioners took earlier this year. Fr. Greg will also report on his three-month Sabbatical experience.



SEASONS OF CREATION

CREATION COLLECT FOR SEPTEMBER 15

O God, because in our ignorance and selfishness we so often fail to care rightly for your Creation, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may soften and unite our hearts with all living beings who suffer; through Jesus Christ the Wisdom of Creation, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen

COLLECT FOR THE BEAUTY OF CREATION

Loving God, Creator of all,
we thank you for the beauty of Creation;
show us, we pray, how to respect the
fragile balance of life.
Guide by your wisdom those who have power
to care for or to destroy the environment,
that by the decisions we make, life may be cherished
and a good and fruitful earth be preserved for future
generations; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

COMING SOON – ECW COFFEE, SEPT 28

ECW's Coffee on **Saturday, September 28, at 10:30am**, features Storyteller/Actress Debbie Dimitre. She has been entertaining, inspiring and educating audiences of all ages with her historical and dramatic storytelling presentations.

Debbie has blessed us with her amazing storytelling skills of historical, amazing women on several occasions. She will be sharing about Eleanor Roosevelt, First Lady 1933-1945 titled "No Ordinary Woman." Eleanor Roosevelt was one of the first delegates to the United Nations in 1945 and a peaceful warrior for Human Rights.



Coffee, tea and light refreshments will be served. You might want to invite a friend or family member to attend this special event.



Do you all mean it?

“Do you all mean all that kingdom of God stuff you have us talk about?” he asked me as we sat on the pavement outside the building where the camp talent show/karaoke night was taking place.

This was the third night in a row where I sat adjacent to the all-camp activity with this particular camper, processing challenges that happened throughout the day; boundaries that got pushed, relationships that got thorny, repeated instructions that got ignored. Every night we’d make a little bit more progress, and I almost looked forward to our evening conversations, even while they were complicated.

“What makes you ask that,?” I asked him in return. “Just curious,” he replied.

“We try to mean it,” I answered, “It isn’t always easy, and it isn’t always a straight line, but I think we try to mean it.”

“We’ll see, I guess,” he noted before walking away, the bulk of our conversation having already finished.

For the next two nights we would keep up the pattern of our evening conversations. He would coyly smile every time I walked up. “I must be your favorite camper,” he’d say laughing.

On the last day of camp, he made eye contact with me across the parking lot and ran up after loading his suitcase in the trunk.

“I think I almost believe you – all that kingdom of God stuff. It doesn’t make sense, but I almost believe you.”

Walking in love isn’t always a straight line, and it isn’t always comfortable, and it isn’t always easy to believe. But in the moments when the world feels like it’s overflowing with pain and hurt and brokenness, I hear his words echo in my head: “I think I almost believe you – all that kingdom of God stuff. It doesn’t make sense, but I almost believe you,” and I figure I can try to start the walk again – one step, one conversation, one honest answer at a time. TEVS.org

Questions for Reflection:

- What do you find it hard to believe sometimes?
- When walking in love gets hard to do, who do you look to for inspiration to keep trying?

The Rev. Spencer Hatcher serves as the Executive Director of the Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center in Greenfield, NH where she’s lucky enough to be a part of a summer camp that serves the dioceses of Massachusetts, Western Massachusetts, and New Hampshire.



FINANCE COMMITTEE

At Welcome Back Sunday last week, there was an opportunity to ask about and learn more about the various ministries at St. Alban’s. In case you didn’t get a chance to ask about our financial ministries, the Finance Committee is always open for additional members joining in this ministry. We meet periodically to review financials, with additional meetings in the fall to provide input into the upcoming budget. This is also an opportunity to learn more about the role of the treasurer.

Current Finance Committee members are Liz Bee, Jeannie Burpee, Pat Chandler, Susan Hanson, Mary Fowler, Greg Peters, and Maryellen Young. We would love to have more members from the congregation providing input to this important area of our church life.

Our next meeting will be on **Wednesday, September 25th at 1:00pm** in person and via Zoom. If you would be interest in joining us, please contact Maryellen Young 425-776-2461 or maryelleny@comcast.net.



GENEROSITY AS A WAY OF LIVING

Maryellen Young

Jackie Leake’s memorial service provided me with the opportunity to reflect on Jackie’s time as a member of our congregation. As treasurer I was blessed with opportunities to see how Jackie Leake demonstrated generosity by how she lived.

She had a heart for Chase Lake Community School, regularly giving donations to the school. A couple of her grandchildren had attended, so she was familiar with their needs.

About once a month, she came by the church with the help of one of her daughters, delivering a carload of food that she had purchased at Costco. Sometimes I was at church when they came to deliver it and had

the opportunity to greet her and thank her for her generosity. We would unload the car and pile the food on the table in the Parish Hall.

As a member of the Legacy Society, for the past couple of years she made direct donations to the Endowment Fund, helping her legacy to live on in St. Alban's. Some people find donating directly to the Endowment Fund the easiest way to contribute rather than through their estate. If you want more information about how to become a member of the Legacy Society, please contact me or a member of the Endowment Board for more information.



St. Alban's and our outreach ministries have been blessed by Jackie Leake's life of generosity.

Donations of \$256 in memory of Jackie were made at her service and will be directed to Chase Lake Community School in her honor.

ENDOWMENT BOARD MEMBERS APPOINTED

At the September Vestry Meeting Bob Chaffee and Mona Carter were appointed to three-year terms on the Endowment Board starting in November 2024. Bob was previously approved to complete the balance of Herman Siqueland's term and expressed a willingness to serve a full three- year term. Mona is replacing Mary Fowler who has served two sets of three-year terms. We are grateful for Mary's support of this ministry.



ENDOWMENT FUND

EARNINGS FROM ENDOWMENT FUNDS

At the September Vestry meeting, the Vestry approved moving \$22,383 in earnings from the Endowment Funds to the Distribution Fund. Each year the Endowment Board evaluates the earnings in the Fisher Fund and the Permanent Endowment Fund for the year ending June 30th, following the procedures defined in the Endowment Fund policies using a 3-year rolling average and protected principle.

Previously, the Vestry approved the establishment of a Distribution Fund for retaining the net proceeds

available for distribution so that the money can remain invested until the Vestry identifies a purpose for the funds. How the funds can be used is defined in the Enabling Resolutions governing the Endowment Fund.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the purpose of this Fund is to enable the Parish to more completely fulfill its mission by developing its ministries beyond what is possible through its annual operating funds, and therefore that distributions from the fund shall be limited to

1. **Capital needs** of the Parish
2. **Outreach** ministries and grants
3. **Seed money** for new ministries and special one-time projects
4. Such other purposes or programs as are **specifically restricted by donors** to the Parish whose gifts are included in the Fund (the Vestry will concur prior to acceptance of the gift to ensure that the Parish can faithfully honor the donor's restricted purpose);

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that distributions from the Fund shall not be made to the operating budget of the Parish.



HAVE A COMMENT OR QUESTION??

A parishioner commented, "volume needs to be louder." The Vestry has been researching how hearing in the sanctuary could be improved. We do realize a number of people have hearing issues, and we hope to have a solution soon.



INCOME GENERATING WORKING GROUP (IGWG)

Jan Skidmore, People's Warden

A couple of months ago, we announced the formation of this committee. Many other summer activities may have erased the memory of that long ago announcement.

At a couple of Vestry Meetings, Fr. Greg shared his thoughts regarding the need to develop other sources of income. At the May Vestry Meeting, the IGWG was

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS

SEPTEMBER 15 --- PENTECOST 17

In Mark 8:, Jesus says: “*But who do you say that I am?*” Your relationship with Jesus – personal or impersonal, constant presence in our life or “God, please help me just this one time, and I’ll never...” savior and true friend or distant hazy religious figure – no doubt has a great deal to do with your life as steward. Who do you say that He is? Wouldn’t your stewardship life be more meaningful if you could see Him as constant presence, true friend, and personal savior? He wants to be all of those things, you know.

SEPTEMBER 22 – PENTECOST 18

From part of James: 3 -- *But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy.*” Put that list on your mirror and try to live by these good stepping stones for faithful stewards – difficult indeed to attain, but gratitude creating when you have some success.

CHRISTIAN FRIENDLY HUMOR

Dentist’s Hymn – Crown Him with Many Crowns

Weatherman’s Hymn – There Shall Be Showers of Blessings

Contractor’s Hymn – The Church’s One Foundation

The Tailor’s Hymn – Holy, Holy, Holy

The Golfer’s Hymn – There’s A Hill Far Away

The Politician’s Hymn – Standing on the Promises

Optometrist’s Hymn – Open My Eyes That I Might

See

(Thanks to Susan Hanso for the above contributions)

SCRIPTURE READINGS

SEPTEMBER 15 – PENTECOST 17

Proverbs 1:20-33

Psalm 19 or Canticle Wisdom 7:26-8:1

James 3:1-12

Mark 8:27-38

Collect for Pentecost 17

O God, because without you we are not able to please you, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and for ever. Amen

appointed and the members are: Liz Bee, Eric Hanson, Dan Mullene and Jan Skidmore. The group began meeting throughout the summer.

We determined we wanted to accomplish two goals: create sources of modest income and host events that would be beneficial resources for our community. We have been researching ideas and developing plans. We would welcome any ideas anyone may have. You may explain the idea(s) to me in person or email your thoughts to me at janskidmore72@gmail.com or drop a note into the Red Box on the shelf in the narthex. Stay tuned!

PARISH DIRECTORY UPDATES

Change of Address:

Gretchen Munsey
Mountlake Terrace Plaza #208
23303 58th Ave W
Mountlake Terrace, WA 98043
206-779-4050
gretchen.munsey@icloud.com

Addition to Directory:

Kathleen McCluskey
8303 – 212th St SW, Apt 6
Edmonds, WA 98026
425-293-1509
kathleen.mccluskey1961@gmail.com

“FOR THE BIRDS” CONCERT

Edmonds United Methodist Church

Sunday, September 22, 4:00-5:30pm

The “For the Birds” performance is not just a concert, it also engages the power of artistic expression – live music, spoken words, images and poetry – to connect audiences deeply and emotionally to the scientific realities of climate change.

“For the Birds” features a jazz quintet performing the original music of Seattle pianist and composer Nelda Swiggert. She has headlined at many of the Northwest’s top jazz venues.

Tickets are \$10 and \$20; Children 12 and under are free.

For further information, contact ["For the Birds" Concert Tickets, Sun, Sep 22, 2024 at 4:00 PM | Eventbrite](#)

SEPTEMBER 22 – PENTECOST 18

Proverbs 31:10-31

Psalms 1

James 3:13-4.3, 7-8a

Mark 9:30-37

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, 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.

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-

or use pictured QR code

