



ST. AIDAN'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
CAMANO ISLAND, WA

2024 Annual Report
for ministry year 2023

ST. AIDAN'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
CAMANO ISLAND, WA

**St. Aidan's Mission is
Loving God, Transforming Lives, and Serving Others.**

**Our Vision is a world transformed by
the reconciling love and peace of Jesus Christ.**

reaffirmed by the Bishop's Committee Feb. 2023

Our Location:

1318 SR 532
Camano Island, WA 98282

Mailing Address:

PO Box 145
Stanwood, WA 98292

Office@StAidansci.org
www.StAidanCamanoIsland.org

(360) 629-3969
Like us on Facebook

The Rev. S. Drew Foisie, Vicar
Vicar@StAidansci.org

TABLE OF CONTENTS

LEADERSHIP REPORTS

Vicar	2
Senior Warden	4
Junior Warden	6
Retired Clergy	7
Sabbatical Clergy	8
Treasurer	9
2023 Results & 2024 Budget	11
Pledge Recorder.....	11
Diocesan Annual Convention	12
Festival	13

WORSHIP

Worship	14
Wednesday Worship	15
Service Assistants	16
Altar Guild	16
Flower Guild	17
Music Ministry	17
Selah	18
Choir and Choir Concerts	19
Daily Meditation	19
Eucharistic Visitors	20
Child Care	20

CHURCH COMMUNICATIONS & ADMINISTRATION

Technology / Communications	21
The Torch	22
BC ePistle Letters	22
Church Secretary	23

EDUCATION

Adult Education	24
Tuesday Morning Book Study	25
Lenten Series	25

HOSPITALITY

Women of St. Aidan's	26
Sunday Coffee	27
Dinner Groups	27

OUTREACH

Outreach Committee	28
Community Engagement	28
Cold Weather Shelter	29
St. Aidan's Bookstore	30
Congregational Life	32
St. Aidan's Bedeswomen	32
Caring Cards Ministry	33
Prayer Shawl Ministry	33
Gathering Place	33
Mission to Seafarers	34
Community Support Groups	34

OTHER

Minutes from last year	36
Resolution regarding Check Signers	37

2024 BISHOP'S COMMITTEE CANDIDATES

Candi Bialon	38
Marshall Eberhart	38
Marilyn Rockwell	39
Leadership Commissioning Liturgy	40
Agenda	41

LEADERSHIP REPORTS

VICAR

Submitted by Fr. Drew Foisie

The year 2023 was a full and active year of ministry at St. Aidan's, Camano Island. Our church undertook a wide variety of projects, big and small, and extended our reach into the community, making connections and strengthening partnerships like never before. We used our beautiful facilities and grounds to host many outside groups and leaders from the broader Stanwood-Camano region and witnessed that effort bear fruit.

St. Aidan's supported Circlewood, an eco-focused Camano Island nonprofit "dedicated to accelerating the greening of faith," by giving their executive director, James Amadon, office space at St. Aidan's while they developed a brand new campus on their forty acre preserve. However, this partnership went beyond simply sharing space. Our Outreach Committee rightly discerned the importance of Circlewood's ministry of connecting ecology and faith and took action by sending significant outreach funds to support their essential work. In addition, an adult forum class based on James Amadon's writings ("Seven Shifts Towards a Better Theology of the Environment") was offered in Lent. In September James stepped into the pulpit at St. Aidan's and preached a compelling sermon that got us all thinking more deeply about faith and the environment. This all dovetailed with the "Season of Creation" project spearheaded by Deb Hubenthal and others that invited the people of St. Aidan's to reflect on ecology and creation in terms of Help, Thanks, and Wow (i.e, petitions, gratitude, and wonder). Taken together, these pieces helped us truly and faithfully lean into the national Church's and Diocese of Olympia's call for a year of creation.

St. Aidan's also used its facilities and grounds to support the Springwood Forest School on days when inclement weather or environmental factors presented a problem. This all outdoor school for pre-k kids, which normally meets at the Four Lake Spring Preserve on Camano Island, found a safe place to land when weather turned nasty. They brought lots of light and laughter to this church and blessed us as much as we may have blessed them.

We were also blessed to host community leaders wanting a safe space for an Easter Egg Hunt for neuro-divergent children and those with sensory and social sensitivities. Our amazing Jr. Warden, Peter Dunphy, was on hand to make sure they had everything they needed and the event was a success.

In addition, this wonderful and mighty church hosted a number of choir concerts and musical ensembles, launched a cold weather shelter, planned and hosted special Sundays for children and families ("Sound of Children Sundays"), had a book fair with

seven different authors and presenters, studied the faith of key biblical figures in Fr. Frank Spina's class "Faith of the Outsider," had a bang-up summer festival, collected hats and socks and winter wear for the Caring Place, donated tons of food to the food bank, and many, many other things besides.

On a personal note, one of those "other things" was a heartwarming dinner to send the vicar off on his sabbatical with all the love and support he could possibly hope for. It was one of the most touching experiences I have ever received in my life and ministry. When I announced my sabbatical in the spring of 2022 I hoped and prayed that the community would be well cared for when the time came for me to step away for four months. When the day arrived I was, indeed, confident that all would be well. However, I was unprepared for the sheer overwhelming grace of God poured out through God's people. First in their kindness and support, but also in their leadership and willingness to help make the sabbatical a success. It was truly a restful and transformational time for me, and I believe, perhaps for the church as well. I give deep thanks for the leadership of the Sr. Warden, Donna Myers, in chairing the Bishop's Committee and being the point person on deck to support the supply clergy and address issues if/when they came up. I give heartfelt thanks for Jackie Humes-Fear and the other Eucharistic Visitors who were there to support the pastoral needs of the community with home Communion; for the Choir and the Kettlettes who brought so much joy and beauty and fun to the send off dinner; and for Frank Spina who could not have been a more wonderful presence and perfect fit as the sabbatical supply priest.

In 2023 we saw Kevin King, Sue Perry and Pam Sontheimer roll off the Bishop's Committee and Allen Feris, Candy Trautman and Dick Philmlee roll on. Each year God gives us amazing people to serve on the leadership board of this church and that was and is certainly the case with these six individuals.

At the time of the Annual Meeting we did not have a Jr. Warden, but shortly thereafter Peter Dunphy emerged as the clear and obvious choice for this role. The number of projects Peter took on in 2023 is staggering. Peter was instrumental in the maintenance and beautification of the church grounds, the sealing of the parking lot asphalt, the lighting of the church steeple, and the installation of a keyless door entry system for the church and Dietel Hall, just to name a few. Peter also started several mission-critical projects in 2023 which are currently underway. I give thanks that Peter has graciously agreed to stay at the helm as Jr. Warden in 2024.

The term of Sr. Warden is typically one year, but we made an exception to the rule in 2023. Donna Myers took on the role in '22 and was willing and open to continuing for one more year. She proved to be an excellent sounding board and partner in ministry. Donna's good energy and unwavering positivity made working with her a terrific experience. Each and every one of us is gifted by the Spirit in different ways.

Donna's gift is her ability to lift others up, see the good in them, and fortify them with an encouraging word. Her ministry as Sr. Warden has been greatly appreciated.

As we head into 2024 we do so with the wind at our back, because so many people wonderfully gave themselves over to be used by God in ministry in 2023. From Steve Jensen and the choir to Vonda Buse and the Altar Guild; from Kara Hunt and the Women of St. Aidan's to the Tuesday Morning Book Study; from the Outreach Committee to the Lectors and Service Assistants, so many make St. Aidan's hum with the beauty of God's grace.

May God continue to bless us and guide us in the year ahead, that we might continue to shine the light of Christ wherever and however we can with the gifts we are given.

With a grateful heart...

Yours in Christ,

Drew+

SENIOR WARDEN

Submitted by Donna Myers

Well, we did it again! We just said goodbye to another year – 12 months of busy Episcopalians filled with God's grace coming together to do God's work. Wasn't it fantastic?!

2023 proved to be a very interesting year at St. Aidan's. It really was a year like no other, as we experienced several "firsts" that truly made it a very special and memorable year.

After nearly nine years as our vicar, Fr. Drew took a well-deserved sabbatical this year. The congregation gave full support for him to step away for rest and renewal and a plan was developed to ensure that there would be no surprises or hiccups that could not be managed during his absence. The congregation sent him off with a party filled with many well wishes and prayers and when he returned at summer's end, we welcomed him back with another celebration. During the time of Fr. Drew's sabbatical, St. Aidan's had the privilege of having The Rev. Dr. Frank Spina (Emeritus), an Old Testament Scripture and Biblical Theology scholar lead us each Sunday to worship and to hear God's words. He gave sermons that filled us with scholarly knowledge and piqued our interest. Rev. Frank also provided us with an intriguing four-week lecture series, sharing insights from his book, "The Faith of the Outsider." It was a new way to look at some of the people of the Old Testament.

St. Aidan's worked with the Emergency Preparedness Department of Island County

and the Stanwood/Camano Food Bank to prepare a place for those who do not have shelter during extremely cold weather. We have cots, blankets, sheets and pillows as well as snacks and hot drink packets for 12 overnight guests. We have county and St. Aidan's volunteers and are prepared to open the Cold Weather Shelter at any moment. One of our St. Aidan volunteers has already made a large breakfast casserole and another has suggested bringing board games and books in case there are children who need something to keep their minds busy until the lights are turned off. St. Aidan's is the only place to offer this kind of shelter in this area. If you would like to get involved, please contact Kevin King, Peter Dunphy or Donna Myers.

The Sound of Children was introduced this year and it was a hit! Like a Broadway show! Bringing our children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews, neighbors and friends to church with us was truly a joyful time! In fact, we did it a couple of times and it just got bigger and better! Greg Myers gave the kiddos a sermon and a picnic followed! We look forward to this becoming a regular St. Aidan's event.

A Wall for Gratitude and Petition was up in Dietel Hall for weeks. It was wonderful to see the many pictures, poetry, quotes and requests to take care of God's planet from so many of you. Thank you for participating.

We have been blessed with many wonderful musical groups performing at St. Aidan's but never have we had the Skagit Symphony here before! A woodwind quintet performed here hoping to broaden their membership. It was quite an evening.

Fr. Drew offered our library space, one that has not been used in some time, to a young priest to use as an office space as his church facilities are being built.

Are you someone who enjoys sitting in different places on occasion at Sunday service? I like to for various reasons, but the one thing I notice most is that there are new people. I think the word is getting around about what a great church St. Aidan's is! Our congregation seems to be growing.

In closing, I think it's important to point out all the wonderful things that happen at St. Aidan's every day because of you. Whether you are part of a ministry or you stop by to help Lenore fold bulletins or you manage the dinner groups, your love of God and St. Aidan's is clear. Thank you. Praise God from whom all Blessings Flow.

JUNIOR WARDEN

Submitted by Peter Dunphy

I am pleased to present an overview of the Junior Warden activities conducted in 2023. Throughout the year, the focus remained on maintaining and enhancing our church facilities to ensure a safe, welcoming, and conducive environment for worship and community gatherings.

Keyless Entry

Keyless locks for the double doors for Dietel Hall and the sanctuary. The purpose of this addition was to improve security for these areas. The software for this system allows the unlocking and locking of these doors at a specific date and time and managing who has access to these areas. Please remember that if you are the last person leaving the premises please ensure all doors are locked.

Parking Lot – Drain Clearing, Sealing, Restriping

One of the major initiatives undertaken was the maintenance of our parking lot. The storm drain needed to be cleared to prevent “Lake Aidan” from forming during heavy rains. Sealing and restriping, an every 5 year event, was done in May. This enhancement not only improved the aesthetics but also ensured safer and organized parking for our parishioners and visitors.

Steeple Lighting:

Steeple lighting was added to improve visibility and identity of St. Aidan’s within our community.

Columbarium Pond Repair:

The 2022 winter created some problems with the Columbarium water feature. This required a major repair of the Columbarium Pond. This initiative aimed to maintain the serene and respectful environment surrounding the final resting place of our beloved departed members.

Contracting for Landscaping, Pest Control, and Roof and Gutter Cleaning

Recognizing the importance of maintaining our church grounds and building and the safety, health, and welfare of our congregation the following annual contracts were created.

Landscaping by Sunshine Landscaping – twice a month

Pest Control by Croach Pest Control – every other month

Roof and Gutter Cleaning by Sky Power Wash

These steps ensured the upkeep of our outdoor spaces, maintaining their beauty and functionality, while also addressing any potential pest-related concerns.

2024 Planned Activities

Ramp, entry, and choir steps will be replaced.

New convertible benches will be purchased.

Main Entry Door Replacement

I am grateful for the support and cooperation received from our community and the help and empathy received from past junior wardens. Your time, talent and treasure have been invaluable in fulfilling these essential tasks.

Looking forward to continuing our shared efforts in nurturing and enhancing our spiritual home in the coming year.

RETIRED CLERGY

Submitted by Rev. Josefina Beecher

St. Aidan's has been a welcoming home community to retired clergy, for which I am so grateful. In 2023 we sadly lost the Rev. Bob Dunn who had served as interim priest and then found a home with Judy Pieper and worshipped and ministered here for several years. I counted him as colleague, friend and mentor, and miss him, as we all do. During Fr. Drew's sabbatical, we were gifted with the presence of The Rev. Dr. Frank Spina, retired professor of Old Testament and biblical theology at Seattle Pacific University. He brought decades of study and experience to the preaching and teaching that he did during Fr. Drew's absence, and it is a blessing to see him when he visits on Sundays. A priest never stops being a priest even in retirement, so I am happy to be able to occasionally preach, share in the Eucharistic celebration with Father Drew, and offer my prayers for this community.

SABBATICAL CLERGY

Submitted by: The Rev. Dr. Frank Anthony Spina
Interim Priest from May through August 2023

General Impressions:

I am immensely thankful that I had the opportunity to minister to this wonderful congregation for four full months from May 2023 through August 2023. Since I have been an Episcopal priest, I have never had the opportunity of sustained ministry like what I experienced at St. Aidan's this year. This was a wonderful gift to me. I am eternally grateful that the Rev. Drew Foisie and the Vestry entrusted this ministry to me. I can say, without hyperbole and in all honesty, that the whole experience was positive for me.

Specifics:

The Rev. Drew Foisie made my interim stint work like a well-oiled machine. Before he left, he saw to it that everything was in place for a transition to an interim priest.

Lenore Challenger is a treasure! She kept me informed, made certain that I had the bulletins for both services on Sunday and, when appropriate, for the Wednesday services as well, and in general "kept me in the loop." She was always accessible, always responded immediately to any question I had, and made my experience completely anxiety-free.

The Vestry (or Bishop's Board) graciously invited me to its monthly meetings. That allowed me the chance to become aware of the inner workings of St. Aidan's various ministries. I found this extremely helpful—these meetings made me feel like I was more than an interim.

The acolytes and altar guild were extremely helpful. My experience is that there is always a modicum of anxiety when celebrating in a new venue. Almost immediately, I realized that I was surrounded by people who did everything possible for me to do my job well. A couple of glitches early on were primarily my own fault. The support I received on a weekly basis was itself a ministry.

A few times I was called on to perform pastoral duties beyond the Sunday and Wednesday services. One involved visiting an elderly man, who mostly wanted company. A second one required ministering to a woman who had had surgery and was in hospice care. Also, I had a couple of sit-downs with parishioners who simply wanted to talk to a priest about issues with which they were dealing. This latter

obligation was generated by people asking me to meet with them. The others were the result of initial contact with Lenore, who was the conduit over the four months.

I enjoyed very much the opportunity to lecture on a couple of chapters from *The Faith of the Outsider* on three Wednesday evenings in June. I think the attendance hovered around twenty people.

Final Remarks:

I suppose in any report, it is appropriate to mention a negative item or two, for the sake of credibility. Alas, I have nothing negative to say (congregants may differ, of course!). When Father Drew first asked me to stand in for him, at first for two months, then after learning about the illness of the other priest, for four months, I considered this providential. I was enormously blessed by the whole experience. After the four months, that sense has only heightened. It was a heaven-sent privilege for me to serve St. Aidan's in 2023.

TREASURER

Submitted by Jeff Maxwell

As can be seen from the accompanying Budget Report, St. Aidan's experienced a deficit in 2023, but not nearly as great as was originally anticipated. The deficit of roughly \$26,000 included \$15,000 of capital improvements that were not included in the budget passed for last year, meaning that the actual operating deficit, initially projected to be more than \$43,000, was actually closer to \$8,000. While we're never happy to see a deficit, \$8,000 is a manageable deficit, which we can hope to recover with prudent expense management and increased giving.

However, our budget for 2024 projects an even larger deficit – one that reaches a level that is not only unmanageable, but unsustainable. The budget passed by your Bishop's Committee at its December meeting projects a deficit of \$50,695. At the end of 2023, we had unrestricted cash reserves of \$131,548; so while we technically can “afford” this deficit, it would leave us with only \$80,000 of unrestricted cash at the end of the year. Two more years of deficits of this magnitude would wipe out all of our cash reserves.

I noted in my report last year that we were just beginning to come out of reduced program expenditures that were a function of the pandemic. We are now fully back to “normal” expense requirements. Our expenses, particularly for payroll and

property-related items, continue to increase at a rate that exceeds the growth in our receipts from pledge and plate giving. It is important to note that expected changes to the Diocesan clergy compensation schedule likely to take effect in 2025 will call for an increase in Drew's compensation that will be significantly higher than has been the case in recent years. Next, our aging physical plant continues to cost more to maintain. Apart from two major improvements that are expected to occur "off budget" (that is, funded from our endowment savings), simply keeping the lights on and the property maintained is expected to cost more than \$7,500 more in 2024 than was the case in 2023. Finally, despite Lenore's diligence in keeping office expenses manageable, some increased costs simply can't be avoided. It appears likely that we're going to need to undertake a comprehensive replacement of our servers and workstations in the coming year, so we expect a significant increase in costs in this area as well.

Notwithstanding all this cautionary information, St. Aidan's is blessed with a generous and faithful community, who continue to provide most of what we need. Pledge income exceeded budget for 2023 (more on this in my verbal report at the Annual Meeting), and Plate contributions – which unfortunately can't be accurately planned for – continue to be extraordinary. Our endowment has kept us afloat the past several years, with extraordinary investment returns, although we can't reasonably expect this to recur every year. Simply put, we will need significant increases in congregational giving to maintain current levels of programs and operations.

I continue to give thanks for you all, and your faithfulness to St. Aidan's. It has been my privilege to serve as your Treasurer these past nine years. I welcome comments or questions from any of our parishioners concerning St. Aidan's financial condition and budget – please don't hesitate to reach out to me individually if you have any concerns. Thank you all for the opportunity to serve in this capacity and for your ongoing support of St. Aidan's ministry.

**ST. AIDAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
2023 RESULTS AND 2024 BUDGET**

	2023 Budget	2023 Actual	Variance	2024 Budget
INCOME				
UNRESTRICTED CONTRIBUTIONS				
Pledge Contributions	184,000	189,616	5,616	192,000
Plate Contributions	36,000	58,100	22,100	42,000
Investment Income	48,000	54,098	6,098	50,000
Special Events & Fundraisers	10,600	25,418	14,818	10,500
Other Unrestricted Income	1,200	946	(254)	1,200
TOTAL UNRESTRICTED CONTRIBUTIONS	279,800	328,178	48,378	295,700
TRANSFER FROM ENDOWMENT	-	-	-	-
RESTRICTED CONTRIBUTIONS	240	927	687	300
TOTAL INCOME	280,040	329,105	49,065	296,000
EXPENSES				
PROGRAM & MINISTRY				
Education	1,500	724	(776)	500
Worship	1,000	1,288	288	1,250
Music	700	764	64	700
Altar Guild	2,375	2,427	52	1,700
Hospitality	850	1,111	261	1,050
Outreach	2,600	15,898	13,298	2,900
Other Program Expenses	1,000	1,972	972	800
TOTAL PROGRAM & MINISTRY	10,025	24,184	(14,159)	8,900
OFFICE & ADMINISTRATION	30,420	25,439	4,981	34,500
PAYROLL & RELATED EXPENSES				
Employee Salaries	156,240	157,915	(1,675)	166,360
Employment Taxes	7,449	8,177	(728)	8,356
Vicar's Retirement & Health Insurance	39,060	39,194	(134)	41,224
Other Employee Expenses	11,160	12,577	(1,417)	7,100
TOTAL PAYROLL & RELATED EXPENSES	213,909	217,863	(3,954)	223,040
FACILITIES	28,465	29,751	(1,286)	37,335
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS	-	15,111	(15,111)	-
DIOCESAN ASSESSMENT	40,606	43,184	(2,578)	42,920
TOTAL EXPENSES	323,425	355,533	(16,997)	346,695
NET INCOME (DEFICIT)	(43,385)	(26,428)	16,957	(50,695)

PLEDGE RECORDER

Submitted by JoAnn Moffett

What a generous community we have – a community of people who give freely of their time, talent and treasure. Without those generous gifts, this special community would not be possible. I am grateful to be part of it.

The Pledge Recorder's tasks are part of a process designed to make sure your contributions are handled properly. That process includes the Ushers and Altar Guild, the Counters, the Pledge Recorder, the Parish Secretary and the Treasurer. The Ushers gather the money and the Altar Guild puts it in the safe. Two Counters check each other as they count and categorize the weekly cash and checks and then prepare a report for the money received that week. The Pledge Recorder verifies the

accuracy of the report, does data input for the system that tracks pledges and contributions, deposits the money, and produces biannual donation statements. The Parish Secretary checks the Pledge Recorder's work and the Treasurer provides general oversight and guidance.

My thanks to everyone involved. First, to all of you for your financial contributions; thank you for your treasure. Second, to the Counters (Patty Dunphy, Jackie Humes-Fear, Kathy Hosley, Kathy McNally, Sue Perry, Marilyn Rockwell, and Pam Sontheimer) for a job well done; thank you for your time and talent contributions. Last, but certainly not least, a special thanks to Lenore, our Church Secretary, who is our premier source of help and information and someone who is a blessing to us all.

If you have any questions about your pledge, your contributions or the statements you receive twice a year, please feel free to call me at 360-387-4080, email me at joannmoffett@msn.com, or leave a message with the office.

DIOCESAN ANNUAL CONVENTION

Submitted by Carol Swain

The 113th Convention of the Diocese of Olympia was held in two parts this year. An in-person Convene on September 30th at the Everett Community College campus and the Convention held on Zoom October 28th.

The Convene was a series of workshops held in both morning and afternoon with time between to visit with members from other parts of the Diocese. Sessions were a variety of topics, such as Fostering Care Through Pastoral Care, How to Improve Your Coffee Hour, etc and there was an area filled with posters on other topics, i.e. Seafarers, Bishop's Task Force on Homeless, etc. Deb Huebenthal and Carol Swain as Delegates; Jim McNally and Kathy McNally as Alternates; and Father Drew all attended the Convene.

Carol Swain, Kathy McNally and Father Drew met in Dietel Hall to follow the Convention on Zoom together. The highlights of the Convention business included:

Resolution 1: 2025 Diocesan Assessment Rate set at 14.5% of net Disposable income (passed)

Resolution 2: Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for Salary Scale for 2024 set at 4.6% (passed)

Resolution 3: Enhance Access to Denominational Health Plan – This resolution offers access to the DHP to some clergy and lay employees who may not currently have access to regular health coverage and care. The number of hours to qualify were dropped to 500 hours annually (passed)

One report covered the proposed resolution for the Diocesan Convention 2014 that will address Clergy Salary Scale Revision to address a commitment to fair, equitable, and sustainable clergy compensation.

The timeline for the selection of the new Bishop for the Diocese of Olympia was reviewed. The final candidates for the position will be introduced by the end of February with “meet and greets” scheduled around the Diocese in April. A vote will be held on May 18th at St. Mark’s Cathedral in Seattle. The delegates at the 2023 113th Convention are the designated voters.

Details for the budget, other resolutions, Bishop’s address, and other Convention business can be found on the Diocesan website: www.ecww.org

The 2024 114th Convention will be held October 25 and 26 in Tacoma at the Tacoma Convention Center & Marriott Hotel Downtown Tacoma.

FESTIVAL

Submitted by Kevin King

Another successful Festival in 2023! We had 35 volunteers through the week and raised \$21,610 before expenses. We also had the generous donation of Arlyne Whitescarver’s 1993 Lincoln Town Car, which brought an additional \$1900. A late year sale of a recently donated, near new washer/dryer added an additional \$250.

I want to thank all who provided support prior and during the Festival.

No big changes planned for 2024. Jim Colby and JoAnn Safranek will be back for the Festival with their new RV. I will be looking for a few more paid young, strong backs to help us through the week and on Saturday. Open to any contacts the congregation can provide.

Kickoff meeting in May and Festival on July 20th. Keep your calendars open.

WORSHIP REPORTS

WORSHIP

Submitted by Vonda Buse

Assistive Listening System

To assist anyone at St. Aidan's who may have difficulty hearing parts or all of the worship service, an assistive listening system was purchased and installed in 2023. The system chosen consists of an FM transmitter, connected to the main PA or speaker system, currently installed in the church sanctuary. The other main components are individual FM wireless receivers with headphones. These receivers are lightweight and portable, rechargeable and simple to use. The user only needs to adjust the volume and toggle them ON or OFF.

Each Sunday, the receivers and headphones are available in Dietel Hall for any congregant who needs help in hearing the worship service. Please give the units a try. There are currently four receivers and headphones available.

Sound of Children

We introduced our first "Sound of Children" worship service on June 25 at the 10 am service. Visiting children with grandparents and/or parents were invited to join the worship procession with flying colorful streamers and tambourines and shakers keeping in rhythm to the music. We had approximately 25 visiting children and the magical sounds of children did not disappoint.

Our faithful friend Greg Myers had a short children's sermon for the kids and the choir selected several lively and fun songs for the congregation to sing and the children to enjoy.

The nursery had recently been reorganized and made ready for the "Sound of Children" service and nursery attendants were available to care for the smaller children.

As an appreciation gift for attending, visiting children received a gift backpack filled with fun activities.

Hot dogs were grilled on the new BBQ and St. Aidan's members brought a side dish to add to the potluck lunch following the church service.

The second "Sound of Children" service was planned for October 1 at the 10 am service and coordinated with the "Blessing of Animals" Sunday. Father Drew was just recently back from his sabbatical and led the worship of little people and all sizes of animals.

We had approximately 15 children at this second celebration of children and

everyone enjoyed the same format of worship and activities as were planned for the June “Sound of Children” service.

Worship in the Round

For most of the month of October and November, we worshipped in the round or more accurately - in the oval. Chairs were rearranged to surround the beautiful new altar, created and built by Peter and Patty Dunphy. The sanctuary took on an intimate space and feel that invited the congregation to a more personal and up close experience as the Eucharist was prepared and presented each Sunday.

In preparation for the Thanksgiving service and our Advent season, the sanctuary was put back to its traditional center aisle and multiple row format.

WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

Submitted by Helen Blume

Wednesday Worship starts at 10 a.m. We celebrate Holy Eucharist, Rite 1. The sermon is replaced with an introduction to the saint whose feast day falls on or near the Wednesday of the service. Father Drew leads us in a discussion about the saint and encourages everyone to participate. The discussion always includes information about the saint’s life and the lessons to be learned from the trials and challenges he or she experienced. The discussions are interesting and thought-provoking.

On the rare occasion Father Drew is gone, the service is Morning Prayer.

During Father Drew’s sabbatical, the Wednesday service was Morning Prayer on three Wednesdays a month and Holy Eucharist, Rite 1 led by Father Frank Spina on one Wednesday per month. The lay ministers led Morning Prayer, and clearly spent a good deal of time preparing to lead the service. We are thankful for Teresa Bennett, Rob Gorman, Jim Miller, and Ann Morgan for their leadership. Attendance on Wednesday remained steady, thanks to the lay ministers’ commitment to the ministry.

Attendance on Wednesdays is relatively small, but Jesus promised, “For where two or three have gathered together in My name, there I am in their midst.” Matthew 18:20. The gathering provides a calm mid-week respite from the stress of daily life and an opportunity to celebrate our faith. Everyone is welcome.

SERVICE ASSISTANTS

Submitted by Kathy Hosley

In 2023, the 8:00 and 10:00 services have remained in person services, as well as the online option.

What changes have occurred is that we have continued to lose people due to illness and family responsibilities.

From all I noticed and what I was told, there were no major issues while Fr. Drew was on his sabbatical. Fr. Spina gave all service assistants time to get used to his way of officiating at the services.

God has definitely always been and continues to be present in the services, guiding all of us. I am constantly amazed at how He guides me in the preparation of the monthly schedules, as many assistants have very busy schedules.

I want to again, "Thank all the service assistants for their dedication to serving when scheduled." There are months when many may not get scheduled where they are most comfortable but where they are most needed. Thank You!!

My hope for 2024 is that God touches more hearts to volunteer to serve as we are still in need of more volunteers. If you feel called to volunteer, please contact me, Lenore or Fr. Drew.

I feel very blessed to be able to help in this ministry.

ALTAR GUILD

Submitted by Vonda Buse

As the New Year begins, each altar guild member takes a slow, deep and relaxing breath ... Preparations for the Advent season have required that all hands be on deck! Once Epiphany has been celebrated, there's a short time to relax, regroup and then prepare, because - Easter is on its way!

St. Aidan's Church has a very dedicated and active altar guild. There are 13 members that make up 4 teams. Each team takes on a two-week service schedule that includes the weekly set up for Sunday and Wednesday Eucharistic services.

During Holy Week and the week prior to Christmas, the responsibilities require two teams to complete the tasks needed for all the worship services scheduled. Serving on the altar guild offers a unique opportunity to reflect upon the traditions of the Episcopal Church, the Eucharist and the holy vessels that are used. In great reverence, the Eucharist is prepared and made ready for each service.

Liturgical colors in Episcopal tradition signify our place in the Church Year and the altar guild changes out the vestments and colors to represent that current time. White is the color of Jesus's burial garments and is used for Christmas, Easter and other feasts or festival days, as well as marriages and funerals. Purple/violet or in St. Aidan's tradition, serum blue, is used for Advent and Lent. Red is used during Holy Week, on the Day of Pentecost and at ordinations. Green is the color mostly used during the year or 'Ordinary Time' after Pentecost and during Epiphany.

St. Aidan's had a lovely addition to its Advent vestments this year. Jo Beecher, assisted by Mary McConnaughey, made the new "star" themed serum blue vestments worn during this most recent Advent season. The new chasuble, lectern frontal, burse and veil are beautiful, and certainly enhanced the celebration of Advent in St. Aidan's beautiful sanctuary.

A committee met last spring and summer to choose from fabric samples and possible Advent designs. The committee members chose the 'star' theme and specified the serum blue color. Jo created the beautiful design and style of chasuble, based upon the input from the committee members. Many grateful thanks to both Jo and Mary for this wonderful contribution to our Advent tradition.

FLOWER GUILD

Mary McConnaughey faithfully and diligently carried out the ministry of Flower Guild coordinator in 2023 with invaluable assistance from Ann Morgan, Gayle Thomas, Gloria Archambault, Lucy Armstrong, and Marilyn Rockwell. No report was submitted.

MUSIC MINISTRY

Submitted by Steve Jensen

The choir continues to present a wide variety of music for the 10:00 service. This variety includes choral classics, spirituals, folk, jazz, early music and contemporary music of all sorts. Often the settings are arranged to suit the time and place as well as the expected attendance in the choir on a particular Sunday. We regularly add varied instrumentation including guitar (acoustic and electric), viola, clarinet, bass, handbells, flute, banjo, ukelele, bodhran, and conga. With the use of modern technology we have increased the range of possibilities and decreased rehearsal time such that we can manage all the rehearsals we need on Sunday and thereby reduce time conflicts with other activities. This year marked the return of the Salmon Bake

where choristers and other members of the congregation presented entertainment for this fun social event.

A few other things that help improve what we do: A musically inclined parishoner has become an official critic of our music providing helpful feedback (more feedback is welcome), Bill our sound engineer is making us sound even better with his management of our audio systems, and we have two more people singing with us regularly this year -Freda and Alice.

We look forward to continuing to support this congregation's mission with our music and to the new challenges that will arise as St. Aidan's continues to grow.

SELAH AT ST. AIDAN'S

Submitted by Jeff Johnson

The Selah Service was offered this past year at St. Aidan's during Lent, Holy Week, the summer and just before Christmas. For several of them, I was blessed to be joined by musicians Janet Chvatal (voice), Lisa Carter (Celtic harp) and Emy Carter (violin). All services were well received and many of the attendees came from outside the St. Aidan's church family.

It's wonderful to think back on the very first Selah service I led at St. Aidan's in 2006. Not all of the members of St. A's were convinced of the idea when Bob Dietel asked me to bring Selah to the church. Yet, I knew all would be well when Louise Close came up afterwards and said, "Jeff, you've won me over!" Such a dear, sweet memory.

While I'm hoping to continue to bring Selah to St. Aidan's in 2024, I'm praying for direction about how best to do that. The intention behind the Selah service when it was first developed over twenty years ago was to offer in a creative and contemplative format a time for people to pray and be still that was enhanced with music and readings from scripture. Selah was never meant to be a concert and I've tried my best over the years to keep it that way. Yet, I'm trying to be open to new ideas that perhaps might simplify things so I'm doing a lot of thinking and praying about this as we enter into the new year.

Thank you to all of you who have supported and been part of Selah at St. Aidan's over the years. It's been a real honor to have had the chance to bring this ministry to the church.

CHOIR AND CHOIR CONCERTS

Submitted by Allen Feris

St. Aidan's Choir. You know, those people that sit in the back, wearing those funny blue robes? Do they do anything other than sing during the offertory? I'm often reminded that the purpose of choir in church is to lead and enliven the congregation's song and worship. The choir also serves as a small group within the church for faith formation and fellowship, as do others within St. Aidan's such as the women's group, the Altar Guild and more. Did I join the choir to do just that? No, I believe I was called to it. The choir is not an elite group, we accept anyone who loves or wants to sing. Many of you have already been approached by me with the invitation "come sing with us!". I'm also called to do other things, such as bringing more music to St. Aidan's through hosting concerts by Cantabile Chamber Choir, whom I also sing with. Cantabile's concerts have been continually sold out at St. Aidan's, with audience members coming from throughout the communities of Camano Island, Stanwood, Arlington and even north into Skagit County. Music is a form of outreach that I participate in and having St. Aidan's immersed in it helps spread the awareness of the Church and the message that "All are welcome".

DAILY MEDITATION

Submitted by Mandy Whitaker

Every Monday through Saturday a Daily Meditation is sent via email and posted on the St. Aidan's Facebook and Instagram pages. These brief thoughts are inspired by a verse or two from the day's lectionary readings and include the verses as well as a brief thought about the chosen scripture. Two new writers joined the group this year. Thank you to Candy Trautman (through October) and Ray Riches for adding their insight. Jim Burns, Pam Sontheimer, and Mandy Whitaker continue to contribute.

During Fr. Drew's sabbatical, this is one of the tasks Lenore took over. She was a great help making sure we were all on the right week for the lectionary and posting the meditations in advance so they went out on time. We are grateful for her stepping in and taking care of this additional task.

We hope these little meditations give people a chance to stop and share a moment with God each day. By posting them online, we share them not only with our St. Aidan's family but with the wider community, hopefully giving everyone who reads them a small blessing every day.

EUCCHARISTIC VISITORS

Submitted by Jackie Humes-Fear

Eucharistic Visitors are a team of folks who have been trained by Father Drew and taken the required Diocesan training, who are available to take communion to the homebound usually at the request of Father Drew. This important ministry keeps those no longer able to attend services connected to the family of St. Aidan's. If you are interested in being a part of this ministry, please contact Father Drew.

CHILD CARE

Submitted by JoAnn Moffett

For most of 2023 our approach to childcare was to make the childcare room available to parents or grandparents when they felt their children needed to leave the worship service. Mid-year a TV was added so parent(s) could follow the service on YouTube when they were in the childcare room. In mid-September, a new volunteer program was put in place: two volunteers to care for children when parents or grandparents decide childcare would be a better alternative for them than attending the service.

This program does not change our general approach – welcoming children in the worship service. It simply provides parents and grandparents with an alternative that allows them to attend the service in-person when the service is not the best alternative for their children.

Each of our volunteers - Vonda Buse, Patty Dunphy, Deb Hubenthal, Kathy Hosley, Ethel Maxwell, Sue Perry, Marilyn Rockwell, Pam Sontheimer, Gayle Thomas, and Julie Vaux – staff the childcare room once every five to eight weeks. If you want to be added to the roster of volunteers or have any questions about the program, please feel free to call me at 360-387-4080, email me at joannmoffett@msn.com or leave a message with the office.

COMMUNICATION / ADMINISTRATION

TECHNOLOGY / COMMUNICATIONS

Submitted by Jim McNally

This past year was very quiet for changes or upgrades in St. Aidan's technology arena. Prior Internet and phone improvements seem to be meeting all needs.

However, a significant amount of time and effort went into reviewing two software packages which came up for renewal this year. The manner in which the original purchases of these two packages were done made it very difficult for St. Aidan's to work with the vendor dealing with any problems or to renew purchases/ support. It appears that the situation has been corrected and all is well. Time will tell! A special thank you goes to Lenore Challenger (Church Secretary) for her work with this issue. Her dedicated assistance and effort made the fix possible.

Consideration was given to replacing St. Aidan's server. The issue was raised by Yeti Technology (St. Aidan's technical consultant) due to long reboot and upgrade times with the current server. It was determined that the issue was not critical and could be deferred to be readdressed next year (2024).

The Torch goes out faithfully by mail and email mail each month thanks to Kathy McNally's steadfast work. This monthly peek into St. Aidan's provides information and inspiration and is a way to connect those near and far.

Again this year the reader board has continued to be a tremendous way to provide the Camano/Stamwood community with inspiration, humor and information of St. Aidan's upcoming events. A very, very special thank you goes out the Society of Sign Sisters (Freda McKeown, Candy Trautman, Karole Gorman and Mandy Whittaker) for their wonderful work and dedication updating the reader board on a weekly basis. If you have any ideas for the sign or want to participate please contact one of the members.

St. Aidan's webpage is continually updated and tweaked to maintain current information and make it more useful. Father Drew has become very adept at making modifications. Kathy McNally provides back-up support. If anyone else has a desire to help with the upkeep and maintenance of the website let Kathy McNally know.

The 10 AM sermons continue to be broadcast live to the St. Aidan's YouTube channel. A direct link for the current Sunday is on the home page of St. Aidan's website along with links to the bulletins for both the 8 AM and 10 AM services. Facebook and Instagram are still being used to help us connect with each other and the wider community.

Don't forget WIFI is also available at St. Aidan's in the Sanctuary and Dietel Hall for your convenience. Network name and password are posted at both locations.

THE TORCH

Submitted by Kathy McNally, Editor

The Torch (monthly newsletter) would not happen without your help. Thank you to all who have sent photos and articles to be included in each Torch. Thank you to all who have submitted photos and articles this past year. Your help is greatly appreciated in helping members of St. Aidan's stay connected. This year saw Fr. Frank Spina as a guest contributor for the months of June through September during Fr. Drew's sabbatical.

By the end of 2023 the Torch was being emailed out to two hundred and eighteen recipients and the number of printed copies being mailed each month was forty-three. Both numbers of printed and emailed versions were a slight decrease from the year before. Two thirds of the mailed copies stay pretty close to home in the Stanwood/Camano area. The remaining one third are still with in the near region except for a couple mailed out of state.

Again - thank you to all who help make the Torch one of the means of keeping us connected with what is happening within St. Aidan's community.

BC EPISTLE LETTERS

Submitted by Candy Trautman

Fr. Drew normally writes the introductory letter for the electronic weekly ePistle. At the Bishop's Committee meeting in April, Fr. Drew announced the need for a stand-in during the next four months. Instead of asking one or two people he decided to trust nine people, i.e., the entire committee. Each of us received our assignments to write the letter for two Sundays, covering from May through August. A little trading and swapping occurred, matching up some members with specific events or activities. We all rose to the task. The summer ePistles received good feedback, connecting the congregation with different voices, providing differing perspectives on congregational activities at St. Aidan's.

CHURCH SECRETARY

Submitted by Lenore Challenger

The major event of Ministry Year 2023, as far as the church office was concerned, was the Vicar's Sabbatical. Although the sabbatical itself was a four month period (May 1st through August 31st), a great deal of planning took place in the first four months of 2023 and even at the end of 2022. I am thankful that Fr. Drew spent so much time planning, organizing, and documenting procedures and agreements. I am thankful for the foresight of Fr. Drew and our Treasurer, Jeff Maxwell, by their providing in the budget extra hours for me for that four month period.

Much of the work of the church secretary is done as a member of many small teams. During Fr. Drew's sabbatical, I took sole responsibility for a few of his administrative tasks, as well as tasks that the two of us usually share. As Senior Warden, Donna Myers stepped in and ably assisted in several tasks. It was a pleasure to work with our Sabbatical Interim Priest, Fr. Frank Spina in yet another team. And I very much enjoyed reading the ePistle Letters and the Daily Meditations that were written by the Bishop's Committee members and others as I prepared them for publication and distribution.

I continued to work on learning how to communicate project needs and tasks for Office Angels. I look forward to getting better at identifying such projects and working with willing volunteers. The work of St. Aidan's relies on volunteers.

In 2023 I started to encounter the finite dimensions and limitations of space and time. I reviewed the St. Aidan's file retention policy and procedures and began work on better organizing and streamlining the office files. That work will continue in 2024.

EDUCATION REPORTS

ADULT EDUCATION

Submitted by Ray Riches

In 2023 we introduced the “Sermon Notes” page. This was influenced by the Bishop’s Committee meeting agenda which included reading scripture and discussing our understanding of it and its impact on our lives. This gives you the opportunity to jot down a few thoughts that you may have while listening/reading the lessons and the sermon each Sunday and reflect on them during the following week. Remember, these are for your edification. There is no test on the materials! The page can be found on the podium at the back of the church along with the week’s bulletin.

In June, we had the privilege of hearing Fr. Frank Spina speak on the “Faith of the Outsiders”. It was a fun and enlightening look at those people in the Bible who were included in the faithful of Israel even though they were not descendants of Abraham. They are a very real example of how God will include all those who seek for Him with a faithful heart. We look forward to another session with Fr. Frank later this year.

This year, Saint Aidan’s connected with Circlewood, a Camano based ministry whose mission is “Accelerating the greening of faith.” Committed to integrating ecological leadership, practical earthkeeping, and spiritual renewal, Fr. Drew Foisie presented “7 Shifts Toward A Better Theology of the Environment” based on James Amadon’s blog, ecodisciple.com. James Amadon was temporarily based out of St. Aidan’s library space as Circlewood developed their new location on Camano Island. We look forward to continuing our relationship with Circlewood.

Between the 8:30 and 10:00 services there is an “Adult Forum” held at 9:15. This is a chance to sit with a cup of coffee and share ideas and thoughts with other parishioners and Fr. Drew. Recently C.S. Lewis’ book “*The Great Divorce*” was the topic. Several people read the book and then shared their thoughts regarding the first half of the book. Depending on which service you attend, feel free to come early or stay late and gain insights to your faith while fellowshiping with others.

TUESDAY MORNING BOOK STUDY

Submitted by Adele Lee

A few thoughts.

A group of four started to read 3000 years of Christianity by D. McCullough. Wow! More fellow Rabbit hole hunters joined. Some of the writers we have attempted to understand; CS Lewis, Fr. Richard Rohr, Sister Joyce Rupp, Forward Day by Day, GK Chesterson, Anne Lamott, Ilia Delio. We meet at St. Aidan's 10:30-noon on Tuesday.

Considering a book by Corrie ten Boom. Last year we hosted Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner.

LENTEN SERIES

Submitted by Fr. Drew Foisie

The Lenten Series in 2023 was called "Seven Shifts Toward a Better Theology of the Environment." It drew upon the work of James Amadon (executive director of Circlewood) featured on his blog EcoDisciple.com. Each week the class focused on one or more "shifts" from how we typically conceptualize our relationship with the natural environment to how we might better conceptualize that relationship and faithfully act within it.

Shift 1: From Static Backdrop to Dynamic Creation

Shift 2: From Human Centered to All Creation

Shift 3: From Independent Masters to Interdependent Servants

Shift 4: From Generic Jesus Following to Bioregional Discipleship

Shift 5: From Saving Souls / Society to Cultivating Life in the New Creation

Shift 6: From Splintered Sects to Creative Collaborators

Shift 7: From an Earthless Heaven to a Heavenly Earth

In summarizing the class one might say that faith is not an escape plan from the world. The ecology of God's creation is not something we can either ignore or dismiss out of hand. It is, in fact, inextricably part of us and we it. We are not merely stewards of something we have no stake in, but rather an integral part of this world God has created. God's redemptive work does not stop at human souls, but extends to everything in the universe that his hand has created. Discipleship is, therefore, an all-inclusive enterprise of participating in God's redemptive work by loving neighbor and caring for creation, which, at bottom, are one and the same.

Presented on Sunday mornings at 9:15

HOSPITALITY REPORTS

WOMEN OF ST. AIDAN'S

Submitted by Kara Hunt

The Women of St. Aidan's hold their meetings on the second Wednesday of each month following the 10:00 service with the exception of July, August, and December. All women of St. Aidan's are welcome to join in this ministry.

We are still enjoying our sack lunch at the close of each meeting that we have been doing since the Covid years.

We hosted a memorial reception for Arlyne Whitescarver on February 20th this year. Arlyne left a generous donation to the Women of St. Aidan's this year. She had been responsible for buying all the kitchen supplies for many years and now the kitchen shed is in remodel to update and make it more convenient to use. This is being done in Arlyne's memory and will have a plaque in her honor.

On April 8th we hosted the Easter Vigil and on April 28th we hosted a "Send Off" dinner for Fr. Drew's Sabbatical Leave. A fun event and we wished him the best.

Peter Dunphy, our Jr. Warden asked if the Women of St. Aidan's would be responsible for planting the flower garden by the flag poles in front of Dietel Hall. In September we planted several ornamental grasses. He also asked if we would purchase the Nativity Scene for the Church yard this year. It was neat to watch the progression as it led up to Christmas!

In October we hosted the "Night of 100 Pumpkins" and as a request from the LDS church next door, we shared the evening with them and their "Trunk or Treat" activity. It was a fun evening with lots of children from their Church attending!

We also had the carpet cleaned in Dietel Hall this fall and we updated our Certified Food Protection Manager Certificate. Freda McKeown volunteered to take the test and now has her Food Handler's Permit for St. Aidan's.

In December we had our Christmas Bake Sale and Christmas items that we hadn't had since Covid. It was very successful. Previous to our sale, Suellen Eberhart offered her home for a craft work party where several of our group met to make ornaments and pot holders.

We chose to have a luncheon gift exchange party this December rather than a regular meeting. It was a fun time for all of us to celebrate the year! The time of our fellowship and ministry is always a blessing.

We wish you a happy new year and God's blessings to you all!

SUNDAY COFFEE

Submitted by Donna Myers

Coffee hour is held each Sunday following the 10 o'clock Sunday service in Dietel Hall. It is a wonderful opportunity for parishioners to spend time with each other and with Fr. Drew. It is a place where friendships form and ministries grow or even begin. It is a place where people get to know each other over coffee and homemade goodies made by our St. Aidan's friends. It is a place where we learn about each other and about the difficult times one of our congregation members is facing. It is a place of fellowship. On some Sundays we are blessed with the presence of each other's children and grandchildren. Coffee hour also provides an opportunity to give to each other. We bring food to the table according to a last name alphabetical breakdown. The first Sundays of the month are assigned to those whose last names begin with A-D; E-L the second week; M-R the third Sundays; and S-Z are asked to bring something to share the fourth Sundays of the month. Other arrangements are made for the months in which there is a fifth Sunday. We ask that those who bring food on their assigned week will all help clean up after coffee hour ends.

DINNER GROUPS

Submitted by Julie Vaux and Brad Whitaker

What a great year we've had sharing our homes, our food and drink, and our love for each other as we get to know each other on a more personal basis. We've grown to include 23 couples and 16 singles. Sadly, we lost our special participant Dee.

We met from January to May, September to November. In June, we all came together for one big Happy Hour.

Some hosts were creative and met for brunch or lunch.

We continued on, missing Father Drew during his sabbatical. We couldn't communicate with him when it was time to renew his participation. We wanted him to stay in the group, so we made our own decision to include him!

We all know the feeling of God's presence as we attend services and visit during coffee hour. What love and welcomeness we all feel. Just multiply that feeling many times over for the fellowship experienced in our meals together around our own tables.

Thanks be to God!

OUTREACH REPORTS

OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Submitted by Patty Dunphy

I would like to express our appreciation to Karole Gorman for leading the Outreach Committee. Her dedication and leadership have been witnessed over the years. I will now be leading this committee with the continued support of our dedicated members. Thanks to Candy Trautman who represented us at the monthly Bishop's Committee meeting.

As you know the Outreach Committee, who represents St. Aidan's, focuses on organizations serving the local area of Stanwood and Camano Island. Our funds come mainly from the annual festival. We annually review local organizations in need and determine which ones will receive our funds. This year we evenly distributed \$14,000 to the following organizations, Camano Center (Adult Care Program), Brigid Collins Family Support Center, Camano Island Law Enforcement (Educational Programs), Skagit Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services, Community Resource Center, Camano Stanwood Food Bank (serving homeless food packs) and Circlewood. Each of these organizations support the local community in a variety of ways.

As you also heard from Fr. Drew earlier, additional funds were used to support the families that owed on school lunches. This was a result of various churches working together to help families in need.

St. Aidan's has been very generous in support of The Caring Place with clothing donations. The Caring Place offers free clothing to people in need in our community. Your generosity was evident with the filled box in the annex. The clothing was received with great appreciation. We will continue to deliver the clothing as received. Thank you.

We look forward to continuing to support our community in need in 2024 and beyond.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Submitted by Gayle Thomas

A little over a year ago, our Bishop's committee decided that it would be a good thing to open up our buildings and grounds to more outside groups. In the past year, we've had the Chamber of Commerce, the Forest school, & a couple of concerts. We also had a group use our kitchen for the Chili/Chowder Cookoff.

The first concert was the Northwinds Quintet. It was a wonderful concert! There was quite a lot of planning involved such as: advertising, ticket sales, refreshments & the need for volunteers. We had thirty plus people attend, a bit fewer than expected. This was probably due to another event going on elsewhere on the same night.

Our next concert was an afternoon of flute music featuring Mandy Whitaker and her fellow flautist, Gretchen. It was quite beautiful and well received. A freewill offering was taken and a generous donation was made to the food bank.

What I/we learned from this was to stick with our original plan. To be hospitable with our resources, without creating excess work for ourselves.

COLD WEATHER SHELTER

Submitted by Kevin King

This year the Bishop's Committee gave the go-ahead for St. Aidan's to pursue an extreme cold weather shelter. A steering committee of Donna Myers, Peter Dunphy and Kevin King planned and implemented the St. Aidan's Cold Weather Shelter. Up to twelve guests can be accommodated in Dietel Hall between the hours of 7pm and 7am on selected days that don't interfere with the church schedule when evening temperatures drop below 32F.

We are pleased to say all elements are in place for this to happen in 2024!

The community graciously donated several items:

The Camano Resource Center set up a tour of a Snohomish shelter and provided sample shelter documentation

Island County Emergency Preparedness and Camano Resource Center provided access to their volunteer networks

Island County donated cots and blankets

Stanwood/Camano Food Bank donated sheets, pillows, washcloths, towels, storage bins and breakfast foods

Arlington Laundry Station provided complementary laundry service

Several Stanwood / Camano Island neighbors signed up to volunteer

Additionally, our St. Aidan's congregation reached out in a number of ways:

Carol/Will Swain, Kusum Batey, David Wood, Kevin King, Peter Dunphy, Ray Riches, Deb Hubenthal, Greg Myers and Donna Myers signed up for overnight stays

Patty Clark, Kara Hunt and other Women's of St. Aidan's members provided breakfast casseroles

Helene Blume and Kathy Hosley agreed to oversee laundry efforts

We have been truly blessed in the support received for this community outreach effort. I look forward to sharing further accomplishments in 2024.

ST. AIDAN'S BOOKSTORE

Submitted by Judy Pieper

ST. AIDAN'S BOOKSTORE is an online bookstore located on Amazon.com. We also have a "real" bookstore every year at our annual festival. All of the books are donated.

Every book that is donated to St. Aidan's gets screened before it goes into the Festival Building. This is important because once the books get mixed into the books that are stored there, we have no idea whether or not we could benefit by listing the book on Amazon.

Every book is screened and if we might be able to sell it for \$13.00 or more, it is listed on Amazon. If the book is not listed, it goes into the barn and will be in our Festival Bookstore in July. If we don't sell the books then, they are donated to one of the local thrift stores. I have raised the minimum to \$13.00 because postage has gone up again this year. The result of raising the minimum is that I am handling less books, less trips to the post office and the average sale price has increased.

All of the books that are listed are stored at my house and when one sells, it is packaged and mailed as soon as possible (usually the same day). I currently have 219 books stored here.

Buyers pay \$3.99 for postage and Amazon takes a fee which is determined by the selling price of the book. For example, if we sell a book for \$13.00 and the buyer pays \$3.99 for shipping. Amazon takes \$5.34. We still have to pay for shipping the item. Shipping has increased to \$4.67 for most books. Average cost this year for shipping was \$4.11. Our average profit \$15.85. I donate the shipping materials.

Amazon fees are high but the advantage is that once the book is listed, it stays on Amazon until I take it off or it sells.

Bottom line, for the year ending on Festival day in July of 2023 we sold 94 books. Average sale price \$15.96. The highest was \$128.99. That book titled “Spring Design”. Another book sold for \$103.99. That one was “From the Fathers to Churches”.

Once the books make it to the barn for Festival, they are not priced but people are usually very generous with their donations. After Festival, the left over books are donated to a local charity.

Please remember that just because the book is “old” doesn’t mean that anyone is looking for it. Rarity and condition are probably the best indicators. Also, remember that we get our books for free and we want to sell them so I always try to have the lowest price. I also believe that we are “recycling”. Since our customers live all over the country, we have a diverse audience for our products.

As you probably know, this is my last year to manage the St. Aidan’s book store. I am moving from my home to a condo and will no longer have a good place to store books. It really doesn’t take a lot of space but you do need to have a dedicated area. I have found this ministry interesting and fun. It took me several years to realize that I could just close the bookstore if I was gone on a vacation. That relieved me from having to find someone to take care of it when I could not. If you are interested at all in taking over this project, please get in touch with me and I will be happy to answer questions and also mentor should you decide to give this a try.

2013 (189) \$1,771 (avg. \$9.37)	2014 (327) \$3,388 (avg. \$10.36)	2015 (347) \$3,200 (avg. \$9.22)	2016 (183) \$1,615 (avg. \$8.82)
2017 (233) \$2,500 (avg. \$10.72)	2018 (215) \$2,400 (avg. \$11.16)	2019 (200) \$2,203 (avg. \$11.01)	2020 (155) \$1,700 (avg. \$10.96)
2021 (178) \$2,120 (avg. \$11.91)	2022 (108) \$1,600 (avg. \$15.81)	2023 (94) \$1500 (avg. \$15.96)	SO FAR 2024 (57) \$958 (avg. \$16.80)

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Submitted by Allen Feris

The Bishop's Committee liaison for "congregational life" supports the community's ministry of strengthening bonds, relationships, connections and that feeling of belonging. Some churches call it "in-reach" because it's like outreach for inside the church. We call it "congregational life" because it's a more all-inclusive term. The birthday cards and anniversary cards that are sent to members throughout the year are part of this ministry. Maintaining a congregational call list for the BC, so that members can receive check-in calls every few months, is part of this ministry. Working with and supporting the Dinner Group coordinators (Mandy and Brad Whitaker) is part of this ministry. Supporting newcomers and the ushers and greeters who welcome them is part of this ministry. But mostly this is truly a liaison role - carrying the needs and concerns of the community back to the BC so those needs can be met as they arise. It was my honor to serve in this role in 2023.

ST. AIDAN'S BEDESWOMEN

Submitted by JoAnn Moffett

When Louise Close founded this prayer group almost 50 years ago, she based the name on *Bede*, the medieval Anglo-Saxon word for prayer. We keep that name to honor her memory and because it reminds us that we are part of a very long tradition of intercessory prayer.

The Bedeswomen pray daily for the needs of those who are in distress or "afflicted in mind, body or estate". Our prayer list typically has 50-75 people who need prayers for a variety of reasons – medical conditions, upcoming surgeries, injuries, substance abuse problems or some other difficult situation. It is our privilege to offer up intercessory prayers for each and every person who requests prayer.

If you want prayers for yourself, a family member, another church member, or a friend, please feel free to call me at 360-387-4080, email me at joannmoffett@msn.com, or leave a message with the office.

CARING CARDS MINISTRY

Submitted by Sue Perry

The first card I received from St. Aidan's was a lovely birthday card. I so appreciated the thoughtfulness behind it. Many thanks to the special card ministers for their commitment to bringing joy to our special days, both birthdays and anniversaries. If you would like to join this ministry and send out cards for birthdays and anniversaries on a monthly basis, please be sure to let our BC liaison, Allen Feris know!

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Submitted by Jan Donovan

Well, old year is gone. New Year and hope it is better this year for the Prayer Shawl Ministry.

Our Prayer Shawl Ministry has been a great source of comfort for a few folks over the past year. On the fourth Saturday of the month at 10:00 a.m., a gathering of women meet. We read the Sunday's Psalm from the bulletin and from Eugene Peterson's 'The Message.

Then we start the clicking of our needles. We pray over the shawl for whoever gets it.

Over the last year we made seven shawls and gave five shawls out.

Hope this year more people will join the group. All are welcome.

GATHERING PLACE

Submitted by Jackie Humes-Fear

St. Aidan's continues to serve the Gathering Place, which is held on Thursdays at Our Saviors Lutheran Church in Stanwood. We serve whenever there is a fifth Thursday usually 4x a year. A menu is created and volunteers sign up for the ingredients. The protein portion of the menu is provided out of the church budget. Several folks then come out on the appointed Thursday to help prepare and serve the meal.

If you are interested in this ministry, please contact Kara Hunt or myself.

MISSION TO SEAFARERS

Submitted by Rob Gorman

Dear Friends, 2023 was a slower year for ship visiting in Everett. The ship traffic has slowed in Everett (and in Seattle). We are not sure of the exact reasons but during the pandemic ships were visiting the Port of Everett on a much more regular basis, now not so much?

We visited 37 ships in 2023. There was also a couple of personal reasons for this slowdown. Our travel trips, but also my foot surgery that had me not wearing shoes for almost five weeks, so I couldn't climb gangways.

Nevertheless we had a very successful year of visiting ships and our Ditty Bag drive collected loads of toiletries and the St. Aidan sowers made many bags. All of these goods were delivered and then assembled by volunteers in Seattle into bulging Ditty Bags.

We have been delivering Ditty Bags to crews at the Port of Everett over the holidays and we will continue to do so for about a month as ships come in and dock.

The really good news is we have one more ship visitor from our Parish. Karen O'Leary has been visiting ships in Seattle with the Seattle Seafarers Center (Mission To Seafarers) and will be ship visiting in the Port of Everett in the coming months. In addition some others in our community have expressed an interest in this vital ministry.

Mission to Seafarers is over 150 years old being established in 1856 in Bristol England and continues to be a vital worldwide ministry providing hospitality for tens of thousands of sailors who are far from home.

If you are interested in getting involved in this ministry talk with Karole, Karen or myself.

Blessings for 2024 and thank you for your continued generosity to this ministry.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT GROUPS

Submitted by Lenore Challenger

At the beginning of this decade, the COVID-19 pandemic took its toll on our community support groups. Prior to the onset of the pandemic we had seven community groups meeting in St. Aidan's facilities. In 2023 we were down to two

regular groups. I am happy to report that we still occasionally get phone calls regarding our facilities for potential group meetings. Alas, as of this writing, no new groups have yet begun to hold meetings here. Making space available to these community support groups is a vital part of the ministry here at St. Aidan's.

Our current community groups and meeting times are:

Monday 5:30 p.m. - AA Turning Point

Saturday 7:00 p.m. - AA It's in the Book

2023 St. Aidan's Annual Meeting for Ministry Year 2022 **Approved by BC February 20, 2023**

The following is a brief summary of the meeting held in person on January 22, 2023 at 10:15 am. Copies of the written 2023 Annual Report (meeting agenda included, pg 37) are attached and the presentation file is available digitally upon request.

Copies of the 2023 Annual Report were distributed through the St. Aidan's ePistle sent on January 17, 2022 and at the meeting held on January 22, 2022. The meeting opened with prayer and a call to order.

Presentation:

- St. Aidan's Mission and Vision were reviewed.
- Voting Requirements per the Constitution & Canons of The Episcopal Church were reviewed.
- Presentation of Bishop's Committee (BC) Candidates: Allen Feris, Candy Trautman and Dick Philmlee were presented as candidates for the open seats on the Bishop's Committee. No other nominations were offered from the floor.
- It was moved by Bill White that the nominations be closed, the motion was seconded by Jan Donovan and unanimously approved. A following motion was made by Adele Lee to accept the three nominated candidates, seconded by Rob Gorman and the motion carried.
- Delegates to the Diocesan Convention: Deb Hubenthal and Carol Swain were thanked for their 2022 service as alternates to the Diocesan Convention. They needed to step forward to replace Brad Whitaker who was unable to attend due to schedule conflict and replace Mandy Whitaker who was serving on the Diocesan Council. Deb Hubenthal and Carol Swain will be St. Aidan's delegates in 2023.

A motion to open the floor for nominations for alternates for 2023 (who will serve as delegates in 2024) was made by Jeff Maxwell, seconded by Dick Philmlee. The motion carried. Jim and Kathy McNally were nominated by Rob Gorman. JoAnn Moffett moved that the nominations be closed. The motion was seconded by Dick Philmlee. The motion carried. A motion to elect Jim and Kathy McNally as alternate delegates for 2023 and delegates for 2024 was made by Jeff Maxwell and seconded by Rob Gorman. The motion carried.

- Senior Warden - Thanksgiving: Thanks were extended to Donna Myers for her 2022 service as Senior Warden. It was announced that Donna Myers will continue to be St. Aidan's Senior Warden for 2023.

-
- Junior Warden – Thanksgiving: Thanks were extended to Kevin King for his two years of service as Junior Warden and all of the projects that he took on in his time of service. It was announced that at the time of the Annual Meeting there is not an announcement for the Junior Warden role for 2023. It is canonically required to have a Junior Warden. It was asked the members of the 2023 Bishop's Committee consider if they would be willing to serve in this role. The role will be discussed and filled by or at the Bishop's Committee Retreat in February.
 - The new and current leaders were recognized and commissioned by Father Drew for their service in the coming year. The three members that are leaving the committee after three years (Sue Perry, Pam Sontheimer and Kevin King) were thanked for their service.
 - Resolution regarding check signers for the checking account was deferred to the Bishop's Committee in February.

Resolution regarding check signers for our checking account:

Be it RESOLVED,

Effective immediately, authorized signers on the St. Aidan's Episcopal Church checking account #*****816 held at Bank of America will be Jeffrey Maxwell (Treasurer), _____ (Senior Warden), Peter Dunphy (Junior Warden), and Lenore Challenger (Church Secretary); and further Donna Myers shall be removed as a signatory of the same.

BISHOP'S COMMITTEE CANDIDATES

CANDI BIALON

I grew up in Spokane, but spent much of my adult life here in the Pacific Northwest, attending an ELCA Lutheran church. My career in the insurance industry eventually took me to the Bay Area in California, where I met and later married Bob. After retiring to a small town in Sonoma County, we attended Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, where we were received/confirmed. During the 10 years we were members there, I served on the Bishop's Committee, Altar Guild, Fellowship Team, and was a delegate to the convention.



At the end of 2021, the pull of grandchildren brought us back to Washington. I was so happy to find St. Aidan's so close to our new home, a faith community where I could continue to worship and serve as actively as I had in the past. I'm currently serving on the Altar Guild, a member of the "Sign Sisters," and the Women of St. Aidan's.

MARSHALL EBERHART

I was born and raised near Woodinville, WA but have also lived around the country. In 1974 I enlisted into the Coast Guard Reserve before I transferred to active duty in 1977. In 1979 I was blessed to marry Suellen and we soon started our family with two daughters; Kristen and Allison. In Rockland ME I was confirmed into the Episcopal Church. After serving 22 years in the Coast Guard, I retired and went on to Western Washington University where I graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Science. For as much as I could, I have continued to follow my Eagle Scout charge of; Duty to God and Country, Duty to Others and Duty to Self. I now hope to serve St. Aidan's with dedication.



MARILYN ROCKWELL

My husband Peter and I moved to Camano Island in 2017 from Bellevue; I joined St. Aidan's the following year. I admire the spirit, commitment, and fellowship of St. Aidan's church.

In addition to attending weekly services, I assist with tallying our weekly offering and with staffing our Childcare. As a gardener, I am pleased to be in the Flower Guild and arrange flowers for Sunday services.

My father was a Naval officer and as a child, we moved almost every two years up and down the East Coast. I have been a member of many Protestant churches. I met my late husband of 30 years when we were both members of St. John's Episcopal Church in West Hartford, Connecticut.

I married Peter, an old friend, and joined him on the Left Coast in 2015. I am close to my five stepchildren from both marriages and to my two brothers, who remain in Maryland.

My degree is from the University of Connecticut in Clothing, Textiles and Related Arts, with a minor in Finance. I spent my career in Financial Accounting – Payroll, Fixed assets, Commercial loans, Investments and Controls. I would be pleased to contribute my time and skills serving you here at St. Aidan's.



LEADERSHIP COMMISSIONING LITURGY

The newly elected and appointed leaders gather at the front of the altar.

Celebrant: On behalf of the congregation of St. Aidan's, I present:

_____ for Senior Warden

Peter Dunphy for Junior Warden

Newly Elected BC Members: Candi Bialon, Marshall Eberhart, Marilyn Rockwell

Jim McNally and Kathy McNally as Delegates to Convention

_____ and _____ as Alternate Delegates to Convention

Celebrant: Have these leaders been elected by the congregation or appointed by the Bishop's Committee and Vicar in accordance with the canons of the Episcopal Church?

People: **They have.**

Celebrant: *(to the new leaders)* Do you commit yourselves to carry out the responsibilities of the office to which you have been appointed?

Leaders: **I do.**

Celebrant: Do you reaffirm your commitment to follow Christ and to serve this congregation in his name?

Leaders: **I do.**

Celebrant: *(to the congregation)* Will you do all in your power to support these leaders with your prayers, your honest yet gracious communication with them, and your willingness to help them carry out Christ's ministry in this church?

People: **We will.**

Celebrant: In the name of this congregation I commission you for this work, and pledge to you our prayers, encouragement, and support. May the Holy Spirit guide and strengthen you, that in this, and in all things, you may do God's will in the service of the kingdom of Christ. **Amen.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

(in unison)

Almighty God, look with favor upon these persons who have now reaffirmed their commitment to follow Christ and to serve in his name. Give them courage, patience, and vision; and strengthen us all in our Christian vocation of witness to the world, and of service to others; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

- Opening Prayer & Call to Order
- Review of St. Aidan's Mission and Vision
- Voting Requirements per Constitutions & Canons of The Episcopal Church
- Presentation of Bishop's Committee Candidates & Floor Nominations
- Vote on Nominated Bishop's Committee Candidates
- Floor Nominations for Delegates to Diocesan Convention (Two for 2 year term)
- Senior Warden - Thanksgiving & Torch Passing
- Commissioning of New Leaders
- Resolution regarding check signers for checking account
- Treasurer's Report & 2024 Budget Presentation
- Vote to Ratify the 2024 Budget
- Vicar's Report (2023 Transitions, Sacramental Data, Notables for Celebration)
- Odds & Ends (Praise Reports, Impromptu Recognitions, Announcements)
- Adjournment and Dismissal

NOTES

ST AIDAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
1318 SR532, Camano Island, WA 98282
PO Box 145, Stanwood, WA 98292
www.StAidanCamanoIsland.org
Office@StAidansci.org
Like us on Facebook
(360) 629-3969