

AROUND THE PARISH

October 18, 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 – October 20

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

The Vestry held our October meeting on Monday, October 14. Here's what we would like to report back to you.

We began our meeting with a presentation by four girls from Girl Scout Troup 46225 along with Amanda Cole, their troop leader. They told us about all the activities they participate in, thanked us for providing space for them to meet, and expressed that they are eager to find ways of being more involved in, and supportive of, the activities of our congregation. As you will remember, the troop has been a big part of making our Easter Egg Hunt for People of All Abilities so successful.

The girls were charming, forthright, and excited to share with us. One note though, Amanda is currently the only adult troop leader; this limits the number of scouts that can join the troop. Meanwhile there are more girls interested in joining. They have to turn girls away. Having another adult would enable the troop to have more scouts. So, here's a ministry opportunity for someone interested in working with youth.

After this delightful interchange, we moved on to other ministry opportunities.

First, we discussed how we would present the results of the Congregational Vitality Assessment. There is a great deal of information to process and share, but we also want to take the recommendations that the assessment suggest by engaging the congregation. We reasoned that the best way to do this is to have quarterly congregational working meetings. We formed a team (Eric Hanson, Debby Wilson, and me, but we will also be asking two members of the congregation who are not serving on the Vestry) to plan and organize these congregational meetings. Look for the first meeting soon after the New Year.

Second, we made some decisions about how to prepare to host Recovery Groups (AA, NA, OA, etc.). We will be confirming the requirements of our Insurance Policy and of the Diocese, and we are

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- 10/19 10:30am, Indigenous Circle, Parish Hall
- 10/21 6:30pm, Worship Committee Mtg, Zoom
7:00pm, Boy Scouts, Parish Hall
- 10/23 6:00pm, Evening Prayer, YouTube
- 10/24 7:00-9:00pm, Templo Emanuel, Sanctuary
- 10/25 9:00am-dinner, Convention, Tacoma
- 10/25 6:30-8:30pm, CPR, Preschool, Parish Hall
- 10/26 8:00am-4:30pm, Convention, Tacoma
- 11/2 9:00am-1:00pm, Boy Scout Church Cleanup
1:00-3:00pm, Episcoplayers Meeting
- 11/5 ELECTION DAY
- 11/9 10:30am, Men's Circle, Parish Hall
1:00-3:00pm, Episcoplayers Meeting

PRAYER TO BE FILLED WITH KINDNESS

Dear God, I ask that You fill me with Your divine kindness, overflowing from within me and touching the lives of those around me. May the Holy Spirit guide my thoughts, words, and actions, enabling me to show compassion and understanding to others.

Help me to see beyond surface differences and embrace the inherent worth of every person I encounter. I pray that Your Spirit will soften my heart and open my eyes to the needs of those who are hurting, so that I may be a source of comfort and healing in their lives.

Grant me the strength and courage to extend forgiveness and grace, just as You have shown to me. In all that I do, may Your love shine through me, bringing glory to Your name. Amen.

conferring with other congregations who host Recovery Groups. Barring any unforeseen circumstances, we are looking forward to hosting meetings in the very near future.

Third, we are excited to prepare for the first Visitation by our new Bishop, Phil LaBelle. Bishop LaBelle will be with us on November 24, Christ the King Sunday. Again, Episcopal Visitations are times for Baptisms, Confirmations, Receptions into the Episcopal Church from other faith traditions, and Renewal of Baptismal Vows, all with the laying on of hands by the bishop. If you would like to arrange for one of these rites, please talk with me.

Fourth, looking ahead to the Annual Meeting (February 2), we began forming the Nominations Committee. The team will be seeking people to run for Vestry and Convention Delegates/Alternates. So far, the committee includes Liz Bee, Eric Hanson, and Phil McClelland. A fourth member will be decided at our November meeting.

Fifth, I am pleased to announce that John Bee will serve as our Charter Organization Representative with Scout Troop 300.

God; like a fountain of love that would never stop flowing.

My husband, Angel, walks in love with me: This year will be our twenty-fifth anniversary. We've gone through a lot together on our walk in love. After we lost Juan Pablo, Angel had an accident and became disabled. He had to be airlifted to the hospital and lost the use of his left arm. Recently, he had a twelve-hour surgery to transplant muscle tissue. But we just don't give up. I just keep praying to God. There is always a way to walk together no matter how hard things are. God fills me with love every day. This is what the journey of love is about. | TEB.org

Questions for Reflection:

- When the walk becomes difficult, how do you still move forward?
- Who are the people on your journey of love?

Mari Gonzalez is the Housekeeping Manager at The Bishop's Ranch Episcopal Camp & Conference Center in the beautiful Sonoma Wine Country, Healdsburg, California.



Perseverance

I came from Mexico in 1999, leaving behind all of my family and friends. My husband got a job at the dairy next door to The Bishop's Ranch in Healdsburg California, so I walked over and asked for work. I had to repeat myself many times before they would consider me, because I didn't speak English, but I told the director that if they would give me a job I would learn English. Now I have three associates degrees, and I teach English, too. This is a way of walking in love for me. The hospitality we practice at The Bishop's Ranch is another way of walking in love. I am happy with my work if people feel the love of God here; in the kindness of the community and the natural environment.


I have three sons and a daughter born in the United States. The youngest, Juan Pablo, was born with spina bifida and lived for six years, ten months and twenty-one days. To walk in love is not dependent on whether the journey is easy or hard. When my child was in the hospital, it was always such an experience of love to visit him. He was my angel on earth. Sometimes I feel sadness because I miss him, but then I think about how much love he gave, and how it was like the love of




GREAT STEW FEST EVENT

We had a remarkable turnout of more than 30 people for Stew Fest this year. The Reverend Sabeth Fitzgibbon's of Trinity Seattle was our guest speaker. She hit the ball out of the park! What a wonderful presentation. Thank you all for making this a wonderful evening and thanks to all those who contributed to the Feast!

I urge you all to remember what you shared for how we walk in love because we will have a similar

activity using footprints  on Ingathering Day, November 3rd! For those of you who were not able to be with us at Stew Fest, I encourage you to think about you walk in love as part of our St. Alban's

community. We are looking forward to gathering everyone's thoughts using footprints  on November 3rd.

Walking in love with you,
Debby Wilson



If you are unable to pick up a copy, please contact the church office and one can be either mailed to you or placed in the brown box outside the back door to the Sacristy.



LIVE'S FAITH & FREEDOM RETREAT:
Biblical Interpretation in an Age of
Christian Nationalism
Saturday, October 19, 9:00am-3:30pm
First AME, Seattle

ADVENT FLOWER DEDICATIONS

Sharon Joy, Altar Guild/Flower Chair

Advent begins December 1st and extends through December 22nd. While our floral offerings during this season are limited by congregational choice and tradition (evergreens with three flowers in each arrangement) you are still welcome to make dedications during this time.



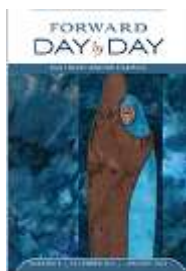
If you wish to do so, please sign up on the flower chart posted on the wall in the Parish Hall. You also can donate at any time without a specific Sunday of dedication. Just mark your donation "Altar Flowers."

Drawing on the book of Galatians, Rev. Dr. Angela Parker will guide us through how to make sense of God's Word in light of today's cultural challenges with Christian Nationalism. Registration is FREE, lunch is included.

First African Methodist Episcopal Church is at 1522 14th Ave, Seattle, WA. Free parking is available on site at the venue location First American Methodist Episcopal Church; carpooling encouraged. It is also 7 blocks from the Capitol Hill Light Rail Station.

Register at <https://www.lutheransnw.org/events/live-retreat-faith-freedom/2024-10-19> & enter promo code LIVEBUNDLE2024 to register for free!

FORWARD DAY BY DAY –
NEW ISSUE AVAILABLE



The newest issue of Forward Day by Day – November, December 2024, through January 2025 – is available in the Parish Hall. It is available free of charge thanks to the Rita Bennett Bequest to St. Alban's.

This booklet contains meditations reflecting on a specific Bible passage chosen from the daily lectionary readings from the Revised Common Lectionary or the Daily office from the Episcopal Church's Book of Common Prayer.

The following was contributed by Shirley Clark.

Two people read the same Bible.
One sees reasons to love.
The other reasons to hate.
One sees unity.
The other division.
One finds prejudice.
The other equality.
One discovers compassion.
The other, indifference.
One goodwill.
The other malice.
Two people, one book. One Book, two views.
The book is a mirror.
The reflection is you.
N.W.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS

MISSION TO SEAFARERS

During October and through November 13, St. Alban's will again be participating in the Mission to Seafarers Drive. Ditty Bag Stuffing Day is Saturday, November 23, 2024, from 10:00am – noon, at St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church.

Volunteers are needed to make the "ditty bags" and to provide the items requested for the seamen who are visiting the Port of Seattle. A list of the donations requested is in the Parish Hall. Please pick one up and contribute to this program of help to the many seamen from around the world.

If you have questions, please contact one of our co-chairs: Averil Nicewarner – ((301) 310-3165), averil.personal@gmail.com or Janet Niece – (206) 949-7335, liliasyetta@hotmail.com.



DAY BY DAY REFLECTIONS

Joseph Yoo is again the author of this week's reflection. He is the vicar of Mosaic Episcopal Church, a church plant in the Diocese of Texas.

Luke 8:5a – a Sower went out to sow his seed.

In this parable, we can conclude that God is a horrible farmer. Seeds are a valuable commodity, and yet, here is God scattering seeds anywhere and everywhere. Less of a skilled farmer, God seems more like a toddler given some seeds to do whatever she pleases, giggling joyfully as she throws seeds everywhere.

Horrible farming strategy aside, we encounter a beautiful and joyful image of generosity and grace in this story. God doesn't assess whether the soil is worthy, ready, or primed to receive the seed, God just sows.

How often have we refrained from acts of love and kindness because we either felt that the people were not ready for it or worse, they did not deserve our acts of love and kindness?

If this parable teaches me anything, it's that I am called to love indiscriminately and unconditionally. Instead of assessing "the soil" and determining if it's ready or worthy of our time and love, we should follow the example of the Sower and be generous with our time and love.

OCTOBER 20 – PENTECOST 22

Mark 10:45 puts it very succinctly: "*The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.*" What gift can we ever give to thank Him for His incredible gift to us? Living life as a steward and disciple and following the Lord's examples and teachings is certainly a good place to start.

OCTOBER 27 – PENTECOST 23

Mark tells us that Bartimaeus had faith that Jesus could heal him. The disciples tried to shoo him away, but he was persistent, and Jesus answered his plea. What is it in our lives that blinds us, and lets us shoo ourselves away from believing in, and accepting the grace and mercy of our God? As Stewards with restored vision, we can serve in ways that are yet unknown to us if we pray for our own blindness to be healed!

SCRIPTURE READINGS

OCTOBER 20 – PENTECOST 22

Job 38:1-7, (34-41)
Psalm 104:1-9, 25, 27b
Hebrews 5:1-10
Mark 10:35-45

Collect for Pentecost 22

Almighty and Everlasting God, in Christ you have revealed your glory among the nations: Preserve the works of your mercy, that your Church throughout the world may persevere with steadfast faith in the confession of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen

OCTOBER 27 – PENTECOST 23

Job 42:1-6, 10-17
Psalm 34:1-8, (19-22)
Hebrews 7:23-28
Mark 10:46-52

WEEKLY SUNDAY BASKET OFFERINGS

- 1st week—Food Bank
- 2nd week—Discretionary Fund
- 3rd week—Outreach
- 4th week—International Relief
- 5th Week—Indigenous Women Support

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



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.