

October 2024

THE TORCH

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

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From the Vicar

After nearly twenty years of YouTube being a part of modern life I'm convinced that its best and brightest moments are not found in the news programs, podcasts, or even instructive tutorials; no, the very best of YouTube is found in its millions *cat videos*! (To be fair, the dog videos are pretty great too.) From cats falling asleep and hilariously tumbling off their window sills or high perches to felines doing back flips or kittens bobbing their little heads to music in perfect time - there's just too much to love. One of my all-time favorites is a video showing a small toddler walking out onto the balcony of her family's high-rise apartment and trying to climb the rail, and unknowingly pull herself into danger. With cool confidence the family cat jumps up on top of the rail, moves across it like a tightrope walker to the child, and bats her hands away repeatedly until she gives

up. The deep sense of love and devotion was so evident that it was clear I was not looking at a mere pet, but a family member. A being who would risk its life for another.

With all of the negativity that surfaces online (bidden or unbidden) a good cat video can bring you back into touch with wholesomeness, purity, innocence and the goodness of God's creation. We often think of God's creation, or the natural world, as being out there in the wild, in the national parks or in the unseen depths of the Pacific Ocean. But of course it's also right here where we are standing, because we too are part of it. Our pets, in some miraculous way, are direct, tangible links to the wildness and wonder and goodness of God's created world. Just think of the times your cat (or a neighbor's) brought you a "gift" (i.e., mouse or rabbit) and proudly laid it in on your doorstep. If you're like me, you felt some combination of horrified and touched. You were reminded that this domesticated creature is still of the wild and that it is trying to connect with you relationally and personally. That is utterly amazing and blows the doors of my heart wide open.

On October 6th there will be a blessing of the animals service for all creatures great and small. This is an opportunity to worship with your pets — hairy, furry, winged, or scaled — and give thanks to God for his grace that pours through them, and by extension, through all of creation.

In addition to the blessing of the animals, October brings with it many other blessings. This beautiful month can be symbolized by one single image: the humble gourd. Specifically, that of the bright orange pumpkin variety. It shows up in fall window and table decorations, in Starbucks' pumpkin spice lattes, and at every doorstep and Halloween party across the country. It is a symbol of harvest and abundance, but also, when carved, of joy, fun, and whimsy. I love that St Aidan's always knows how to have fun and celebrate the times and seasons that make life wonderful. Night of 100 Pumpkins has been one such occasion. A time to come together as a community for a ghoulishly good time is always a blessing. I hope it continues in 2024.

As you journey through the month of October may you know the grace of God in creation, in the small and simple creatures that accompany you, and in the everyday moments of joy, and journey forward as an entrusted steward of His amazing grace.

Yours in Christ,
Drew+



From the Senior Warden

The upkeep and maintenance on homes is never ending. It seems like I never get to the bottom of my 'to-do' list — it just keeps growing. Recently, I replaced the basement carpet so everything had to be moved out from the lower level which includes a bedroom, bathroom, office, family and TV area. I was determined to 'purge' and be more selective in what went back into the rooms.

Now that most services offer a 'paperless' option, I no longer needed two filing cabinets in the office area. One entire cabinet, made up of four pull-out rolling drawers had to be 'purged'. So, I took the time to look through the files and consolidate everything into just one cabinet.

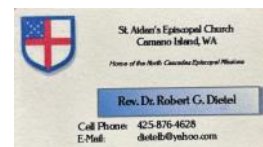
Some of the filing drawers contained old records that were easy to toss and shred. Other drawers contained stuff that was nostalgic, sentimental and quite endearing.

One entire drawer was labeled 'Roxie Veleke'. Roxie was my mom. Some of you may remember her. She was an active member of St. Aidan's and truly loved the years she worshiped and served from 1986 until her stroke in 2012. I approached this drawer with some reverence and care.

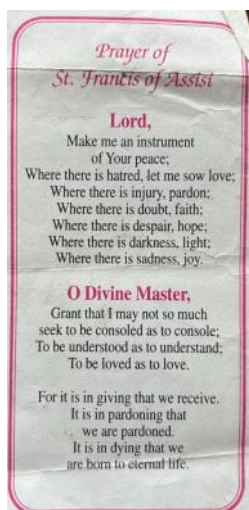
One file in the drawer contained her wallet. I forgot that it was in there. I opened the wallet slowly, still having the smell of leather and showing a fingerprint left near the snap closure. She must have put hand lotion on one time and then needed to get something from it — leaving her print. Something that was so uniquely her very own.



Inside was nine dollars but no change. In the first slot was a picture of my dad. He was about 24 years old and a newly commissioned Washington State patrolman. He looked so handsome in his uniform, standing proudly next to his 1937 patrol car. She carried that picture for many years and all four edges were worn and creased. Next to the picture were her driver's license issued in 2010, when she was 92, and a VISA credit card, long expired. There were other forms of identification such as her Social Security card, a Public Library card, her Group Health Medicare Rx card, an AARP membership, several business cards of mine and my brothers' and another especially meaningful one was Father Bob's card — Rev. Dr. Robert G. Dietel Vicar - St. Aidan's Episcopal Church.



Then, folded into a tiny paper book and tucked inside was the Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi.



Lord,
Make me an instrument of Your peace;
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
Where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master,
Grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;
To be understood as to understand;
To be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive,
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned.
It is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Everything contained in the wallet was specific to her and it all created a record of her life on earth — account numbers, membership identification, medical records, family contacts and photos of people she loved and statements of faith that she believed. I made my way on to the next file and there was her death certificate.

It made me ponder...

Are we born, live a documented life and then we die? Is that it? Is that all there is?

Paul says in 1 Corinthians 15 ... If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied. But now Christ has been raised from the dead. For since by a man came death, by a man also came the resurrection of the dead.

John tells us in chapter 3 ... For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal Life.

What hope we have in our Christian journey! What joy we have in our faith! We are born, we live a documented life and then in dying, we are reborn to eternal life.

So...what's in my wallet? A sure promise that when my daughter comes upon it — she'll know I was born in October, loved my Nordstrom card, rarely used my gym card and there too, will be a worn picture of her dad. Eventually, she'll come upon a death certificate. However, with confidence she'll know that it won't be the end to my story.

Until then...

I'm looking forward to St. Aidan's Mission Fair. It will be during coffee hour in Dietel Hall following the 10 am worship service on October 13. Come on in for coffee and refreshment and learn all about the different ministries and ways to serve at St. Aidan's!

Vonda Buse
vonda.buse@gmail.com

From the Junior Warden

"Campus Wayfinding" – Improving the directional signage around St. Aidan campus continues to be studied in support of the Bishop Committee Mutual Ministry Goal of "making St. Aidan more welcoming". Drew, Greg Meyers, Keving King and I met with a graphic artist who presented some ideas using metal signs supported by large rocks. Refinement of these ideas is in work and a plan will be presented at the October BC meeting.

Dietel Hall Entry & Bathrooms – The Bishop Committee (BC) was presented with a plan to remodel Dietel Hall. Funding the changes will be discussed at the October BC meeting. The plan includes removing and replace bathroom doors, sink, vanity, mirror, light, fan, toilet, wall paneling, and floor. Replace entry floor and kitchen to match bathroom. Remove and replace molding around doors and floor, update lighting in entry way, fix the ceiling and repaint.

Landscape – Lankford Landscape Design (Scott Lankford) is developing a landscape plan for the campus. (ProBono) This also includes the PUD certificates for 10 trees to be placed near the power lines paralleling SR 532.

Entry Door – The new entry door requires a little force to open. The door manufacturing has been notified and is working to resolve this issue.

Peter Dunphy



**USE SOFT VOICES
AND SILENCE PHONES**

Be mindful of those members of our St Aidan's family and of visitors who look forward to a time of quiet reflection in the sanctuary before Sunday services.

SAINT AIDAN'S SUMMER-END SALMON CELEBRATION SMASH SUCCESS!

As we approach the fall season, we reluctantly start putting away the shorts and Hawaiian shirts, unpacking our cold-weather clothing and GRILL A WHOLE BUNCH OF SALMON! Summer's end means preparing for a new Church Year and celebrating the successes of the past one. And what better way to give thanks for a great year than to gather as a church body in fellowship and share a meal and entertainment together.

When the Bishop's Committee decided to re-launch the annual Salmon Dinner it was with the intent of saying "thank-you" to our congregation for all the hard work and contributions made by members that make St Aidan's the loving and welcoming family that it is known for throughout the Stanwood-Camano community. YOU, the members of St Aidan's, are the reason that we have been so successful in reaching out to our community sharing the Love of God that is in our hearts.


I want to give a special thanks to all the folks who helped to make our little celebration a hit! Even though it is no longer a Choir-sponsored event, Steve Jensen puts in a lot of hard work to make the entertainment portion worthy of rave reviews! Candy was once again the perfect MC. The Kettlettes, Jackie Fear, Chiam and Yonah, Adele & Company, Judy and Chuck, Nancy and our own St Aidan's choir (not to mention my own contribution) all kept us enthralled with fun, whimsical and sometimes poignant melodies. Phil assisted at the grill and of course, a very grateful "Thank You" to all of you who showed up to help set up and stayed to help clean up!

It all just goes to show that we could not do any of this without the wonderful family of believers that we call Saint Aidan's Parish! As Chaim called it... Life In The Slow Lane – plus St Aidan's believers. What more could we possibly ask for!

Lovingly,
Ray Riches



Important Events at St Aidan's in October

October 6	Blessing of the Animals , 10am service; Feed My Sheep Sunday
October 9	Women of St Aidan's , 11am
October 13	Ministry Fair in Dietel Hall after 10am service
October 23	Holiday Craft Workday , 11am-4pm
October 25-26	Diocese of Olympia Convention
October 26	Prayer Shawl Ministry , 10am; Book Fair , Noon; and, Night of a 100 Pumpkins , 
October 31	The Gathering Place , 5pm

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

What — **St Aidan's Ministry Fair**

When — Sunday, October 13, 2024 — following the 10 o'clock worship and during coffee hour.

Where — Dietel Hall

Why — For St Aidan's congregation to learn more about the different ministries currently in service at St Aidan's.

How — Tables will be set up around the perimeter of Dietel Hall. Representative(s) of each ministry will monitor a table and share ministry information, pictures, handouts, brochures, etc., that may explain — What, When, Where, Why and How the ministry serves, either for our congregation itself, the Stanwood/Camano community or the body of Christ in general.

PS.... Please plan to come on into the Dietel Hall after the 10 o'clock worship and join the congregation for coffee, refreshments and an opportunity to learn more about the ministries at St. Aidan's.

Coming November 9th at 3pm



[Concerts/Tickets — Cantabile Chamber Choir](#)

Tuesday 10:30 am—Study Group

The group meets in Dietel Hall and is reading and discussing *Women Who Do: Female Disciples in the Gospels* by Holly J Carey.

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



Bill & Pam Sontheimer	15
Bob & Sue Perry	23



Janine Clark	01	Mary Rauch	10
Nancy Minear	01	Miriam Walter	16
Drew Foisie	03	Lynn Kyles	18
Freda McKeown	04	Mya Samuels	26
Kathleen DuBois	05	Marilyn Rockwell	29
Vonda Buse	08	Cheri Simmons	31
Dick Philmlee	08		



**Coffee Hour
After Sunday 10am
Service**



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

First Sunday (October 6)	A-D
Second Sunday (October 13)	E-L
Third Sunday (October 20)	M-R
Fourth Sunday (October 27)	S-Z

If it is your week to host please stay to help clean up after Coffee Hour and take all leftover food home each week.

The last to leave? Please check to make sure the front door is locked before leaving.



Is this You?



Did you miss your opportunity to get your photo taken? Is your photo missing from our church directory or does it need updating? Please let Ann Boid know or contact the church office.

**Food Bank Sunday
(October 1st)**

“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.

October 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
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost 8:00 am Morning Prayer 10:00 am Holy Eucharist II and Healing Service (also live streamed on YouTube)	5:30 pm AA	10:30 am Study Group	10:00 am Holy Eucharist I			7 pm AA
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost 8:00 am Holy Eucharist I 10:00 am Holy Eucharist II & Blessing of the Animals (also live streamed on YouTube) Food Bank Sunday	5:30 pm AA	10:30 am Study Group	10:00 am Holy Eucharist I 11:00 am Women of St Aidan's			7 pm AA
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
The Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost 8:00 am Holy Eucharist I 10:00 am Holy Eucharist II (also live streamed on YouTube) 11:00am Ministry Fair	5:30 pm AA	10:30 am Study Group	10:00 am Holy Eucharist	TORCH DEADLINE		7 pm AA
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
The Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost 8:00 am Holy Eucharist I 10:00 am Holy Eucharist II (also live streamed on YouTube)	4 pm Bishop's Committee 5:30 pm AA	10:30 am Study Group	10:00 am Holy Eucharist I		Diocesan Convention	10:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry 12pm Book Fair 6pm Night of 100 Pumpkins
27	28	29	30	31	4	5
The Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost 8:00 am Holy Eucharist I 10:00 am Holy Eucharist II and Healing Service (also live streamed on YouTube)	5:30 pm AA	10:30 am Study Group	10:00 am Holy Eucharist I 11 am—4 pm Holiday Craft Workday	Halloween 5:00pm 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	September 29	October 6	October 13	October 20	October 27
Lector	Ann Morgan	JoAnn Moffett	Kathy Hosley	Ann Morgan	JoAnn Moffett
Chalice Bearer	Morning Prayer	Ann Morgan	Ann Morgan	JoAnn Moffett	Ann Morgan
Acolyte	Jim Miller	Jim Miller	Jim Miller	Jim Miller	Jim Miller
Usher	Kathy Hosley	Kathy Hosley	Terra Stang-Johnson	Kathy Hosley	Terra Stang-Johnson
10:00 AM	September 29	October 6	October 13	October 20	October 27
Lector	Jeff Maxwell	Dick Philmlee	Jackie Humes-Fear	Ann Boid	Rob Gorman
Chalice Bearer	Freda McKeown Jan Donovan	Jackie Humes-Fear Peter Dunphy	Freda McKeown Jan Donovan	Kara Hunt Bob Perry	Peter Dunphy Mary McConnaughey
Acolyte	Jan Donovan	Peter Dunphy	Jan Donovan	Bob Perry	Peter Dunphy
Usher	Ethel Maxwell Suellen Eberhart	Bill White Ethel Maxwell	Susie Johnson Jeff Johnson	Bill Sontheimer Joey Sontheimer	Suellen Eberhart Marshall Eberhart
Counter	Patty Dunphy Kathy Hosley	Julie Vaux Jackie Humes-Fear	Kathy Hosley Pam Sontheimer	Sue Perry Pam Sontheimer	Patty Dunphy Kathy McNally
Childcare	JoAnn Moffett Vonda Buse	JoAnn Moffett Gayle Thomas	JoAnn Moffett Patty Dunphy	JoAnn Moffett Marilyn Rockwell	Deb Hubenthal DonnaMyers



Altar Guild Teams for October

October 1-15

Team 3: Susie White, Susan Yerkes,
Micki-Jo Palmer

October 16-31

Team 4: Jan Donovan, Karole Gorman,
Bev Maxwell, Vonda Buse

St. Aidan's Technology Issues?

If you have an questions or concerns about the operation of St. Aidan's website, Facebook pages, or YouTube please contact Allen Feris.

Feris_allen@msn.com or by phone at 425-870-2622

Need Help?



If you need help please contact
Ray Riches

**NEXT TORCH
DEADLINE**

Thursday, October 17th

Email submissions to: mcnallyk@outlook.com
Photos, suggestions and/or comments are greatly appreciated

St Aidan's Outreach

The members of the St. Aidan's Outreach committee and members of the Bishop Committee met on Wednesday, September 18 to discuss the current Outreach committee activities and the possibility of broadening the Outreach committee mission. Currently the Outreach Committee activities focus on distribution of festival funds to local non-profits who provide support services to those in need. In 2023 these non-profits included Camano Center (Adult Daycare), Circlewood Church, Bridgid Collins Family Support Center, Stanwood Camano Food Bank (Backpack program), Camano Island Law Enforcement (Human Trafficking Education), Skagit Valley Domestic Violence and Assault Services, and Stanwood – Camano Resource Center (Emergency Funds for the unhoused). Some of the additional Outreach activities done by St. Aidan's include Annual Festival, Easter Egg Hunt, Coat Drive, Seafarer Ditty Bags, Seafarer visits, Gathering Place (5th Thursday of the month), Cold Weather Shelter, Plant Sale proceeds to a non-profit, Night of 100 Pumpkins, Message Board Sign, and Diocese Refugee Resettlement Office support.

A suggestion that the Outreach committee restart presentations from non-profits during Sunday forums and possibly expand Outreach support to include regional and international non-profits was discussed. If you are interested in becoming a member of the Outreach Committee, please contact Patty Dunphy.

ST. AIDAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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