

AROUND THE PARISH

January 31, 2020

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.

COMING EVENTS



- 2/2 8:00/10:30am, Candlemas Service**
- 2/3 6:30pm, Boy Scouts, PH
- 2/4 6:30pm, Prayer Beads, Annex**
6:30pm, Girl Scouts, PH
- 2/6 4:45pm, Gospel of John Online, PH**
- 2/8 8:00-4:00pm, Private Event, PH
- 2/10 7:00pm, Boy Scouts, PH
- 2/11 2:00pm, Altar Guild, PH**
6:00pm, Vestry, PH
- 2/13 4:45pm, Gospel of John Online, PH**

PLANNING AHEAD

- 2/16 12:15pm, Worship Comm Mtg, PH**
- 2/17 7:00pm, Boy Scouts, PH
- 2/18 6:30pm, Girl Scouts, PH
- 2/19 6:00pm, Evening Prayer**
6:30pm, Mardi Gras Supper
- 2/24 7:00pm, Boy Scouts, PH
- 2/25 4:00pm, Pancake Supper, PH**
- 2/26 12:00pm & 7:00pm, Ash Wednesday**
- 2/27 6:30pm, Girl Scouts, PH
- 2/29 1:00-4:00pm, Private Event, PH
- 3/1 First Day of Lent**
7:00pm, Taize Service
- 3/4 6:00pm, Evening Prayer**
6:30/7:00pm, Supper/Reflections



LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS:

Evening Prayer at 6:00pm
Supper at 6:30pm
Reflections at 7:00pm
February 19, Mardi Gras
March 4, 11, 18, 25
April 1

By Father Greg

As we were gathering for our last Vestry meeting, Kären Ford brought me news that our Cathedral had been vandalized in the night. I have learned subsequently that St. Luke's, Ballard, and Trinity, Everett, had been similarly vandalized.

At St. Mark's, the vandalism was white supremacist graffiti spray painted on one of the white exterior walls; at St. Luke's, it was a xenophobic, homophobic, and aporophobic (fear of or hostility toward the poor, and, yes, I had to look that up) tag scrawled on a door; and at Trinity, it was upside down crosses spray painted on their doors. These last were not the upside-down cross associated with St. Peter, but rather anti-Christian symbols.

You can get more details, including pictures of the vandalism and what was actually written, at this link: <https://ecww.org/vandalism-across-the-diocese-on-martin-luther-king-jr-day/> More importantly, you can read the thoughtful and even beautiful responses from the Dean Steven Thomason, Vicar Britt Olson, and Rector Rachel Taber-Hamilton.

All this happened on the night of the holiday honoring the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Of course, the point was to disrupt and disparage our national struggle for the more perfect union of a society blind to all the isms that falsely separate us. As a nation, we have set this day apart to rededicate ourselves to the work of living up to our best aspirations – a free, just, equal, and interdependent society. We know that we are far from those ideals and that the work will likely never be done, but still we work toward that society.

The message sent by the vandals is pretty clear - "We are afraid. We are threatened by these others. We feel like we are losing our place, our sense of self, and we will fight."

Remember the last of the Beatitudes of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus says, "Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

In our civil life, we come back again and again to the last two vows we made in Baptism, "Will you seek and serve Christ in all people, loving your neighbor as yourself?" and "Will you strive for justice and peace among all people and respect the dignity of every human being?" Our answer, too, again and again is, "We will with God's help."

We all have our blind spots. We all fall short of these ideals. We all have prejudices, misconceptions of others. We all have outright sins. So we keep coming back to the foundations of our faith. "We will with God's help." "Thy will be done."

Just a little later in the Sermon, Jesus adds, "I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous."

With all this in mind and with grief in our hearts, we concluded our prayers at that Vestry meeting with this Prayer (BCP 816), "O God, the Father of all, whose Son commanded us to love our enemies: Lead them and us from prejudice to truth: deliver them and us from hatred, cruelty, and revenge; and in your good time enable us all to stand reconciled before you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*"

There are so many things that divide us; so many forces that would break us up into factions. This seems more true today than it has in a long time. In fact, we need each other, we need diversity, we need divergent thought,

engaged speech, alternative opinions.

We do not need more fear, suspicion, or condescension. We need more wrangling over subjects, but we do not need more disparagement of each other.

We need more respect. We need to see and know each other as children of a common Creator, equally loved by a universal Redeemer, and forged together, saints on earth and saints in heaven, by the illimited Spirit.

SAVE DATE FOR PANCAKES!!

Tuesday, February 25, beginning at 4:00pm, is the date for our annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. Put the date on your calendar so you don't miss St. Alban's fabulous pancakes and the gathering of friends old and new.



CANDLEMAS CELEBRATION

Candlemas, or the Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord Jesus Christ in the Temple and the purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary, will be celebrated on **February 2 at both services**. It's the day we remember that Mary fulfilled the sacrifice prescribed in Leviticus 12 for the rite of purification 40 days after the birth of a boy.

This Feast proclaims that Jesus is the Light of the World and makes this proclamation tangible and practical by blessing the candles that are to be used in the church for the year. Before the advent of electricity and light bulbs, candles were essential for doing just about anything in the dark. In blessing candles, the church marks them as signs and symbols of the

light of God – Jesus – shining in the darkness of this fallen world.

On Sunday, February 2, we will gather in the Parish Hall, pray over and bless our candles, and then we'll process into the church with lit candles.

In keeping with the spirit of the day, please bring candles from home, or better yet, bring candles you intend for gifts to be blessed in church this Sunday.

*Everliving God,
Your Son Jesus Christ was presented as
a child in the temple
to be the hope of your people;
grant us pure hearts and minds
that we may be transformed into his likeness,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy
Spirit.*



ANNUAL MEETING FEATURES GOOD NEWS, GREAT TURNOUT AND TAMALES

By Dan Mullene

The January 26th Annual Meeting of St. Alban's held in the parish hall welcomed over 50 congregation members who heard reports covering our budget, capital campaign and updates on many other items of interest. Highlights included our successful stewardship campaign and a budget review for 2020 by Treasurer Maryellen Young.

Attendees also elected new vestry members Cyndi Jacobson, Shirley Clark and Phil McClelland to replace outgoing members Pat Chandler, Karen Ford and Maureen Forsythe. Emily Goergen was also approved to as our Vestry Youth Liaison, a position that has been active on previous vestries and is being renewed.

Cyndi Jacobson and her husband Craig

Jacobson were also elected to the position of Diocesan Convention Delegates, replacing departing delegates Carrie Cone and Maryellen Young.

Fr. Greg and the congregation gave special thanks and appreciation to Evie Arneson for her many years of hospitality, especially during our coffee hours after services. Evie in turn expressed her appreciation for volunteers Wendre Vaughn and Maisy Hochstetler who will keep up our tradition of hospitality as Evie retires from active duty.

Junior Warden Carrie Cone recognized the many contributions of the leaders of the various ministries at St. Alban's. Junior Warden Steve Forsythe provided an update on our capital campaign, the accomplishments of 2019 (a new roof!), and plans for improving our parking lot.

A topic of discussion that received thoughtful review by those attending was the request from Templo Emanuel Church to use our facilities for their worship services and other activities. Details were previously shared by Fr. Greg Peters in a "Constant Contact" message emailed out on January 22; details are available in a related article elsewhere in this newsletter.

Many members spoke encouragingly in support of pursuing an opportunity to work to partner with Templo Emanuel and their request. As one parishioner so ably summed it up: "We are always seeking to be more present in our community, and now the Lord is bringing our community to us!" The committee formed to address this request, which includes Fr. Greg, Dan Mullene, Kären Ford and Carol Gordon welcomes any additional questions or comments.

The special combined all-congregation service held at 9:30am before the meeting featured Rite I, easy for those who usually attend our 8:00am service, but a bit trickier with its more formal language for those of us coming at 10:30am. A very special treat was having several members of the Templo Emanuel congregation also worshipping with us.

And the treat continued through our pre-meeting lunch where, along with sandwiches, salads and other tasty items, we enjoyed three

trays of tamales, provided by one of their members who owns "Tia Lety Tamaleria & Taqueria" Restaurant in South Everett. Our thanks to those St. Alban's members who helped set-up and clean-up for our wonderful lunch!

All in all, a wonderful meeting reminding us of our love of one another, of our local community, and our continued commitment to our Lord.

If you were unable to attend the meeting, a copy of the report used can be provided upon request. Fr. Greg and the Vestry wardens thank everyone who made it a great success through their attendance and participation.



**TEMPLO EMANUEL INTERESTED
IN USING ST. ALBAN'S FACILITIES
FOR WORSHIP, CHURCH ACTIVITIES**

By Dan Mullene

As has been previously reported in a recent Constant Contact message sent out to the congregation, St. Alban's has been contacted by a local Hispanic church named Templo Emanuel. They are inquiring about renting our church facilities because the church they had been renting for several years from the Diocese of Olympia was recently sold, and they need another place to worship and conduct other activities.

Templo Emanuel was highly recommended to us by The Rev. Dr. Dennis Tierney, Diocesan Property Manager, who worked with them while they were tenants. The church's Pastor, Fernely Robles, his wife Irma (and others), have visited us on two occasions, first with a small group, then subsequently with all the members of their Vestry to see our facilities and share information about their needs. They believe that our facilities would be suitable for them.

In addition to Sunday worship services, they are interested in using our facilities at other times for choir practice, Youth Group and Women's Group meetings.

They appreciate we are a very active congregation and working out the details of any possible partnership will take time, prayers and God's help in order to maintain our active schedule and provide them with opportunities to worship and meet.

Our Vestry has established a committee of Senior Warden Dan Mullene and Vestry Members Carol Gordon and Karen Ford and Fr. Greg Peters to explore how best to move forward with this opportunity. The committee will be consulting with Treasurer Maryellen Young, and Parish Administrator Jeannie Wells for their input.

Pastor Robles, his wife Irma, and other members of their church were invited to our Sunday, January 26, service, and we were blessed to have them worship with us and get to know us better.

Fr. Greg noted in the Constant Contact message that he thinks this is could be a wonderful opportunity to share our facilities, to work alongside another congregation, and to share the blessings that God has bestowed upon us. He and the committee ask your prayers, guidance and support. They also welcome and appreciate your insights and observations as they work on the process of seeing how to best integrate their church's needs with the active schedule at St. Alban's.

Copies of reports from the Annual Meeting are available in the Parish Hall or by signing on the tablet for that purpose. Also, copies can be requested by contacting the church office.



MARDI GRAS SUPPER, FEBRUARY 19

Wednesday, February 19, is the date we generally have a soup supper. Last year, we changed this to our own version of a Mardi-Gras supper with parishioners sharing foods like Gumbo, Sausage & Shrimp Jambalaya, Grits & Shrimp, Red Beans & Rice and cornbread. French bread, salads and desserts were also contributed.

Evening Prayer begins at 6:00pm, followed by supper and Reflections. Watch for a sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall and join us for this evening of fun and fellowship. Please come whether you can contribute to the meal or not. There is always plenty of food!

We will also collect items for the food bank this evening, so please bring non-perishable items if you are able.

INFO FROM BISHOP RICKEL

Dear Ones,

It has come to my attention that a number of people within the diocese have been contacted by an individual claiming to be me and asking for assistance. This is now an all-too-common phishing scam that seems to occur on a weekly basis at any one of the congregations in our diocese. It is a sad fact of life in our modern digital world that there will be people trying to get money or goods fraudulently through these phishing scams.

Spear phishing is especially difficult because the perpetrator has the name of the sender or the recipient of the email and uses this to gain trust.

- There is no way to stop these scams from occurring. But by being vigilant, the risks can be minimized or averted. Here are some steps to take.

- Check the return email address. If the address doesn't match the name of the sender, be wary.
- Never open attachments from unknown sources, especially those with .exe extensions.
- Be wary of generically addressed emails like Dear Friend or Dear Customer.
- If there are links in the email, hover over them without clicking on them. This will show where the link will actually take you.
- Look for grammatical or spelling errors in the text of the email.
- Check the address at the bottom of the email. If it says "Pastor Jim" and Jim never goes by "Pastor," it's fake.

Finally, if after all these steps it looks safe and the sender is asking for money or access to secure data, call the person directly to get verification. In the case of any communication coming out of the Office of the Bishop, please contact us directly at 206.325.4200 if there is any doubt as to the authenticity of a message.

Your best defense for this is to simply delete the email, do not click on any links or reply to the sender.

B
G Blessings,
Greg



OUTREACH BALLOT AVAILABLE

St. Alban's Outreach Committee, has selected the organizations to be voted on for our next third week outreach donation basket recipients, starting the second quarter of 2020. See the ballot in the Parish Hall for more information about each program.

You can vote for up to four organizations; place the ballot in the designated basket. The top four vote getters will be selected. Ballots will be available in the Parish Hall **from January 26 through February 9.**

PLEASE NOTE:

**THE NEXT ISSUE OF AROUND THE
PARISH WILL BE SENT ON MONDAY
MARCH 17TH**



2020 CHURCH BUDGET

For the 2020 church year St. Alban's Episcopal Church has a budget based on our projected income of \$185,268. This is an increase of \$32,330 from the generous pledges you made for 2020, plus anticipated unpledged contributions, loose plate offerings, Christmas/Easter gifts and a full year of Preschool income.

Because of this increase in projected income, we have added two hours to Greg's time per week, bringing him to 29 hours per week. Jeannie Wells, our Parish Administrator will have her hours increased by one hour to 16½ hours per week.

The rest of our budget is based on expenses comparable to last year, making adjustments for salary increases and anticipated increases with fixed expenses. In addition, we have added funding for Jim Gilman, our Deacon, plus increases to Stewardship, Faith Formation, Vestry expenses as well as increases to savings. This budget results in expenses of \$188,070 to support our ministries.

The difference will be funded by our Budget Reserve Fund (\$2,802).

Copies of the 2020 Narrative Budget are available in the Parish Hall. If anyone would like copies of the detailed results for 2019, the Balance Sheet, or the 2020 budget, please contact the church office, 425-778-0371 StAlbansEdmonds@gmail.com.

**HEY, WHATEVER HAPPENED
TO THAT "MY 120" THINGY?**

Dan Mullene

I bet there are a few of you who vaguely remember that during our last stewardship campaign we introduced an idea called "MY 120" where we asked folks to consider making a commitment in writing (on little lighthouses, remember?) to give a few hours of their time in service to the church, the congregation and even to our local community.

As you may know, we had about 20 responses to this, which is truly amazing, and yet another comment on the dedication of the members of our congregation to doing the Lord's work. But now, almost in February, it's fair to ask: So, what happened to that idea? Glad you asked. I am here to update you.

First, my excuse for the delay: You probably noticed we've been kind of busy around church, what with getting through the holidays, preparing for the upcoming annual meeting, dodging snowflakes and just the usual needs to be met. This can be a bit more demanding if you also happen to be the Senior Warden, as well as the Stewardship Campaign Chair.

But we haven't forgotten your demonstration of generosity. I am going to get able help, and we will review all of the offers of service, determine which of our several ministries they most closely relate to, and share that information with the ministry leaders. Then we will ask them to get back in touch with you to confirm your interests and start the ball rolling by helping you get involved (if you are not already doing so).

At this time, I ask you for two things: (1) Please be patient with us as we work on getting this program up and running, and (2) Please be on the lookout for phone calls, emails

and more newsletter articles and announcements to keep you informed.

I leave you with a passage from First Corinthians, reminding us all of the value of our work given for the Lord: “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord.” (1 Corinthians 15:58)



DECEMBER FINANCIALS

Income for December was \$21,147 compared to the budget of \$18,721, about \$2,400 ahead of budget. December is always the highest month for budgeted income and this year we exceeded budget for both Christmas offering (\$2,865 compared to \$1,500) and Unpledged Contributions (\$3,080 compared to \$1,555).

Expenses for December were \$13,109 compared to a budget of \$14,551. We started the year with a budgeted shortfall of about (\$15,000), to be covered by our Budget Reserve Fund. We ended the year with only a shortfall of (\$1,093), thanks to your generosity.

Total Actual Income (year end)	\$160,172
Total Budget Income (year end)	\$152,939
Total Actual Income minus Budget	\$7,233
Total Actual Expenses (year end)	\$161,265
Total Budget Expenses (year end)	\$168,058
Total Actual Expenses minus Budget	(\$ 6,793)
Net Year End Actuals Minus Budget	\$ 14,026
Net Total Income minus Total Expenses	(\$ 1,093)

NOTE OF THANKS

I would like to thank the Parish for the opportunity to serve on the Vestry for one year. It was a very interesting, educational and fun experience- learning about the church and its history, getting to know fellow church members and working on much needed projects. Thank you for the opportunity! If you have never been on the Vestry before, think about it for next year.

Maureen Forsythe



HE CAME TO GIVE YOU MORE ABUNDANT LIFE

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS

February 2 – Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Here is an admonition that can undergird a steward’s daily life and govern our relationship with God and our neighbors: “...and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God?” How would our world look if more people engraved that saying on their hearts...and acted accordingly?

February 9 - Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

“...give us the liberty of that abundant life you have made known to us in your Son our Savior, Jesus Christ...” Try to imagine the joy in your life if you concentrate on its abundance and do not allow yourself to live in a mindset of scarcity. God does indeed provide for all our needs if we live in Him and for Him.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

For a link to the weekly readings, click
<http://www.lectionarypage.net>

February 2 – Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Malachi 3:1-4; Psalm 84

Hebrews 2:14-18, Luke 2:22-40

8:00 Lector: Sharon Joy

EM: Jim Gilman

10:30 Lector: Carol Gordon

EM: Mary Fowler

February 9 – Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 58:1-9a, [9b-12], Psalm 112:1-9, [1-]

1 Corinthians 2:1-12, [13-16], Matt 5:13-20

8:00 Lector: Judy Kistner

EM: Shannon Duggan

10:30 Lector: Shirley Clark

EM: Reilly Mannery

February 16- Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

Deuteronomy 30:15-20, Psalm 119:1-8

I Corinthians 3:1-9, Matthew 5:21-37

8:00 Lector: Martha Philippoff

EM: Sharon Joy

10:30 Lector: Maureen Forsythe

EM: Mary Fowler

February 23- Last Sunday after the Epiphany

Exodus 24:12-18, Psalm 2

2 Peter 1:25-21, Matthew 17:1-9

8:00 Lector: Gretchen Munsey

EM: Jim Gilman

10:30 Lector: Herman Siqueland

EM: Dan Mullene