

AROUND THE PARISH

December 19, 2025

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 – December 21

Advent 4

8:00 & 10:30am, Eucharist Services in Sanctuary

9:30am, Adult Bible study, Annex & Zoom

<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

The Vestry had two meetings this month. On Sunday, December 7, we met at Pine Ridge Post Acute Care facility, where Shirley Clark is recovering from her broken arm. This was the first time the Vestry has had a Christmas Party in the eight years that I've been here. I'm not sure why it has taken so long to organize this, but it won't be the last. We had a great time, doing no business at all. It was wonderful to spend time with Shirley. Her recovery and healing have been slow but steady and she was in fine spirits at the party.

Then last Sunday, December 14, we met for our monthly business meeting.

One of the first things we discussed was our **Budget Deficit**. As you will remember, last January, we passed our Annual Budget with a \$20,000 deficit. Although our projected income did not match the basic needs of our operating budget, we had hoped that our pledge base would increase and that people would once again prove to be generous at the end of the year thereby closing the deficit. And thanks to wise and prudent planning, we have \$60,000 in reserve to compensate for end of the year operating fund deficits.

(Parenthetically, **Budget Reserve Fund** was established several years ago from a bequest after Marjorie Garrard's death. We have utilized that fund very sparingly over the years, and our protocol calls for using a maximum of 1/3 of it in any given year, so we still hold in reserve nearly the full amount that Margorie bequeathed us. Still, we would rather use as little of that fund as possible.)

Over the course of the year, our pledges and other income have been right on track. As a congregation, we have been quite frugal with our expenses. (Presently we are \$6,000 under budget for expenses. Well done!) However, we still have a significant budget deficit. So, we ask that congregation members please consider making a special end of the year gift to our church to help close the budget gap.

Along the same lines, we took an initial look at our

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

12/21 Following 8:00/10:30am, Carols & Cookies

12/24 10:30am, Altar Guild Decorating, PH/Sanctuary

5:00pm, Christmas Eve Carols, Sanctuary

5:30pm, Christmas Eve Eucharist

12/25 10:30am, Christmas Day Eucharist, Office Closed

1/1 New Years Day, Office Closed

1/8 1:00-3:00pm, Discussion Group, Parish Hall

1/10 9:30am-noon, LMF, Annex

10:30am, Mens Circle, Parish Hall

1/13 1:30pm, Altar Guild Meeting, Parish Hall

1/14 3:00pm, Food Bank Distribution, Parking Lot

5:00pm, Vestry Meeting, Annex

1/17 10:30am, Indigenous Circle, Parish Hall

NOTE: See article for Christmas service schedule

RECURRING EVENTS

Mon: 7:00pm, Boy Scouts, Parish Hall

Tues: 4:00-6:00pm, Girl Scouts, Parish Hall, (1st, 3rd)

Wed: 6:00pm, Evening Prayer, YouTube

Thur: 7:00-9:00pm, Templo Emanuel, Sanctuary

Fri: 7:00-8:30pm, Templo Emanuel, Sanctuary

Sun: 6:30pm, AA Meeting, Parish Hall

Next ATP Issue: January 2, 2026

Article Deadline: Wednesday Noon, December 31



preliminary **2026 Budget**. As with past years, this is again a pretty bare bones budget. We note that many other non-profit organizations face similar budget quandaries. It seems that we have not fully recovered from the economic impacts of the Pandemic. We will make our final adjustments to the 2026 Budget, approve it at our January meeting, and present it to the congregation at the Annual Meeting.

Looking at the results of our recent **Annual Pledge and Stewardship Drive**, we were pleased to have received 48 pledges totaling \$139,520 for next year. Of those pledges, five are new this year with a \$7,000 increase over last year.

The **Nominations Committee** is recruiting parishioners to serve on Vestry and as Delegates to Diocesan Convention. We have four vestry seats to fill for next year and currently have two people willing to run for election at our Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, February 1, 2026. The committee continues its work and asks fellow parishioners to prayerfully consider serving on vestry or representing our congregation at convention. If you would like to know more about how the vestry operates, members' responsibilities, and the general demeanor and tenor of our meetings, please talk with a vestry member.

At our November meeting, we approved the installation of four **Security Cameras** to address concerns about vandalism to the Blessings Pantry and the Preschool's playground equipment. These acts of vandalism primarily occurred last summer but have also occurred at other seemingly random times. The cameras are intended to deter this behavior. They were installed last week.

Lastly, we were pleased that our **Christmas Concert** benefiting Chase Lake Community School raised \$150. It was observed that, although this event was pretty hastily organized and the amount raised not huge, this concert can serve as a model blueprint for events to come. The concert brought in music students from Edmonds-Woodway High School and benefited the students and families of Chase Lake School. We are located right between these schools. The audience was mainly St. Alban's parishioners but there were community members in attendance as well. We have established a relationship with the High School music program, giving the musicians a venue to play in front of live audience outside of their norm. Many foundational community connections were made. We intend to build on these relationships.

We are so thankful to all you who helped make this concert a success!



CHRISTMAS PEACE AND HOPE PRAYER

Heavenly Father, As Christmas approaches, turn our hearts toward You. Help us not to get swept up in the busyness of the season and miss the beauty of what we are truly celebrating. Lord, quiet our souls and remind us of the gifts You sent that first Christmas—hope, peace, joy, and love—wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a humble manger.

Thank You for the gift of Your Son, Jesus, our Savior, and for the hope He brings to a weary world. Fill our hearts with Your peace and help us share that peace with others this season. May we pause often to reflect on Your immeasurable love and grace.

Lord, I set my heart on You. You are trustworthy, faithful and the Giver of the gift of peace. Please fill me this Christmas season. As others see Your peace in me, let them recognize You as Savior. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

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CHRISTMAS SEASON EVENTS & SERVICES

December 21 (Sunday)

Coffee Hours – Christmas Carols & Cookie
John Palmer plays Christmas carols

December 24 (Wednesday) – Christmas Eve

5:00pm – Carols; 5:30pm – Eucharist

December 25 (Thursday) – Christmas Day

10:30am - Eucharist

December 28 – 1st Sunday after Christmas

8:00am & 10:30am – Eucharist, Lessons & Carols

January 4 – Epiphany

8:00am & 10:30am - Eucharist



BISHOP LaBELLE'S ADVENT MESSAGE

"Wake up, that's one of those calls that we hear during Advent, right? Wake up from all that is going on around us, wake up from the droning of our culture that says it's all about things and not about relationships. This season of Advent gives us an opportunity to wake up and realize that Jesus is coming once again to help us prepare room in our own hearts, in our souls, for the Christ child to be born."



CHRISTMAS COOKIE SHARING PARTY

Join in the fun and fellowship on December 21st (4th Sunday of Advent) for a Cookie Sharing Party during both coffee hours.

Bring some cookies to share with others and take a few home if you wish. This will be a festive time of enjoying cookies, warm drinks to soothe your soul, plus lively Christmas carols led by our talented Music Director John Palmer.

"BLUE CHRISTMAS" SERVICE, DECEMBER 17



Photos from Debby Wilson

St. Alban's presented a "Blue Christmas" service on Wednesday, December 17. It is a very uplifting, peaceful, beautiful service that brings comfort and great meaning to those of us who may be bearing great feelings of sorrow, longing for what was or might have been, loss of health, and repentance for misdeeds during the past year. God is waiting to hear our prayers and share our innermost feelings.

There were readings, group prayers, music and individual laying on of hands, anointing and prayers by Fr. Greg prior to communion.

Those in attendance felt uplifted and more prepared to enter into the holiday season with hope and joy.

PARISH DIRECTORY UPDATES

We welcome to St. Alban's:

Kinnon McPeak & Anne Underwood
12121 Admiralty Way, Apt T205
Everett, WA 98204
Phone: 702-374-8542
Email: Kinnon@mcpeak.org



TREASURER'S REPORT – November 2025

Nick Sharpe, Treasurer

In November, St. Alban's reported **total income of \$24,987.56**, bringing **year-to-date income to \$176,864.40**, which is **ahead of the budgeted YTD income of \$171,035**. This continued generosity from the congregation has helped sustain our ministries and operations as we move toward year end.

Monthly expenses for November totaled **\$14,641.96**, and **year-to-date expenses stand at \$192,370**, which is **below the budgeted YTD**

expenses of \$198,168. Overall, our expenses remain well-managed and continue to track under budget.

While income is currently ahead of projections and expenses remain below budget, it is important to remember that **our annual budget includes a planned deficit**, and we rely on strong year-end giving to close the gap. As always, we are grateful for the faithful financial support of the St. Alban's community.



EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT PLAQUE

The Vestry approved funds to create a plaque to commemorate the Eagle Scout projects done at St. Alban's. Bill Hecox from Troop 300 helped Phil McClelland locate the dates and people that did each project. This plaque is hung in the Parish Hall. Be sure to take a look at it. There are blank spaces for future projects.

St Alban's has been blessed by these Eagle Scout projects that have enhanced our church and its grounds.

ECW CHRISTMAS COFFEE – DECEMBER 13



Photos from Debby Wilson

"A good time was had by all." Connie Forsberg blessed us all with a fun time at the ECW Christmas Coffee on Saturday, December 13. Connie gave the introductions and put everyone in a good mood with one of her famous ECW joke stories. Judy Fleenor gave a beautiful devotional about friendship.

The usual Christmas trivia game, provided yearly by Maryellen Young, is always a challenge to all memories. Even collaboration does not result in a score of 100%, but a prize is given to the one who answers the most correctly.

The gift exchange tops off our fellowship and gathering. It is a wonderful yearly event, and we thank Connie for her planning and organizing.



ST. ALBAN'S END OF YEAR OUTREACH

Thanks to your generosity, St. Alban's has made several gifts during December.

- We were able to send \$950 to each of the local food banks: Edmonds, Mountlake Terrace and Lynnwood with contributions we have made in the 1st Week Basket since August.
- We also sent \$2,300 to WomenSpirit Coalition for contributions to the 5th Week Basket since April.
- We sent \$140 to Mission to Seafarers from cash donations in addition to the personal items we donated.
- We sent \$96 to Refugee Resettlement Organization/Diocese of Olympia from our Thanksgiving Eve donations.
- We are sending \$413 to the Diocese to work with Episcopal Relief & Development for Western Washington flood relief efforts.



OFFERING ENVELOPES

Offering envelopes for 2026 that were requested on a pledge card are now available in the Parish Hall.

There are a few unassigned envelopes also available. If you would like one, please feel free to take a box, but we request that you sign the sheet with your

name and the box number you took so that we know who is associated with each envelope number. We have lots of envelopes available, and they can be used, not only for your pledge or contribution, but also for any of our basket offerings. If you use an envelope for a basket donation, please be sure to indicate the purpose of the contribution on the envelope.

If you have any end-of-year charitable contributions you would like to make, please consider St Alban's and our ministries.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS

DECEMBER 21 – ADVENT 4

"My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my Savior." If we truly believe these words, as Mary witnessed she did (through the best and the worst), how are our love of God and response to His commission to us reflected in our daily lives and interactions with others – not just at this "official" season of giving, but all year through?

DECEMBER 25 – CHRISTMAS DAY

"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth to those whom he favors." And, we are among the favored ones. He has showered us with blessings too many to count – and now at Christmas time, we remember the glorious gift of his Son. In how many ways can we offer thanks and gratitude for this awesome gift?

DECEMBER 28 – First Sunday after Christmas

"The light shines in the darkness, and the dark has not overcome it." Think about the hymn, *"Christ is the World's True Light"* Hymn 542. Now read Hymn 490, *"I Want to Walk as A Child of the Light."* In this season of short days and long nights, how can we be intentional about being a light of love and caring to those around us, some whom we know, and others who may be strangers? Let your light shine.

JANUARY 4 – Second Sunday after Christmas

Psalm 94 says in part, *"Happy are they who dwell in your house! They will always be praising you."* The

Christmas season is a comfortable and natural time to praise God through all the familiar carols and stories. How then will you covenant to continue that grateful praise in the New Year? How can you make your life as a faithful steward grow as a new year begins?

SCRIPTURE READINGS

DECEMBER 21 – ADVENT 4

Isaiah 7:10-16
Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18
Romans 1:1-7
Matthew 1:18-25

Collect for Advent 4

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at His coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for Himself, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God now and for ever.

DECEMBER 25—NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

Isaiah 62:6-12
Psalm 97
Titus 3:4-7
Luke 2:(1-7), 8-20

Collect for December 25

Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon Him, and to be born this day of a pure virgin: Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen

DECEMBER 28 – First Sunday after Christmas

Isaiah 61:10-62:3
Psalm 147
Galatians 3:23-25, 4:4-7
John 1:1-18

Collect for December 28

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God now and for ever. Amen

WEEKLY SUNDAY BASKET OFFERINGS

1st week—Food Bank
2nd week—Discretionary Fund
3rd week—Outreach
4th week—International Relief
5th Week—Indigenous Women Support

ST. ALBAN'S CURRENT OFFICE HOURS

Monday 2:00 – 4:00 pm
Wednesday 2:00 – 4:00pm
Friday 2:00 – 4:00pm

Please contact the Office, (425) 778-0371 or
stalbansedmonds@gmail.com to make an appointment.
In case of something urgent or an emergency, please call Greg
Peters on his cellphone at (206) 778-1506.

GREG'S OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday Church Office 10:00am – 2:30 pm
Wednesday Church Office 10:00am – 2:30pm
Thursday Home 10:00am – 2:00pm
(Available by appointment)
Via email: gwpeters.stalbansedmonds@gmail.com
Cell: 206-778-1506
SUNDAYS--after church coffee hour until 2:00pm
(Available by appointment)

PRAYER MINISTRIES

Contact Sheilah Reidburn at sheilahreidburn@comcast.net
or 206-427-1920.

Prayers of the People:

Prayers of the People are used during 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.

CHURCH PLEDGES & DONATIONS

Please continue donations and pledges by:

- *Collection plates and baskets on Sunday.
- *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- or use
pictured QR code

