

April 2025

# THE TORCH

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

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## *From the Vicar*

As we enter the month of April we do so in the season of Lent, but we exit in the season of Easter. There is something especially “Easterly” about that. Liturgically and spiritually speaking, the month begins in the valley and ends on the mountaintop. It begins in the desert and ends by streams of water abounding with life. It begins with songs of lament and ends with songs of praise and thanksgiving. This pattern of death-to-life is *the* defining reality of our faith. It’s lived out in our churches year after year as the story of God in Christ is told and retold again and again through what we pray and sing and confess with our lips and lives.

One way we tell this story and take this journey is through “burying the alleluia.” I remember being a part of a church in Bellevue that literally buried the alleluia every year. They had a large wooden board with the colorful letters A-L-L-E-L-U-I-A emblazoned across it. At the beginning of Lent it was placed in a freshly dug hole and covered over. When Easter arrived it was unearthed and returned to the sanctuary where it hung from the lectern for a Sunday or two. It was left there just long enough to launch the word back into our souls. The visceral experience of burying and restoring the alleluia was memorable and beautiful in a very simple and very real way.

The alleluia, however, does not need to be buried beneath dirt to be felt with a renewed depth at Easter. It can simply be set aside for a time. Released from regular usage for a period. But I can hear some of my evangelical friends saying, “Why would you ever to hold back an alleluia?! Aren’t you short changing God?” Not at all. A pastor who wrote a book of short, poetic reflections on the gift and challenges of ministry asked a helpful question at the end of one chapter: If you did not have your hands, legs or voice how would you go about loving your people? There is much grace, and much to be gained, in saying (or doing) less sometimes. God’s love is not increased by the length of our prayers, the greatness of our efforts, or the enthusiasm of our alleluias. God’s love is a constant, bottomless well that is known only in surrender to the one who died for us and rose again.

When Easter finally arrives there is always this sense of feeling different and “resurrected” and yet the same. After the rigors of holy week worship, which treks through the last hours of Jesus’ life, betrayal and death, one is ready for Easter morn. When it arrives there is a burst of color and light and joy and one is supposed to be feel it all. He is risen! we say. And he is. He most *definitely* is. But the real joy of Easter is found not just in the proclamation, but the knowledge that Jesus is risen regardless of how we may or may not feel about it! He is risen for believers and non-believers alike. He is risen for the fervent pray-ers and the agnostics. He is risen for the down-and-out and those on the up-and-up. He is risen for the doubters and the over-confident. He is risen for the weak and the strong, the healthy and infirm, the cheerful and the mourners. He is risen for cerebral intellectuals and for down-to-earth simple folk. He is risen for our enemies and for our friends. He is risen for you and for me.

As you journey to Easter Day may you know that there is no height or depth, width or length, or and any distance that can separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus. For the Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Yours in Christ,  
Drew+



### *From the Senior Warden*

I have the privilege of being a part of a ministry here at St. Aidan's whose job is to keep our sign updated with new messages, usually on a weekly basis. We call ourselves the Sign Sisters, but should any of you gentlemen wish to join our merry band, we could probably come up with a more gender-neutral name (Sign Siblings?). Our current group includes our leader, Freda McKeown, Mandy Whitaker, Candy Trautman, Karole Gorman, Hellen DeMoyse, and myself. We've been asked many times how we come up with ideas for the sign. It's not an easy task when there are four lines with room for only about 14 letters per line, including spaces! Our secret is working closely together to find resources, including books, social media, suggestions from neighbors, but especially from each other. We share ideas, lots of laughs, but most importantly, love and fellowship. The goal of the Sign Sisters is to keep the community inspired, informed, and as you've often seen, amused.

If you stop to think about it, our sign serves as a powerful ministry to our community... extending beyond the walls of our building. We live on an island with only one road on and off, so everyone who comes and goes sees our sign. For those passing by, it can be a moment of reflection, or bring a smile on an otherwise dreary day. It offers a consistent, visible presence of our church's commitment to spreading love, making it a valuable tool in connecting with and serving our neighbors.

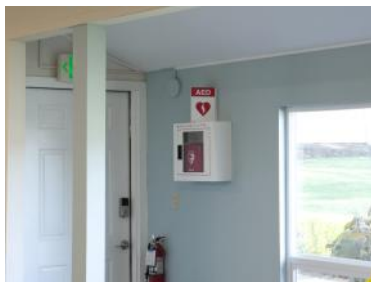
Dick Bingay told me his neighbor said, "that sign makes me smile every time I drive by." Fr. Drew mentioned to us that when he tells people he's from St. Aidan's they used to say, "oh, you're the church with the big summer festival," but now just as often he hears, "you're the church with the great sign!" At last year's Ministry Fair, we were told by more than one person that they started attending St. Aidan's because of the sign. Our message is reaching others.

During this season of Lent, we've strived to keep our messages appropriate for this time of reflection. We hope you, and our community, find it a blessing on your journey.

Candi Bialon

### *From the Junior Warden*

During the month of March 2025, we completed the following projects:



- The AED unit was permanently moved within Dietel Hall to the west end of the north wall (see photo) just above a fire extinguisher. This portable device is available to treat any one of us whose heart has stopped working.
- The bell tower is complete but partially hidden by the old directional sign in front of the music room porch. We plan to remove the old sign when the new sign has its lettering applied around Easter time.



Upcoming projects:

- There will be new landscaping and irrigation installed along the eastern side of the sanctuary.
- Minor leveling repairs will be made to the parking lot near the Dietel Hall entrance.
- Replacement flags and pole will be installed along the northern wall of Dietel Hall.
- New flooring will be installed in Dietel Hall, the childcare room, and choir rehearsal room.

Marilyn Rockwell

**NEXT  
TORCH  
DEADLINE**

**Thursday, April 23rd**

Email submissions to: [mcnallyk@outlook.com](mailto:mcnallyk@outlook.com)

Photos, suggestions and/or comments are greatly appreciated



## ***Lenten Series with Fr Frank Spina***

*(The last two of the five-part Wednesday series, beginning at 5pm)*

One of the most important aspects of Lenten spirituality is repentance and forgiveness. In our Lenten series we will pay close attention to several biblical texts that address this crucial subject.

The last two of the series (April 2 and April 9):

One of Jesus' Kingdom parables (Matthew 18:23-25) features a man who was forgiven an enormous debt but refused to forgive a much more modest debt owed to him by a fellow servant. This is a chilling parable. Finally, we will deal with the controversial letter of Philemon, in which the Apostle Paul wants a Master and a Slave to be brothers in the faith.

### ***Holy Week Services***

**Monday April 14 to Saturday April 19**

**7:00 p.m.** every evening of Holy Week services will be in-person and live-streamed on St. Aidan's YouTube page.

**Holy Monday:** Stations of the Cross

**Holy Tuesday:** Eucharist, guest preacher

**Holy Wednesday:** Taizé

**Holy Thursday:** Maundy Thursday, Eucharist and Stripping of the Altar

**Good Friday:** Good Friday Selah

**Saturday Easter Vigil:** Great Vigil of Easter



**Easter Sunday Celebration (10:00 a.m.)**

## ***One Parish One Prisoner***

Dear Friends, we are moving forward with our One Parish One Prisoner (OPOP) ministry.

This has taken some time because of a variety of issues, but Father Drew called a meeting in March and we had enough community members sign up to build a team. All are welcome to participate in our team building and it would be good to have others to provide encouragement, and support.

This is a two-year journey. The basic parts of this ministry are to form a team of seven members including our Spiritual Leader, Father Drew.

The first year we would have a monthly workshop with modules presented by OPOP. We would also begin communicating with someone from our area who is incarcerated and begin to build a relationship over the course of the first year.

The second year we would use what we learned from our workshops and also our own learned experience and wisdom to guide and help this person as they are released back into the mainstream of society.

As we begin this journey all are welcomed, if you are curious please contact me. And as our meetings are scheduled please feel free to come and participate perhaps as we all learn together, another team may develop.

We begin this journey together as the community of St Aidan's. I cannot think of a better time to begin than in the season of Lent, leading up to our most sacred time of Easter and the Resurrection.

Let me know what you think.

Blessings and Solidarity

Rob

(More info at : [One Parish One Prisoner — Underground Ministries](#) )

## ***Cold Weather Shelter Report***

Kevin King

Well, the crazy Seattle winter weather got closer to normal in late February and March. Temperatures hovered in the 40s/50s with no nights below freezing. This was quite a change from the near 3 weeks of constant cold we had in January/February. No Cold Weather Shelter (CWS) overnight stays during that time. You may have said a prayer or two of gratitude. I know for a fact that the volunteers for the Cold Weather Shelter (CWS) did! Heading to church or home from church at 1am was not an easy feat. Those shifts were killers!

The CWS team extends a gigantic THANK YOU to all of those who volunteered! To those who volunteered AT the shelter, thank you. To see someone in their late 70s, even 80s, show up to help out till one o' clock in the morning, well, it was like seeing Jesus walk into our midst. Thank you to those who did the bedding laundry, who cooked food for those who found shelter at St. Aidan's, who managed the volunteer system and who made phone calls to request volunteer help when the automated volunteer system wasn't enough. There were more nights that guests didn't come, but our volunteers kept coming faithfully, and always with a smile and when people did come, our volunteers were quick to provide help and always with compassion. It's one of those things in life that you find yourself feeling so fortunate to witness.

Also, we are so grateful to our neighbors at the LDS Church. They responded lickity-split from our request for help with not only volunteers but warm food for our guests. God is good!

On another note regarding those in need of housing, Kevin King, Peter Dunphy, Kusum Batey, Donna Myers and Fr. Drew have joined Stanwood-Camano Area Foundation (SCAF) efforts to address the issues of the unhoused. To date we shared our experiences and participated in meetings with other SCAF stakeholders. Several good things are in the works for our Stanwood-Camano community. We'll share as they come to fruition.

We will meet next month to discuss and refine operating procedures for next winter and a celebration will be held later in spring. If you have any suggestions or would like to join our team, please don't hesitate to reach out to any one of us.

## ***Festival 2025***

Things are building slowly for another big Festival. The south shed is essentially full, although there is room for light items on top. The north shed is three-quarters full. There is no longer room for big pieces of furniture. Those will have to wait until Festival week (14-19 July).

We are trying to make space and a little extra money by selling big/marketable items as Festival PreSales on Facebook Marketplace. So far we've sold a bookcase and a dresser-shelf combination.



The big news is we have totally rebuilt the church trailer. During tear-down, we learned that the trailer is 20 years old. Several boards were rotted out and it was becoming unsafe to utilize. Through the efforts of Peter Dunphy, Joey Sontheimer, Jerry Minnear and myself we rebuilt the trailer in the Dunphy Woodworking Center. We are now ready for the Spring-Summer rush.



Last, but not least, we have our annual Festival Kick-off scheduled on May 13th starting at 6pm. Hot Dogs to be provided. Bring your favorite tail-gate side dish. This is an opportunity to provide some background on Festival, fill key roles and have a little fun.

Kevin King

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

- |                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| April 2, 9                        | <b>Lenten Series w/Fr Frank Spina, 5pm start with a Soup/Salad/Bread Supper</b> |
| April 6                           | <b>Feed My Sheep Sunday</b>   |
| April 9                           | <b>Women of St Aidan's, 11am</b>  |
| April 13                          | <b>Palm Sunday</b>  |
| See page 3 for Holy Week Services |   |
| April 20                          | <b>Easter Sunday, one service at 10 am</b>                                      |



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



## Shrove Tuesday Trivia and Pancakes



Thank you to Dave Wood, Dick & Debbie Philmlee, Rick & Sheri Simmons, Pam Sontheimer, Joey Sontheimer, Jim Miller, Donna Myers, Kevin King and others who helped make this an enjoyable evening. And a special thanks to Fr Drew for his annual trivia quiz.

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY**

Robert & JoAnn Moffett

07

**Happy Birthday**

Pam Sontheimer	02	Kevin King	16
Judy Trammell	05	Robby Both	21
Michael Palmer	07	Kathy Hosley	21
Peter Dunphy	08	Betty Stevens	21
Deannie Dunbar	10	Roslyn Grace Buffington	28
Judy Scheuffele	10	Patty Paddock	30



## Altar Guild Teams for April

### April 1-15

**Teams 3 & 4:** Susie White, Susan Yerkes, Micki-Jo Palmer, Jan Donovan, Karole Gorman, Bev Maxwell, Vonda Buse

### April 16-30

**Teams 1 & 2:** Freda McKeown, Patty Vermilye, Donna Myers, Judy Bingay, Candi Bialon, Gayle Thomas



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

### A reminder:

If you are hosting please stay after Coffee Hour to help clean up Dietel Hall and the kitchen and make sure all leftover food is taken home and take used tea towels and dishcloths home to launder.

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.



### Socks for the Sockless



Socks are being collected in Dietel Hall until Palm Sunday.



## Food Bank Sunday (April 6th)

### "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.

## 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 the church office.

# April 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
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
<b>The Fourth Sunday of Lent</b>  8:00 am Morning Prayer 10:00 am Holy Eucharist II (also live streamed on YouTube)	5:30 pm AA	10:30 am Study Group	10:00 am Holy Eucharist I  5 pm Lenten Series			7 pm AA
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
<b>The Fifth Sunday of Lent</b>  8:00 am Holy Eucharist I 10:00 am Holy Eucharist II (also live streamed on YouTube)	5:30 pm AA	10:30 am Study Group	10:00 am Holy Eucharist I  11:00 am Women of St Aidan's  5 pm Lenten Series			7 pm AA
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	H	O	L	Y	W	E
<b>Palm Sunday</b>  8:00 am Holy Eucharist I 10:00 am Holy Eucharist II (also live streamed on YouTube)	<b>Holy Monday</b>  5:30 pm AA  7:00 pm Stations of the Cross	<b>Holy Tuesday</b>  7:00 pm Holy Tuesday Eucharist	<b>Holy Wednesday</b>  7:00 pm Taizé	<b>Holy Thursday</b>  7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Eucharist	<b>Good Friday</b>  7:00 pm Good Friday Liturgy	<b>Easter Vigil</b>  7 pm Great Vigil of Easter
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
<b>Easter Sunday</b>  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  TORCH DEADLINE			10:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry  11 am to 4 pm Children's Book Fair  7 pm AA
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
<b>The Second Sunday of Easter</b>  8:00 am Holy Eucharist I 10:00 am Holy Eucharist II (also live streamed on YouTube)	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.*

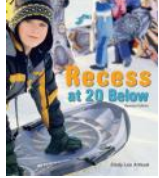
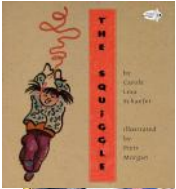
8:00 AM	March 30	April 6	April 13 Palm Sunday	April 20 Easter Sunday	April 27
Lector	JoAnn Moffett	Ann Morgan	Kathy Hosley		JoAnn Moffett
Chalice Bearer	<b>Morning Prayer</b>	JoAnn Moffett	Ann Morgan	<b>10 am</b>	Ann Morgan
Acolyte	Jim Miller	Jim Miller	Jim Miller	<b>Service Only</b>	Jim Miller
Usher	Kathy Hosley	Terra Stang-Johnson	JoAnn Moffett		Kathy Hosley
10:00 AM	March 30	April 6	April 13 Palm Sunday	April 20 Easter Sunday	April 27
Lector	Rob Gorman	Rob Gorman	Dick Philmlee	Candy Trautman	Rhoda Venditto
Chalice Bearer	Freda McKeown Mary McConnaughey	Theresa Strain Mary McConnaughey	Jackie Humes-Fear Peter Dunphy	Kathy Hosley Mary McConnaughey	Freda McKeown Peter Dunphy
Acolyte	Mary McConnaughey	Mary McConnaughey	Peter Dunphy	Mary McConnaughey	Peter Dunphy
Usher	Bill Sontheimer Bill White	Suellen Eberhart Marshall Eberhart	Joey Sontheimer Bill Sontheimer	Dick Philmlee Dick Bingay	Susie Johnson Jeff Johnson
Counter	Julie Vaux Kathy Hosley	Marilyn Rockwell Kathy McNally	Jackie Humes Fear Julie Vaux	Kathy McNally Kathy Hosley	Patty Dunphy Pam Sondtheimer
Childcare	JoAnn Moffett Donna Myers	JoAnn Moffett Deb Hubenthal	JoAnn Moffett Marilyn Rockwell	JoAnn Moffett Gayle Thomas	JoAnn Moffett Ethel Maxwell

## Holy Week

April 14 Holy Monday Stations of the Cross	April 15 Holy Tuesday Eucharist	April 16 Holy Wednesday Taize	April 17 Holy Thursday Maundy Thursday	April 18 Good Friday	April 19 Easter Vigil
	Lector: Peter Dunphy	Lector: Nancy Pates- Riches	Lector: Jackie Humes-Fear	Lector 1: Rob Gorman Lector 2: Candy Trautman	Lector: Candy Trautman
Volunteer Crucifer: as needed	Crucifer/Chalice: Mary McConaughy		Crucifer: Peter Dunphy		Crucifer: Mary McConnaughey
	Chalice Bearer: Jackie Humes- Fear		Chalice Bearer: Freda McKeown		Chalice Bearer: Mary McConnaughey
	Guest Preacher: TBD				Reader 1: Dick Philmlee Reader 2: JoAnn Moffett Reader 3: Jeff Maxwell Reader 4: Rhoda Venditto

## ***Blood Drives, a Children's Book Fair, and More.....***

Community Engagement has continued to reach out to the donors in the local area. These donors have been attending our blood drives very consistently. The drives at St. Aidan's are routinely filled to the maximum of 41 donors. Each individual donation of whole blood helps at least three people. Thus, a day of donations help an average of 120 people! The donors are truly angels to those in need! Thanks to each and every one of you. There has been such an overwhelming response we are in conversations with Bloodworks NW to EXPAND the donation schedule to once a month.



While the blood drives are super, I believe it is now a time for SOME FUN!!!

St. Aidan's will be hosting a **Children's Book Fairs on April 26th** from 11:00 am until 4:00pm. We have 5 authors of children's books who have accepted the invitations to read with the children, answer questions, sell and sign their books. Each author will speak and/or answer questions for about 10 to 15 minutes. At the time of this writing, we have; St. Aidan's own Carole Lexa Schaeffer, Nicola Pearson of Concrete, Olive Rankin of Sedro Woolley, Michelle LeFevre (and Kona the therapy dog) of Camano Island, and last but not least, Cindy Lou Aillaud of Camano Island. We have also teamed up with the local libraries to promote their reading programs. I hope and pray for a wonderful and fun event for the kids and those that are young at heart.



The Pickle



Other upcoming events for the congregation and the public are; Disaster Preparedness with how to help yourself AND how to become an angel for those suffering after an earthquake. I am also looking for how to avoid those sneaky Scam Artists.

I am always on the lookout for suggestions towards topics YOU would like to have.

Marshall Eberhart

## **ST. AIDAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

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