

January 2025

THE TORCH

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

www.StAidanCamanoIsland.org

[www.Facebook.com/StAidanCamanoIsland](https://www.facebook.com/StAidanCamanoIsland)

Office@StAidansci.org 360-629-3969



From the Vicar

The Julian calendar, which gave us the 365 days of the year we know so well, was put into effect by an edict of the emperor Julius Caesar in the year 45 BCE. It was an update to the previous Roman calendar that worked on a lunisolar basis. In that system the days of the year were divided by phases of the moon and there were only 355 of them. You can see how this might get awkward after a few years or decades, if not painstakingly adjusted from time to time. The new calendar made the tracking of days and months more accurate by using the position of the sun relative to the stars. The result was a net gain of 10 additional days in the year, and a bonus day in February of every fourth year. But in October of 1582 Pope Gregory XIII issued a papal bull which instituted a modification to and replacement of the Julian calendar. It spaced the leap years slightly differently to make the calendar 365.2425 days, bringing it even more in line with the true solar year. This adjustment meant that we gain only 0.1 day every 400 years. Not bad. This one was certainly a keeper.

As we turn the page on the calendar to reveal the month of January and enter boldly into 2025 we do so still very much in Christmastide with Epiphany on its way. With the advent of the new year, not to mention the bright star the wise men used to determine Christ's birth and navigate their way to him, it's hard not to think about time, what it means and how it's calculated and delineated.

A short survey of how the calendars that govern our lives were established reveals something interesting. They came from, or at least bear the name of, people seated on thrones of great power or influence. It makes you wonder how - or who - might resolve our dispute over daylight savings time! (Perhaps a topic for another occasion.) What's truly fascinating and *wonderful* is that it wasn't Julius Caesar or Pope Gregory that changed the world for all time or time for all the world. That honor goes to the most unlikely of people. It goes to one who was born on the furthest outskirts of the Roman Empire in an animal pen near a town called Bethlehem approximately two thousand years ago. It goes to a vulnerable baby who faithfully grew into his calling as Son of God and gave his life for all people. His throne would not be of marble or sit in the vaunted halls of power. His throne would be a cross. And from that cross God's love for the world would shine like a beacon for all to see.

Similar to other earth-shaking events, but even more so, history itself came to be defined by what came before him and what came after. The Epiphany stands as, perhaps, the high point of Christmas. It says that God's love incarnate is not just for some people, but all people. Every. Last. One. It's for the whole world. There couldn't be a better way to start the new year or define your days.

As you begin the new year may you know the great love that has been born for you, is being birthed in you, and is shining forth through you.

Yours in Christ,
Drew+



From the Senior Warden

Rebuild, Restore, Renew

The heartbreaking image of Notre Dame de Paris engulfed in flames and destruction on April 15, 2019, left Parisians, the French countrymen, Europeans and the world in shock and mourning.

An accidental fire broke out in the cathedral's roof causing extensive damage to the building and complete destruction of its roof and iconic spire.

Dedicated to the Virgin Mary, Notre Dame has stood for over 860 years and remains the heart of France. Distances from Paris to every part of metropolitan France are measured from the bronze star embedded in the paving stones in front of the cathedral.

With awe and admiration I watched the reopening ceremonies in early December. In just five short years, the unbelievable happened. Nearly one thousand master artisans, from all over the world, came together to rebuild, restore and renew the beloved Notre Dame Cathedral.

The roof and spire were rebuilt — the interior restored — and the colors brilliantly renewed — a miracle transformation! One commentator stated that the dearly beloved cathedral had lost its soul on the day of the fire but now, after the remarkable efforts of so many, the soul had returned.

Historically, a cathedral such as Notre Dame or even a small parish, is constructed to house the liturgy of the church and highlight the spiritual significance of the Eucharist. For us at St. Aidan's, the bread and wine we receive each week is the focus of our worship and central to our faith. Through the workings of the Holy Spirit, this meal becomes the vehicle God uses to share with us the power and presence of Jesus Christ.

Because of God's tender mercy, He allowed Jesus to suffer death for our redemption. Jesus was a full, perfect and sufficient sacrifice for our sins. As we regularly receive His body and blood through Holy Communion, it becomes a perpetual memory of His precious death and sacrifice.

The New Year is now upon us and what's ahead is simply unknown. Surrounded and within God's strength and mercy, let us draw upon hope and our faith to face any difficulty that may come our way. Health concerns, family troubles and financial challenges may occur at any moment and any one of these adversities can cause collapse or ruin.

However, as with the beautiful Notre Dame Cathedral, we too can rebuild, restore and renew our lives! Miracle transformations can occur. "Greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world." — 1 John 4:4. The power of God living inside us is greater than any power that exists in the world. From His strength, relationships are rebuilt, lost hope restored and an enduring faith renewed beyond measure. The unbelievable can happen!

My sincere hope that you had a wonderful Christmas and that you and your family will be filled with enduring hope, health and joy in this New Year!

Vonda Buse
vonda.buse@gmail.com

Important Events at St Aidan's in January

January 1	New Year's Day
January 5	Feed My Sheep Sunday
January 6	The Epiphany of Our Lord Jesus Christ
January 8	Women of St Aidan's, 11am
January 12	One Parish One Prisoner information meeting following Sunday Coffee Hour, 11:30am
January 15	Articles for Annual Report are Due!
January 26	Holy Eucharist II at 9am followed by the Annual Meeting at 10:15am

See calendar on page 6 for more activities and events at St Aidan's. Check weekly ePistle for any adds or updates.

From the Junior Warden

Peter Dunphy's list of tasks completed and in the works is below. If you have any questions don't hesitate to ask him .



Wayfinding

New campus directional sign is still in work. We are waiting for material from metal fabricator.

Landscape

Low voltage entry and steeple lighting complete. New planting beds added to front lawn area. Planting the new beds, behind the ramp and southeast side of building (choir room) and trees along the fence begin on Thursday, December 19.

New stone bell tower to be built at the end of February



Dietel Hall Remodel

The Dietel Hall entryway remodel (bathrooms, lights, flooring, painting) will begin Monday January 6. The bathrooms in Dietel Hall will be unavailable in January, church bathrooms are available. Entry into Dietel Hall will need to be made through the breezeway doors Monday thru Friday. Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Parking Lot Light Pole

The final step in improving the visibility of the front entry way will be the relocation of parking lot light pole, currently near the front door of Dietel Hall. It will be relocated on the lawn at the end of the second handicap stall in line with the other parking lot light poles. A PUD work order has been issued. Estimated completion date late December, early January.

General Maintenance

Pump House and Dietel Hall water filters changed. Furnace Filters changed. Installed air cleaners in Office and Dietel Hall

One Parish One Prisoner

Please note the meeting that had been scheduled for 3:30pm on the 12th has been moved up to 11:30am just after Coffee Hour.

Festival 2025 Notes

Donations have steadily streamed in over the last few months. Our south shed is about full (at least for furniture). There is still room to stack lighter items on top. If at all possible, please bring your donations, big or small, in boxes or bags. This will allow us to pile it higher and deeper. Our north shed is about one-third full. If you are planning a big donation (i.e. moving out of a house) prior to Festival, please coordinate with me in advance. We may need to have a Festival pre-sale.

Kevin King

The Giving Wreath

Recently, I was reading the Shel Silverstein story called the Giving Tree to my granddaughters. It's about a graceful and beautiful tree and a little boy who runs to visit it every day. She provides shade for him when it's hot, apples for him when he's hungry, and later, as he gets older, a branch to hold a swing for him to swing on, a sturdy trunk to lean back on while he reads... and so the story goes. Towards the end, the boy has grown and his visits are less frequent and more out of need for something. The tree eventually gives till she's only left with her stump. And yet...when the boy returns as an old man, he is tired and she still finds a way to give, by inviting him to sit on what's left of her...an old stump. He sits down and he rests. "And the tree was happy."



Giving is a grateful response to God for all that we have. We have a Giving Wreath in Dietel Hall that provides an opportunity for giving to those who are struggling. The Stanwood/Camano Resource Center is an organization that provides all kinds of resources for those in need. One of the greatest needs is emergency funds for those in crisis. The emergency funds raised can go directly to where the need is. Rent can be paid, utility bills can be caught up, work equipment or uniforms can be purchased upon hiring into a new job, school supplies can be purchased, financial counseling provided, etc.

If your heart is moved to give in this way, please find the Giving Wreath hanging in Dietel Hall. We will be collecting your donations through January 31st. And we thank you from the bottom of our hearts...

"And the tree was happy..."

Karen O'Leary and Sue Perry

Is Your Photo Still Missing from the Directory?



Help us update our directory. If your photo missing from our church directory or needs updating please let Ann Boid (apbrrb041539@gmail.com) know or contact the church office so we can make sure you are included.

You can also request a printed copy of the directory.

***Don't Forget
Annual Reports Articles are Due
January 15th!***

Cold Weather Shelter Update

We had our first opportunity to open the St Aidan's Extreme Cold Weather shelter on Tuesday night, 3 December. We had excellent support for our first and second shifts. All coming from St Aidans! Unfortunately, again we had no guests. The first shift volunteers did engage in a rousing game of Five Crowns.

We no longer believe our dearth of attendance is due to is a lack of promotion or transportation. We have had meetings with the heads of the Stanwood and Camano Libraries and they are displaying our fliers. After Thanksgiving, Donna Conner and her friend Peggy engaged 35 local businesses to post fliers for the Cold Weather Shelter. We approved a short information insertion to the Stanwood Camano Times. We also have coordinated on-demand transportation support from Snow Goose transportation, if needed.

All we need is a few intrepid souls to give us a try and let others know by word of mouth.

Lastly, I was able to participate in Drug Awareness training sponsored by the Camano Resource Center. They certainly increased my awareness and provided me with some additional items to be added to our procedures.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact me via phone/email/face2face.

Kevin King
206-867-2744
Kevinaking16@gmail.com

Bake Sale 2024

Despite the blustery, stormy day the Christmas bake sale and Bazar was hugely successful.

With gratitude to all who baked goodies, helped to setup, hostesses the day of the event, a special appearance from the Grinch, and the cleaner uppers.

Thank you!
Jackie Humes-Fear



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 (January 5)	A-D
Second Sunday (January 12)	E-L
Third Sunday (January 19)	M-R
Fourth Sunday (January 26)	S-Z


A reminder:

We all make Coffee Hour happen....

If it is your week to host please stay after Coffee Hour to help clean up Dietel Hall and the kitchen and take all leftover food home each week. Also take used tea towels and dishcloths home to launder.

Someone from the hosting group needs to make sure the front door is locked before leaving. If you do not have a key no problem just lock the front door from the inside and leave by the double doors that lead to the sanctuary.

SAVE THE DATE!


Esprit Joyeux
Musical Ensemble

CONCERT
Featuring:

Mandy Walters-Whitaker, Gretchen Pigott
& Natalie Hagglund

Cats, a shepherd, a yodeler and pickles... oh my!

Come enjoy a concert of clever contemporary works
written for flute, oboe, english horn & piano.
Plus a sonata by favorite baroque composer — Telemann.

Sunday February 2nd at 2 pm

St Aidan's Episcopal Church
1318 State Highway 532 Camano Island, WA

Free will offering to support the
Starwood-Camano Area Foundation

**HAPPY
ANNIVERSARY**

Rob & Karole Gorman	01
Dick & Molly LeMaster	16

Happy Birthday

Patty Vermilye	05	Adele Lee	18
Susan Yerkes	11	Peter Rockwell	25
Joseph Walters	13	Debby Philmlee	28
MaryBeth Henrichs	16	Lucy Armstrong	29

Windows of St Aidan's

The 10 windows in the sanctuary tell the story of the spread of the Good news in the British Isles over a period of seven hundred years (63 AD to 735 AD) through the lives of ten saints. Each saint has a window and the sequence is chronological.

A debt of gratitude is owed to these saints for the gifts given through their faith and sacrifices—the gifts of the Good News and a rich Church history and tradition.

Window 6: St Oswald, King and Martyr, Northumbria

His symbols include the cross (the Hevenfield victory), and martyr's crown and scepter (his beneficent rule) is the Celtic cross.



After Edwin, his father's usurper, died, Oswald returned from his exile in Iona to claim his kingdom at age thirty-one. He assembled his army before a large cross, and after praying for victory, they defeated King Cadwalla at Hevenfield. His devotion to Christ won others, and he requested the abbot of

Iona to send a missionary bishop. After the first effort failed, the kindly Aidan was sent, and Oswald not only became his interpreter, but his benefactor, giving him the Island of Lindisfarne for his see. By their combined efforts, Northumbria became a Christian kingdom, and Lindesfarne a center for learning and missionary effort.

After Oswald was killed by the heathen king Pendra of Mercia, his hands, arms, and head were recovered and venerated by faithful followers both in England and the Continent. King Oswald was known and loved as a devout and merciful Christian monarch, whose acts of charity were extolled in history of the English church by the Venerable Bede.

Window given in thanksgiving to God.

Food Bank Sunday (January 5th)

“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.

January 2025—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	31	1	2	3	4
The First Sunday after Christmas Day 8:00 am Morning Prayer 10:00 am Holy Eucharist II (also live streamed on YouTube)	5:30 pm AA	New Years Eve	New Years Day 10:00 am Holy Eucharist I			7 pm AA
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
The Second Sunday after Christmas 8:00 am Holy Eucharist I 10:00 am Holy Eucharist II (also live streamed on YouTube) Food Bank Sunday	The Epiphany of Our Lord Jesus Christ 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
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
The First Sunday after Epiphany 8:00 am Holy Eucharist I 10:00 am Holy Eucharist II (also live streamed on YouTube) 11:30am One Parish One Prisoner info meeting	5:30 pm AA	10:30 am Study Group	10:00 am Holy Eucharist Annual Report Articles Due	TORCH DEADLINE		7 pm AA
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
The Second Sunday after Epiphany 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			10:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
The Third Sunday after Epiphany 9:00 am Holy Eucharist II (also live streamed on YouTube) 10:15am Annual Meeting	5:30 pm AA	10:30 am Study Group	10:00 am Holy Eucharist I			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	December 29	January 5	January 12	January 19	January 26 One Service at 9AM
Lector	JoAnn Moffett	Ann Morgan	JoAnn Moffett	Kathy Hosley	
Chalice Bearer	Ann Morgan	JoAnn Moffett	Ann Morgan	Ann Morgan	
Acolyte	Jim Miller	Jim Miller	Jim Miller	Jim Miller	
Usher	Kathy Hosley	Kathy Hosley	Kathy Hosley	JoAnn Moffett	
10:00 AM	December 29	January 5	January 12	January 19	January 26 One Service at 9AM
Lector	Rhoda Venditto	Jeff Maxwell	Nancy Pates-Riches	Dick Philmlee	Rob Gorman
Chalice Bearer	Jeff Maxwell Mary McConnaughey	Freda McKeown Bob Perry	Jackie Humes-Fear Mary McConnaughey	Theresa Strain Peter Dunphy	Jeff Maxwell Mary McConnaughey
Acolyte	Mary McConnaughey	Bob Perry	Mary McConnaughey	Peter Dunphy	Mary McConnaughey
Usher	Suellen Eberhart Marshall Eberhart	Dick Philmlee Dick Bingay	Ethel Maxwell Bill White	Suellen Eberhart Marshall Eberhart	Susie Johnson Jeff Johnson
Counter	Kathy Hosley Marilyn Rockwell	Sue Perry Kathy McNally	Jackie Humes-Fear Julie Vaux	Patty Dunphy Pam Sontheimer	Kathy Hosley Marilyn Rockwell
Childcare	JoAnn Moffett Sue Perry	JoAnn Moffett Ethel Maxwell	JoAnn Moffett Pam Sontheimer	JoAnn Moffett Kathy Hosley	JoAnn Moffett Julie Vaux



Altar Guild Teams for January

January 1-15

Team 1: Kara Hunt, Freda McKeown, Patty Vermilye

January 16-31

Team 2: Judy Bingay, Gayle Thomas, Candi Bialon

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, January 16th

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



ST. AIDAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
1318 SR 532; Camano Island, WA 98282
(P.O. Box 145; Stanwood, WA 98292)