

February 2024

# THE TORCH

ST. AIDAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, CAMANO ISLAND, WA

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## *From the Vicar*

Whether or not you wear the ashen cross on your forehead out into the world after the Ash Wednesday service is a deeply personal decision. I know it is for me. The tension between, perhaps, a certain amount of self-conscious embarrassment for having a strange mark on your head on the one hand, and spiritual pride in being religious and ready to let others know on the other, makes it an interesting position to be in. After some prayerful consideration one might come to the same conclusion that I have regarding this rather small spiritual dilemma. However you go forth with the ashes the two most important

things above all others are thankfulness and self-forgetfulness.

It's helpful to name these spiritual postures aloud, because they are really at the heart of the entire season of Lent.

Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return. These are the words that wash over us as we enter the season of Lent. This pronouncement is like a doorway, a threshold one crosses as one steps into holy time, kairos time, set apart for reflection and renewal in God. However one might think of it—whether as a doorway, threshold or something else—these words carry weight and significance. They bring one's mortality into sharp focus, which for most of us is almost always a passing thought, not a primary one; but Ash Wednesday invites us to consider it and dwell in it. It asks us to abandon our illusions of self-sufficiency and return to child-like dependence on God alone. And it commends this invitation to us in a most strange and wonderful way with the imposition of ashes upon the forehead.

What should never be lost is that this mark upon the forehead is at heart a *blessing*. It's the same cross in the same place that was given to us at baptism. And that's no mistake. You belong to God. The whole of you from head to toe. There is not one molecule that God has not blessed and called into being. The only question and is whether we can hear it and receive it and live by it. Centering our selves back down onto that reality is the work of Lent. It begins with repentance but is sustained by thankfulness. And thankfulness is the road that leads to lasting joy and peace.

For many the Lenten journey includes an element of fasting (or giving something up) or study (taking something on). Taking on one *small* practice or commitment can be a huge benefit. The Wednesday Night Lenten Series is definitely worth considering. The Rev Frank Spina will be leading us through a deep dive into The Psalms, which contain the most widely read, studied, and sung passages in all of scripture. And the only portion of scripture to be printed in the Book of Common Prayer in its entirety. As Fr Frank has said, "Its exquisite poetry, its extensive metaphors, its unyielding passion, and its jarring honesty have contributed to its exalted status in the mind of religious people. Mystics have long cherished this material." The evening will begin with a simple soup/salad/bread supper and fellowship, and continue from there.

In whatever way you come to the season of Lent, and journey through it, may you rediscover the depth of God's love that created you, redeemed you, and sustains you now and always.

Yours in Christ,  
Drew+



## ***From the Senior Warden***

As I write my last article for The Torch, I am preparing to say goodbye as your Senior Warden. It's a very bittersweet time for me. I know many of you must have felt this way as you ended your terms of service at St. Aidan's.

What does one say in a farewell? I believe you begin with thanks.

It is with enormous gratitude that I thank Fr. Drew for asking me to serve in this way. It has been a journey that I had not expected, full of grace and growth. I initially questioned whether or not I would be able to do what was necessary to fulfill whatever things either Fr. Drew or the church would need from me. As I imagine all of you have done when asked to join the Bishop's Committee or to accept a role such as senior warden, after prayer and contemplation, I figured that if Fr. Drew believed that I could "do the job" and when my prayers were answered in the affirmative, I realized it was my time to join the long list of those who were senior wardens before me. I'm so, so glad I did. With time, I found myself comfortable in my new position and that a newfound self-confidence had found its way into my being. Fr. Drew told me it was the Holy Spirit. I think he was right. I learned so much from Fr. Drew on so many levels. I will really miss working with him.

Next, I thank all of you for your support over the last couple of years. You know you don't realize what community means until you really need your community. It's a funny thing, right? The church needs a senior warden but a senior warden can't do their job without the help of the congregation. It's always about the congregation, of course! I reached out to a few of you for guidance and support when I first accepted my new position, but it felt like I asked all of you for a very long, big hug. At first, you came to me with congratulations and encouraged me with kind words and later, you shared your concerns with me and then asked me to share ideas and questions with the Bishop's Committee. During the last months, you opened your hearts and trusted me and began to share more personal things. When I asked your thoughts about possibilities for future ideas for us to reach out in new ways as disciples of God, you gladly shared visions as well as roadblocks and warning signs to watch for. And many times, you did, indeed, give me long hugs. Thank you so much.

The biggest surprise came when I realized that something remarkable happened over the last couple of years. I can't really claim responsibility for it, but my faith, always a very secure, sacred part of me, was actually growing! I realized the power of purpose like I had never really experienced before. The myriad of pathways I found opening before me were always there, I'm sure. I just hadn't noticed them or I just didn't believe I could do them. Now I could help accomplish that goal we had discussed at coffee hour or at Bishop's Committee because now I suddenly knew I was meant to be there to be a part of it, and that meant I could do it. And that's the personal part of this journey that I wanted to share with all of you. It may sound selfish but I promise you, it is far from it.

It has been a real honor to serve as your senior warden. Thank you.

I look forward to where the Holy Spirit leads me next at St. Aidan's. I look at so many of you with awe and admiration as you continue to find new ways to serve. I will follow your lead. Once again, I am so grateful.

Praise God from whom all Blessings Flow

Donna Myers

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## ***Important Events at St Aidan's in February***

February 4	Feed My Sheep Sunday
February 8	Work Crew Day, 10am
February 13	Shrove Tuesday, Pancakes & Trivia, 5pm
February 14	Women of St Aidan's, 11am
	Ash Wednesday, Holy Eucharist II Hymnody & Imposition of Ashes, 5pm
February 21	Lenten Series with Soup/Salad/Bread Supper, 5pm
February 28	Lenten Series with Soup/Salad/Bread Supper, 5pm
February 29	The Gathering Place, 5pm

See calendar on page 6 for more activities and events at St Aidan's.

## ***From the Junior Warden***

Our Junior Warden is off on a much deserved vacation.  
(Submitted by the editor for Peter Dunphy)

After much work done:

- Setting up and taking down the outdoor nativity scene purchased by the Women of St Aidan's
- Kitchen Shed remodel complete - January 6
- Replaced light switch in Vestry room
- Met with the Women of St Aidan's to understand Pat Van Almkerk's request for a front door replacement.
- Installed locks on some storage cabinets in Dietel Hall
- Removed light in Dietel Hall for replacement – 2 week turn around time expected

And work yet to do:

- Ramp, entry and choir steps replacement – weather dependent, new target date March 2024
- Repair door close mechanism on Sanctuary women's bathroom
- Carriage lights for Sanctuary Entry
- Men and Women's Sanctuary Bathroom update
- Lighting steeple cross
- PUD tree voucher – below new power lines



## ***Mission to Seafarers / Seattle Seafarers Center***

January 2024

Dear Friends, as we begin this new year ship traffic has picked up a bit in the Port of Everett.

In late December and early January we delivered Ditty Bags to four ships and the sailors were thrilled to receive these gifts, their Christmas was spent mid Pacific. We will continue to deliver Ditty Bags through January.

We are delighted to be joined in Everett by Karen O'Leary, Karen had visited ships in Seattle but had the opportunity to join us on a recent visit in Everett. On that visit many sailors wanted SIM cards for their phones so they could contact family back home.

We get most of our supplies from the Seattle Seafarers Center in Seattle but the one thing we sometimes run out of is magazines, any magazines National Geographic, Sports Illustrated whatever you may have and want to get rid of we would love to have them. Just put them in the big deck box outside the office and we will pick them up.

If you are interested in joining us on ship visit let, Karole, Karen or myself know.

Many blessings and thank you for supporting this vital ministry.

Karole, Karen and Rob

## ***Love Books? An Opportunity for Service!***

Judy Pieper is moving to a smaller home with no space to continue her ministry of managing St Aidan's "bookstore." For many years she has been culling the books donated to St Aidan's for the annual festival to find books of interest. She has pulled out books of value that she then posts on Amazon for sale, raising an average of \$2,200 annually for St Aidan's. Judy will provide training and help to get a new person started in this important ministry.

Please contact Judy if you are interested in taking over this project.





## ***Cold Weather Shelter Update***

The volunteers for the St. Aidan's Cold Weather Shelter were ready to serve when the cold weather front came through Camano and Stanwood early this month. It was a thing of beauty to see all the people show up to ensure that those who came to seek shelter found warmth, comfort and support. The volunteers came four consecutive nights only to return home shortly after 9 p.m. when it became clear that there would be no overnight visitors.

Several of the volunteers left the shelter with heavy hearts, disappointed that they were not able to provide for those in need. One of the shelter volunteers and Stanwood/Camano Resource Center Board President, Brooke Knight, reminded team members that people who live in homeless conditions are slow to trust new situations so she was not surprised. She encouraged us to stay positive as with time, they would come to trust us and come stay at the shelter.

Michelle Ballard, resource coordinator of the Resource Center had also prepared us for the very real possibility that this would happen. "It will take a while and will be hard for volunteers to show up with no visitors, please keep showing up, by being open and being there; it is building trust," she told us at one of our earlier meetings. She shared stories that helped us understand what led to their distrust of new places and new people. "I will be reaching out to people who I think should have shown up this last weekend and trying to learn why they didn't," she said with hope in her voice.

At coffee hour recently, the Cold Weather Shelter Team, Kevin King, Peter Dunphy and Donna Myers sat with Gloria Archambault, who reached out to us with her knowledge about the local homeless. She drives the bus for Snow Goose Transit and has developed trusting relationships with those who ride on her routes, going so far as to providing them with things they need such as sleeping bags, clothing and blankets. She has been very concerned with a few, who she knows know about the cold weather shelter and yet, do not come. Gloria said that she believes that some of them choose to stay in their cars because that's what they know; that's where there are no surprises.



She also said that she believes that a lot of folks who live in their cars still don't know about the shelter. "We should put big fliers up at the Stanwood laundromat and at QFC and at Grocery Outlet," Gloria said as those are places she knows they go. She emphasized BIG fliers. Another great suggestion she had was that when we do have people spend the night, that we call the bus service providers well in advance when possible to let them know and they will make special trips to pick up passengers in the morning.

We are also grateful to so many community members who continue to reach out to us to help, such as the LDS Church right next door whose women's group offered their services where needed and forwarded our contact information to their men's group.

So we now look ahead to the next time Mother Nature brings us cold, cold nights. We will be ready to serve.

## ***Thank You!!! Bishop Committee Members Ending Their Three-Year Service***



Jim McNally



Donna Myers



Gayle Thomas

## ***Welcome!!! Bishop Committee Members Beginning Their Three-Year Service***



Candi Bialon



Marshall Eberhart



Marilyn Rockwell



## *Coffee Hour After Sunday 10am Service*



If it is your Sunday consider bringing a light snack—sweet or savory to share during coffee hour.

For February:

First Sunday (February 4)	A-D
Second Sunday (February 11)	E-L
Third Sunday (February 18)	M-R
Fourth Sunday (February 25)	S-Z

Other arrangements will be made when there are fifth Sundays.

Those whose last names are in the assigned group for specific Sundays are asked to help out with clean-up after Coffee Hour.

### *Help Keep the Kitchen Useable!*

The women of St. Aidan's are requesting all coffee hour hosts to please take ALL leftover food home each week. The refrigerator has become a storage bin for the leftovers and they never get served. One Sunday in January the refrigerator was full of stale rotten food. The hosts for that day cleaned it out and had to toss almost everything in the garbage.

If you use the refrigerator, please date and label what it is for ( gathering place dinner, homeless shelter, etc.). Also, please take used tea towels and dishcloths home to be laundered.

Thank you.

### *Thank You Flower Guild!!!*



The flowers you provide add much to our worship service. Your ministry is greatly appreciated!

Anonymous, for the people of St Aidan's

**HAPPY  
ANNIVERSARY**

Steve & Billie Jensen	10
Dereld & Janine Clark	13
Bill & Adele Lee	13
Don & Carol Avallon	22

**Happy Birthday**

Patty Clark	06	Jan Donovan	12
Ethel Maxwell	06	Suellen Eberhart	15
Robert Bialon	07	Amber Ferrese	18
Ray Riches	07	Bill Goodenough	22
Rob Gorman	11	Carole Schaefer	23

## *Christmas Selah*

Christmas Selah at St Aidan's was filled with beautiful and talented young ladies. We were blessed by Jeff's music and talent. Haley shared her lovely voice singing in French. Emmy and Lisa again amazed us sharing their gifts of music in worship.



Adele Lee

### *Tuesday 10:30 am—Study Group*

The group meets in Dietel Hall and will be completing "The Hiding Place" by Corrie Ten Boom mid February. They will be selecting another book to read during the Lenten season.

This is a very informal group, stop by and join in the discussions.

### *Food Bank Sunday (February 4th)*

***"Feed My Sheep"***



Collections are on the first Sunday of the month. If not attending services you can drop off donations on the porch the first Saturday or Sunday of the month.

Thank you for your donations.

# FEBRUARY 2024—Activities Calendar\*

\*Check for status on St. Aidan's website, current ePistle or with organizers of specific groups for updates.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
<b>The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany</b> 9:00 am Holy Eucharist II (also live streamed on YouTube) 10:15 am <b>Annual Meeting</b>	5:30 pm AA	10:30 am Study Group	10:00 am Holy Eucharist I			7 pm AA
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<b>The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany</b> 8:00 am Holy Eucharist I 10:00 am Holy Eucharist II (also live streamed on YouTube) <b>Food Bank Sunday</b> 4:30 pm Episcopal 101	3:15 pm Outreach Committee  5:30 pm AA	10:30 am Study Group	10:00 am Holy Eucharist I	10:00 am Work Crew		7 pm AA
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
<b>The Last Sunday after the Epiphany</b> 8:00 am Holy Eucharist I 10:00 am Holy Eucharist II (also live streamed on YouTube)  4:30 pm Episcopal 101	9 am-3 pm Bishop's Committee All-day Retreat  5:30 pm AA	<b>Shrove Tuesday</b> 10:30 am Study Group  5:30 pm Pancakes & Trivia	<b>Ash Wednesday</b> 10:00 am Women of St Aidan's  5 pm Holy Eucharist II Hymnody & Imposition of Ashes	TORCH DEADLINE		7 pm AA
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
<b>The First Sunday in Lent</b> 8:00 am Holy Eucharist I 10:00 am Holy Eucharist II (also live streamed on YouTube) 4:30 pm Episcopal 101	4 pm Bishop's Committee  5:30 pm AA	10:30 am Study Group	10:00 am Holy Eucharist I  5 pm Lenten Series			10:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry  7 pm AA
25	26	27	28	29	1	2
<b>The Second Sunday in Lent</b> 8:00 am Holy Eucharist I 10:00 am Holy Eucharist II (also live streamed on YouTube) 4:30 pm Episcopal 101	5:30 pm AA	10:30 am Study Group	10:00 am Holy Eucharist I  5 pm Lenten Series	5 pm The Gathering Place		7 pm AA



## Altar Servers



*If you cannot serve on your assigned day please find a substitute and let the office know.*

8:00 AM	February 4	February 11	Ash Wednesday February 14	February 18	February 25
Lector	Don Talbott	Jim Miller		JoAnn Moffett	Kathy Hosley
Chalice Bearer	Ann Morgan	JoAnn Moffett		Ann Morgan	Ann Morgan
Acolyte	Jim Miller	Don Talbott		Jim Miller	Jim Miller
Usher	Kathy Hosley	Kathy Hosley		Don Talbott	JoAnn Moffett
10:00 AM	February 4	February 11	Ash Wednesday February 14 5:00 PM	February 18	February 25
Lector	Rob Gorman	Candy Trautman	Jackie Humes Fear	Jeff Maxwell	Dick Philmlee
Chalice Bearer	Jackie Humes-Fear Bob Perry	Teresa Strain Jan Donovan	Kara Hunt	Kara Hunt Mary McConnaughey	Jan Donovan Peter Dunphy
Acolyte	Bob Perry	Jan Donovan	Mary McConnaughey	Mary McConnaughey	Peter Dunphy
Usher	Bill White Dick Philmlee	Susie Johnson Jeff Johnson	Kathy Hosley	Bill Sontheimer Joey Sontheimer	Karole Gorman Rob Gorman
Counter	Jackie Humes-Fear Julie Vaux	Kathy McNally Kathy Hosley		Marilyn Rockwell Pam Sontheimer	Patty Dunphy Sue Perry
Childcare	JoAnn Moffett Sue Perry	JoAnn Moffett Marilyn Rockwell		JoAnn Moffett Patty Dunphy	JoAnn Moffett Deb Hubenthal



### Altar Guild Teams for February

#### February 1-15

**Team 2:** Judy Bingay, Gayle Thomas,  
Candi Bialon

#### February 16-29

**Team 3:** Susie White, Vonda Buse,  
Susan Yerkes

### St. Aidan's Technology Issues?

If you have any questions or concerns about the operation of St. Aidan's website, Facebook pages, or YouTube please contact Jim McNally.

kikiallus@outlook.com or by phone at 360-572-3667

### Need Help?



If you need help please contact  
Allen Feris at  
425-870-2622  
or Feris\_allen@msn.com

**NEXT TORCH  
DEADLINE**

**Thursday, February 15th**

Email submissions to: [mcnallyk@outlook.com](mailto:mcnallyk@outlook.com)  
Photos, suggestions and/or comments are greatly appreciated

***Lenten Series at St Aidan's with Fr Frank Spina***  
***Wednesdays beginning at 5 p.m. with a Soup/Salad Supper***

***Psalms for Lent***



The Psalter has long been favored by Christians and Jews alike. It is the only section of Scripture that is quoted verbatim in the Book of Common Prayer. Its exquisite poetry, its extensive metaphors, its unyielding passion, and its jarring honesty have contributed to its exalted status in the minds of religious people. Mystics have long cherished this material. We may have an inkling of the power of the Psalter as we delve into psalms that deal with themes that we typically associate with Lent: Being close to or distant from God; confession; repentance; absolution; divine compassion, and the like.

***February 21:*** "God's Devastating Absence and Exhilarating Presence: Psalms 22 and 23"

***February 28:*** "Forgiveness in a Variety of Metaphors: Psalm 32"

***March 6:*** "The Anatomy of a Confession: Psalm 51"

***March 13:*** "The Nature of a Forgiving God: Psalm 103"

***March 20:*** "God's Maddening Ubiquity: Psalm 139"

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