

AROUND THE PARISH

September 6, 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 1

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

Here we are in the beginning of the Season of Creation. I'm very interested to hear from you all about how you are experiencing the liturgical changes. I know they are new, that the wording is sometimes awkward, that some of the hymns and service music are unfamiliar, and that there are any number of other things on our collective minds beyond church services that are making it a challenge to track all of this. But I hope we (both individually and collectively) will find some hidden gems, some new perspectives, some new revelation, some deeper understanding of our dear Lord's presence in the world around us.

Around our house, the Italian Prune tree is heavily laden with ripening fruit, so we are deep into freezing, drying, and making jam. This hot spell is going to change a marathon into a sprint – a hot, sweaty, smelly (both salty and sugary), and delicious sprint.

Our tree usually goes in two-year cycles; one year a bumper crop, the next not so much. Last year, there were very few plums, but this year is another story entirely. Even by normal bumper year standards, there are a lot of plums. There's so much fruit that we aren't even bothering to chase the squirrels away. In fact, yesterday evening at dinner, we noticed the tree doing the squirrel shimmy, and we more or less cheered it on. "Eat up! Please!"

We were enjoying our dinner and thought they should enjoy theirs too. There's plenty to go around, there's plenty to share.

Kind of like God's love, grace, mercy, and care for us and all that has been created – there's plenty to go around, there's an abundance, there's a super abundance. There's plenty and there's no need to hoard. There's plenty, come on in neighbor, have a seat. There's more than enough stranger, here's some room for you, too.

You heard it from me before that there's an old saying about spiritual life – *praying shapes believing*. How we pray and what we pray shapes our faith;

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- 9/7 1:00-3:00pm, Jackie Leake Memorial
- 9/8 8:00/10:30am, Welcome Back Sunday
6:30pm, Vestry Meeting, Zoom/Annex
- 9/9 7:00pm, Boy Scouts, Parish Hall
- 9/10 2:00-3:30pm, Altar Guild Meeting, PH
- 9/11 6:00pm, Evening Prayer, Facebook
- 9/12 1:00-3:00pm, Small Group Meeting, PH
7:00-9:00pm, Templo Emanuel, Sanctuary
- 9/13 7:00-8:30pm, Templo Emanuel, Sanctuary
- 9/14 10:30am, Men's Circle, Parish Hall
- 9/16 6:30pm, Worship Committee Meeting, Zoom
- 9/18 6:00pm, Evening Prayer, Sanctuary/Zoom
6:30pm, Soup Supper & Program
- 9/21 10:30am, Indigenous Circle, Parish Hall
- 9/28 10:30am-2:00pm, ECW Coffee & Program

THANKSGIVING FOR THE BEAUTY OF THE EARTH

We give you thanks, most gracious God, for the beauty of earth and sky and sea; for the richness of mountains, plains, and rivers; for the songs of birds and the loveliness of flowers. We praise you for these good gifts, and pray that we may safeguard them for our posterity. Grant that we may continue to grow in our grateful enjoyment of your abundant creation, to the honor and glory of your Name, now and for ever.

Amen

informs how we understand the world; forms our belief; guides how we interact with each other.

One of the things that has struck me from these prayer texts from the Season of Creation, is that we are asked to reconsider the notion of neighbor.

Specifically, to move beyond thinking only of other humans as our neighbors and to include the rest of creation in that understanding.

Reflecting on this, I am reminded that Jesus, in Luke's story of the Good Samaritan, broadened the concept of neighbor to include the foreigner – even the despised ones. Older than that, the weekly Sabbath Rest as prescribed in the Torah includes resident aliens, slaves, livestock, *and* wild animals. Still further, Torah's Sabbath includes a year of rest for the land itself every seven years.

So, this is my new insight from what we have been praying, to consider the rest of creation as a neighbor. And then to love these neighbors as myself; to see God's presence in these fellow creatures of God; to know that the whole of it – the whole of us – is essential in the redemptive, reconciled, and redeemed Kingdom.

The plum pilfering squirrels are my neighbors. Who knew?!



SEASONS OF CREATION

COLLECT FOR SEPTEMBER 8

Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the powerful who oppress and dominate Creation, so you never forsake your creatures who live in harmony with nature's order; through Jesus Christ the Wisdom of Creation, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen

COLLECT: STEWARDSHIP OF CREATION

O merciful Creator, your hand is open wide to satisfy the needs of every living creature: Make us always thankful for your loving providence; and remembering the account that we must give one day, grant that we may be faithful stewards of your good gifts; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen

In Loving Memory

MEMORIAL FOR JACKIE LEAKE, SEPTEMBER 7

There will be a memorial service on Saturday, September 7th, at 1:00pm, for longtime friend and member Jackie Leake who died on April 30, 2024. A reception will follow the service. Please join us as we celebrate the life of Jackie, our sister in Christ.

SUNDAY AM BIBLE STUDY RESUMES

After a brief respite, the Sunday Adult Bible Study group begins again on Sunday, September 8. Eric Hanson leads the hybrid class which meets in the Annex and on Zoom. This session's study will be the Book of Common Prayer.

MEN'S CIRCLE NEWS

Jim Gilman



The **MEN'S CIRCLE** is inviting **WOMEN** to its next Circle meeting on **Saturday, September 14, at 10:30am**, in the Parish Hall.

Our Guest Speaker will be Rick Rouse, retired pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church. Topic: **White Christian Nationalism**. Ladies, please **TEXT** (not phone) Harvey Smith at 425-248-0518. Our chef Eric Hanson needs to know how many **Swedish Pancakes** to plan for.



SOUP SUPPERS RETURN SEPTEMBER 18

September 18 is the date for our next Soup Supper Event. Evening Prayer begins in the Sanctuary at 6:00pm, and we move to the Parish Hall for supper at 6:30pm, followed by our program. At this September 18 gathering, there will be a presentation about the Congregational Vitality Assessment which parishioners took earlier this year.

Also featured at this time will be a report from Fr. Greg about his Sabbatical experience.

WALK IN LOVE



Fall is a great time of year to reflect on the current year while also getting excited for the upcoming year. It's a time to be grateful for all the blessings we receive from God. A time to reflect on our walk with each other as the body of Christ. A time to reflect on our ability to carry the love and support of our congregation and our prayers into our communities.

Throughout the months of September and October, we will be gearing up for our annual stewardship campaign. The theme for this year is "Walk in Love." Look for weekly reflections under the Walk in Love logo in the ATP. I hope they will enrich your season of gratitude.

Walking with you in love,
Debby Wilson - Stewardship Chair



BASKET DONATIONS

The month of September is the end of the 3rd Quarter so the last opportunity to donate to Cocoon House (Outreach—3rd Week) and World Central Kitchen (International Relief—4th Week). We also have a 5th Sunday in September so an opportunity to donate to our indigenous women charity—Women's Spirit Coalition.

You can donate anytime just by designating which week your donation is supporting. And the Food Bank is always the 1st week and Discretionary Fund is always the 2nd week.



Crossing Boundaries

The Chosen is a show that depicts Jesus and the disciples during his ministry. It is a unique and intimate exploration of what it might have been like to

be with Jesus during the tumultuous three years of his official ministry.

What struck me most while watching is how much time they spend walking. They are always going from one place to another, and always on foot. There is a liberating quality to the idea that Jesus did not lock himself up in a building, but rather freely spread himself out to the world, in the open air.

During COVID my sister told me her family took walks in the woods on Sunday mornings and got much more out of those walks than she did sitting in a pew at church. Being on the move, exploring whatever mystery lay around the bend on the trail, made these walks special for them – made them holy, holier than traditional church.

This inspired me to form a wilderness church service, where we gather and walk together, stopping to pray, sing, share in a homily, and have communion. So much happens as we walk together, and each service becomes a small pilgrimage. Imagine if each church service were a pilgrimage!

Walking together ensures that each service is intensely relational; there is something that opens up between two people when they walk together. Boundaries fade and guards come down as we marvel over nature together, and in turn, encounter God and one another.

As we move into a new reality of church, part of the future must be to make space for services like this, where people reconnect to the Body of Christ made manifest in creation by walking in love together. Jesus was on the move. We can be too! | TENS.org

Questions for Reflection:

- What boundaries have you crossed on your walk of love?
- How have you discerned which direction to follow?

The Rev. Pete Nunnally is interim rector at St. David's, Wilmington, DE and his book on the spiritual wisdom of fishing is forthcoming next year.



LIAISON

JUNE LIAISON REPORTS TO VESTRY

Jan Skidmore, People's Warden

Space Usage – Jeannie Wells: We need someone who can manage hospitality for weddings, funerals and special events.

Press – Dan Mullene: Promoted distribution of food in our parking lot.

Website and Constant Contact – Roger Andersen: Possibility of giving David Hahn a presence on our website.

Faith Formation – Eric Hanson: Adult Bible Study explored A Theology of Prayer and a short study of Paul's letter to the Philippians.

Coffee Hour – Shannon Duggan: Only thing Vestry could do is keep announcing the need for more volunteers help with the 10:30 service coffee and drawing attention to the sign ups.

ECW – Connie Forsberg: On September 28th, we will have a presentation from Debbie Dimitrie on Eleanor Roosevelt.

Greeters/Ushers– Lee Forsberg: We are still in need of women and men to help usher! Please see Lee if you are willing to help.

Name Tags – Judy Fleenor recommends we purchase quality lanyards rather than the shoestring type we have now. The decision that needs to be made now is how to store them.

Outreach – Liz Bee: In August we will be collecting school supplies for Chase Lake School .

Pastoral Care – JL Krilevich: Please pass on to Jim Gilman any persons you know of who need pastoral care.

Worship – Shirley Clark: Altar Guild is very short-handed. We welcome both men and women to join. Current members cannot navigate the stairs to the attic. The Worship Committee will be meeting on Sept 16.



FOR THE BIRDS CONCERT
September 22, 4:00-5:30pm
Edmonds United Methodist Church UEMC

“For the Birds” Concert, Sunday, September 22nd, 4:00-5:30pm, at Edmonds United Methodist Church. (EUMC) is not just a concert. The performance 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. Ultimately a story of hope, individuals leave the performance feeling empowered to take meaningful action.

Why birds? Birds are a part of our daily life experience, and an inspiring connection to the natural world. But climate change is having a significant and alarming impact on many bird species, and this should be a wake-up call for all of us.

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

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

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



ECW COFFEE WITH
DEBBIE DIMITRE,
STORYTELLER

Saturday, September 28, 10:30am

You won’t want to miss the presentation by our guest speaker, Debbie Dimitrie. She will be sharing about **Eleanor Roosevelt**, First Lady 1933 – 1945, titled **No Ordinary Woman**: Meet First Lady **Eleanor Roosevelt**, one of the first delegates to the U.N. in 1945 and a peaceful warrior for Human Rights.

Since 1987 N.W. Storyteller/Actress Debbie Dimitrie has been entertaining, inspiring, and educating audiences of all ages with her historical and dramatic storytelling presentations. This is the 3rd year that we have been blessed with a presentation by Debbie.

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



DAY BY DAY REFLECTIONS

Author Chrys Meador lives with her husband in Santa Fe, New Mexico, where they are members of a bilingual parish, St. Bede’s Episcopal Church.

Job 7:17-18 – What are human beings, that you make so much of them, that you set your mind on them, visit them every morning, test them every moment?

Job raises profound questions for me about my relationship with God. A similar question is probed in Psalm 8:5: “What is man that you should be mindful of him?” In short, why does God care about us?

The only way I can make sense of God’s enduring love is to think about my relationship with my children. I remember bringing my newborn son home from the hospital. I couldn’t breastfeed and was obsessed about his weight gain. My worries about his welfare would wake me from a deep sleep and topple all my priorities.

Why did I care so much? The answer is as simple yet profound as it is for why God cares about us: this child was my flesh and blood, my miracle. We, too, are children of God. When we put our relationship with God in the context of family, this changes the equation. The love I have for my children cannot be explained, and yet it explains everything. And so it is with God.

MORE ONE LINERS

Some minds are like concrete – thoroughly mixed up and permanently set.

God himself does not propose to judge a man until he is dead. So, why should you?

Peace starts with a smile.

Be ye fishers of men. You catch them; He’ll clean them.

Forbidden fruits create many jams.

God doesn’t call the qualified; He qualifies the called.

Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

SEPTEMBER 15 – PENTECOST 17

Proverbs 1:20-33

Psalms 19 or Cantic of Wisdom 7:26-8:1

James 3:1-12

Mark 8:27-38

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS

SEPTEMBER 8 – PENTECOST 16

Part of Mark’s Gospel deals with the healing of the deaf man. The phrase Jesus uses is “*Ephphatha*,” which translates as “*be opened*.” Perhaps this phrase should be part of our prayer as stewards. Do we have faith enough to ask God to help us be open with all our lives and resources as a joyful response to His gifts, which are indeed too many to number?

SEPTEMBER 9 – 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!

SCRIPTURE READINGS

SEPTEMBER 8 – PENTECOST 16

Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23

Psalms 125

James 2:1-10, (11-13), 14-17

Mark 7:24-37

Collect for Pentecost 16

Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so you never forsake those who make their boast of your mercy; through Jesus Christ our

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



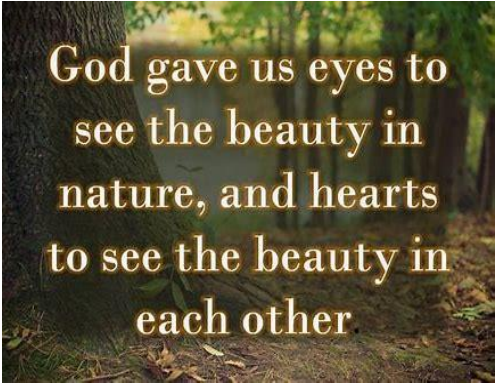
WEEKLY SUNDAY BASKET OFFERINGS

1st week—Food Bank
2nd week—Discretionary Fund
3rd week—Outreach
4th week—Ukraine Refugee Offering
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.