

June 2025

THE TORCH

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

www.StAidanCamanoIsland.org

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

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From the Vicar

I often ponder what life would have been like in our region 150 years ago when the diocese of Olympia was still a frontier diocese on the far-flung edges of our still relatively new country. The Episcopal Church had history, and a sizable concentration of established churches, on the eastern seaboard with some congregations already 200 years old by 1875. At that time Washington was, of course, not yet a state, only a territory. Fifteen short decades ago Tacoma was barely a city and Seattle was just getting the first official map of its streets and neighborhoods drafted into existence. Camano Island had a small settlement based around a sawmill at Utsalady, largely dependent on immigrant labor, including Chinese and Norwegian workers. A micro sized school district was set up to serve 17 students. Life in these parts was quite different back then.

The Episcopal Church of western Washington was a mere handful of congregations under the oversight of a bishop for the "Missionary Territories of Oregon and Washington". St John's, Olympia and Christ Episcopal Church, Blaine were some of our first Episcopal communities established in the later half of the 19th century. By 1880 our widespread ecclesial territory was reduced when it was separated from Oregon. Washington was subsequently divided into the Missionary districts of Olympia and Spokane. It would not be until the twentieth century before each became their own respective diocese.

As our region developed over time churches were planted and nurtured into being. Some saw their numbers naturally grow with each wave of various economic and population booms. Others clung to life and persisted by the determination and faithfulness of prayerful and passionate clergy and laity working together. Eventually our diocese became home to more than 100 worshiping congregations from Vancouver to Blaine, and from Westport to Snoqualmie Pass. Each new church planted was considered a "mission" church of this beautiful frontier "mission territory" or diocese, as the case may be. As it grew and became self-supporting it would naturally become a "parish" church. When you're a new and growing territory the very understandable expectation is that missions become parishes and parishes don't become missions (though that is possible). That is mostly what happened. Most missions became parishes, though some did not. Christ Church, Blaine — one of our oldest and most established churches — remains a mission today.

One mistake when looking at missions and parishes would be to think that one has greater value and the other less. This outlook, whether spoken or unspoken, is a most grievous sin. The truth is all communities are valuable; some missions are vibrant and some parishes are struggling. At the end of the day these designations, however imperfect they may or may not be, exist to help support the full flourishing of the Episcopal community of our diocese as a whole.

St Aidan's has gained a reputation as a strong and vibrant mission church, and a faithful and responsible member of the diocese. Many inside and outside our doors have openly wondered, "Why aren't they a parish?!" The answer is simple: St Aidan's has prioritized its ministry of being the Body of Christ in the Stanwood-Camano community above its canonical status. However, now may be the time to consider having our canonical designation reflect the reality of who we are. Perhaps before the bishop comes a knocking!

next page..

To learn more, and ask important and much needed questions, please attend the congregational meeting being held on Sunday, June 1 at 4:00 p.m.

Blessings to you in the month of June. It feels like summer may have arrived early!

Yours in Christ,
Drew+

From the Senior Warden



"Be still and know that I am God. (from Psalm 46)

But I still my soul and make it quiet, ... my soul is quieted within me. (from Psalm 131)"

Maybe you remember those two verses from a recent ePistle reflection written by St. Aidan's church secretary, Lenore Challenger. Lenore shared, "Sometimes I get frazzled and sometimes I get overwhelmed. At these times, I find it helpful to deliberately slow myself down... And a reminder that "being still" can be a good and comforting thing."

I think most of us have experienced times of feeling overwhelmed, perhaps when we have too much to do and not enough time to do it, or we feel helpless or hopeless for some reason, unable to solve a problem.

Toward the end of Lenore's reflection, she asked if any of us knew any verses or hymns that emphasize being still. I thought that would be a great assignment for anyone seeking peace and comfort. After a couple weeks of new tasks and challenges of my own, I thought perhaps finding some Biblical references about stillness or rest might be a helpful project. I did some research and found a couple that spoke to me:

Psalm 62:1-2 (NIV): *"Truly my soul finds rest in God; my salvation comes from him. Truly he is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress; I will never be shaken."*

Matthew 11:28-30 (NIV): *"Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest in your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."*

And I do have a favorite hymn that I have loved for years called ***"It Is Well With My Soul,"*** written in 1873 by Horatio Spafford. You can find it on YouTube performed by any number of artists. I encourage you to take a listen...it will calm even the most frazzled mind.

I want to close with a big THANK YOU to Lenore who was so helpful during Father Drew's absence. She is a delight to work with!

Candi Bialon

Important Congregational Meeting *4:00 pm Sunday, June 1*

Your thoughts, input and questions are being sought on the consideration of St Aidan's changing canonical status from a "mission" church to a "parish" church. Come and find out what it means for St Aidan's ministry.

Important Events at St Aidan's in June

- | | |
|------------|--|
| June 1 | Feed My Sheep Sunday
Congregational Meeting, 4pm |
| June 9 | Bloodworks NW blood drive, 10am-4pm |
| June 14 | St Aidan's Dinner Group Happy Hour, 4-6pm |
| June 15 | Selah, 5pm |
| June 16-27 | Flooring project for Dietel Hall, Music Room and Child Care Room |



From the Junior Warden

We met Tuesday May 6 for our first 2025 workday and cleaned up church grounds, weeded, changed some filters, repaired fencing, and picked up after spring and winter's messy weather. Thanks go out to Patty and Peter Dunphy, Ken DeMoyse, Kevin King, and Bev Maxwell. And please consider joining us for our June event; date to be determined.



Our new flooring for Dietel Hall, the children's room and choir room will be delivered Thursday June 12; it will be stored in Dietel Hall, and installation begins Monday June 16. We will need volunteers after Sunday's coffee hour to move chairs and collapsed tables to the side providing as much free space as possible for installation. We anticipate that the entire job will take 10 days to complete. We have cancelled events normally occurring during these 10 days. The Tuesday study group will use other space. At this time, we can expect to hold Sunday June 22 outside if weather allows. More announcements will be provided in the weekly ePistle and at Sunday services.

We will need some medium sized moving boxes; if you have some to volunteer, please email me (Marilyn@gordonrockwell.com) and my thanks in advance.

The Landscaping Project is nearly complete and really freshens up our campus. Its careful planning should provide us with changing color, blooms and scents through the seasons. Please take a few minutes to walk through the grounds to east and south of the Sanctuary to see the changes.

St Aidan's has recently hired a cleaning service for upkeep of our church. As in the past, they are NOT responsible for cleaning our kitchen. That's up to us, as a reminder, please reread the kitchen rules posted on the frig.

Marilyn Rockwell

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 9: St Cuthbert, Bishop, Northumbria



The most celebrated of all Anglo-Saxon bishops was tending his father's sheep when a vision of angels bearing the soul of St. Aidan to heaven sent him to seek spiritual counsel from the Abbot of nearby Melrose Abbey. As his special gift of grace was noticed, he became more devoted to a religious life; he became a priest, and then an Abbot. His remarkable piety and devotion drew people to him, and to the Lord he served. In time, he became Bishop of Lindisfarne where he won the monks to accept the changes imposed upon the Celtic Church by the Council of Whitby.

Two centuries after his death, his incorruptible remains and St. Oswald's head came to rest at Durham. The miracles attributable to his relics caused a full-blown cult to develop in northern England and southern Scotland.

St. Cuthbert's symbol, the swan, represents solitude and the devotion and piety that have their roots in time spent in solitude with the Lord.

Window given in thanksgiving to God



Festival Update

We had a Festival Kick-off on May 13th. Hot Dogs were provided by the Church; potluck side dishes were brought by the 30+ attendees. The purpose of this event was 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.

We confirmed/identified Leads for all of the Festival Roles as noted below! For Leads unable to attend the Festival Kick-off, I have assumed continued participation. If that is incorrect, please let me know as soon as possible. If you were not able to attend, there is still plenty of time to find an area to pitch-in. Please contact the Festival Chair if you are interested in volunteering.

Festival Role	Responsibility	Lead Contact (s)
Festival Chair / Grounds Setup / Security	Overall leader for Festival. Ensure leads have resources needed. Develop layout for tables and furniture. Ensure that we have onsite security during Festival week. Contact Sheriff's office to make them aware of Festival week. Secure tables with locking ropes.	Kevin King
Publicity / Cashier / T-shirt Coordinator	Coordinate Crab Cracker and other promotion of the Festival. Cashier day of Festival. Handle T-shirt sales.	Theresa Strain
Field General	Responsible for weekday and Saturday work.	Patty Dunphy
Transportation Coordinator	Coordinate plans, bus stops and signage for SnoGoose transportation and golf carts.	Deannie Dunbar
Parking Coordinator	Rope and mark off drive lanes and parking areas. Contact LDS Church for permission to park on Festival day. Coordinate parking volunteers for traffic control on grounds and at the LDS Church. Coordinate signage for church and Hwy 532.	Greg Myers
Porta Potty Coordinator	Schedule (2) Porta Potties for Festival day.	Dick Bingay
Boy Scout Volunteer Lead	Scout interface for paid/unpaid helpers	Marshall Eberhart
Music/PA Setup	Coordinate setup of PA system and provide music during Festival.	Steve Jensen
Lead—Food Concessions	Purchase and prepare concession food for sale	Ray Riches
Donut Coordinator	Coordinate with IGA for weekday pick up of by Festival chairman. Coordinate donated donuts for Saturday from IGA.	Kathy Hosley
Lunch Banker	Collect funds for weekday lunches.	Peter Dunphy
Lunch Coordinators	Plan, prepare or order lunch for the St Aidan's volunteers – Monday thru Saturday	Carol Swain and Will Swain
"Mr Fixit"	Ensure that gasoline and electric tools/appliances work.	Rick Simmons
Dietel Hall Sales Lead	Coordinate display and pricing of items to be sold in Dietel Hall.	Suellen Eberhart
Lead—Books	Coordinate book collection and sales.	Julie Vaux
Lead—Cashier	Setup process for cash and credit sales.	Jeff Maxwell

We are blessed to again have support from Jim, Joanne, Margo and Larry. We are one of many stops on their Pacific Northwest caravan.

There is no space for large items (i.e. furniture) in the sheds. If you have items to donate, if at all possible, please bring them in boxes/bins that are stackable so we can maximize our space. Please make sure you preserve runways in each of the sheds so that we have access to the book shelves and the garage doors. We will continue to take on smallish donations on Sundays after church.

You can drop-off items the week prior to Festival or arrange a pickup by contacting the Church Office or entering you information using the web link below:

"St Aidan's Festival Donation Pickup Signup": <https://forms.office.com/r/hPCYF7UkPw>.



If you have expertise with a particular type of collectable (i.e. Bob Bialon with clocks/watches), please let me know. We have in the past pulled out high-value collectables and sold them separately.

Volunteers!, if you do not currently have a fluorescent green Festival shirt, please contact Theresa Strain so she can outfit you or order the needed sizes.

Kevin King
Festival Chairman



Fire-up for the Festival on July 19th

Set-up will occur through the week prior starting after church on Sunday, July 13th.

Communication will be via the Torch, church announcements, emails or St Aidan's ePistles.

Missing Your Glasses?



The lost & found baskets in the office have an impressive collection of reading glasses, sunglasses, and the occasional earring. Anything not claimed will be donated to this year's Festival. Please stop by the office during office hours for a look-see if you've misplaced your glasses.

St Aidan's Dinner Group

The last event of the season for the dinner group attendees will be Happy Hour on June 14th at 4:00pm. Please bring a snack to share and also BYOB please. We will gather in Dietel Hall to share our friendship and ideas for the future.

If you haven't been involved in the group and would like to join in or are curious, please feel free to join in.

Hope to see you all soon!

Brad and Julie



Brad & Mandy Whitaker	14
Bill & Susie White	22
Erin & Alicia Lavery-Mullins	26
Peter & Marilyn Rockwell	27
Peter & Patty Dunphy	28



Dawn Foisie	05	Donna Conner	18
Ann Morgan	07	Mickie-Jo Palmer	19
Otto Leuschel	08	Will Swain	19
Elaine Breckenridge	11	Susie Johnson	23
John Rauch	11	Joey Sontheimer	23
Billie Jensen	13	Arra Morrison	25
Robin Ringland	13	Marshall Eberhart	29
Judy Pieper	15	Alison Cole	30
Greg Myers	16	Allen Feris	30
Patty Both	18	Peter Ringland	30



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 (June 1)	A-D
Second Sunday (June 8)	E-L
Third Sunday (June 15)	M-R
Fourth Sunday (June 22)	S-Z
Fifth Sunday (June 29)	All

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.

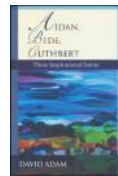
Make sure the front door is locked before leaving. If you do not have a key, no problem just lock the front door from the inside and leave by the double doors that lead to the sanctuary.

Your Help and Thoughtfulness Needed!



Please no food or trash in the recycling bins! The transfer station is picky about this kind of thing.

Tuesday 10:30 am—Study Group



The group meets in Dietel Hall or the conference room. The group is currently 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.

The group will begin a new book (yet to be determined) in mid-June.

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

Food Bank Sunday (June 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.

June 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
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
The Seventh Sunday of Easter 8:00 am Holy Eucharist I 10:00 am Holy Eucharist II (also live streamed on YouTube) Feed My Sheep 4:00 pm Congregational Meeting	5:30 pm AA	10:30 am Study Group	10:00 am Holy Eucharist I			7 pm AA
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
The Day of Pentecost Whitsunday 8:00 am Holy Eucharist I 10:00 am Holy Eucharist II (also live streamed on YouTube)	St Columba of Iona (window 5) 10am-4pm Bloodworks NW Blood Drive 5:30 pm AA	10:30 am Study Group	10:00 am Holy Eucharist I			4-6pm Dinner Group Happy Hour 7 pm AA
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
The First Sunday after Pentecost Trinity Sunday 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	TORCH DEADLINE		7 pm AA
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
The Second Sunday after Pentecost 8:00 am Holy Eucharist I 10:00 am Holy Eucharist II (also live streamed on YouTube) St Alban (window 2)	5:30 pm AA	10:30 am Study Group	10:00 am Holy Eucharist I			10:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry 7 pm AA
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
The Third Sunday after Pentecost 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			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	June 1	June 8	June 15	June 22	June 29
Lector	JoAnn Moffett	Kathy Hosley	JoAnn Moffett	Kathy Hosley	Ann Morgan
Chalice Bearer	Ann Morgan	Ann Morgan	Ann Morgan	Ann Morgan	Morning Prayer
Acolyte	Jim Miller	Jim Miller	Jim Miller	Jim Miller	Jim Miller
Usher	Kathy Hosley	JoAnn Moffett	Kathy Hosley	JoAnn Moffett	Kathy Hosley
10:00 AM	June 1	June 8	June 15	June 22	June 29
Lector	Nancy Pates-Riches	Rob Gorman	Rhoda Venditto	Jeff Maxwell	Dick Philmlee
Chalice Bearer	Freda McKeown Bob Perry	Theresa Strain Peter Dunphy	Jackie Humes-Fear Bob Perry	Fread McKeown Peter Dunphy	Jackie Humes-Fear Bob Perry
Acolyte	Bob Perry	Peter Dunphy	Bob Perry	Peter Dunphy	Bob Perry
Usher	Suellen Eberhart Marshall Eberhart	Dick Bingay Dick Philmlee	Joey Sontheimer Bill Sontheimer	Ethel Maxwell Bill White	Suellen Eberhart Marshall Eberhart
Counter	Marilyn Rockwell Kathy McNally	Patty Dunphy Pam Sontheimer	Kathy Hosley Julie Vaux	Jackie Humes-Fear Pam Sontheimer	Sue Perry Kathy Hosley
Childcare	JoAnn Moffett Deb Hubenthal	JoAnn Moffett Gayle Thomas	JoAnn Moffett Marilyn Rockwell	JoAnn Moffett Vonda Buse	JoAnn Moffett Sue Perry



Altar Guild Teams for June

June 1-15

Team 1: Freda McKeown, Patty Vermilye,
Donna Myers

June 16-30

Team 2: Judy Bingay, Candi Bialon,
Gayle Thomas

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?



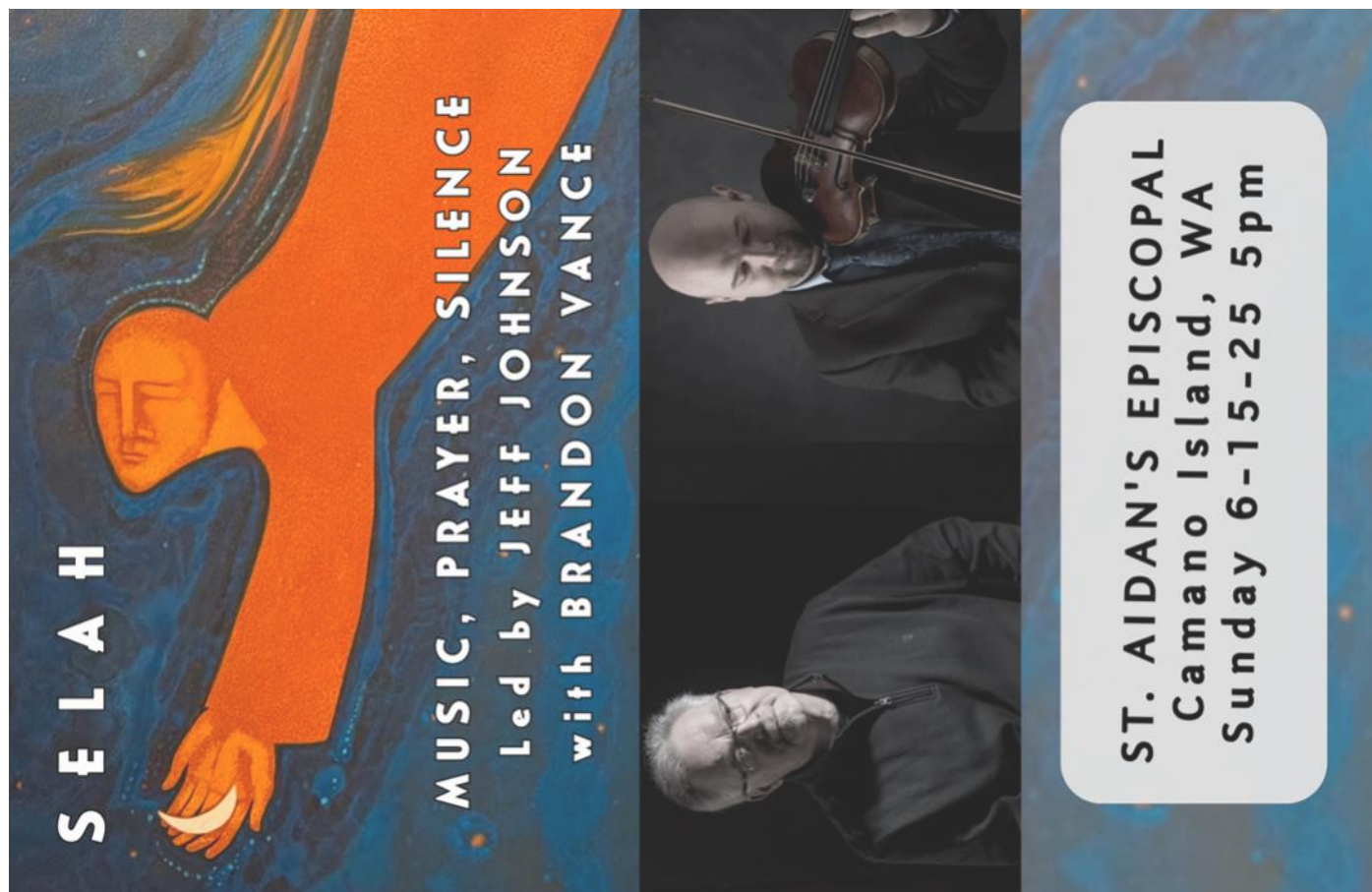
If you need help please contact the church office.

**NEXT
TORCH
DEADLINE**

Thursday, June 19th

Email submissions to: mcnallyk@outlook.com

Photos, suggestions and/or comments are greatly appreciated



ST. AIDAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
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