

September 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 was once acquainted with a smart, sports-loving (mostly soccer and rugby) British man who worked for NATO. We spent a good amount of time in his den watching English rugby on a large flatscreen television. He greatly enjoyed explaining to his uninitiated American friend all the finer points of how a scrum works. He was animated and passionate, but with a reserved dignity that only our friends from across the pond can pull off. I listened with genuine interest and thoroughly enjoyed every detailed breakdown of how the game worked. I came to not only relish this guy's company but respect his take on life. He ended up being one of three lay mentors that helped me take a group of teens on pilgrimage to the UK's holy sites as the culmination of their high school confirmation course. In

preparation for the trip we considered various itineraries and modes of transport. At one point he turned to me and said, "Trains are a *dignified* way to travel." To be honest, I had never thought about it in quite that way before. But he was right, there is something especially good about taking the train.

On the great continent of North American the car is king. Our modern country itself was birthed by and with the automobile. Many grew up going to drive-in diners and drive-in movie theaters, and were shaped by films like American Graffiti. The car is part of our culture, yet it has limitations. Cars are fast, dangerous (statistically), expensive, and socially isolating. You can zip here and there and home again before you know it, but without really seeing or interacting with anyone. A train, by contrast, is a different proposition. Trains are not fast, but rather slow and often somewhat "boring." They're frequently filled with a variety of people, some going in the same direction as you, many headed for other destinations. Some with stories to tell, others who prefer to sit quietly and watch the outside world drift slowly by. There is a beauty and a dignity to train travel. A writer of a recent article on this topic said trains give you "what roads cannot teach: intimacy with strangers, the weight of history, and time slowed down."

When you take a train you're choosing to enter into another category, another mode. You're opting into an unhurried experience of the world with strangers and their unique stories, with the environment passing by like an unbroken movie reel of scenes, punctuated by the staccato clickety-clack of the rails letting you know that this is a journey and not merely a destination. There are things to be gleaned. Deep breaths to be taken. Beauty to be relished. Time to be sanctified with appreciation for the moment and those with whom you share it.

For these reasons - and more - I love train travel, and find it to be not dissimilar to the church. On the surface, to some, it may seem antiquated and outdated, but it's not. Once you're in the door and have chosen to spend time in this way a treasure trove of blessings unfold before you. The holiness and truth and grace of scripture reaches into your heart. The people around you share their stories and their love. The old hymns envelope you with history and beauty. The potluck meal shared around tables becomes a kind of second Communion. Church gives you what the world cannot: spiritual depth of fellowship with strangers, the weight and benefit of history and tradition, and time slowed down enough to breath in the Holy Spirit.

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St Aidan's has been just such a faithful church all these years, since our first meeting in Stanwood in 1959. Our church has stood with open arms to all who would come through our doors to find rest and renewal in Christ Jesus. As we write the next chapter of St Aidan's history as a loving, Episcopal community on a unique journey with Jesus we have the opportunity to do so as a parish church. Your presence on this journey to becoming a parish is invaluable. Now that we have the "go ahead" from the Bishop, it's time to have a meeting of the entire congregation. Mark your calendar for Sunday, September 21st. It will be a joyful day with worship at 9:00, our congregational meeting at 10:00, and a potluck at 11:00. Hope to see you on the train!

Blessings to you this September.

Yours in Christ,
Drew+



From the Senior Warden

Dinner Groups

I think September might be my favorite month of the year. It's the promise of fall soon to come: the weather is beginning to cool, colors are beginning to turn, traffic on the Island is thinning out a bit, and Dinner Groups are back!

I remember a few years ago when I was new to St. Aidan's, and had just learned about dinner groups. I am not the world's best cook, so I had always been reluctant to host people for dinner in my home, especially people I didn't know very well. I quickly learned however, that it's not about how grand your house is, or whether you feel like Martha Stewart or Wolfgang Puck... it's about making others feel warm and welcome; it's about fellowship and connecting with each other in an informal and more intimate setting. And it's always "come as you are" and share what you can. There are many Biblical passages referencing sharing meals with one another, with the recurring theme being the table is a place of belonging, where all are welcome, and where the love of God is expressed.

My time in Dinner Groups has shown me that true hospitality isn't about perfection; it's about our presence. Breaking bread together in these smaller groups helps us find a sense of belonging, and grow as a faith community.

As we head into this season, whether you are able to host others or not, I hope you've considered joining or continuing to be a part of Dinner Groups. Let's find our way to each other around the table.

Thank you, Julie Vaux and Brad Whittaker, for keeping us organized again this year.

Candi Bialon

Important Events at St Aidan's in September

September 1	Feed My Sheep Sunday
September 6	Salmon Grill Event, 5pm
September 8	Bloodworks NW Blood Drive, 10am-4pm
September 10	Women of St Aidan's, 11am
September 21	NOTE: One Service at 9am followed by a Congregational Meeting (Mission to Parish) at 10:05am and a Potluck at 11am
September 28	Adult Forum, 9:15 am (between services), discussion on "Falling Upward" by Richard Rohr

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

Our St Aidan's roof repairs have just begun, and we expect that they will take about two weeks. The repairs are largely over the Dietel Hall building and are the final project approved October 2024 by our Bishop's Committee.



The Wayfinding Project (campus signage) is nearing completion and will soon include interior signs guiding guests towards our Sanctuary, and exterior signs to the Office, Columbarium, Garden Stage, and Prayer Walk.

A lower safety handrail has been added at the stairs from the parking lot entrance to the Choir room.

A hardy thank you goes out to Greg Myers and Hellen DeMoyse for a thorough cleaning of the Columbarium and its adjoining pond.

Marilyn Rockwell



All -Hands Congregational Meeting Sunday, September 21 at 10:15am Essential to St Aidan's Becoming a Parish Church

Please make sure you attend this important congregational meeting. There will be one service scheduled that Sunday for 9:00 am. The meeting will begin at 10:15 am. A potluck will follow the close of the meeting.

The Chancellor from the Diocese, Bryan Krislock, will be present as a resource and support. The agenda will include voting on articles of incorporation, and by-laws. Bishop Committee members will be elected as the parish Vestry. These actions will provide the necessary pieces for our application to the Diocesan Convention to be accepted as a parish church.



Notes and Reflections from Our Community

"Why is community a near-universal experience — especially for people of faith?"

One person put it this way: 'Community is God's strategy for reaching the world.'

That's a neat way of saying that as community— rather than as individuals—we model what God has in mind for humanity."

Joe Nangle, Sojourners Magazine, 1994

Shared by Judy Meiger

Did You Know?

The bell now located outside of the choir room was given to St Aidan's 60 years ago in 1965. Thanks to the efforts of former Stanwood Stationmaster E Lee Dayment, the much travelled 300-pound bell from Great Northern Railway's rolling stock was presented to the congregation by Everett Trainmaster A W Foote. Julie Vaux remembers her father, Ace Vanasse, being involved in this project.

Another note in St Aidan's history recounts the story of the bell falling on the hood of Marguerite Guest's brand new car during coffee hour on a summer Sunday in 1978.



Vicar Walt Correll ringing the railroad bell for a service in 1973.

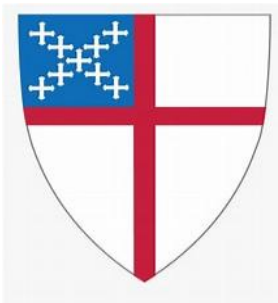
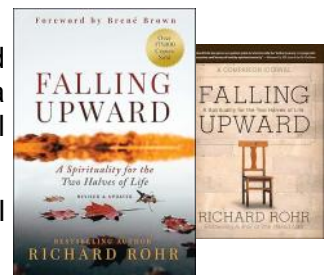


Dedication of the Great Northern bell.

Adult Forum Beginning September 28

The Sunday 9:15 Adult Forum will start September 28th and it will be on Richard Rohr's book "Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life". It will be a chapter-by-chapter discussion of the themes and ideas presented in the book. It will run through October and into November.

A revised and updated book was released in 2024. If you already have the original published in 2011 there is no need to purchase the newer version.



Episcopal 101 Coming in October

Episcopal 101 will start Sunday October 5th and run for 5-6 weeks. It's for folks new or newish to the Episcopal Church, and for longer time Episcopalians who want to learn more about their tradition. The class will meet at 4:00 p.m. on Sundays and cover such topics as Anglican/Episcopal Church History, the Book of Common Prayer, Anglican Spirituality and Doctrine, Anglican Approaches to Scripture, Sacraments, and Church Polity and Organization. Some light reading may be involved.

Sign up in Dietel Hall.

Salmon Grill *Saturday, September 6th*

The Bishop's Committee will be hosting St. Aidan's Annual Salmon Grill dinner in September on Saturday the 6th.

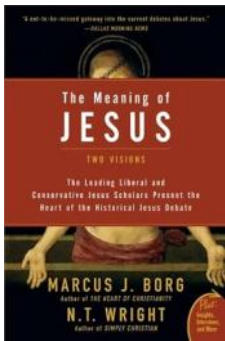


The event starts at 5pm with dinner at 6pm and entertainment following. If you have a talent to share let Allen or Ray know. This will be a potluck for side dishes and desserts. Sign-up sheet is in Dietel Hall—space is limited.

Contact Allen Feris or Ray Riches for further information.

Tuesday 10:30 am—Study Group

The group meets in Dietel Hall or the conference room.



The group has just begun reading “The Meaning of Jesus: Two Visions.” In alternating chapters, Marcus Borg, the most popular revisionist voice on Jesus, and N.T. Wright, the most prominent standard-bearer for traditionalism, present their views of who Jesus was, what he taught, and what he did.

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



Marshall & Suellen Eberhart	01
Don & Carol Jarrett	02
Robby & Patty Both	07
Jeff & Susie Johnson	11
Patrick & Carrie Buffington	14



Sue Perry	01	Nancy Uhlmansiek	21
Gayle Thomas	01	Hellen DeMoyse	23
Rich Witek	05	Yonnah Ben-Levy	25
Teresa Bennett	06	Jerri Feris	27
Wendy Campbell	09	Claudia Stephens	29
Gloria Archambault	13	Frank Spina	30
Donna Myers	17	Moses Walker	30
Phil Trautman	17		



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 (September 7)	A-D
Second Sunday (September 14)	E-L
Third Sunday (September 21)	Potluck
Fourth Sunday (September 28)	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.

Your Help and Thoughtfulness Needed!



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



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.

Don't forget that you can also request a printed copy of the directory. Contact the church office.

Food Bank Sunday *(September 7)*

“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.

September 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
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost St Aidan's Day  8:00 am Holy Eucharist I 10:00 am Holy Eucharist II (also live streamed on YouTube)	Labor Day 5:30 pm AA	10:30 am Study Group	10:00 am Holy Eucharist I			5:00 pm St Aidan's Salmon Grill
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost 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	10:00 am Holy Eucharist I 11:00 am Women of St Aidan's			7 pm AA
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
The Fourteenth 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	TORCH DEADLINE		7 pm AA
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 am Holy Eucharist II (also live streamed on YouTube) 10:15 am Congregational Meeting 11:00 am Potluck	5:30 pm AA	10:30 am Study Group	10:00 am Holy Eucharist I			10:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry 11:00 am Memorial for Dick Philmlee 7 pm AA
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost 8:00 am Holy Eucharist I 9:15 am Adult Forum 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	August 31 St Aidan's Day	September 7	September 14	September 21 One Service	September 28
Lector	Ann Morgan	Kathy Hosley	JoAnn Moffett		JoAnn Moffett
Chalice Bearer	JoAnn Moffett	Ann Morgan	Ann Morgan		Ann Morgan
Acolyte	Jim Miller	Jim Miller	Jim Miller		Jim Miller
Usher	Kathy Hosley	JoAnn Moffett	Kathy Hosley		Kathy Hosley
10:00 AM	August 31 St Aidan's Day	September 7	September 14	9:00 AM September 21	September 28
Lector	Jeff Maxwell	Rob Gorman	Rhoda Venditto	Nancy Pates-Riches	Jeff Maxwell
Chalice Bearer	Theresa Strain Mary McConnaughey	Mary McConnaughey Bob Perry	Jackie Humes-Fear Bob Perry	Freda McKeown Mary McConnaughey	Theresa Strain Bob Perry
Acolyte	Mary McConnaughey	Bob Perry	Bob Perry	Mary McConnaughey	Bob Perry
Usher	Ethel Maxwell Bill White	Joey Sontheimer Bill Sontheimer	Suellen Eberhart Marshall Eberhart	Susie Johnson Jeff Johnson	Ethel Maxwell Bill White
Counter	Pam Sontheimer Kathy Hosley	Marilyn Rockwell Kathy Hosley	Jackie Humes-Fear Julie Vaux	Kathy McNally Jackie Humes-Fear	Sue Perry Kathy Hosley
Childcare	JoAnn Moffett Deb Hubenthal	JoAnn Moffett Kathy Hosley	JoAnn Moffett Gayle Thomas	JoAnn Moffett Julie Vaux	JoAnn Moffett Donna Myers
	August 31	September 7	September 14	September 21	September 28
Altar Flowers	Lucy Armstrong Gloria Archambault	JoAnn Moffett	Gayle Thomas	Mary McConnaughey	Marilyn Rockwell



Altar Guild Teams for September

September 1-15

Team 3: : Susie White, Micki-Jo Palmer

September 16-30

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 the church office.

**NEXT TORCH
DEADLINE**

Thursday, September 18th

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

ST. AIDAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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