

May 2025

# THE TORCH

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

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## *From the Vicar*

I was certain it was a law of nature that April showers bring May flowers, but it seems all my expectations have been flipped in 2025. This year April brought the flowers, and lots of them! So, does this mean May is destined to bring the showers? Hard to say. But I, myself, hope it's flowers all the way through!

Easter tide is a season of flowers (mostly lilies), but it's also a season where expectations and certainties get turned upside down. To the conviction that the powerful always triumph over the weak Easter says, "Nope." To the notion that death is the final word and that the dead always stay dead Easter says, "No so fast." To the idea that there is a sin or fault from which you can never come back, Easter says, "Nothing can separate you from the love of God" and "I will raise you

up." It's the perfect season to hand over to God our certainty on some things and be surprised by grace with renewed openness.

Easter is also a time for everyone. For the churchy and non-churchy types alike. It's a time for impetuous believers like Peter, apostles like Mary Magdalene, and doubters like Thomas. Many of us have, at times, denied Christ just as Peter did, or failed to recognize Christ in our midst not unlike Mary, or insisted on incontrovertible physical evidence before believing a la Thomas. Easter says all have a place here. All can meet as brothers and sisters because the risen Christ has opened his wings and gathered us back together. At Easter Christ leaves no one behind.

As we enter the month of May we do so in so fully in Easter. Pentecost, the culmination of Easter, won't arrive until much later — the second Sunday in *June*! That means the Easter season bridges across three months instead of only two. Good Shepherd Sunday arrives on Mothers' Day, May 11th. Though it looks like there will be no live lambs in the service this year, nonetheless, a joyful celebration it will be. On May 13th the community gathers to kick off one of St Aidan's greatest annual events. It occurs in the month of July and draws the whole community together. It's something our church has become locally famous for doing. It is, of course, Summer Festival. Each spring, during the season of resurrection, a kick off dinner is held to organize and plan for bringing Festival back to life. Without fail the people of St Aidan's, and the Holy Spirit, find a way to raise it up, and in so doing, bring new life and joy to our friends and neighbors in the wider community.

Throughout this glorious season things which appear to be cast down are being raised up, and things which have been forgotten are being remembered. One can see this happening in our church with the One Parish One Prisoner ministry launching this year. In sponsoring one incarcerated person leaving the prison system our community is partnering with the Holy Spirit to bring life and wholeness back into someone's world. One can also see Easter happening in many other places too. When you see the risen Lord one thing is certain: you will start seeing him everywhere!

As you head into the month of May may you see the risen Christ unmistakably standing in your midst and revealing how he is making all things new!

Yours in Christ,  
Drew+



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

*"Keep on loving each other as brothers. Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by doing so some people have entertained angels without knowing it."* Hebrews 13:1-2

Think back to a time you felt truly welcomed. Maybe it was your first day at a new job or volunteer position, or even walking into a gathering where you knew no one. Remember that feeling of relief, of connection, when someone reached out with a smile or a kind word?

I remember my first days at St. Aidan's... it was at the end of 2021, so everyone was still being very cautious about close contact, especially with people they didn't know. Even in those difficult days, I was welcomed by at least a few people who recognized that I was a visitor, and took the time to help me through Dietel Hall to the church entrance. After the service, I was given a package of information, including a small loaf of bread, and was introduced to Father Drew. As uncomfortable as it was for me finding my way into the church and through the groups of folks I didn't know back then, I still felt welcomed and as a few more weeks passed, a real sense of belonging.

Each week, we have the opportunity to be that welcoming presence for someone new in our church family. Our simple acts of hospitality – a friendly greeting, an offer to help find a seat, or an invitation for coffee after the service – can create sense of belonging for our visitors.

The Bible consistently calls believers to extend hospitality and welcome to strangers, reflecting God's own love and care for all people. The passage from Hebrews suggests that welcoming strangers can have unexpected and profound consequences.

Jeff Maxwell shared a devotional with me from Richard Rhor's Daily Meditation entitled, Hospitality: A Holy Practice, a Reflection by Theologian, Christine Pohl. The very first sentence says, "Communities in which hospitality is a vibrant practice tap into deep human longings to belong, find a place to share one's gifts, and be valued."

Let's continue our good work in welcoming the newcomers in our midst. Welcoming strangers can have unexpected, and sometimes wonderful results!

Candi Bialon

### ***A Big Thank You!***

I'd like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to everyone who helped to make Holy Week so meaningful for all of us...to Father Drew for his spiritual guidance and dedication; to Lenore, our church secretary, who worked tirelessly in the office doing all that "back room" preparation; to Vonda Buse and the entire altar guild, who polished silver and brass, made palm crosses, kept the colors appropriate for each service day; to the folks who helped put up and take down the different drapes on the cross; to Mary McConaughy and all the folks who donated money for Easter lilies and helped arrange flowers, inside and outside the church; to the Women of St. Aidan's who prepared the beautiful Easter Vigil reception; to Steve Jensen, along with all the musicians and the choir, whose voices seemed to get more beautiful with each service; to the ushers, who, especially on Easter Sunday found seats and extra chairs for everyone in attendance; and, of course to the faithful people of St. Aidan's.

Thank you! Candi Bialon



### ***Saint Aidan's Annual Plant Sale***

Set up will begin at 11:am on Thursday, May 8th. Please bring plants and cardboard boxes anytime that day. The sale will run 10:am to 4:pm on May 9th and 10th. Plants will still be available to parishioners on Sunday the 11th. After 12 noon, everything is free.

Like last year, leftover plants will go to the Community Resource Center. Proceeds from the sale benefit Stanwood Youth Dynamics, a ministry devoted to at risk youth.

Thank you for donating and shopping the sale!

Gayle

## *From the Junior Warden*

Spring has arrived and our outdoor projects have begun in earnest-

- Our handicapped parking area was leveled, and new macadam was laid.
- Our first Wayfinding Sign has had its lettering applied and now directs parishioners, our guests and first timers with clear directions to our major buildings.
- The Columbarium was repaired and cleaned; clean water is again flowing . Thank you Greg Myers.
- Minor repairs to our Sanctuary door locks were undertaken.



Upcoming projects to begin this spring-

- Laminate flooring identical to our new kitchen and hallway, will be installed mid-June to Dietel Hall, the childcare room and music room. The job is large and planned to last two consecutive weeks. Although we plan to have movers to assist with the heavy objects, assistance will be needed. Stay tuned for more specific information.
- Much of the existing plantings behind the music room and east of the sanctuary will be removed and replaced. Irrigation in this area will be upgraded. The current rose bed will be redone; some roses will be moved; others will be replaced in new beds in the same general area. And the large, treed bed along the festival shed, will be planted with flowering plants. Currently, we do not have a firm beginning date for this project, but we are hoping to start mid-May.
- A second Wayfinding Sign is under construction for along the fire road to direct people back to the Columbarium, Church, Rose Garden and Garden stage.

Marilyn Rockwell

## *Meditation and Contemplation*

Dear Friends, as many of you know I am a Novice in my third and final year in the Community of the Incarnation, a new monastic and contemplative order from Garden City, New York. The order is located in the Cathedral of the Incarnation, the Episcopal Cathedral of the Diocese of Long Island, NY.

For many contemplation is something we believe only the cloistered members of our faith participate in. Thus, one of our missions is to once again open the door for everyone to participate in this important element of our faith.

Our community engages in what we know as the "Incarnation Method of Contemplative Prayer". It is a method where we bring our whole selves to our prayer practice the good the bad and whatever else is on your mind and heart.

I would be happy to lead some sessions if enough folks are interested in participating, here at St Aidan's. We could do it in Dietel Hall or ideally the Sanctuary. This method of contemplation is something you can do on your own, once you learn the method. I really like doing this prayer in community the sense of solidarity just adds to the practice.

If this is something you may be interested in please contact me or catch me at church. [rq46@me.com](mailto:rq46@me.com). or 206 673 6075, text is best.

The Center for Spiritual Imagination runs community meditation sessions on Mondays at 3:30pm our time, there will be around 25-40 people on the zoom meditation. It will be lead by one of our novices or one of our vowed members. Check it out or contact me so we can begin our own contemplative meditations, here at St Aidan's.



[spiritualimagination.org](http://spiritualimagination.org)

Blessing and Peace,  
Rob Gorman

## ***Cold Weather Shelter***

Well, we think its finally safe to assume no more below freezing nights for the 2024/2025 Cold Weather Shelter season. Seems like it's been all or nothing this winter. A few stats from a baseball geek to let you know what impact St Aidan's has had with this effort.

Shelter Open Nights – 27

Shelter Guest Nights – 11 guests over 8 guest night

Overnight Animals – 3

Tally of St Aidan's Volunteers - 15

Tally of Stanwood-Camano Volunteers – 8

We'd like to thank the many volunteers who stayed overnight, made breakfasts, handed out fliers, sought out volunteers, attended meetings concerning the unhoused and washed the linens. Without the help of these folks, we wouldn't be able to make this St Aidan's community outreach effort happen.

A big thank you to John Mathis, Karen O'Leary, Kusum Batey, Kevin King, Gloria Archambault, Mark Hinrichs, Greg Myers, David Wood, Donna Myers, Ray Riches, Peter Dunphy, Deb Hubenthal, Bob Perry, Nancy Pate-Riches, and Carol Swain for volunteering one or more evenings. Also, thanks to Donna Conner for handing out fliers; Helene Blume for laundry services and Ray Riches / Patty Clark for breakfast casseroles. If we forgot someone, please accept our apologies and thank you for your support.

We also had a Cold Weather Shelter recognition dinner, Friday 25 April. At this event we personally thanked those who participated in our Cold Weather Shelter activities and sought ideas on how to make it better for the 2025/2026 season. One initiative we are working on is to engage other churches in helping us carry the load of staffing the shelter.

Please keep the Cold Weather Shelter in your prayers.

Cold Weather Shelter Steering Committee

Kevin King, Donna Myers, Kusum Batey, Peter Dunphy

## ***Festival 2025***

As I write this, I am having a slow brain morning. In an effort to jump-start my brain, I read Torch submittals from this time in the previous year. What I found is we are way ahead of the game in filling the sheds. At this stage, we can only take small, stackable items; preferably in bags or boxes. Furniture will have to wait until July. If you must clear furniture now, I suggest calling Habitat for Humanity in Mt Vernon. They will do pickups.

Also looking back, we had several unique, valuable items that we were able to sell via Facebook Marketplace. This year, we've only been able to sell a Dresser/Bookshelf combo and a large bookcase with several furniture items still up for sale.

We have set May 13th for the Festival Kick-off Dinner starting at 6pm. Hot Dogs will be provided. Please bring an appropriate "tail-gate" type side dish. The purpose of this event is to fire-up the congregation, seek volunteers for all the key roles and introduce new folks to what the St Aidan's Festival is all about. If you can't make that date, there will be plenty of other opportunities to plug in.

Save the week of 12 July for Festival setup and prep. Its an "all-hands" event. See also the June Torch for information on scheduling a pickup during the week prior to the 19 July Festival.

Kevin King – 2025 Festival Chairman

[Kevinaking16@gmail.com](mailto:Kevinaking16@gmail.com)

206-867-2744

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

May 4	Feed My Sheep Sunday
May 9-10	St Aidan's Plant Sale, 10am-4pm
May 12	Bloodworks NW blood drive, 10am-4pm
May 13	Festival Kick-off Dinner, 6pm
May 14	Women of St Aidan's, 11am
May 29	Gathering Place, 5pm

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



## Interested in Learning More About Disaster Preparedness and/or Cyber Security?

Marshall Eberhart here. As the Bishop's Committee liaison for Community Engagement, I have two questions for the readers of the Torch:

Would you be interested in a class/seminar on disaster preparedness?

And/or interested in a class/seminar on cyber security when using the internet?

If there is interest, I will schedule for some time in the middle of June. Please contact me with your response or if you have questions.

Marshall Eberhart  
cmarshalleberhart@msn.com  
360-421-0273



## 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 (May 4)	A-D
Second Sunday (May 11)	E-L
Third Sunday (May 18)	M-R
Fourth Sunday (May 25)	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.

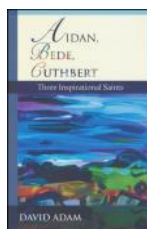
## Socks for the Sockless

With heart-felt gratitude! Thank you to all who supported the sock drive during Lent.

The Food Bank and the Caring Place were the recipients of the socks. They were thrilled to get the donations.

Until next year,  
Jackie Humes-Fear

## Tuesday 10:30 am—Study Group



The group meets in Dietel Hall or the conference room. In May the group will be reading and discussing "Aidan, Bede, Cuthbert: Three Inspirational Saints." The author, David Adam, published several collections of art, reflections, prayers and meditations based on the Celtic tradition.

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

## Food Bank Sunday (May 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.

The story of three trees.



Thank you for the  
Easter Egg Hunt

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Michael & Micki-Jo Palmer	03
Breck & Elaine Breckenridge	12
Chris & Patty Clark	14
Bill & Patty Vermilye	22



Edward Wurtz	02	Kusum Batey	20
Nic Whitaker	06	Susie White	20
Don Avallon	11	Julie Vaux	22
Bob Jacobs	11	Jackie Humes-Fear	27
Bill White	11	Carol Avallon	31
Beverly Maxwell	12	Nancy Pates-Riches	31
Will Smith	14		

# May 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
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
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<b>The Third Sunday of Easter</b> 8:00 am Holy Eucharist I 10:00 am Holy Eucharist II (also live streamed on YouTube) <b>Feed My Sheep</b>	5:30 pm AA	10:30 am Study Group	10:00 am Holy Eucharist I	11 am Plant Sale Set-up	10 am—4 pm Plant Sale	10 am—4 pm Plant Sale  7 pm AA
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
<b>The Fourth Sunday of Easter</b> 8:00 am Holy Eucharist I 10:00 am Holy Eucharist II (also live streamed on YouTube)	10am-4pm Bloodworks NW Blood Drive 5:30 pm AA	10:30 am Study Group 6:00 pm Festival Kick-off Dinner	10:00 am Holy Eucharist I 11:00 am Women of St Aidan's			7 pm AA
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
<b>The Fifth 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 4 pm Bishop's Committee	10:00 am Holy Eucharist I	TORCH DEADLINE		10:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry 7 pm AA
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
<b>The Sixth Sunday of Easter</b> 8:00 am Holy Eucharist I 10:00 am Holy Eucharist II (also live streamed on YouTube) St Bede, the Venerable (window 10)	St Augustine of Canterbury (window 4) 5:30 pm AA	10:30 am Study Group	10:00 am Holy Eucharist I	5:00 pm 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	April 27	May 4	May 11	May 18	May 25
Lector	JoAnn Moffett	JoAnn Moffett	Ann Morgan	Kathy Hosley	Kathy Hosley
Chalice Bearer	Ann Morgan	Ann Morgan	JoAnn Moffett	Ann Morgan	Ann Morgan
Acolyte	Jim Miller	Jim Miller	Jim Miller	Jim Miller	Jim Miller
Usher	Kathy Hosley	JoAnn Moffett	Kathy Hosley	Terra Stang-Johnson	Kathy Hosley
10:00 AM	April 27	May 4	May 11	May 18	May 25
Lector	Rhoda Venditto	Jackie Humes-Fear	Jeff Maxwell	Nancy Pates-Riches	Dick Philmlee
Chalice Bearer	Freda McKeown Peter Dunphy	Freda McKeown Mary McConnaughey	Theresa Strain Peter Dunphy	Jeff Maxwell Mary McConnaughey	Jackie Humes-Fear Peter Dunphy
Acolyte	Peter Dunphy	Mary McConnaughey	Peter Dunphy	Mary McConnaughey	Peter Dunphy
Usher	Susie Johnson Jeff Johnson	Suellen Eberhart Marshall Eberhart	Ethel Maxwell Bill White	Susie Johnson Jeff Johnson	Bill Sontheimer Joey Sontheimer
Counter	Patty Dunphy Pam Sontheimer	Jackie Humes-Fear Julie Vaux	Marilyn Rockwell Kathy Hosley	Patty Dunphy Kathy McNally	Pam Sontheimer Kathy Hosley
Childcare	JoAnn Moffett Ethel Maxwell	JoAnn Moffett Pam Sontheimer	JoAnn Moffett Patty Dunphy	Kathy Hosley Julie Vaux	Kathy Hosley Donna Myers



### Altar Guild Teams for May

**May 1-15**

**Teams 3 :** Susie White, Susan Yerkes,  
Micki-Jo Palmer,

**May 16-31**

**Teams 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 the church office.

**NEXT  
TORCH  
DEADLINE**

**Thursday, May 22nd**

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

Photos, suggestions and/or comments are greatly appreciated

## ***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 8: St Hilda, Virgin Abbess, Whitby, Yorkshire**



A member of the royal family of Northumbria, Hilda was baptized as a child by Paulinus, first Archbishop of York, at the same time her uncle, King Edwin, was converted. As a young woman, she was taught by Bishop Aidan, and followed his advice to enter the religious life. Bishop Aidan gave her some land upon which she built an abbey, and later, two more — finally building a large double community at Whitby, in Yorkshire. She ruled both men and women at Whitby and the Venerable Bede tells the beautiful story of how she encouraged the simple cowherd Caedmon, to tell his story of the Creation in inspired song, securing its place in early English literature.

She was a wise and holy woman who set an example of Christian leadership in the Anglo-Saxon Church. Although she had been taught mostly by Irish monks at Lindisfarne, she graciously conceded her preference when she presided over the Council of Whitby in 664/5, which resulted in the new canons of the Roman Church superseding those of the Celtic Church.

Her symbols include a diadem (her royal birth) and a shepherd's crook (her leadership).

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

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