

## AROUND THE PARISH

December 30, 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.

### SUNDAY ACTIVITIES

Sunday Eucharist on Facebook or YouTube, 10:30am

1/2 10:30am, Live Streamed Service only from  
Fr. Greg's home due to weather conditions

1/2 Adult Bible Study, 9:15am, Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86545992628?pwd=d08vTmZNbmk1SW1PUXFybmdpMXNYdz09>

Meeting ID: 865 4599 2628 Passcode: SeekFirst

1/2 Templo Emanuel, 2:00-5:00pm

NOTE: No Facebook account? Watch the Sunday service  
on YouTube or later as a video on Facebook link.



Fr. Greg Peters

I hope you're all enjoying the quiet of this last week. Advent can be so frenetically busy that the days after Christmas can be an emotional letdown. This snow and ice have made it possible for us, at least, to simply stop what we're normally doing (which is running around in as many directions as possible because movement and doing stuff gives us a sense of meaning and purpose) and slow down.

This is probably what we should have actually been doing in Advent; preparing our interior lives, more than preparing our surroundings, for welcoming the Christchild. Ah well, humans, sometimes we just get things in reverse order, but God is somehow still praised!

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services were lovely.

Thank you, Altar Guild, for making our worship so beautiful.

Thank you, Wendre, Jacob, and Shannon, for the festive "to go Coffee Hour" afterwards. (Jacob, you don't know how sorry I am that I only got a few cups of your amazing hot chocolate!)

Thank you, Phil and Denise, for keeping us virtually connected.

Thank you, Roger, Dan, and the Communications Team, for keeping us all informed about the service times and changes caused by the weather.

Thank you, John, for leading us in song and deepening our worship through music.

Thank you, Jeannie, for the beautiful and evocative bulletin covers and the contents therein that kept us all praying and singing the same things at the same time regardless of where we are in the world.

And particular thanks to all you working behind the scenes to fold bulletins; clean up after the services; wipe down tables and do dishes after the coffee hours; count and deposit alms, oblations, and gifts; invite friends and family to our services; greet people at the door and guide them to safely distanced seats; water

### UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

1/3 Boy Scouts, 7:00pm, Parish Hall

1/6 Templo Emanuel, 7:00-9:00pm, Sanctuary

1/7 Templo Emanuel, 7:00-8:30pm, Annex

1/16 Taizé, 7:00pm, Online

### CHURCH PLEDGES & DONATIONS

Please continue donations and pledges. Mail check to church

- 21405-82<sup>nd</sup> 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](http://www.StAlbansEdmonds.org) and click on "Donate Now."



the poinsettias; light candles before the services and put them out after; read lessons; lead prayers; and turn out the lights!

On a personal note, it was so good to see you all -- some people, who I hadn't seen since the onset of the pandemic! There was a handful of new people, first time worshippers, which was both surprising because of the pandemic and delightfully normal.

And then the weather forecast came true! We had to cancel in-person worship on Sunday, but Jim gathered the few people who showed up at the church and mustered them to lead the worship in reading and leading prayers. And together, though separated by half a county, we were able to conduct the 10:30am service.

As I write this, more snow is falling, and it is supposed to remain through this coming weekend, so **we'll again NOT be having in-person worship this coming Sunday, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the Christmas Season.** We will still livestream the 10:30am service, but from the safety of our homes, and this time we'll have John connected to play and lead us in song.

Looking ahead to the next couple of Sundays, it looks like the number of Covid infections continues to rise as it has been the last few weeks -- exponentially -- so **we will not be having in-person services on January 9** and may have to continue that longer. I know that this will feel like a setback, but we have always stated that if there were pandemic resurgences we would refrain from in-person worship. Look for notifications about this.

Our Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 23. As in the past, we will have one joint service at 9:30am with the Meeting following. Again, and as we did last year, if we cancel in-person service, we will hold the Annual Meeting virtually via Zoom. Regardless, **if you lead a ministry, please submit your written report to Jeannie by January 9**, so she can include them in our Annual Parish Report.

Lastly, thank you to Jim Gilman and the several volunteers who have opened the Parish Hall as a **Warming Center** during this cold weather. Jim reports that there have only been a few people coming in out of the cold, but that they have been welcomed in, provided with warm drinks, revitalizing food, and good ears for listening.

We've had a couple of people volunteer who are not members of our congregation. And the folks from the Café Ladro around the corner saw the A-boards put out on the street corners directing people to the Warming Center and brought by pastries and coffee because they wanted to help, too!

Just like how the Drive-up Food Bank brings out our neighbors, this is an amazing and wonderful way for gathering our neighbors to join in Jesus's ministry with those in need. I don't know about you, but this is inspiring and warms my soul!

What a fitting way of welcoming the Christ child and ending the year!

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ child. Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever. Ray Pritchard.



**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING ---**  
**SUNDAY, JANUARY 23, 2022**

Our Annual Parish Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 23, 2022. We will inform you of the meeting details shortly. The meeting may be via Zoom due to current increasing Covid numbers.

Ministry reports are due to Jeannie Wells by **Sunday, January 9**. She has sent copies of last year's reports to ministry leaders.

Covid has changed many things, but St. Alban's is still in need of help through Vestry leadership, as well as its financial and facilities guidance. Vestry meetings have been on Zoom this past year and will continue to be so. Life and activities around the church have hardly been normal and at times a challenge. But we have managed to adapt, and we continue to volunteer our time and finances to support not only ourselves, but many outreach opportunities.

The nomination committee is meeting to recruit parishioners to serve on next year's Vestry. Retiring members are Carrie Cone, Carol Gordon, Susan Hanson and Eric Hanson who has been serving the past few months in place of Jim Nichols who passed away.

In addition, convention delegates are needed, but Cyndi and Jake Jacobson have expressed a willingness to serve again. The Diocese of Olympia convention is held in late October or early November of each year.



**“MISSION: JOY” – On Line Screening via Zoom, January 10, 2022, at 6:30pm PT**

The Meaningful Movie Project offered by the Diocese of Olympia is happy to partner with Meaningful Movies Port Townsend, Quimper Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, to offer an online screening of **Mission: JOY**, featuring Archbishop Desmond Tutu and His Holiness the Dalai Lama on **Monday, January 10 at 6:30pm PT via Zoom**. There will be a panel discussion and community conversation that will follow the screening.

Deeply moving and laugh-out-loud funny, **Mission: JOY** is a documentary with unprecedented access to the unlikely friendship of two international icons who transcend religion: His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Tutu. These self-described mischievous brothers give a master class in how to create joy in a world that was never easy for them.

*NOTE: Desmond Tutu died peacefully at age 90 on December 26, 2021, in Cape Town, South Africa. He was a South African priest and human rights activist who won a Nobel Peace Prize for his work fighting apartheid, racial injustice and homophobia.*

Blue Christmas/The Longest Night service was live streamed on Wednesday, December 29, at 6:00pm. It is available for viewing on the church website.



**OUTREACH NOMINATIONS**

Nominations are being sought for our quarterly outreach donations starting with the 2nd quarter of 2022. Suggestions are due by January 9th. Once the list is created, we will provide opportunities for voting by members of the congregation, starting at the Annual Meeting on January 23. Suggestions can be sent to a member of the Outreach Donation Ministry Team or to the church office by telephone or email.

As a reminder, organizations recognized this past year (Washington Kids in Transition—2nd qtr 2021; Pathways for Women—3rd qtr 2021; Everett Gospel Mission—4th qtr 2021; Domestic Violence Services (DVS)—1st qtr 2022) are not available for one year. If you are interested in participating in this process, contact a member of the Outreach Donation Ministry: Carrie Cone, Connie Forsberg, Mary Fowler or Maryellen Young. Your Vestry Liaison is Carol Gordon.



The **third Wednesday of the month** is designated for **Soup Suppers**, for Faith Formation and Fellowship with fellow parishioners. The gatherings have been either in person or on-line.

The next date would be Wednesday, January 19, at 6:00pm, and Carol Sanderson will be our guest. This event begins at 6:00pm with Evening Prayer. The supper follows at 6:30pm and leads into our Faith Formation program, coordinated by Vestry liaison Jeannie Burpee. She has centered recent programs around “Getting to Know Your Neighbor in the Pew,” and we’ve had great presentations from fellow parishioners – their lives, hobbies, etc. These gatherings have been a time of great fellowship.

Again, due to the recent Covid case increases, it is unknown at this time how the meeting will be presented – most likely on Zoom. Please stay tuned, and we will relay that information to you as soon as possible. Jeannie Burpee has done a wonderful job of giving us the opportunity to know each other better. You don’t want to miss these opportunities.



John Lehrack, St. Alban’s talented Music Director, will present his first Taizé performance of 2022 on **Sunday, January 16, at 7:00pm. This program will be online and can be viewed from our website.** Previous performances can be viewed on YouTube also.

John prepares and searches for special music, poetry, readings and includes lovely photographs in his

online programs. Taizé is a quiet, reflective time in which you can participate in the chants and readings or just sit back and listen.

Isn't this a perfect time of year – after Christmas and with snow on the ground – to relax and reflect on time past? Light a couple of candles nearby for added enjoyment.

**FOLLOWING JESUS TO A NEW COUNTER-CULTURAL, POST PANDEMIC NORMAL**  
**Saturday, January 15, 2022, 9:30am – 3:00pm**

Attend in person at Saint Mark's Cathedral OR online via Zoom, registration required. This is a Saturday gathering led by Bishop Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows. For more information or to register, go to: [Following Jesus to a New Counter-Cultural, Post-Pandemic Normal • Saint Mark's Episcopal Cathedral \(saintmarks.org\)](#)



**OUR DONATIONS AT WORK!**

Episcopal Relief & Development's US Disaster Program staff continues to coordinate with affected Episcopal dioceses as they assess the impact of the intense tornadoes that hit the central US last weekend.

The state of Kentucky was particularly devastated by the tornadoes. The diocese is leveraging its churches and connections throughout the state to respond. They are providing shelter, food, clothing and direct cash assistance to marginalized communities, such as people experiencing homelessness, refugees and immigrants. Staff and volunteers have also set up community coffees in Bowling Green to provide a listening ear for those who need it, and meals for first responders in Bowling Green, Murray, Mayfield and Paducah.

Please continue to pray for people who have been affected by the recent tornadoes and consider making a donation to Episcopal Relief & Development's US Disaster Fund to support the organization's response. [www.episcopalrelief.org](http://www.episcopalrelief.org)

**The 2022 Church Calendar is available for sale for \$4.00 each. This calendar includes the special days of celebration, as well as the readings. Call or email the church office and a calendar can be left for you in the brown box outside the sacristy door. Please leave your \$4.00 in the brown box.**



From Dave Wilson

During his physical, the doctor asked the patient about his daily activity level.

He described a typical day this way:

“Well, yesterday afternoon, I waded along the edge of a lake, drank eight beers, escaped from wild hogs in heavy brush, jumped away from an aggressive rattlesnake, marched down several rocky hills, stood in a patch of poison ivy and crawled out of quicksand.”

“You must be one heck of an outdoorsman!”

“NAH,” the patient replied. “I'm just a lousy golfer.”

**STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS**

**JANUARY 1 – HOLY NAME**

*“The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.”* And gracious to us He has been and continues to be! What kind of stewards are we? How do our lives reflect “his face shining upon us”?

**JANUARY 2 – 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY aft CHRISTMAS**

*“Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity...”* How is the divine life reflected in us as we go about our daily lives? Do we strive to have others see the face and hands of Jesus in us? Perhaps it's not too late to make such a resolution for the coming year.

**JANUARY 6 – FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY**

Herod commanded the Magi *“to go and seek diligently for the child...”* As grateful disciples and stewards, we need also to search for Jesus, to listen to his teachings, to worship together as a supporting community, and to carry out his mandate to love and serve others in his name. May we always be led by the star of his generous and eternal love.

**JANUARY 9 – 1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY aft EPIPHANY, THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD**

*“You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”* In our own Baptism, we have been *“marked as Christ's own forever.”* God is always with us, and

we are his beloved children. He longs for us to build a real, holy relationship with him. Part of being a good steward is using the tools of prayer, study, corporate worship and generous giving to move steadily and intentionally toward that holy relationship.

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

### JANUARY 2 – 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY aft CHRISTMAS

Jeremiah 31:7-14

Psalms 84

Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-19a

Luke 2:41-52

### Collect for 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday aft Christmas

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen

### JANUARY 9 – 1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY aft EPIPHANY

Isiah 43:1-7

Psalms 29

Acts 8:14-17

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22



### YouTube LINK ON WEBSITE

Because of confusion about how to access YouTube on our website, the appearance of the link has been changed. The link is still located in the middle of the front page of our website, just above the link for the Sunday service bulletin. Below is how it now appears on our website. You can either click on the link or copy and paste the link into your browser.

**Services are also available on our YouTube Channel—**

**Please Click Here:**

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC\\_YO1qfoSZfrOP7o\\_7d7zLw](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_YO1qfoSZfrOP7o_7d7zLw)

### 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](mailto:gwpeters.stalbansedmonds@gmail.com)

Cell: 206-778-1506

SUNDAYS--after church coffee hour until 2:00pm

(Available by appointment)

### 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

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](mailto:stalbansedmonds@gmail.com) to make appointment.

- Wear a mask.

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

### WEEKLY SUNDAY BASKET OFFERINGS

1st week—Food Bank

2nd week—Discretionary Fund

3rd week—Outreach – Everett Gospel Mission

4th week—Capital Improvements

5<sup>th</sup> Week—One Thousand Days of Light (ERD)



...more photos



## *Prayer for the New Year*

Give us the kindness to hear with compassion,  
to offer support,  
loving comfort, and care.  
Give us the courage to do what is needed,  
the wisdom to choose  
what is right and most fair.  
Give us the vision to see what is possible.  
Give us the faith  
that will help pave the way  
for a present that's hopeful,  
a future that's peaceful--  
give us the heart to bring joy to each day.



**Photographs from Christmas service by Dan Mullene. Our gratitude to those who donated to Christmas flowers; they were truly beautiful and helped make our services more meaningful.**