

# Gospel Grapevine

The newsletter of St. Alban's Episcopal Church, Edmonds, WA

November 2008

## From All Saints to Advent

November is going to be a busy month at Saint Alban's Church in Edmonds, Washington. We begin the month celebrating the feast of All Saints (All Hallows). The same day we gather in and offer up the pledges from our fall stewardship campaign.

The following Sunday, November 9th, our former rector, the Rev. George S. Wilson, will preach and celebrate at both services.

At the end of that week, in diocesan convention, our delegates and others will meet to look at the present and to build the future of the Episcopal Church in western Washington, as we the people of God are called to work and witness in this land.

On the 16th, we will join together in worship for one service at 9 o'clock, followed immediately by the annual parish meeting. At that meeting we will elect new vestry members and delegates to the next annual diocesan convention.

On the 23rd, Bishop Greg Rickel will preside, preach and celebrate at both 8 o'clock and 10:30 a.m. services, converse with parishioners in a "Bishop's Forum" between services, enjoy our hospitality in the parish hall, and meet with the Vestry.

We will join in worship with our neighbors for an ecumenical Thanksgiving service on Wednesday evening, November 26th, at 7pm in Edmonds Lutheran Church (following Annie's Kitchen, the weekly free community dinner, 5:00-6:30 p.m.).

And on Sunday, November 30th, we will light the first Advent candle, beginning the season of calm yet joyous anticipation with which we prepare to meet the Christ Child.

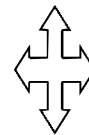
In the midst of all this we will celebrate the lives of parishioners who pass into the larger life, join in the vows with baptismal candidates, and witness the nuptials of those who wish to make a lifelong commitment to each other in the sacrament of marriage.

So a season that begins with costumes and candy, banners and ballot boxes, continues through turkey and trimmings, and then, at the end of this our first year together as priest and people, finds a new beginning in the quiet mirth of Advent-tide.

Abundance, not as the world knows it, but as God gives it, will be present with us throughout the days to come.

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## St. Alban's Episcopal Church

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## Worship Schedule

### Sundays:

8:00 a.m. Holy Communion, Rite I  
10:00 a.m. Nursery Open  
10:30 a.m. Sunday School  
10:30 a.m. Holy Communion, Rite II

### Wednesdays:

9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist



*Thanksgiving is nothing if not a glad and reverent lifting of the heart to God in honor and praise for His goodness.*

—Robert Casper Lintner

## From the Rector's Study



**ANAMNESIS:** An act of remembering that brings the past into the present; that brings the present and events of the past into conjunction, aligning them in unity.

**NOSTALGIA:** An act of the memory serves as an escape from present realities and anticipations of the future into a past colored with yearning.

Geoffrey Cuming taught our seminary class in liturgics just two new words: *anamnesis* and *epiclesis*. This month, I thought I'd tell you about the first.

As we use it in understanding liturgy, **anamnesis** is the recollection of past events, chiefly in the obedient response to the Lord's command, "Do this in remembrance of me."

When he instituted the Eucharist, Jesus led his friends in the symbolic acts that accompany the Passover meal. He reminded them of their heritage. He led them through the events of the Exodus, from the prophecies and the plagues, to the rescue from captivity and the parting of the waters, through the wanderings in the desert and the provision of bread from above.

Most of all, he reminded them of that last supper the people had eaten the night before they were free. And then, he took the bread in his own hands, and said the blessing, as the people of Israel had blessed it for a thousand years: "Blessed are You, Lord our God, Ruler of the universe, who brings forth bread from the earth."

And he broke it, and gave it to his friends. And he took the cup of wine, recalling those ancient days, and with it in his hands he made an offering of prayer and thanksgiving: "Blessed are You,

Lord our God, Ruler of the universe, who creates the fruit of the vine."

All this he did – in accordance with the Law – but he added something that showed Grace in that moment: he said, "Whenever you do this, do it in remembrance of me." Do it, then, to bring back this moment.

Make it present in your hearts. Remember when Jesus offered himself as the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.

Remember him as the one who leads us forth from the captivity of our own self-centeredness, the lower nature with its egotistical, passion-driven desires, into the freedom of reliance on the providence of God and trust in God's eternal abundance.

I'm not sure it's necessary to give much space here to defining nostalgia – that mixture of glad and sad longings that accompany recalling something long ago and far away – and we all know its effects.

If we try to recover a past experience for refuge from the present, or in worried retreat from the challenges of the future, if we try to recreate a feeling or mood to indulge in, we know it is at best a temporary patch on the fabric of time. It will tear away. We do not want to go with it when it goes.

We want to move forward, bravely and boldly, holding on to the promises of God, in the light of the world that dawns in Christ, because however dark the night, as children of the day we know that joy comes in the morning.

Joy opens the heart. –Rabbi Nachman of Breslov.

—Fr. John +

### *Lift Your Voice in Song!*

Our choir is experiencing growing pains and would like to encourage you to join them and carry us all away in song. They practice between services on Sundays beginning at 9:15 a.m. Won't you help us carry a tune? You'll even get special seating during the service. Everyone is welcome!

### *Just Words?*

What is the actual meaning behind those beloved Christmas carol lyrics? Eric Hanson knows, and will be teaching a course in the meaning of many Christmas carols and other hymns, with focus on how they are prophetic. There will be three different sessions offered between services from 9:15 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. on Dec. 7, 14 and 21. Come and enjoy the glorious music and bring your voices. Please contact Eric with any questions, 425-743-3538.

## Dear St. Alban's Book Club Friends,

by Sarah Leech



The Book Club is in full swing! However, if you missed the first meeting, fear not, you may still purchase the book and join us for the next meeting.

Everyone is welcome to join us, whether for just one book/meeting or as a regular attendee.

I am looking forward to reading these inspiring books and discussing them with you! Thanks again for your interest in the book club. And thanks to Maryellen for all her hard work in compiling the surveys and getting the word out before and after our organizational meetings.

The first book chosen by both the evening group and the morning group is **Three Cups of Tea** by Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin.

## And The Reviews Are In

### Three Cups of Tea

from Publisher's Weekly

Some failures lead to phenomenal successes, and this American nurse's unsuccessful attempt to climb K2, the world's second tallest mountain, is one of them. Dangerously ill when he finished his climb in 1993, Mortenson was sheltered for seven weeks by the small Pakistani village of Korphe; in return, he promised to build the impoverished town's first school, a project that grew into the Central Asia Institute, which has since constructed more than 50 schools across rural Pakistan and Afghanistan. Coauthor Relin recounts Mortenson's efforts in fascinating detail, presenting compelling portraits of the village elders, con artists, philanthropists, mujahideen, Taliban officials, ambitious school girls and upright Muslims Mortenson met along the way. Captivating and suspenseful, with engrossing accounts of both hostilities and unlikely friendships, this book will win many readers' hearts.

The evening group may take more than one session to discuss **Three Cups of Tea**, committing to at least read through Chapter 8 by the first meeting.



The second book chosen to be read by both groups is **Amazing Grace** by Eric Metaxas.

### Amazing Grace

from Publisher's Weekly

*Amazing Grace* tells the story of the remarkable life of the British abolitionist William Wilberforce (1759-1833). This accessible biography chronicles Wilberforce's extraordinary role as a human rights activist, cultural reformer, and member of Parliament. At the center of this heroic life was a passionate twenty-year fight to abolish the British slave trade, a battle Wilberforce won in 1807, as well as efforts to abolish slavery itself in the British colonies, a victory achieved just three days before his death in 1833.



The morning group chose the third book to read which is **Amish Grace: How Forgiveness Transcended Tragedy** by Donald B. Kraybill, Steven M. Nolt, and David L. Weaver-Zercher.

### Amish Grace

from Publishers Weekly

*Starred Review.* When a gunman killed five Amish children and injured five others last fall in a Nickel Mines, Pa., schoolhouse, media attention rapidly turned from the tragic events to the extraordinary forgiveness demonstrated by the Amish community. The authors, who teach at small colleges with Anabaptist roots and have published

books on the Amish, were contacted repeatedly by the media after the shootings to interpret this subculture. In response to the questions why—and how—did they forgive? Kraybill and his colleagues present a compelling study of Amish grace. After describing the heartbreaking attack and its aftermath, the authors establish that forgiveness is embedded in Amish society through five centuries of Anabaptist tradition, and grounded in the firm belief that forgiveness is required by the New Testament. The community's acts of forgiveness were not isolated decisions by saintly individuals but hard-won countercultural practices supported by all aspects of Amish life.



#### Morning Group:

Wednesdays  
10:00 a.m.—11:30 a.m.  
October 29  
November 19  
December 10

#### Evening Group

Mondays  
7:00 p.m.—8:30 p.m.  
October 27  
November 17  
December 15





## Bits & Pieces—

### ▼ *Hands On Outreach*

Help distribute food at North Helpline Food Bank—  
Saturday, November 22nd, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
12707 30th Ave NE in Seattle.

Some of us will be going again to the North Helpline Food Bank located in Lake City to volunteer on Saturday, November 22nd. We will meet at the church at 8:30 am to carpool. We'll be back at St. Alban's by 12:30 p.m. This is a fun time because we have lots of food to distribute for Thanksgiving. Not only do we have fellowship with each other, many of the clients are so grateful for our being there and the food they receive. Come see the face of Christ and be the face of Christ. If interested, please call Maryellen Young, 425-776-2461 or watch for the sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

### ▼ *Thanksgiving Service*

There will be special ecumenical Thanksgiving service at Edmonds Lutheran Church on Wednesday, November 26. You may begin your evening from 5:00-6:30 p.m. at Annie's Kitchen for a free community dinner. Between dinner and the 7:00 p.m. Thanksgiving service, there will be music to carry you from table to sanctuary.

### ▼ *Hands On Meeting*

The next meeting of the Hands On Committee will be a Christmas party on Thursday, December 11th at Connie McCutcheon's home. Potluck appetizers and wine are appreciated. For directions, call Connie at 425-640-5498. If you would like to see what exciting things this group has in mind for future projects, and share your ideas, you are also encouraged to join us at the January 8th meeting.

### ▼ *Chase Lake VIP Program*

In 2001, some members of St. Alban's, under the inspired leadership of Donna and Harley Crain, began a program at Chase Lake School to help students with their homework. Many children at this neighboring school came from single parent homes and with that parents often still at work when classes were dismissed no one was at home to help them with class assignments. To address that need, the Crains set up an after-school

program to provide a snack and 45 minutes of tutoring twice a week for students identified by their teachers as needing such assistance.

Eight years later the VIP program continues, now under the leadership of Jim Nichols. Because the requests for admittance to this program far surpasses the number of volunteers we have, we are seeking help from any willing member of St. Alban's to join us in this rewarding endeavor. Ask anyone who has participated in working with these children and you will learn that the joys and rewards of helping a child can make your day! With enough volunteers to match one-on-one with a young boy or girl we can offer each one a relationship with a caring adult.

If you can help us keep the VIP program going, please call Jim Nichols at 425-771-7025.

### ▼ *Foster Child School Supplies*

A special thank you goes to all who helped by donating to the Sleep Country Foster Child School Supply campaign in September. Over 100 items were donated by St. Alban's. Thank you to Lorrie Pruitt for creating the colorful, inviting donation box.

### ▼ *Compass Center Dinner*

On Sunday, October 19th, St. Alban's once again hosted a dinner for the Compass Center. We had about 20 plus veterans enjoy the food we all provided. A simple dinner of soup and make your own poor boy sandwiches with fruit and chips was very well received. The remaining leftovers were left to provide even more meals. Thanks to everyone who provided food and money. At the risk of forgetting someone, thanks to Susie and Jim Nichols, Becky Dawson, Connie & Lee Forsberg, Sarah Leech, Connie McCutcheon, Rita Bennett, Margaret Ainsley, Susan Hanson and Karen Ford. The money provided was enough to pay for the ingredients, thanks to Dan's wise shopping. Reilly provide table decorations. The food was prepared and served by Barbara Lagozzino, Reilly Mannery, Dan Mullene, Lorrie Pruitt and Maryellen Young. Helki was there to socialize with all of the guests. Going there each time is fun because we are getting to know the residents and they seem glad to see us.

We'll be going again on January 18th and eagerly await Chef Dan's menu. Watch for the Grapevine and Bulletin for opportunities to participate.

## Episcopal Church Women (ECW)

*from Connie Forsberg, President*



What a great October for the women of St. Alban's Episcopal Church. Several of us went out to lunch and then attended a play at the "Taproot Theatre" in Greenwood. It was a delightful play and we had two rows reserved for us in the front!!!

For our October dinner meeting, we were blessed with Staff Sergeant Larry Slough, US. Army Reserve, who shared with us stories of his tour of duty in Iraq. He is the son of our member, Shirley Wilson. His family and sister helped us share his memories and the hardships that he had to deal with, like the 140 degree weather! He was very gracious and thankful for all of our care packages and letters of encouragement.

Our ladies stay busy with: the covenant group which meets the second Monday of every month at Marjorie Garrard's house, book club, secret pals, helping with coffee hours, weddings, celebrations and memorial services as well as our own ECW dinners.

In December, we look forward to our annual ECW Christmas party and supporting our VIP program at Chase Lake.

Again, thanks to Mary Fowler, Evie Arneson and Lorraine Parks for always helping set up and clean up for our dinners, plus my husband!

Blessings to all of you, Happy Thanksgiving!  
Connie Forsberg, President

### Birthdays

- 11/2 Darla Lane
- 11/4 Connie Forsberg
- 11/5 Hazel Shaw
- 11/11 Doris Eaker
- 11/18 Person asked not to be advertised!

### St. Alban's Financial Update

*from Chris Greenlaw*

Contributions for September 2008 were lower by 2% or \$191 less than we budgeted. The actual contributions were \$12,407 and the budgeted amount was \$12,599. The expenses were higher by 6% or \$822 more than we budgeted. The actual expenditure was \$13,786 and the budgeted amount was \$12,964.

Year to date contributions are slightly higher than budgeted by 4% or \$4,874. The actual year to date contributions was \$132,520 and the budgeted amount was \$127,645. However, the year to date expenses were also higher by 5% or \$6,135. The actual expenses were \$136,402 and the budgeted amount was \$130,267. Our actual net contribution minus expenses for the year is -\$3,882.

Thank you for your continued support for our church! If you have any questions in regards to a specific budgeted line item for 2008, please don't hesitate to contact me at [chriscgreenlaw@aol.com](mailto:chriscgreenlaw@aol.com) or 206-546-5902.

### Sunday School

Joseph's coat of many colors can be seen on many of the Sunday School children these days. Chris Greenlaw helped all the children tie-dye t-shirts.

The primary class has been learning about Joseph and his brothers. Those in the pre-school kindergarten class have been focusing on the creation.

Dates for the family calendars include baptism on November 2. At that time the children will also gift the congregation with "We Sing a Song of the Saints of God."

Another date to be aware of is Stir-up Sunday, November 30 when the Sunday School will focus on preparing for the birth of Jesus.



*Jesus said,  
"Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."  
—Matthew 19:14*

## A Touch of Inner Healing—

### *Sailing Home* from Shirley Wilson



Life can be very difficult for a caregiver. It's easy to get lost in the myriad of daily tasks that have to be done for the person who is ill. Then there is the emotional rollercoaster that jerks one up and down and back and forth, from hope to despair and back again. That's how it was for Rachael. In this macabre dance, she lost sight of herself without realizing it until her husband, Lee, eventually succumbed to cancer after a long, seven-year struggle. Since she had devoted so much of her time to his care and welfare she was left wondering, "What will I do now with my life?"

When her husband found out that he was ill and facing a long battle, he decided to enjoy the remaining years of his life to the fullest degree. He bought a sailboat; a 40-foot C&C Racing Sloop and took full advantage of the beautiful waters God has given us in the Pacific Northwest. When he was sailing, he felt close to God and creation. However, his sailing days had now come to a close but the memory of them was still very real.

In those last days, Lee was in a lot of pain and it was obvious that he was near the end. His hospice nurse suggested Rachael tell him it was alright to let go; that she loved him and that she would be okay. Rachael knew this was the right thing to do, but it did not ease her grief.

That last night of his life, Lee held his wife for hours, almost as though he knew it would be their last chance to be close. In the morning, her beloved husband was gone and Rachael felt very lost and alone. The Lord, however, promises to take care of widows. Psalm 67:5 teaches that God is her defender. As a result, Rachael experienced the Lord's personal and loving care firsthand in a surprising way. This is how it happened.

That same morning when Rachael, in her grief, was feeling so alone, the phone began to ring. It rang three times. The first call was from Lee's hospice nurse. She related to Rachael that she had had a dream about Lee. She said he was in his sailboat, sailing at full spinnaker and was so happy. The second call was from a lady in Rachael's Bible Study group. She too had a dream about a sailboat. And the third lady called to say that she happened to see a cloud formation that day shaped like a sailboat and knew it was a message from the Lord. None of these women knew that Lee had already passed away the night before, and all three sensed that what each of them saw was a sign from God to comfort the family. It was so meaningful that Rachael put these words on Lee's headstone: "Sail home precious husband, father, friend."

*For more information about Inner Healing Prayer, please call Shirley Wilson 206-542-2944*

## Liturgically Speaking. . .

### *The Sign of the Cross*

Making the sign of the cross is mentioned by the ancient Christian writer Tertullian (160-225 CE) who called it "**the sign of the Lord.**" It was also used as a secret sign among early Christians, especially during times of persecution. For Anglicans, making the sign of the cross is a powerful symbol reminding us that we have been "**sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism . . . and marked as Christ's own forever.**" (Prayer Book—page 308).

Besides making the sign of the cross as an act of personal devotion, it is traditionally made during the liturgy at the announcement of the Holy Gospel, at the close of the Creed, at the words of absolution following the confession of sin, and when receiving God's blessing at the close of the service.

In the Episcopal Church, no one is required to make the sign of the cross as an act of devotion, but for many, this simple act is a powerful reminder of our baptism and of God's constant love and blessing.

—courtesy of Canon Grant S. Carey, *The Cathedral Cross*,  
Trinity Cathedral, Sacramento, CA

## Camp Huston Thanksgiving Family Camp

Looking for a fun and relaxing place to start the holiday season off? Come join the Huston community for the 18th annual Thanksgiving Family Camp.

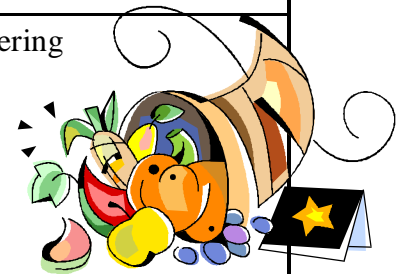
Whatever your families' size, make up, or interests, you will find something for everyone during this weekend full of traditional Thanksgiving dinner, cooked for you by the Huston staff, a table full of pie, and several activities to choose from each day. Some options include our traditional football game, wreath and gingerbread house making, a Christmas tree hunt and decorating, hiking to Wallace Falls, relaxing by the fire, and more. It is guaranteed to be an enjoyable weekend to start your holiday season off right!

Cost is \$160/person, \$100/child age 3-12. The price includes lodging, meals, and activities from Thursday evening to Sunday morning. For more information please visit [www.huston.org](http://www.huston.org), email [info@huston.org](mailto:info@huston.org), or call 360-793-0441. We look forward to this event every year and would love to have you join us!

Calendar—November 2008



<i>Day</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
Sunday	11/2	Baptism @ 10:30 a.m. Service & Pledge In gathering
Sunday	11/2	Church at the Beloved @ 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday	11/5	Prayer Beads @ 7:15 p.m./Annex
Thursday	11/6	Vestry Meeting @ 7:00 p.m.
Sunday	11/9	Guest celebrant Fr. George Wilson
Monday	11/10	Covenant Group @ 2:00 p.m./Marjorie's home
Tuesday	11/11	Grapevine Deadline for December Issue (early due Thanksgiving holiday)
Thursday	11/13	Worship Committee @ 2:00 p.m./Annex
Fri-Sat	11/14-15	Diocesan Convention @ SeaTac Hilton
Sunday	11/16	One Service @ 9:00 a.m. followed by Parish Annual Meeting
Monday	11/17	Book Club @ 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday	11/19	Book Club @ 10:00 a.m.
Saturday	11/22	North Helpline Food Bank @ 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Sunday	11/23	Bishops Visit
Wednesday	11/26	Dinner Annie's Kitchen @ 5:00 p.m. followed by joint Thanksgiving service at Edmonds Lutheran @ 7:00 p.m.
Sunday	11/30	Begin Advent Season



***Upcoming Events***

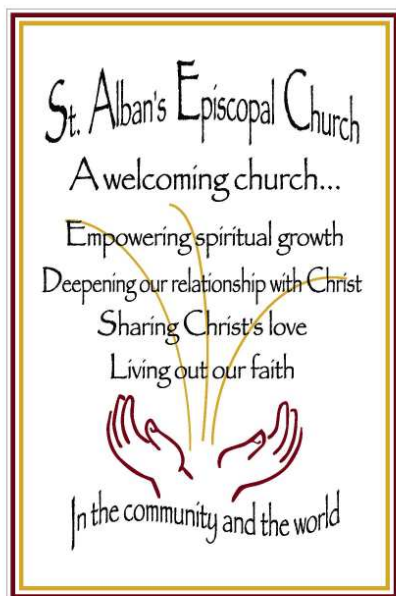
**Recurring Events:**

Music Rehearsal  
Sundays at 9:15 a.m.

Boy Scouts:  
Mondays at 7:00 p.m.  
at St. Alban's

Annie's Kitchen:  
Wednesdays at 5-6:30 p.m.  
at Edmonds Lutheran Church

- December 7, 14 & 21: The Meaning Behind Christmas Carol Lyrics, taught by Eric Hanson
- December 10: Book Club @ 10:00 a.m.
- December 11: Hands On Committee Christmas Party
- December 15: Book Club @ 7:00 p.m.
- January 4, 11, 18, & 25: Living Our Parish Vision Statement, taught by Eric Hanson
- January 8: Hands On Committee Meeting
- January 18: Compass Center Dinner by Hands On Committee
- February 8: Wills Awareness Seminar



## Living Our Parish Vision Statement

Start the new year off with a special course on how to truly live our church vision. Eric Hanson will be offering a guided mediation on the various aspects of St. Alban's vision statement.

This is a four week course with sessions Jan. 4, 11, 18, and 25th between services from 9:15 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.

Know our church vision statement and be prepared to live it! Please contact Eric with any questions 425-743-3538.

## Pilgrimage to Ireland, Scotland June 24-July 8, 2009

Led by the Rev. Carla Pryne and Tom Cashman, the itinerary of this pilgrimage will include Iona, Lindisfarne, Edinburgh, Tralee, Kildare, Dublin, Newgrange and Glendalough. This is believed to be the first Celtic pilgrimage that connects the emerging church communities of today with the sites, the spirituality and the ethos of historic Celtic monastic communities — which were the emerging church of their own era.

The group will visit a variety of emerging church communities, including more mature communities such as those of Iona and Lindisfarne.

For a complete brochure and details, contact Tom at 253-709-8414 or [tomcashman@aol.com](mailto:tomcashman@aol.com).

### St. Alban's Vestry

**Carrie Cone**, *Rector's Warden*  
**Phil McClelland**, *People's Warden*  
 Phyllis Becker  
 John Bee  
 John Greenlaw  
 Barbara McLain  
 Reilly Mannery  
 Erin Munday  
 Susie Nichols  
 Gaylord Sisk  
 Jeannie Wells  
 Shirley Wilson  
 Michael Sweeney, *Interim Clerk*  
 Chris Greenlaw, *Treasurer*

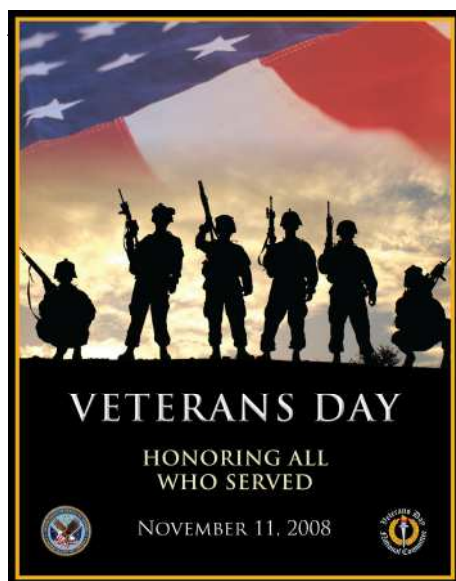


### Staff

The Rev. John Leech, *Rector*  
 Doris Eaker, *Parish Secretary*  
 JoAn Andenes,  
*Music Director & Organist*  
 Joyce Carver, *Director of Children  
& Youth Education*  
 Ben Johnson, *Youth Leader*  
 Nancy Boor, *Editor, The Grapevine*  
 Phil McClelland, *Webmaster*

### Office Hours

Monday & Wednesday  
 8:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.  
 Tuesday & Thursday  
 8:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.



## November 11th

*However horrible the incidents of war may be, the soldier who is called upon to offer and to give his life for his country is the noblest development of mankind.*

—Douglas MacArthur

## Grapevine Newsletter Articles for the December 2008 Issue:

Due November 11

Whenever possible, please send articles for the next issue via email to Nancy Boor at [nancykitty@comcast.net](mailto:nancykitty@comcast.net). Send email messages, pictures, photos and Word and Publisher documents only. Be sure they have a .doc or .pub extension on the file for text files. Or, you may place items in the plastic holder marked "Grapevine" on the wall in the Narthex.

All articles and announcements are subject to editing for brevity, space and content and require name and contact number.

## The Lessons Appointed for:

<u>November 2</u>	<u>November 9</u>	<u>November 16</u>	<u>November 23</u>	<u>November 30</u>
Revelation 7:9-17	Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25	Judges 4:1-7	Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24	Isaiah 64:1-9
Psalms 34:1-10, 22	Psalms 78:1-7	Psalms 123	Psalms 100	Psalms 80:1-7, 16-18
1 John 3:1-3	1 Thessalonians 4:13-18	1 Thessalonians 5:1-11	Ephesians 1:15-23	1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Matthew 5:1-12	Matthew 25:1-13	Matthew 25:14-30	Matthew 25:31-46	Mark 13:24-37

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### Giggle Box:

One clergy family decided to let their three-year-old son record the message for their home answering machine. The rehearsals went smoothly: "Mommy and Daddy can't come to the phone right now. If you'll leave your name, phone number, and a brief message, they'll get back to you as soon as possible."

Then came the test. The father pressed the record button and their son said sweetly, "Mommy and Daddy can't come to the phone right now. If you'll leave your name, phone number, and a brief message, they'll get back to you as soon as Jesus comes."



St. Alban's Episcopal Church  
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