

AROUND THE PARISH

January 13, 2023

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 – January 15

10:30am, Sunday Eucharist on Facebook/YouTube

8:00 & 10:30am, In-person, Indoor Services for those
fully vaccinated

9:15am, Adult Bible study, Annex & Zoom – The class is
continuing the study of John.

<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



St. Alban's and Hygge (hoo-gah)

Jim Gilman

I am grateful for St. Alban's and to its members for their love and generosity to me. What great gifts I received from you at the reception last Sunday along with many gracious comments. Retiring as a deacon does not mean retiring as a Christian, of course, and does not mean forsaking my commitment to and participation in this community. **Although church canon law requires all retiring clergy to "separate" from their home church for a period of time, I will return.**

One of the gifts I received from you is a prayer shawl, many of which over the years I have transported to members of St. Alban's who are unable to join us at the church on a regular basis. I still plan to join in the services at the church and carry on per usual, collaborating in its mission to this community.

The prayer shawl has an especially significant meaning for me. It represents the meaning of "hygge," a Danish word that is recently fashionable in Europe and North America. It means "cozy" and refers to spontaneous or intentional situations in life that make one feel "cozy." A walk in the woods, a sudden meadow, a splash of color, a deer, and fresh breeze; or at home, a comfortable chair in the corner at a window, a favorite book and cup of coffee at hand as birds flit at a feeder; or Christmas Eve at home with family, a wood fire, the fresh smell of a decorated Christmas tree, lighted candles, happy voices of children and sacred songs of the season. Think of recent moments that are hygge for you.

Hygge also has a spiritual dimension; indeed, an entire church community can create and shape itself into moments of hygge; moments of "coziness," of welcoming and loving and caring for and supporting each other--with candles and liturgy and singing and preaching and a sacred table around which we share our deepest longings and our greatest hopes. That's

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- 1/16 7:00pm, Boy Scouts, Parish Hall
- 1/18 6:00pm, Evening Prayer in person
6:30pm, Soup Supper
7:00pm, Program Episcopalianism 101
- 1/19 7:00-9:00pm, Templo Emanuel, Sanctuary
- 1/20 7:00-8:30pm, Templo Emanuel, Sanctuary
- 1/24 4:00-6:00pm, Girl Scouts, Parish Hall
- 1/25 6:00pm, Evening Prayer in person
6:30pm, Cook Book Club Potluck
- 2/5 9:30am, Eucharist Service
11:00am, Spaghetti Feed
Annual Meeting

Epiphany Prayer

Arise, shine, for the Light of the World has come.

Darkness covers the earth and its people, but the radiance of God's Light burns away its shadows, illuminates the smallest corner, and heralds in the start of a new dawn, where hearts no longer fear, souls might be set free, and sister shall follow brother, nation shall follow nation, and kings and princes bow down in awe, before the one who comes to reign.

Arise, shine, for the Light of the World has Come!
Alleluia!

what St. Alban's and you all mean to me. I hope you feel that same way about our community. How could we, how could I, ever turn away from such hygge?



Photo from Jeannie Wells



SOUP SUPPER & PROGRAM, JANUARY 18

Join us for our Wednesday Night Soup Supper on January 18, beginning at 6:00pm with Evening Prayer. Supper includes soups, salads, bread and desserts at 6:30pm, followed by our next installment of *Episcopalianism 101* led by Fr. Greg.

This week's session considers Episcopal spirituality in the midst of a frenetic world and the interconnections for the worldwide Anglican Communion. The source of these programs is from "The Episcopal Way: Church's Teaching for a Changing World."

Please bring soup, salad, bread or dessert as you are able. There is a sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall.

WANTED: VESTRY MEMBERS

Shirley Clark, Vestry Member

At this time of the year, we need to find people to serve on our Vestry. The most important word here is "our." All of us need to be doing something to help with OUR parish life. Serving on the Vestry has been a wonderful part of my life, and I wish each and every one of you to consider doing it too.

There's only one meeting a month and will continue to be on Zoom even when some people decide to meet together at the church. This makes it possible for those who don't want to drive after dark; for those who have

physical limitations; for those who have limited energy, all of which I have been dealing with for years.

Serving on the Vestry is a joy as you help decide what is going to happen in our church. Please pray about this and talk to current Vestry members to decide if this is something you would like to do. I'd be very happy to talk to you about it. Call me any afternoon or evening at 425-239-8079. I'll be glad to help you.



ANNUAL MEETING – FEBRUARY 5

February 5, 2023, is the date for our Annual Parish Meeting. There will be one service at 9:30am. Initially there was to be a "light brunch" following the meeting, but that has been changed to a Spaghetti Feed at approximately 11:00am. This treat is being prepared by a group of parishioners.

The meeting consists of a review of the past year and written reports from the various ministry and activity groups. Additionally, new members of the Vestry are to be elected as Shirley Clark, Cyndi Jacobson and Phil McClelland have completed their current terms. Two alternate delegates to the Diocese Convention will also be elected.

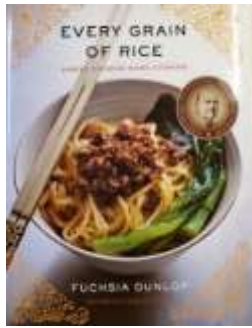
Nominations for Vestry members for the next three years are still needed. We ask you to prayerfully consider becoming a member of this group. If you know someone who would be a good candidate, talk to them and encourage them to volunteer.

Please turn in your ministry reports to Jeannie by Sunday, January 15. Publishing the reports for the meeting is a big project; its most helpful to have them in a timely manner. Thank you!

VESTRY MEETING ACTIONS

Vestry actions made at their meeting on January 10:

1. Budget for 2023 recommended by the Finance Committee led by Maryellen Young was approved.
2. Annual Meeting will be held in person and via Zoom on Sunday, February 5, following a single 9:30am service. A spaghetti feed will be provided.
3. A Girl Scout Troop will meet at no charge in the Parish Hall on two Tuesdays per month.



**COMING SOON --
EVENING PRAYER & COOKBOOK CLUB**

Wednesday, January 25, is the date for a fun, fellowship event to which all are invited!.

The evening begins with Evening Prayer at 6:00pm followed by a Pot Luck feast featuring recipes from “Every Grain of Rice.” Parishioners are invited to cook something prepared from the cookbook to share. This can be prepared at home and warmed up at church. Even if you are not cooking a dish, you are encouraged to come.

There is a copy of the cookbook in the Parish Hall for you to review. A recipe can be copied in the Office after church. To avoid duplication of recipes, it is asked that you post what you intend to bring. St. Alban’s Facebook site is available for posting, or you can contact Theresa Clark or Dan Mullene via email or phone.

Quoting Dan Mullene: “We hope that many come to share the food and enjoy the fellowship. (And the use of chopsticks is encouraged, but optional.)”



ST. ALBAN’S CURRENT OUTREACH

Compass Health will be our 1st Quarter recipient of outreach donations. Compass Health is a private, non-profit, state licensed organization providing mental health and chemical dependency services. Please designate your gift “Outreach.”

Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) is receiving our 4th Week Basket for 1st quarter 2023. Doctors Without Borders handles emergency response activities, including providing surgical care, emergency medicine, and mental health support for displaced people.

They are now using a larger and more highly medicalized train. So far, they have completed 77

referral trips, mostly taking patients from overburdened Ukrainian hospitals close to active war zones to Ukrainian hospitals with more capacity that are further from active war zones. A total of 2,607 hospital patients have been medically evacuated to date, along with their family members, in addition to 78 orphans. Please designate your gift “Ukraine.”

4th WEEK BASKET FOR UKRAINE



At the recent meeting, the Vestry voted to continue supporting Ukraine on a quarterly basis with the four charities we have been supporting.

Our first recipient will be: Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF). Other future recipients will be World Vision (2nd Quarter), World Central Kitchen (3rd Quarter) and Episcopal Relief and Development—Ukraine (4th Quarter).

**WINTER TALK 2023 LIVESTREAM
“A Chain Linking Two Traditions”**

**Register Soon: January 21, 22, 23 –
9:00am, Central Time**

All Episcopalians are invited to register to watch a livestream of **Winter Talk**, an annual conference that honors and highlights Indigenous and Native American traditions and contributions within the church. Hosted by the Oneida Nation of Wisconsin, the event includes special greetings and speakers, music, presentations, and more. Watch for the Winter Talk schedule on the Indigenous Ministries [web page](#).



DAY BY DAY REFLECTIONS

The following reflection was written by Elis Lui, a youth minister at Christ Church in Bronxville, New York.

Isaiah 42:9 – See the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth I tell you of them.

Something I hear a lot is that something or someone will never change. I hear this even in church work. As

Episcopalians, we are often proud of our liturgy and “the way that things have always been done” in our churches. There’s nothing wrong with loving our traditions, but I do sometimes imagine the Holy Spirit nudging us, gently reminding us not to forget about her.

After all, Christ came to make all things new. The beauty of being a part of a community is that we all bring our quirks and different perspectives to the shared table. In practice, the Christian community that we try to intentionally build with each other can often be painful or frustrating. Our personalities might rub each other the wrong way, or our lived experiences might just seem too different. God does not want us to pretend those differences or difficulties don’t exist. Instead, Jesus transforms us, so that we might truly be Christ’s joy here on earth; still unique, but united in love.

FOOD BANK THANK YOU

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for your support during this year. With your help we served groceries and essential items to 5,073 local households during 2022.....

Reflecting on the past year and looking to the future, we’d like to share some details about the impact you helped create. In 2022, Concern for Neighbors Food Bank served more families than ever in our recent history. During our record-breaking Thanksgiving distribution, our volunteers served 168 households and 603 individuals. Each week, you helped us serve an average of 106 local households and 382 individuals, an increase of over 20% compared to 2021.....

You help make it possible to keep offering our neighbors choices of grocery and household products, and we are so proud of the work we have done. Thank you again for your support and confidence in our efforts.

With gratitude,
Carla Picasso-Brown, Executive Director



From Dave Wilson

It’s late fall and the Indians on a remote reservation in South Dakota asked their new chief if the coming winter was going to be cold or mild. Since he was a chief in a modern society, he had never been taught the

old secrets. When he looked at the sky, he couldn’t tell what the winter was going to be like.

Nevertheless, to be on the safe side, he told his tribe that the winter was indeed going to be cold and that the members of the village should collect firewood to be prepared.

But, being a practical leader, after several days he got an idea. He went to the phone booth, called the National Weather Service and asked, “Is the coming winter going to be cold?”

“It looks like this winter is going to be quite cold,” the meteorologist at the weather service responded. So the chief went back to his people and told them to collect even more firewood in order to be prepared.

A week later, he called the National Weather Service again. “Does it still look like it is going to be a very cold winter?”

“Yes,” the man at the weather service again replied. “It’s going to be a very cold winter.” The chief again went back to his people and ordered them to collect every scrap of firewood they could find.

Two weeks later, the chief called the National Weather Service again. “Are you absolutely sure that the winter is going to be very cold?”

“Absolutely,” the man replied. “It’s looking more and more like it is going to be one of the coldest winters we’ve ever seen.”

“How can you be so sure?” the chief asked.

The weatherman replied, “The Indians are collecting more and more firewood.”

FROM THE READER BOARD

Lee Forsberg



STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS

JANUARY 15 – 2 EPIPHANY

“Grant that your people, illumined by your Word and Sacraments, may shine .. that He may be known, worshipped and obeyed to the ends of the earth ...”

Quite a tall order! But even if we just start where we

are and share with those around us the wondrous blessings and gifts we have been given, the intentions of this prayer will be fulfilled.

JANUARY 22 – 3 EPIPHANY

Psalm 27 begins: *“The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom then shall I be afraid?”*
The world may fail us; our families and friends may even fail us, but God’s promise stands – he is always there to help us through. We cannot earn his love and care; it has been given to us freely and without reservation. All we have to do is ask with true willingness to have God come into our hearts and lives as our guardian and guide.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

JANUARY 15 – 2 EPIPHANY

Isaiah 49:1-7
Psalm 40:1-12
1 Corinthians 1:1-9
John 1:29-42

Collect for 2 Epiphany

Almighty God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ is the light of the world: Grant that your people illumined by your Word and Sacraments, may shine with the radiance of Christ’s glory that he may be known, worshiped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and for ever. Amen

JANUARY 22 – 3 EPIPHANY

Isaiah 9:1-4
Psalm 27:1, 5-13
1 Corinthians 1:10-18
Matthew 4:12-23

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—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.

PRAYER MINISTRIES

Contact Sheilah Reidburn at sheilahreidburn@comcast.net or 425-745-1390

Prayers of the People:

Prayers of the People that are used during the 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.

GREG’S OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Tuesday, 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)