

AROUND THE PARISH

September 20, 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 22

8:00 & 10:30am, In-person, Indoor Services. Masking is no longer required, but is strongly recommended.

9:30am, 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

Extra, extra, read all about it!

There're some very cool things happening around St. Alban's these next few weeks. Here's a quick rundown.

Next Sunday, September 29, as part of our regular Sunday service, we'll be celebrating the **Feast of St. Michael and All Angels**. We remember those things "seen and unseen," all parts of God's good creation that, like us, praise God in their own voices in their own ways. We remember those messengers who lift our spirits, lend a helping hand, nudge us out of our complacency, or otherwise bring us the good news of God in Christ.

As in years past, you are invited to bring photos, pictures, statues, images, icons, or what have you, to decorate the church. Sharing these things enriches our worship with more good cheer and beauty.

Then, on **October 6**, we'll wrap up the Season of Creation with the **Feast of St. Francis**. Bring your pets – dogs, cats, fish, rodents, reptiles, amphibians, birds; living, photos, or plush; plants, rocks, minerals, crystals; water from your favorite pond, stream, river or sound – for a blessing. You have two options either to bring them into the church during the service or to the front lawn by the cedar during Coffee Hour.

One year, at another church, someone brought several bonsai trees to adorn the altar. They were all only a foot tall, but years and decades old. She brought them to be blessed, but it was the congregation that felt blessed to see these tiny, ancient, works of art! Just saying, not all pets are from the animal kingdom.

By the way, this is also a great opportunity to invite friends, family, and neighbors to church for the service or simply for the pet blessing outside. Hearing that the love of God, as we know and share it, is extended to creatures beyond human beings, may be just the thing that awakens hope and renews faith for those who have lost it. This is the kind of thing that Presiding Bishop

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

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

9/23 7:00pm, Boy Scouts, Parish Hall

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

9/26 1:00-2:30pm, ECW Setup in Parish Hall
7:00-9:00pm, Templo Emanuel, Sacristy

9/27 1:00-2:30pm, ECW, Setup in Parish Hall
7:00-8:30pm, Templo Emanuel, Sacristy

9/28 10:30am-12:00pm, ECW Coffee & Program

10/5 9:00am-4:00p, Five Corners Forum for Voter Registration, PH

NOTE BIBLE STUDY TIME CHANGE

Sunday morning Bible Study is changing its start time to 9:30am. The class is held in the Annex and on Zoom.

God, our Creator of heaven and earth, how blessed we are to be surrounded by the beauty of your creation.

We lift our prayer of gratitude as we see the stars of heaven, and the beauty of the sunset.

We are amazed by the seas and waterways and all that are in them.

We are enchanted by the flowers and trees which are clothed by you.

We are awed by all the animals you created.

For the beauty of the earth, the mountains and valleys, the sun and the moon – we give you praise. Amen.

Curry says the church does for benefit of the whole world. We're part of that.

Stew Fest, Wednesday, October 18. Your Stewardship Team has been busy preparing for our annual pledge campaign. Please put Stew Fest on your calendars. Our speaker this year is the Rev. Sabeth Fitzgibbons, Rector of Trinity, Seattle. The theme for this year's campaign is "Walk in Love." Sabeth will help us explore our ministries in our community as we share Jesus' redemptive love for the world. It promises to be a rich, invigorating, and delicious evening! Don't miss it.

Sunday, November 24, the Visitation of the Rt. Rev. Phil LaBelle. Our newly ordained and consecrated Bishop has reached out to us requesting to make a visitation. This will be one of Bishop LaBelle's first visitations and the Vestry is excited by the prospects. We're looking forward to welcoming him to our diocese and to our community.

Finally, on a more nuts and bolts level, we're going to **start live-streaming our Wednesday, Evening Prayer, services on YouTube rather than Facebook.** People report that YouTube is easier to access, has better sound and picture quality, and is more reliable than Facebook. We hope that this switch will also increase participation.

SPECIAL GUEST AT ECW ON SEPT 28

You really do not want to miss the **ECW Coffee on Saturday, September 28, starting at 10:30am.** We are delighted to welcome our guest, Debbie Dimitre, who is a very talented storyteller. She has blessed us with her presentations before and has been invited back again by popular demand.

Debbie's performances are amazing as she takes on the persona of her subject. She will be sharing about Eleanor Roosevelt, First Lady from 1933-1945, titled "No Ordinary Woman."

You are invited to bring a friend or family member with you. Coffee, tea, and light refreshments will be served.



SEASONS OF CREATION

CREATION COLLECT FOR SEPTEMBER 22

Grant us, Lord, your vision of a renewed earth in which heaven comes to rest; and even now, while we too often despair of healing and wholeness, to hold

fast to your promise and commit again to hope; through Jesus Christ the Wisdom of Creation, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit now and for ever. Amen

COLLECT FROM "HONORING GOD IN CREATION"

Gracious God:

Grant that your people may have in them the same mind that was in Christ Jesus, and guide us into harmony of relationship through loving-kindness and the wise use of all that you have given; for you are drawing all things into communion with you and with each other by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen



The phrase "Walk in Love" is borrowed from a letter Paul wrote to Ephesians in which he discusses the Christian understanding of love: to "Love your neighbor as yourself." Indeed, walking in love is integral to the Christian tradition; at the same time, essential and secularly connected to each of our hearts.

As a young adult, wishing to honestly engage in a reflection of love, my mind projects past the static, screened portrayals that streamed romcoms and pop lyrics are soaked with into something deeper: love as paradox. Paradox is recognizing the relationship between two highly differing experiences which do not negate each other like contradiction does. Instead, when paired together, vastness opens up so wide, we can hold each separate concept in our hands and feel the infiniteness of life swirl within us. Paradox is a flipped coin, currency, a battery, energy. Love must be a paradox.

In my encounters with paradox, there is a side which is conventionally received within the culture of our society; the other side faces a struggle to accept. I wonder what lies within love – the shadow-side that together completes a whole.

Forgiveness blossoms on my lips.

In the spring of 2020, a friend sent me Pádraig Ó Tuama's reading of Dilruba Ahmed's poem, "Phase One." Forgiveness flowers across stanzas, coating a hurt heart like liniment: "... Ointment reserved/ for healers and prophets. I forgive you./ I forgive you." (Ahmed, 39-41. As the tears fell across my cheeks, a

realization was released: to forgive is to love. And so, as I would forgive, or love, another, I must forgive, and love, myself.

As a child, I translated our commandment of love to “Love your neighbor as your [honest] self.” In other words, come as you are to the world; with all your ugliness or beauty, love nonetheless. Now, I see it another way: “Love your neighbor as [you do] yourself.” Society says, “Love begets love,” but this is not always true. Forgiveness begets love. So here, as ourselves and towards our neighbors, we must return to love. |

Questions for Reflection:

- When is the last time you forgave yourself?
- How does forgiveness transform love?

Vivian Altopp runs an educational nonprofit, Striving Together Empowering People (STEP), for young people in West Philadelphia out of her home church, Calvary St. Augustine, and is currently working on a novel on the life of the posthumously famous photographer, Vivian Maier.



FINANCIAL REPORT FOR AUGUST

Maryellen Young

Income for August was \$10,116 compared to a budget of \$11,381 or **(\$1,265)** under budget. Year-to-date income was \$129,168 compared to a budget of \$106,141 or \$23,027 over budget. Unpledged Contributions are still about \$15,000 ahead of budget, because of large, unexpected contributions and because this category has exceeded budget year-to-date all year. Pledges are also ahead of budget year-to-date.

Expenses for August were \$14,232 compared to a budget of \$15,247 or **(\$1,015)** under budget. Year-to-date expenses were \$127,095 compared to a budget of \$128,395 or **(\$1,300)** under budget.

Overall, although some categories may be over budget or under budget, there are no concerns with expenses.

As a reminder, even as we compare income and expenses to our budget, we did budget for a **Net Total Annual Budget Deficit: (\$29,011)**. The results for both income and expenses indicate that we are doing better than our budget anticipated.

On a cash flow basis, we have received **\$2,073** more than we have spent.

Total Income	\$129,168
Total Budget	\$106,141
Income minus Budget	\$23,027
Total Expenses	\$127,095
Total Budget	\$128,395
Expenses minus Budget	(\$1,299)



RECORDINGS OF SERVICES FOR BISHOP LABELLE

The Rev. Dr. Philip LaBelle was ordained and consecrated as the Ninth Bishop of the Diocese of Olympia on Saturday September 14th.

The archived recording of the Ordination and Consecration service is found below:

[The Ordination and Consecration of The Rev. Dr. Philip N. LaBelle - The Episcopal Diocese of Olympia \(ecww.org\)](#)

Likewise, you might want to watch the service for the Seating of The Rt. Rev. Philip N. LaBelle, Ninth Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Olympia, at Saint Mark’s Cathedral in Seattle which took place on Sunday, September 15. Bishop LaBelle preached at this service.

The Service for the Seating of Bishop LaBelle at Saint Mark’s last Sunday, September 15 is available at the following link:

[Seating of the Bishop](#)

THE COLLECT FOR ORDINATIONS

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquility the plan of salvation; let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen



ST. ALBAN'S TO HOLD VOTER REGISTRATION EVENT ON OCTOBER 5

Dan Mullene

As part of our continued efforts to be involved in our local community, a few members of the Vestry, along with other volunteers, will hold a Voters' Registration Event at St. Alban's in the Parish Hall on Saturday, October 5, from 10am to 2 pm.

We hope to be a resource to those who have not yet registered and encourage you to share this information with others who might find it useful.

To recap the requirements to register to vote in our state, an applicant must:

1. Be a United States citizen,
2. Be a legal resident of Washington,
3. Be at least 18 years old by election day,
4. Not be disqualified from voting due to a court order,
5. Not be currently serving a sentence of total confinement in prison under the jurisdiction of the Department of Corrections for a felony conviction in Washington State, another state, or in federal court,
6. Not be currently incarcerated for a federal or out-of-state felony conviction.

If you have any questions, please speak with Dan Mullene, Jan Skidmore, or Liz Bee.

THANKS TO MEN'S CIRCLE

The Men's Circle including women had a wonderful breakfast on Saturday, September 14. Attendees were blessed with a tasty breakfast including Swedish pancakes made by Eric Hanson. Guest Speaker, Rick Rouse, retired pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, gave a very interesting and thought-provoking talk about White Christian Nationalism.

Many thanks to the men who worked so hard to organize this important and informative event.



Photos taken by Jeannie Wells



Scout Troop #300 is looking for someone to sew neckerchiefs for them. Their current seamstress is moving on. Given the red and green design of their neckerchiefs, they cannot order them. If you have time and a reliable sewing machine, the troop would be delighted to have your help. Please contact Bill Hecox at (425) 774-8612 or billandmaryhecox@gmail.com for more information.



"This, I take it, is how you plead."

A PLEA FROM OUR PEOPLE'S WARDEN

Jan Skidmore

I would do as this picture shows, but you would have to call 911!! So, I will attempt to use words instead.

St. Alban's is in desperate need for someone who could organize a team. Not once, but on a somewhat regular basis. It could very well be the most important role in our church and, to be honest, we would probably forget to thank you. However, I am here to beg for help. The most I can offer is you would be collecting rare jewels for your eventual crown. I do promise to have a special day named for you here at St. Alban's.

What do we need? So glad you asked. We need a lead person for special events. No, not to do all the work, but to recruit and organize willing helpers to make the event happen.

So, please, would you be the hero and offer to fill this role, basically "take one for the team?" I would help put together resource lists of willing helpers.



BOOKS

There are a couple of copies of books available on the shelf on the right-hand side as you come into the Parish Hall, on a first-come, first-serve basis. These are extra copies of books used by the Thursday Women's Discussion Group.

Liturgy of the Ordinary: Sacred Practices in Everyday Life by Tish Harrison Warren. In the overlooked moments and routines of our day, we can become aware of God's presence in surprising ways. How do we embrace the sacred in the ordinary and the ordinary in the sacred?

Framed around one typical day, this book explores life through the lens of liturgy—small practices and

habits that form us. In each chapter, Tish Harrison Warren considers a common daily experience. Anglican priest, friend, wife, and mother, Warren opens up a practical theology of the everyday.

In **The Way of Love** Presiding Bishop Michael Curry and other leaders of the Episcopal Church urge us to examine seven key actions: *Turn. Learn. Pray. Worship. Bless. Go. Rest.* This practical guide explores these words in the context of our life of faith and offers encouragement to begin or deepen spiritual practices to strengthen our journey with Jesus.

If you are interested, please take one of these books.



WHAT A GREAT & WELCOME CHANGE

Not that you can tell from this photograph, but the middle office room has been brightened up and made a much nicer area for all who use it. Our wonderful team of Denise and Tom Robertson have done it again! They repainted the walls, bulletin board and installed a new counter from Lowes on top of the sad, old wooden one.

Our Parish Administrator Jeannie Wells is most grateful for the Robertsons' thoughtfulness and work. Thanks to Phil McClelland also for making this project possible by covering this re-do from his Maintenance budget.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS

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.

SEPTEMBER 29 – PENTECOST 19

“Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure.” Isn't this what stewardship is all about? It's not the treasure that's important here; it's growing our relationship with God in faithful expectation of the yet-unknown blessings to come.

MORE CHRISTIAN FRIENDLY HUMOR

The IRS Agent's Hymn – I Surrender All
The Gossip's Hymn – Pass It On
The Electrician's Hymn – Send the Light
The Shopper's Hymn – Sweet Bye and Bye
The Realtor's Hymn – I've Got a Mansion, Just Over the Hilltop
The Massage Therapist's Hymn – He Touched Me
The Doctor's Hymn – The Great Physician

SCRIPTURE READINGS

SEPTEMBER 22 – PENTECOST 18

Proverbs 31:10-31
Psalm 1
James 3:13-4.3, 7-8a
Mark 9:30-37

Collect for Pentecost 18

Grant us, O Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen

SEPTEMBER 29 – PENTECOST 19

Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9-20-22
Psalm 124
James 5:13-20
Mark 9:38-50

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

