

AROUND THE PARISH

August 14, 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



VIDEO SERVICE INFO

Sunday Eucharist is on Facebook, 10:30am

Sunday Zoom Coffee is on Zoom at 12:00pm

Wednesday Evening Prayer on Facebook, 6:00pm

Bible Study Zoom on the Gospel of Mark led by Eric Hanson is taking the month of August off because of the outdoor worship services at the church.

Sunday, August 16 - Taizé is on Facebook, 7:00pm

NOTE TIME CHANGE: ZOOM COFFEE HOUR STARTS AT 12:00pm

Join Zoom Coffee Hour, Link through August
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85174822634?pwd=aW0vdTYrNGtZTGVBQmdzbEJQYm9BZz09>

Meeting ID: 851-7482-2634 Password: 657057

NOTES If you don't have a Facebook account, you can watch the Sunday service later as a video on the Facebook link.

All other events and activities have been cancelled or postponed until further notice.



Fr. Greg

It was my birthday Thursday. So Erika and the girls took me on a hike – well, I did the driving, but all the rest was them, I just went along where they led - to Johnson Ridge, up the Beckler, just north of Skykomish, where I had worked for the Forest Service.

The night before I had not slept well. Sometime in the middle of the night, I was visited by my past: past people and events, old friends, old nemeses, good memories, challenging times, past sins. Echoes of birth pangs? I woke thinking of my Father, whose birthday is the day after mine. We firstborn Leos, stubborn Swedes, had our rows – many of them.

I was also reminded that I was born the very day that the Soviet-proxied East Germans closed Checkpoint Charlie establishing the Berlin Wall that separated a people and the world. A false border constructed not so much of concrete and barbed wire, but of malice, power, and the need to dominate others - compensation for some deep inner inadequacy and frailty. It wasn't, after all, meant to keep invaders out, but to keep people in, from escaping an oppressive government –domestic violence at the societal level.

After that memory-filled night, I needed the hike. The weather was perfect, sunny and warm with a cool maritime breeze blowing to the hot, dry east. The panoramic views were clear. And at the alpine meadow top of Scorpion Mountain, not long out from snow, resplendent in paintbrush, bistort, tiger lilies, lupine, yarrow, and columbine, I was indulged with Kaffee und Kuchen (coffee and cake, a sublime mid-afternoon Bavarian tradition, a little pause in the work day to reenergize and to nurture social bonds) complete with silverware and a tablecloth, with Glacier Peak to the north and Hinman, Daniel, and Overcoat Peak gracing us from the south. Oh, Overcoat Peak, my first true mountain



ZOOM COFFEE HOUR

Zoom Coffee will begin at 12:00pm.

There are two ways to join, click on Zoom link above. OR go to "zoom.us" on Internet, click on "Join A Meeting" in upper right hand side, at the prompt enter meeting code and then password (noted above). Next prompt is "Enter Meeting." Click on "Join with audio" so you can chime in. Hope to see you there!

CHURCH PLEDGES & DONATIONS

Please continue donations and pledges by:

Mail check to church

21405-82nd Pl W, Edmonds, WA 98026

Drop off through the slot in Greg's door.

Bank Bill Pay – ask bank to send check to St. Alban's

Online donation, go to

www.StAlbansEdmonds.org and click on "Donate Now."

love; I kept a USGS map of that region, a little wilderness touchstone, on my wall all the years in New York at seminary.

When we got home, I pulled another old favorite down from the bookshelf. A short paragraph from "Mountain Pass, in Herman Hesse's *Wandering* (Wandering) that I have come back to many times since I first read it in college.

"At the high pass I pause. On both sides the path leads down, on both sides waters run, and what up here stands together, hand in hand, finds its way down to two different worlds. The little pool that my boot disturbs runs down to the north; its water reaches distant cold seas. The little patch of snow next to it melts, drop by drop, to the south; its water falls to Ligurian or Adriatic coasts of seas that border Africa. But all the waters of the world find themselves together again, and the ice sea and the Nile mingle in the moist flight of clouds. That old, beautiful parable makes this hour holy to me. We wanderers, too, follow every path home."

Our hike was a kind of pilgrimage; a holy ramble; a physical prayer for blessing the coming year(s). Into it I carried all that stuff, the turmoil, failures and the grace-filled times; and all those loved ones living, long dead, and recently departed, all those unresolved relationships; even the geopolitical. I brought them to that holy mountain and set them on that healing sea breeze.

That old, beautiful, holy parable is still right; in the end, the things that we think are so different are meant to be one. What we think of as divisions are false. People are people, we are bound together, we need each other. What we see in others is what we see in ourselves. What we dislike in others has more to do with what we dislike in ourselves. What we are blind to in society is what we are blind to in ourselves. The revelation of our flaws can be painful.

But for pilgrims all ways lead home. The Divine One has the knack of bringing us to unexpected paths and unprecedented times, in the continual formation of a holy people. As sinful, cracked, and broken as we are, we are still called to holiness. That is God's redemptive work in us. The only prerequisite is humility – the vulnerability of the open and contrite heart.

NOTE: Fr. Greg will be on vacation from August 17 to August 28. However, he will be at church for Sunday services.



Outdoor worship at St. Alban's will continue as long as the weather holds and the pandemic guidelines permit. We are blessed to have such a stunning spot for worship -- on grass, with a beautiful fir tree, gentle breeze and singing birds!

We will continue to wear masks, sit well apart in chairs, on a blanket or in your car. Please bring your own chair as church chairs would need to be scrubbed, etc. As an extra safety precaution, temperatures are being checked as parishioners join the group.

We are using Morning Prayer from the Book of Common Prayer, which is a less familiar service to us. Jeannie Wells is sending out a service bulletin by email which can be printed out or used on your phone, tablets, etc.

Please understand that gathering can be hazardous even though we are outdoors, distanced, wearing masks and taking every possible precaution. If you are over 65 and/or in compromised health or suffer from respiratory disease, you probably should not attend this service. Much as we want to see you, it is perfectly understandable if you choose to stay at home and watch on Facebook.

We ask that you sign a COVID-19 Symptom Attestation form each week upon your arrival on Sunday. Copies are available or print and sign form at home and turn it in on Sunday.



ANOTHER GREAT FOOD DRIVE!!

WAY TO GO!!! Our third Drive Up Food Drive brought in 712 pounds of non-perishable food and over \$800 to help our community and neighbors. Coordinator Lee Forsberg noted that there were more donations from the neighborhood as well.

In addition to Lee, Phil McClelland, Maureen and Steve Forsythe and Maryellen Young assisted with the drive, greeting and thanking each donor.

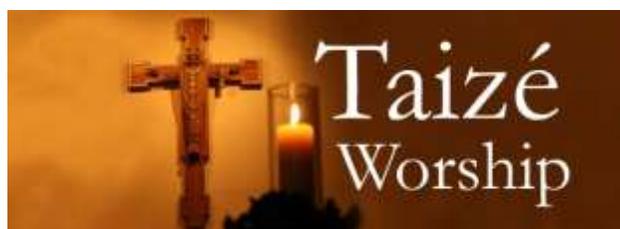
Many thanks to all those who contributed to

this mission of being part of the neighborhood and offering our help where it is greatly needed! Pat yourselves on the back!!!

**ONE THOUSAND
DAYS OF LOVE**

We must use our time and our space on this little planet that we call Earth to make a lasting contribution, to leave it a little better than we found it, and now that need is greater than ever before.

John Lewis, addressing a group of youth



TAIZE SERVICE – SUNDAY, AUG 16

Be sure to tune into to the latest Taizé service this Sunday, August 16, at 7:00pm. Our gifted Music Director John Lehrack is continuing to plan, record the music and select readings for his special Taizé presentations. These services of music, chants, prayers and meditation time are perfect for not only worship, but for relaxation as well.

The following poem is being read at Sunday's Taizé service. Thanks to John for sharing it with Around the Parish!

To Bless the Space Between Us (an excerpt) by John O'Donohue

This is the time to be slow,
lie low to the wall
until the bitter weather passes.

Try, as best you can, not to let
the wire brush of doubt
scrape from your heart
all sense of yourself
and your hesitant light.

If you remain generous,
time will come good;
and you will find your feet
again on fresh pastures of promise,
where the air will be kind
and blushed with beginning.

ONE THOUSAND DAYS OF LOVE

Sunday, August 30, 2020, is the 5th Sunday of the month. **ONE THOUSAND DAYS OF LOVE** is a grassroots, Church-wide fundraising campaign dedicated to improving the lives of children up to age six through Episcopal Relief and Development's global outreach programs.

We have added this outreach opportunity as our 5th Sunday Basket Offering. Unfortunately, we aren't at church to pass the basket, but you can still make donations by mailing or dropping off a check, designating "ERD" on the memo line. You can also donate online by using the "Special Donation" option and entering "ERD" as the purpose in the text box.

"Episcopal Relief & Development is committed to building a world where all children are loved and cared for and have the opportunity to reach their God-given potential."

--Presiding Bishop Michael B. Curry.

TOM COUNCELL

We have been notified of the sad news that our former parishioner and friend Tom Councell has died. Tom was 91 years of age and had a fast-moving liver cancer.

Tom and his wife Marilyn were devoted St. Alban's members and involved in many activities. They had retired and later moved to Oregon for golfing with friends there.

Please keep Marilyn, daughter Carol and their family in your prayers for peace and comfort. Cards can be sent as follows:

Marilyn Councell
8945 SW Ash Meadows Circle Apt 330
Wilsonville, OR 97070
Email tommari425@comcast.net



MARTHA PHILIPPOFF

With great regret and sadness, Vestry has accepted Martha Philippoff's letter of resignation. The Philippoffs house sold almost overnight and

now they have much to do in preparation for their move, so the August 11 Vestry meeting will be Martha's last. She and her husband will be moving to San Diego to join their two daughters and grandsons.

In her resignation letter, Martha said, "I have learned a great deal spiritually about myself and the St. Alban's community. It's truly been a spiritual journey for me."

St. Alban's is very appreciative of Martha's contributions to both Vestry and the congregation during her years with us. We wish the Philippoffs a safe move and trip to California and much happiness in their new home. You will be missed, Martha!!



JUDY FLEENOR TO FILL IN AS VESTRY CLERK FOR 2020

Parish member Judy Fleenor is this week's example of "prayers answered," as she has graciously agreed to fill in as the Clerk of the Vestry through the rest of 2020. She is taking over the position previously held by Jan Skidmore, who resigned a few months ago to deal with personal matters.

The Vestry greatly appreciates Judy's willingness to help us out for the remaining months of the year. We will give her all the support she needs to record the actions of our Vestry in its monthly meetings.

Next time you talk with her, please thank her for a willingness to give of her time for this most important position.



THIRD QUARTER
OUTREACH
RECIPIENT

Our 3rd Quarter 2020 outreach donation is Cocoon House. Cocoon House is a non-profit that conducts outreach to and provides short- and long-term housing for homeless and at-risk young people, including their children. More than 34% of the total homeless population is under the age of 24. Parents of teens can also find support so that young people do not become homeless.

Please consider a 3rd Week Outreach donation for August and September for this worthwhile organization. In July, we received \$315 in parish donations.

LITTLE HOUSE ACROSS THE STREET

The little house across the street is no more! On Monday, August 10, a bulldozer levelled the house and only the brick chimney was left standing at that time. By 1:00pm that afternoon, most of the old structure material and debris had been cleared away.

It will be interesting to see how the "old neighborhood" changes over the next few months. In the July 17 ATP, it was reported that Calvary Chapel (formerly St. Matthew's Lutheran Church) had sold parcels of their property facing 82nd Pl W. There probably will be two houses on that property, plus a 4-plex will replace the small house on the lot to the north.



Photos by Phil McClelland

Worry is like a rocking chair; it gives you something to do but never gets you anywhere.

Erma Bombeck



WHY DID YOU DOUBT?

The following article was written by Scott Gunn, Executive Director for Forward Movement in his weekly column, Forward Today.

It's funny what sticks in our memory and what doesn't. As a preacher, I sometimes wonder what anyone will remember an hour after I finish the sermon. For my part, there are a few sermons I remember years later (and some I forget seconds later). Today I'm thinking of one sermon that's stuck with me. I heard it as a child in elementary school.

The preacher was speaking about the Gospel passage we hear this Sunday (*August 9*) -- Peter walking on the water (Matthew 14:22-33). The relevant part is brief:

Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

In the sermon I remember, the preacher assumed Jesus was angry or disappointed. And the preacher said Peter blew it by not trusting Jesus and keeping faith.

That stuck with me, and, for a while, I agreed with that reading. Now I think it is 180 degrees wrong.

Have you ever walked on water? I haven't! I cannot imagine having the faith that would make this possible! The point is not that Peter failed to keep walking on the water, but rather that Peter managed even a few steps. What is the relationship between Peter and Jesus in this moment? We often don't have emotional adjectives in the Bible, so we have to be careful what we project onto the speakers.

It seems to me that Jesus was offering compas-

sion. After all, he *reached out his hand* for Peter. His question may have been asked in pity or in sorrow or in wonder.

Reading the passage as I suggest, it teaches us that we should not beat ourselves up when we fail to keep faith. Rather, we should rejoice for those faithful moments in our lives. And we should know that our Lord Jesus reaches out to catch us when we fail. Jesus offered grace to Peter again and again. Of all the people Jesus could have chosen to lead the church, he chose impetuous Peter, though Peter was often loudly and completely wrong.

Jesus chooses us, too. When we lose our faith, we need only cry out to Jesus, "Lord, save me!" And Jesus will catch us.

Yours faithfully,
Scott Gunn
Executive Director

Don't Forget!

1. To Register to Vote for the November 3 General Election.
2. Complete the 2020 Census, the results of which determine federal funding for hospitals, fire departments, schools, roads and other resources. It also determines the number of seats each state will have in the House of Representatives and to draw congressional and state legislative districts.
3. Donate needed blood to avoid a severe shortage. Contact bloodworksnw.org/coronavirus for more information about increased safety and physical distancing measures. Compliance with all local and state recommendations have been implemented by Bloodworks to ensure donations are as safe and pleasant as possible.
4. Ask your friends and neighbors to do Numbers 1, 2 and 3.

*Create in me a clean
heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit
within me.*
Psalms 51:10

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS

AUGUST 16 – 11th SUNDAY aft PENTECOST

In the Gospel which speaks of the pleas of the Canaanite woman (the Canaanites and Israelites did not enjoy amicable relationships), Jesus reminded the Disciples that he had been sent to seek the “lost.” How reassuring to know that he still to this day seeks the “lost” among us, and that if we continue to have faith as the woman did, God has promised to guide and support our lives!

AUGUST 23 – 12TH SUNDAY aft PENTECOST

Near the end of Psalm 138, it says: *“Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe...your right hand shall save me. The Lord will make good his purpose for me... O Lord, your love endures forever.”* As “stewards in training,” how can we strive to genuinely trust and believe these promises? Perhaps utilizing the Holy Habits (prayer, bible study, community worship and service, and thankful giving) can help. Why not covenant to give them a new or renewed try in the days ahead?

LESSON READINGS

AUGUST 16 – 11TH SUNDAY aft PENTECOST

Genesis 45:1-15

Psalm 133

Roman 11:1-2a, 29-32

Matthew 15:(10-20), 21-28

AUGUST 23 – 12TH SUNDAY aft PENTECOST

Exodus 1:8-2:10

Psalm 124

Romans 12:1-8

Matthew 16:13-20



ST. ALBAN'S CURRENT OFFICE HOURS

Monday	10:30 - 12:30pm
Tuesday	10:00 - 12:00pm
Wednesday	2:00 - 4:00pm
Friday	1 0:30 -12:30pm; 2:00 – 4:00pm

The office isn't open on Sundays, but there are people around from 9:00am - 1:00pm. Before and after services, people are available for quick business activities.

In order to maintain social distancing and minimize any possible exposures to the Coronavirus, please observe the following protocol:

- Please contact the Office, (425) 778-0371 or stalbansedmonds@gmail.com to make appointment.
- Call the Office to inform them that you have arrived.
- Wait car, outside in the garden or under the eaves.
- Wait for further instructions – to be let in, to meet your party, to pick up or make a delivery.
- Wear a mask.

In case of something urgent or an emergency, please call Greg Peters on his cellphone at (206) 778-1506