

AROUND THE PARISH

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.



October 14, 2022

SUNDAY – October 16

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 Class is continuing to study Gospel of Mark.

<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



Fr. Greg Peters

How about a shout out to all those who put so much work, attention, and care into making Wednesday Night's StewFest such a rewarding event.

Even before the event, so many people took on organizing, promoting, and preparing for it. All that work paid off in a well-attended and enriching evening, with an amazing spread. As was appropriate and fitting with this year's Stewardship theme, there was More than Enough; more than enough food, more than enough time, more than enough to consider, more than enough good cheer and fellowship, more than enough grace.

People began setting up around mid-day. The room looked great – festive and welcoming.

Then there were all the cooks. I think I counted six stews, though it may have been seven. (When numbers get that big, I lose count!) Anyway, there were too many for me to try them all, and you KNOW I think it's positively RUDE not to try all the things that people put their heart, skill, and soul into. And the salads, breads, other accompanying dishes, and the desserts were beautiful and delicious (though, again, there were too many to try them all!). In honor of Indigenous Peoples' Day, and our speaker, there was fry bread! I managed to get one piece and, my, oh my, was it good. I'm not sure where they all went, but I saw some people getting seconds, maybe thirds.

Our speaker, the Rev. Rachel Taber-Hamilton, was insightful and engaging. She spoke about the relationship between Stewardship and Reconciliation, particularly from a Native-American Christian perspective. She had a lot of background information about a complicated subject and little time, but led us on a thought-provoking consideration of history, Episcopal Church polity, the Anglican Communion's participation in United Nations work promoting the rights of women and the environment, ecojustice,

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

10/17 7:00pm, Boy Scouts, Parish Hall

10/19 6:00pm, Evening Prayer

**10/20 1:30-3:00pm, Small Group Meeting, PH
7:00-9:00pm, Templo Emanuel, Sanctuary**

10/21 7:00-8:30pm, Templo Emanuel, Annex

10/22 2:00-5:00pm, Private Event



Photos from Jeannie Wells of Animal Blessings, October 8 and 9.

ethics, and spirituality. And she still had time for questions, answers, and discussion.

The big takeaway for me was that caring for and healing of the earth, sustainability, and reversing (however possible) climate change are intertwined with and dependent upon working with indigenous people and coming to terms with the abuses that colonizers visited upon them, and doing the work of reconciliation to bring all of us back into right relationships. The key is relationships of mutuality, honor, and respect graced with humility.

Rachel's address and the follow-up discussion was livestreamed and is available on Facebook, if you missed it or simply want to view it again.

After all that came the cleanup and even THAT was life-giving and community building. So many hands making light work; so many conversations sparked by Rachel's presentation; so much laughter; such a thorough job.

Hospitality, welcome, insight, warm reception and consideration of challenges, and just plain old fun were all on display that evening. I left church afterward with my belly, but more importantly my spirit, filled. There was truly More than Enough – and plenty left over.

Thank you, promoters. Thank you, setters-up. Thank you, cooks, bakers, procurers, and servers. Thank you, participants. Thank you, engaged listeners and discerners. Thank you, prayers. And thank you, cleaners-up.



Vestry Notes

Fr. Greg Peters

The Vestry met on Tuesday, October 11, for our monthly meeting. Here are the things we would like to report back to you.

1. Working from the information and issues brought by our in-house group of medical professionals, the Vestry discussed revisions of our congregational Covid Protocols. After all these many pandemic months many things have changed in our understanding, in medical advances and community responses, and in the virus itself. We determined that we would begin easing back on and illuminating several of the precautions we've been following. This easing back will begin on the first Sunday of November,

In-gathering Sunday. The details still need some fine tuning, and we won't be back to pre-pandemic practices, but things will get easier and more relaxed. As long as infection rates and conditions don't take a turn for the worse, we'll be on our way to what will feel more like what was once normal.

2. In response to the initiative of the Social Justice group, the Vestry has decided that beginning in the coming year our fourth Sunday Outreach collection will be dedicated to supporting organizations that support Indigenous Women. We are particularly concerned with addressing the high rate of Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women.
3. Diocesan Convention is coming up, on October 21 and 22. The theme this year is "Encountering Jesus in the Garden" with the main emphasis being on Care for the Earth and Care for Communities. Rachel Taber-Hamilton's presentation at StewFest was timely in this regard. There are three preconvention presentations (one each on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday evenings this week) on the Diocesan Budget, the Resolutions being considered, and the Standing Committee's recommended candidate to serve as Bishop Provisional who will serve during the search for Bishop Rickel's successor.

These preconvention meetings and Convention itself will all be livestreamed. Please access them at convention@ecww.org.

4. The Nomination Committee has been formed. The Committee will be seeking candidates for three Vestry positions and two Delegates/Alternatives for Diocesan Convention. The Nomination Committee is comprised of the three out-going Vestry Members (Phil McClelland, Shirley Clark, and Cyndi Jacobson) plus Wendre Vaughn.



OCTOBER 12 STEW FEST EVENT

The StewFest, held on Wednesday, October 12, is a highlight of St. Alban's Stewardship program. This year's annual gathering turned out to be a veritable Feast! There were at least six stews offered, including

chicken, lamb, beef and vegan, plus mushroom soup and split pea soup. Salads, breads, and a delicious variety of desserts were also enjoyed. Rounding out the feast were wine, beer and soda.

There were 20 parishioners present to enjoy the meal, fellowship and our guest speaker Rev. Rachel Tabor-Hamilton, the priest at Trinity Episcopal in Everett. She presented a thoughtful and informative talk, sharing her knowledge and experience as a member of the Indigenous community herself.

Many thanks to those who prepared and contributed food for this special gathering, as well as those who helped with set up and clean up. Thanks also to Liz Bee for all of her efforts in planning this event. Liz, unfortunately, wasn't able to be with us because of a risk of Covid from a possible exposure.

Everyone left with full tummies and a better understanding of the problems facing Indigenous people and how we might be able to help.

ONE THOUSAND DAYS OF LOVE.

ONE THOUSAND DAYS OF LOVE

October is the last month this year with a 5th Sunday. Since 2020 we have been donating our 5th Sunday basket to Episcopal Relief and Development for ONE THOUSAND DAYS OF LOVE, a grassroots, church-wide fundraising campaign dedicated to improving the lives of children up to age six by expanding the organization's global programs.

Through this campaign, we have had the opportunity to help children reach their God-given potential to learn, grow and thrive. This campaign will be completed at the end of 2022. We have already donated \$1,000 and have \$586 in a designated fund that will be sent at the end of the year. You can donate by designating "1000 Days" on the memo line of your check or offering envelope.



MISSION TO SEAFARERS

Ditty Bags for Mission to Seafarers is an on-going project we have supported each year. The Seattle Seafarers' Center provides about 1,000 ditty bags stuffed with basic personal items to merchant seafarers.

We can participate by making drawstring bags or

knit hats, and we can purchase supplies to fill the ditty bags – full size shampoo/body wash, deodorant, toothpaste, decks of cards, notepad and pen/pencil. The seafarers also like board games; treats of candy are always very welcome. Gift cards of \$25 from Target or Wal-Mart are also good options.

Items will be collected during October and later delivered to the Center. Visit their website Seattle Seafarers Center Mission to Seafarers (mts-seattle.org) or contact the center at office@mts-seattle.org.

TERESA OF AVILA (Nun) Mystic and Foundress (died 1582)

Undisciplined mystics sometimes become so enthralled in their rapturous experiences, so “heavenly minded,” that they are “of no earthly use.” A sterling example of a more orthodox and incarnational mystic piety is found in Teresa of Avila, a Spanish contemplative who found time to lead reforms, found a major religious order (the Discalced Carmelites), write a number of excellent books, and engage in countless charitable activities and in theological dialogue with some of the best minds of her day.



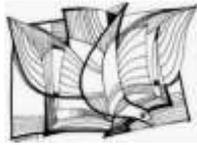
Although a deeply spiritual and intuitive person, she resisted the temptation to dismiss the rational, analytical, and practical. Her powerful mystic experiences with God led her to love, not reject, humankind, and to hope, not despair, concerning human history. Her confidence in God's love and grace for all gave her a sparkling optimism and good humor which enabled her to minister to the heirs of the Renaissance in ways that the more dour and world-rejecting theologians of her day could not. Her brutally honest and deeply insightful autobiographical writings caused Frederick Heiler to call her a modern “psychologist among the saints.” Her openness to change and her reforming spirit raised the suspicions of the Inquisition, and she found herself the center of much controversy.

Her most famous pupil was John of the Cross. Her most famous book is “The Interior Castle.”

(Forward Movement Calendar of Saints)

Individually, we are a drop.
Together, we are an ocean.

Ryunosuko Satoro



DAY-BY-DAY REFLECTIONS

Reflection from Forward Movement “Through the Years,” written in 1989, author unknown.

Luke 5:5 – Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing.

Peter’s words touch our own sense of emptiness when, after a great expending of energy in our work, family life, or ministry in the church, it seems little is gathered from our efforts. At that moment, a simple act of obedience in response to the Word of God can transform the situation. Jesus did not tell the disciples to do something new or different -- he simply said, “Go on. Try again. Don’t give up.” Any doubt or cynicism which Peter might have felt was dispelled when he obeyed. He was overwhelmed not just by a huge catch of fish, but by the presence of Jesus.

Instead of a change of vocation, lifestyle, church, or ministry, God may be inviting us to go on faithfully with our “ordinary” work, allowing that to become the place of epiphany. The French Jesuit Jean Pierre de Caussade once spoke of everyday duties as shadows beneath which the divine reality lay concealed. He encouraged his readers to recognize “the sacrament of the present moment” – that is, its capacity for making Christ visible. We only see the light of God as we take the shadows seriously by entering them. Live faithfully day to day and leave the results to God.



From Dave Wilson

I’ve sung at many funerals and was recently asked by a funeral director to sing at a graveside service for a homeless man. He had no family or friends, so the service was to be at a pauper’s cemetery out in the country. As I was not familiar with the area, I got lost.

I finally arrived an hour late and saw that the funeral guy had evidently gone and the hearse was nowhere in sight. There were only the diggers and crew left, and they were eating lunch. I felt badly and apologized to the men for being late.

I went to the side of the grave and looked down, and the vault lid was already in place. I didn’t know what else to do, so I started to play. The workers put down

their lunches and began to gather around. I played out my heart and soul for this man with no family and friends. I played like I’ve never played before for this homeless man.

As I played “Amazing Grace,” the workers began to cry. They cried, I cried, we all cried together. When I finished, I packed up my keyboard and started for my car. Though my head hung low, my heart was full.

As I opened the door to my car, I heard one of the workers say, “I’ve never seen nothin’ like that before, and I’ve been putting in septic tanks for twenty years.

Apparently, I’m still lost....

FROM THE READER BOARD

Lee Forsberg



STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS

OCTOBER 16 -- PENTECOST 19

The final verse of Psalm 121 says, “...*The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth for evermore.*” How can we possibly respond to such a boundless promise with anything less than expansive and whole-hearted gratitude, generosity and service?

OCTOBER 23 – PENTECOST 20

We pray that God may “*increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and charity...*” Cultivating the Holy Habits of prayer, study, being part of a worshipping community and generous giving can be important steps on the path of our daily journey to grow nearer to God.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

OCTOBER 16 – PENTECOST 19

Jeremiah 31:27-34
Psalm 119:97-104
2 Timothy 3:14 – 4:5
Luke 18:1-8

Collect for Pentecost 19

Almighty and Everlasting God, in Christ you have revealed your glory among the nations: Preserve the works of your mercy, that your Church throughout the world may persevere with steadfast faith in the confession of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen

OCTOBER 23 – PENTECOST 20

Joel 2:23-32
Psalm 65
2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18
Luke 18:9-14

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 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.

PRAYER MINISTRIES

Contact Sheilah Reidburn kiwicat1@gmail.com or 425-745-1390

Prayers of the People:

Prayers of the People 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, Wednesday, 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)

CHURCH PLEDGES & DONATIONS

Please continue donations and pledges by:

- *Place donation in plate or basket at entrance to Sanctuary before the start of the service.
- *Mail check – 21405 82nd Pl W, Edmonds, WA 98026
- *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—One Thousand Days of Light (ERD)

