

October 2025

THE TORCH

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

www.StAidanCamanoIsland.org

www.Facebook.com/StAidanCamanoIsland

Office@StAidansci.org 360-629-3969



From the Vicar

The month of October is here and it comes with an avalanche of colors, sights, sounds, and symbols that signal things are a'changin'. The leaves going from green to yellow to red are the clearest sign that the earth (in the northern hemisphere at least) is in a seasonal transition. The humble orange pumpkin also unmistakably says October and harvest time. November may try to claim this delightful gourd, but it squarely belongs to the 10th month on the calendar. Along with the pumpkin popping up here, there and everywhere comes its coffee companion: the pumpkin spice latte. Ghouls and goblins and the cackle of witches emerge near the end of the month. And lastly, with the week leading up to Halloween comes the Diocesan Convention of the Diocese of Olympia. The two are not connected (Halloween and Convention), but perhaps they should be!

That would make for an interesting experience.

I've never been the kind of Christian who pooh-poohs Halloween or dressing up as ghosts, ghouls and goblins for one night of frivolity. To my mind it's all just good fun. Some Christians from other traditions, however, reject Halloween entirely. They say that it welcomes in the occult when we should be lifting up the holy. They have good intentions, and perhaps a reasonable theological point, but are missing where the spirit of the event truly lies. Its spirit and meaning is found in joy and friendship and community. In the same way that the Harry Potter books are not gateways to the occult but rather tales of friendship and faithfulness, Halloween is no different.

So when I first heard about the "Etsy Witch" selling spells and magical rituals on Etsy.com (a website for crafts) to help the Mariners clinch the playoffs (and possibly more) I didn't give it much thought. But perhaps we should. This crosses a big, red spiritual line in the sand. Much of Jesus' ministry was spent casting *out* spirits that harm people and that are not of God, sometimes ones that they invited in. When one begins to invoke spiritual powers and principalities other than God one is opening up a Pandora's box of sorts. And while the example above seems innocuous and tame, others may not be. There have been recent reports of much darker activity among these online "witches" that have left some questioning the phenomenon of their existence. At the end of the day, God in Christ has triumphed over all forces of evil that ally themselves against those who stand for truth, love and light. But we are called by God to not only be open and supportive but wise and discerning.

Halloween, in actual fact, is the opposite of evil. It's the eve of All Saints Day, a day in which we remember the dead not because they're dead, but because they are *alive*! They lived their lives by the grace of God working in them, giving us an example of faithfulness. When times get rough we can think back to what they did, how God acted in and through them, and be inspired for the work God has yet to do in us. As we move closer and closer to Diocesan Convention (Oct. 25) and the day St Aidan's will be voted in as a parish of the Diocese, I think about this more and more. I think about the many people across time who through their labors and prayers have helped make St Aidan's what it is today. And I give thanks.

As you make your way through this amazing month of October may your days not only be filled with pumpkins and fall beauty, but joy, truth, and love.

Yours in Christ,
Drew+



From the Senior Warden

"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Matthew 6:21)

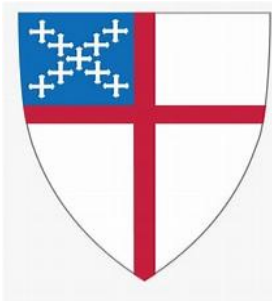
"Time, talent, treasure..." we'll hear and read those words frequently this time of year as we are asked to reflect on what stewardship means to us, and how we will take good care of the gifts God has entrusted to us. Just take a look around our beautiful church, and all the improvements we've been able to accomplish over the past year. None of that could have been done without so many folks' time, talent, and lots of treasure!

In the above passage from Matthew, Jesus is telling us that our financial gifts are a reflection of what we value; that we are showing God that He is the true treasure in our lives. It's a way of saying our heart is aligned with His. We're not just moving money from one account to another; we're expressing our love and trust in Him, and we understand all things come from Him. Our giving is a joyful response to the grace we've been given.

St. Aidan's is full of people freely giving of their time, talent and treasure to keep our church a vibrant place of worship, outreach, fellowship, music, and pastoral care. I'm blessed to be a part of such a wonderful faith community. Giving back to God shows Him how grateful we are for the gifts He has placed in our care.

As you are asked to prayerfully consider your pledge for next year, keep in mind that not only do your gifts fund St. Aidan's many internal ministries, pay for upkeep of our buildings and grounds, etc., they also support our community, helping those less fortunate than ourselves. Remember, every gift, no matter the size, is significant and valued. Gifts from the heart are not only a blessing to the church, but a blessing to ourselves as well.

Candi Bialon



Episcopal 101 Coming in October

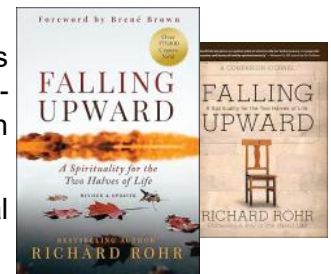
Episcopal 101 will start Sunday October 5th and run for 5-6 weeks. It's for folks new or newish to the Episcopal Church, and for longer time Episcopalians who want to learn more about their tradition. The class will meet at 4:00 p.m. on Sundays and cover such topics as Anglican/Episcopal Church History, 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.

Adult Forum Continuing through October

The Sunday 9:15 Adult Forum started 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.



Important Events at St Aidan's in October

October 5	Feed My Sheep Sunday
October 5, 12, 19, 26	Adult Form—"Falling Upward" by Richard Rohr, Sundays at 9:15am,
October 5, 12, 19, 26	Episcopal 101, Sundays at 4pm
October 6	Bloodworks NW Blood Drive, 10am-4pm
October 8	Women of St Aidan's, 11am
October 24	Night of 100 Pumpkins, 5:30pm
October 25	Diocesan Convention (Online)
October 30	The 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.

October 2025

From the Junior Warden

"St. Aidan's Mission held its first service on August 2, 1959." That service took place in the West Stanwood Town Hall, but the congregation quickly moved to The Utsalady Ladies Aid Hall on Camano Island, until land was purchased for our current location on the south side of SR 532.¹

Our earliest mission structures were pre fabs and soon a trailer (often referred to as our Tin Box). Solid buildings came later, and finally a Sanctuary, designed by Frank Hunt. Frank and three other members constructed our new building. By February 2007, the work was done, and the Occupation Permit was issued.¹

The mission buildings were frequently enlarged and upgraded, and that is where we stand today. Soon our status will change from Mission to Parish, and we will have safer roofing to protect us from Pacific Northwest rain and drizzle. The roof material over the breezeway from Dietel Hall to the Sanctuary had failed; most of the rubber like roofing membrane was porous and the wood below had deteriorated to a woody sponge. See the below before and after photos.



Breezeway roof showing damage



Breezeway roof completed

The metal flashing atop the Parapet had failed to keep water away from the wood supports. The fire-retardant sheeting was not keeping out water; there was water rot and standing water bubbling as we stepped behind the parapet. The photos display the damage better than my words, please see the pictures (courtesy of Luke, our contractor).



Parapet damage



Completed parapet repairs

We give thanks to God, that we have endowment funds to pay for needed work at St Aidan's Parish.

Marilyn Rockwell

1. My source for this information is the 5 framed collages hanging on the north wall over the prayer shawls in Dietel Hall.

End of Summer at St Aidan's



St Aidan's Day



St Aidan's Salmon Feast



Notes and Reflections from Our Community

If you are interested in reaching out to Thomas Whitaker while he is at WSU:

For USPS: Thomas Whitaker
Rogers Hall 740
C/O PO Box 1700
Pullman, WA 99163

For FedEx/UPS: Thomas Whitaker
1457 SE Stadium Way
Rogers Hall 740
Pullman, WA 99163

A little epilogue from the 2025 Festival.

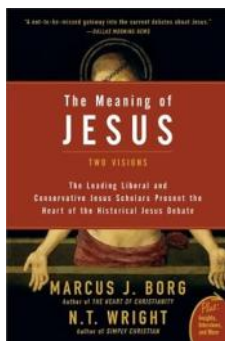
The remaining books after the Festival were boxed up with the help of Julie Vaux, Bev Maxwell and Gloria Archambault. Worthless books with no hardcover were recycled. The vast majority were taken to Halfprice Books in Everett. Also taken there were records, CDs, VHS tapes, and DVDs. We received close to \$100 for them. It took several trips, but they took everything. Some books were donated to the Lions Club for their sale.

Not surprisingly the Festival sheds are starting to fill up again. Please use only the south shed until after Halloween.

Kevin King

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.



Bill & Pam Sontheimer	14
Bob & Sue Perry	23



Janine Clark	01	Mary Rauch	10
Nancy Minear	01	Dave Wood	11
Karen Rogers	01	Miriam Walter	16
Drew Foisie	03	Don Jarrett	17
Freda McKeown	04	Lynn Lyles	18
Kathleen DuBois	05	Marilyn Rockwell	29
Vonda Buse	08	Cheri Simmons	31



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 (October 5)	A-D
Second Sunday (October 14)	E-L
Third Sunday (October 21)	M-R
Fourth Sunday (October 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 (October 5)

"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.

October 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
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
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
The Seventeenth 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) Food Bank Sunday 4:00 pm Episcopal 101	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			11:00 am Memorial for Cathlin Starke 7 pm AA
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
The Eighteenth 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) 4:00 pm Episcopal 101	5:30 pm AA	10:30 am Study Group	10:00 am Holy Eucharist I	TORCH DEADLINE		7 pm AA
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
The Nineteenth 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) 4:00 pm Episcopal 101	4 pm Bishop's Committee 5:30 pm AA	10:30 am Study Group	10:00 am Holy Eucharist I		5:30pm Night of 100 Pumpkins 	Diocesan Convention Online 10:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry 7 pm AA
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
The Twentieth 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) 4:00 pm Episcopal 101	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	September 28	October 5	October 12	October 19	October 26
Lector	JoAnn Moffett	JoAnn Moffett	Ann Morgan	JoAnn Moffett	JoAnn Moffett
Chalice Bearer	Ann Morgan	Ann Morgan	Ann Morgan	Ann Morgan	Ann Morgan
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	September 28	October 5	October 12	October 19	October 26
Lector	Jeff Maxwell	Jackie Humes-Fear	Rob Gorman	Jeff Maxwell	Rhoda Venditto
Chalice Bearer	Theresa Strain Bob Perry	Freda McKeown Mary McConnaughey	Jackie Humes-Fear Peter Dunphy	Theresa Strain Bob Perry	Freda McKeown Peter Dunphy
Acolyte	Bob Perry	Mary McConnaughey	Peter Dunphy	Bob Perry	Peter Dunphy
Usher	Ethel Maxwell Bill White	Ethel Maxwell Bill White	Suellen Eberhart Marshall Eberhart	Susie Johnson Jeff Johnson	Dick Bingay Joey Sontheimer
Counter	Sue Perry Kathy Hosley	Pam Sontheimer Kathy McNally	Jackie Humes-Fear Julie Vaux	Kathy McNally Marilyn Rockwell	Patty Dunphy Kathy Hosley
Childcare	JoAnn Moffett Donna Myers	Vonda Buse Marilyn Rockwell	Deb Hubenthal Patty Dunphy	Sue Perry Ethel Maxwell	JoAnn Moffett Pam Sontheimer
	September 28	October 5	October 12	October 19	October 26
Altar Flowers	Marilyn Rockwell	Lucy Armstrong Gloria Archambault	JoAnn Moffett	Gayle Thomas	Mary McConnaughey



Altar Guild Teams for October

October 1-15

Team 1: : Patty Vermilye, Freda McKeown,
Donna Myers

October 16-31

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, October 16th

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

It's That Time of Year!

Bring Christmas to a Seafarer!

Every year, the Seattle Seafarers Center provides over 1,000 ditty bags stuffed with basic personal necessities to merchant seafarers. These bags are one way we give thanks for these essential and often hidden workers, and help seafarers celebrate the holidays while they are far from home. Help make a seafarer's Christmas by providing them with a ditty bag to say thank you!

There are lots of ways to participate. You can make drawstring bags or knit hats, or you can purchase basic supplies (e.g. shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste) and drop those off at the Center or leave that at the collection point at St Aidan's. Rob and Karole Gorman will be taking the collected items down to Seattle late October/early November. You can also make a financial gift that will be used to purchase more supplies for ditty bags. To find out more—including patterns for ditty bags and knit hats, visit the Mission for Seafarers website (www.mts-seattle.org/ditty-bags) or contact the Seattle Seafarers Center (office@mts-seattle.org).



Save the Date: Ditty Bag Stuffing Day 2025

On November 22, 2025, join other volunteers from around Puget Sound as they stuff ditty bags for seafarers. They will gather from 10am – noon at St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church in West Seattle. To find out more, visit their website (www.mts-seattle.org/dittybagday) or contact the Seattle Seafarers Center (office@mts-seattle.org).

ST. AIDAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1318 SR 532; Camano Island, WA 98282

(P.O. Box 145; Stanwood, WA 98292)