

AROUND THE PARISH

April 23, 2021

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

APRIL 25: SPECIAL DIOCESAN-WIDE SERVICE, 11:00 AM

On Sunday, April 25th, there is a special diocesan-wide service that the Bishop's Office and the Cathedral Staff are providing. We - our worship team - is taking the day off. The day starts at 10:00am with a musical prelude. There is also a Town Hall Discussion at 12:30pm.

One Service for Turtle Island

In the cosmology of North and South American peoples, Turtle Island is the geographic region covering Canada, United States, Central America, and South America. **Join together online Sunday, April 25, at 11:00am** to worship Jesus with Episcopalians from all over the Diocese of Olympia led by our Circles of Color and focused on the languages, cultures, and experiences of the First Peoples of Turtle Island, with a specific focus on communities from within Province 8. **This online service is a chance for diocesan-wide worship, learning, connection, and conversation**, as well as an opportunity to give our working clergy a Sunday off from preaching and presiding.

The One Service will include a Town Hall webinar after worship with Bishop Rickel and members of Circles of Color to process the worship experience and go deeper into dialogue around issues of race and culture in our diocese, with special attention to the experiences of Indo-Hispanic/Indigenous peoples and a specific focus on communities from within Province 8. And **join us beginning at 10:00am** for a musical prelude featuring music from churches across the diocese! All are welcome, and congregations are encouraged to "attend" together in whatever ways you can – viewing parties, online watch parties, or whatever means are safe and responsible given the state of the pandemic at that time.

Follow the links below **beginning on April 25 at 10:00am** to join us for the service on either our diocesan Facebook page or YouTube channel.

- Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/EpiscopalWesternWashington>
- YouTube Page: <https://www.youtube.com/c/DioceseofOlympiaSeattle>
 - There is also a call-in number for those with limited internet access (there is no password required): 253.215.8782 (Webinar ID: 937 1115 1454)
 - The Town Hall will begin at 12:30 and can be accessed via the following link: <https://ecww.zoom.us/j/96567645674>
 - Again, there is a call-in number for those with limited internet access (there is no password required): 253.215.8782 (Webinar ID: 965 6764 5674)

SUNDAY ACTIVITIES

April 25, 11:00am, with music prelude beginning at 10:00am: "One Service for Turtle Island"

Sunday Eucharist on Facebook or YouTube, 10:30am

Adult Bible Study, 9:30am, Zoom - Romans led by Eric Hanson. Link through June

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84765370758?pwd=OEFMd20xL0NjNkzQ0xJhHdaRGJlZz09>

Meeting ID: 847 6537 0758 Password: SeekFirst

NOTE: If you don't have a Facebook account, you can watch the Sunday service on YouTube or later as a video on the Facebook link



Fr. Greg Peters

Something old, something new . . . brings me to something blue.

We have a couple of long held, well used, and well loved, cast iron pans. One we got from my aunt, the other two we've bought for ourselves over the years. We use one of these most every day; some days all three of them.

I first learned how to cure, use, and care for cast iron from my grandfather, who sold them in the family hardware store, and from my first boss, Chas Bowman. They both used the same methods.

In particular, they both insisted that one did not use dish soap to clean cast iron and that they were to be dried on the stove at low heat. All this so the curing wasn't washed away by the soap and the cast iron did not rust from the water. (Actually they only rust if they need to be recured, but that's another story.) I have adhered to this method of care for close to 40 years.

This has all been well and fine until the last couple of years or so. The key to success in this is my attention span.

Here's what's been happening: I don't wash the pans until after doing all the other dishes. Then I put them on our stove at the lowest setting to slowly and thoroughly dry. But I then go off to the next thing and I end up forgetting all about them. On more than one occasion, I have left them on a very long time and they have to be recured.

Of course recuring the pans is not the real issue – starting a kitchen fire is.

Erika has asked me innumerable times to stop drying the pans this way. It might last a couple of days, but eventually I fall back into this old practice and pattern of forgetfulness. I say to myself that I'll remember from now on.

I've tried setting a timer, so I'll remember to turn off the stove after 5 minutes or so. Same deal, it works for a day or two, then I relapse. I've dried them with a dish towel, but then the towel invariably gets a little greasy, so I give up on that too. On sunny days, I put them out on our deck to dry in the sun; that works but only seasonally.

April 25, Sunday Activities Notes:

- **There will be no Zoom coffee hour due to Diocesan Service.**
- **Bible Study will be from 9:30-10:00am today.**

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

5/1 May Food Drive, 10:00 – 2:00pm

5/4 Becoming Beloved Community, 6:30pm,
Zoom link through June

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84587330526?pwd=amo2Y0dldlUxUmXUb2pGcUNuMGFpdz09>

Meeting ID: 845 8733 0526 Passcode: BBC

5/15 ECW Coffee Fellowship, 10:30am, Zoom

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

ZOOM COFFEE HOUR—RETURNS 5-2

Zoom Coffee begins at 12:00pm. 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.

Thankfully there have been no fires, our marriage is still in tack, and the children have not adopted my method of “caring for” the cast iron.

The points are these: I love these pans. I want to care for them the best way possible. But my old ways are no longer working. I’ve tried the technical fix (setting a timer, drying them with a towel, etc.), but that hasn’t really worked.

Part of the underlying issue, beside my stubbornness, is that I learned this stuff from my grandfather and Chas. There’s something about this practice that connects me to them. It doesn’t work safely anymore, but at a deep subconscious level it is part of the bonds to my past, to two people really important to me. Changing this would carry some kind of betrayal; that changing my way of being, adapting to a new situation will include some loss and grief. Even if my life is better (e.g., no house fires!), there will be grief.

I realize just how silly, superficial, and trivial this is, but that doesn’t make it any less true.

Which brings me to the real point of all this: This last year has confronted us all with many examples of things we (individually and collectively) do that no longer really work. Some of those things are superficial and trivial, some are significant, important, maybe even still life-giving, but somehow will not serve us much longer; they only maintain the status quo, but don’t empower us to thrive.

Our Vestry is holding their annual retreat this weekend. We’re going to begin looking at what we as a congregation have always done, at what we are doing now because of the pandemic, and beginning to ask what has changed, what still works, what no longer works, what must we leave behind, what must we take up?

At the heart of this are the real questions – what is God calling us to, where is God calling us, who is God calling us to be, and how are we to get where God wants us to go?

I do not claim to have the answers, nor to have any foregone conclusions. Like you, I have not traveled this pandemic disrupted path before. There have been other disruptions, but nothing so profoundly and universally disruptive, before. One constant that I learned and experienced in all the previous minor disruptions is God’s continual presence, guidance, and providence. I trust that these will continue, even if I/we don’t know the way or how they will be manifest. I trust that the Holy

Trinity, in its completeness, will lead us toward our completeness.

All this puts me in mind of one of Barbara Lagozzino’s favorite passages from Holy Writ. “It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; He will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed.” Deuteronomy 31:8. This is the same One who led the Hebrew children out of bondage in Egypt into the dessert of Exodus. They often wandered, seemingly aimlessly, for 40 years, but God always led them purposely, challengingly, toward the Promised Land. I trust that purpose, too.

Christ has no body now on earth but yours;
Yours are the only hands with which he can do his
work,
Yours are the only feet with which he can go about
the world,
Yours are the only eyes through which his com-
passion can shine forth upon a troubled world.
Christ has no body on earth now but yours.
St. Teresa of Avila



SATURDAY, MAY 1, FOOD DRIVE

We are continuing our mission to help those in need of food next **Saturday, May 1, from 10:00am – 2:00pm**. Everyone can help by donating non-perishable foods – canned veggies and fruit, dried and/or canned beans, peanut butter, jelly, tuna fish, spaghetti, noodles, spaghetti sauce, etc. Items for babies and pets are also welcome.

Our food drive coordinator, Lee Forsberg, is again requesting volunteers to greet and thank all donors, more and more of whom are neighbors. They are getting to know us better and always express their pleasure of being able to help and contribute right in their neighborhood.

Your donations not only fill stomachs, they also give hope and thankfulness to those in need.



WHAT'CHA READING?

ECW Zoom Coffee Fellowship

Time for tea and coffee gathering on May 15th at 10:30am on Zoom. We thought it would be fun to share what we've been reading lately. This isn't a book report, but just sharing something you've enjoyed in a book, magazine or article and especially what author and why.

Feel free to share other things you've been doing for entertainment too, such as favorite TV shows, Netflix, or other pastimes. This time of year many of you are in your gardens and putting up bird feeders. We look forward to just spending time together.

Zoom link follows:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88340149726?pwd=M01RU25LVUVGL3pBcTd6b3dOMDRmQT09>

Meeting ID: 883 4014 9726 Passcode: ECW



CLERGY RETREAT

Beginning the evening of Sunday, May 2, and concluding with noonday prayers on Wednesday, May 5, Fr. Greg will be participating in the online Clergy Retreat with the clergy of the diocese. This year's retreat will be focused on rest and renewal. During this time of retreat, Fr. Greg's response to emails and telephone calls will be very limited. In the event of an emergency, please contact the church office.

MEET JEANNIE BURPEE

Although she likes to be called Jeannie, she would be glad to be addressed as Jean. Since there's an "important" Jeannie already at St. Alban's (Parish Administrator Jeannie Wells), she feels that Jean would be less confusing.

Jean was born and raised on Mercer Island and came to St. Alban's when she and her husband Jon moved from Roseburg, Oregon, in December 2017 after living there for 40 years. She is comfortably settled in Edmonds, where she and Jon are able to enjoy the natural environment and be near their family.

She says the friendliness of its members is what first attracted them to St. Alban's. Jean joined vestry this past January and currently serves as Faith Formation liaison and is planning the third Wednesday Soup Suppers.

Asked who her favorite saint is, Jean notes that she is attracted to St. Hildegard of Bingen, one of the most remarkable women of the Middle Ages, a visionary, mystic, poet, musician, naturalist, healer and theologian. One of her favorite Scripture passages is Psalm 46:10, "Be still and know that I am God."



DAY-BY-DAY REFLECTIONS

(The following meditation for Sunday, April 25, was written by Scott Gunn, Executive Editor of Forward Movement and author.)

John 10:11 – I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

In the part of Iowa where I grew up, there was plenty of agrarian activity. Thanks to my upbringing I know a bit about corn, beans and wheat. Pigs and cows were familiar creatures. But there were no sheep. So when I started preaching about shepherds, I was left with vague ideas of the work and life of shepherds. When I heard the idea of Jesus as shepherd, I imagined a picture-perfect day with blue skies, bright green grass, and fluffy white sheep.

The reality is different. Sheep are dirty, and they smell bad. Ancient Israel didn't have much in the way of perfect, green grass. Shepherds had to contend with stupid sheep, not to mention dangerous predators. It was not a glamorous life. So what should we hear when Jesus says he is our shepherd?

Jesus will get into the thick of it with us. He will bring us home when we wander. He won't give up on us. He will help us fight off the assaults

of the devil. In short, he loves us in a real and tangible way.

FROM THE BILBOARD



April is National Poetry Month, celebrating the joy, expressiveness, and pure delight of poetry. Below is one of Fr. Greg's previous writings that Carol Gordon adapted into a poem.



FIXING JESUS

Ebony. Beautiful.
I lacked the perfect nail,
so propped him on the altar.
He slipped, and broke his shoulder.

I've had to scrape and sand
and drill. Next, I'll find
the right sized dowelling.
Cut, glue, and clamp it tight.

He won't be new.
There'll be cracks, a chip or two.
Maybe no one will notice
that he isn't perfect anymore.

I hope to have him back
by Sunday. It's always good when Jesus
shows for church on Sunday.
I show up myself, to meet him.

Not the same, but always coming back
Life is like that when you
hang around the people
he hung out with.

Thirsty, meek, all sorts of poor.
Tired, sick, lonely,
beaten down, contrite.
The miserable.

I'm going to glue those arms of love
right back on him. He'll come next week with
scars, scrapes, scratches, sores.
Some other fever.

And we'll start over
in that dance we do. I'll fix
him up all right, but he'll just
go for more.

*The Reverend Greg Peters
Formatted by Carol Gordon*

DAY BY DAY & READINGS AVAILABLE

Copies of Forward Day by Day (May/June/July) and Sunday's lesson sheets (May 30-August 29) are available in the "Brown Box" outside the Sacristy door. Please feel free to pick them up. If you need a copy of either mailed to you, please contact the church office (425-778-0371).



MARK, THE EVANGELIST, April 25

Tradition holds that Mark (sometimes John Mark) was the boy who lost his clothes when Jesus was taken in the Garden of Gethsemene (see Mark 14:52). It is also thought by many that the "upper room" where the Last Supper was held was in Mark's parents' home. Mark's mother, whose name was Mary, was a follower of Jesus and a friend of the disciples.

The Apostle Peter seems to have taken young Mark under his wing. Mark is listed by Paul as one of Peter's followers in the early controversies in the Jerusalem Church. Mark was also a missionary companion to Paul and a lifelong friend of Barnabas. He was in Rome with Peter and Paul but escaped the Neronian persecution. According to the historian Eusebius, he traveled to Egypt and founded the great Alexandrian Church there. Also, it is believed that he was martyred there by a mob of angry pagans.

Mark is generally regarded as the author of the second gospel, which bears his name. It is sometimes called the "Gentile Gospel" because it seems to be directed more towards a Gentile than a Jewish audience.

Almighty God, we thank you for the Gospel of your Son Jesus Christ, committed to his Church by the hand of your evangelist Saint Mark; and we pray that, being firmly grounded in its truth, we may be faithful to its teaching both in word and deed; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

One of our parishioners is looking for someone to cut her grass and needs help in her search. If you have someone you could recommend, please call the church office – 425-778-0371.



Contributed by Dave Wilson

Just once, I want a user name and password prompt to say, "close enough."

Camping: Where you spend a small fortune to live like a homeless person.

I went to an antique show and people were bidding on me.

People who wonder if the glass is half full or half empty miss the point. The glass is refillable.

Sometimes it takes me all day to get nothing done.

I came. I saw. I forgot what I was doing.
Retraced my steps. Got lost on the way back.
Now I have no idea what is going on.

Losing weight doesn't seem to be working for me so now I am going to concentrate on getting taller.



ST. ALBAN'S YouTube CHANNEL

There is an alternative option for viewing our Worship services. You can view on either Facebook or YouTube. In the center of our website front page is a link to the YouTube symbol as pictured above. If you have problems with Facebook, try YouTube.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS

APRIL 25 – EASTER 4

Hired hand or shepherd? Jesus says the hired hand runs away because he does not really care for the sheep. The shepherd, on the other hand, will lay down his own life for his flock. Do we run away from service to others, or are we willing to give of our own lives in the name of the God who loves us, and gave His all for us?

April 25 -- Collect

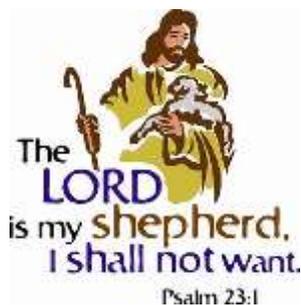
O God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people: Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen

MAY 2 – EASTER 5

When Philip hastens to the Ethiopian's chariot, it is to help him understand his unfamiliar reading and to interpret it in the light of Jesus as the Good News. As "stewards in training," what part does the intentional study of Scripture play in our search to know and serve God – and to then proclaim the Good News to others?

May 2 – Collect

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen



The sheep is worthy of divine rescue simply because it is loved by the Good Shepherd.
Dieter F. Uchtdorf

ST. ALBAN'S CURRENT OFFICE HOURS

Monday 10:30 - 12:30pm; 2:00 – 4:00 pm
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.

To maintain social distancing and minimize any possible exposures to Covid-19, please observe the following:

- 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 in 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.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

APRIL 25 – EASTER 4

Acts 4:5-12
Psalm 23
1 John 3:16-24
John 10:11-18

MAY 2 – EASTER 5

Acts 8:26-40
Psalm 22:24-30
1 John 4:7-21
John 15:1-

WEEKLY SUNDAY BASKET OFFERINGS

1st week—Food Bank
2nd week—Discretionary Fund
3rd week—Outreach – Washington Kids in Transition
4th week—Capital Improvements
5th Week—One Thousand Days of Light (ERD)

GREG'S HOME OFFICE HOURS

Monday to Thursday 8:30am – 2:30 pm
Via email: gwpeters.stalbansedmonds@gmail.com
Cell: 206-778-1506

WEDNESDAY in CHURCH OFFICE—discontinued for now due to increase in Covid cases.

SUNDAYS--after church coffee hour until 2:00pm
Available by appointment

