

January 2026

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 Rector

Some eight years ago now I was journeying through the Holy Land with the rector of St Philip's, Marysville and our former bishop, Greg Rickel. It was early January and we were headed to the city of David, the place of our Lord's birth, Bethlehem. Our tour bus meandered along the road next to the infamous partition wall that separated Israel from the West Bank. Guard towers sat atop the wall at regular intervals and hundreds of Palestinian people formed a long line at the check point through which they all must pass daily in order to work in Jerusalem. Our bus skirted by the long line and stopped at a gate. An Israeli official entered our bus, checked our passports, and then waved us through. We were headed to the one place all Christian pilgrims were going: the Church of the Nativity. Upon disembarking from the

bus I was taken aback to see Christmas lights strung across the square and Christmas trees dotted around the area. Perhaps they just forgot to take them down after Epiphany, I naively thought. In reality, they were there for the celebration of Orthodox Christmas, which follows the Julian calendar and lands somewhere around January 7th. It was nice to see them still up, since it was Bethlehem after all, and we were there to see to site of the Lord's birth. We casually strolled across the square in the shadow of the ancient Church of the Nativity with open jaws and open hearts. We entered the church through a tiny door four feet in height. Down a set of stone side stairs behind the altar we went to find the official site of Jesus' actual birth. Candles adorned the small undercroft and made the whole space feel magical. A star on the ground marked the place like an X marks the spot. But was this truly the precise location of Christ's manger? Who could know? I certainly hoped that it was, but I couldn't hang my faith on it.

Very often with the arrival of a new calendar year people have a minor moment of reflection. Some go deep with it, some stay on the surface. But we all naturally ponder the year that has passed and set our hopes and intentions for the year that is dawning. We consider what we did that worked well and what fell flat. In short, the essence of our questions at the new year boil down to this: what did we hang our faith on and how did that go for us?

Sometimes one can approach faith like a pilgrim setting out on a journey to the holy land intent on finding evidence one can touch or point to that "proves" one's certainty and justifies one's belief. But this can be shaky ground. Confidence and certainty are not the same thing. One is brittle and one is resilient. One stands closer to, and has more in common with, trust; the other with fear. It always seems that when one's hope and faith move beyond merely what they can do or prove and onto the ground of who God is, and what God can do, then one has taken the deeper journey.

As we move into the new year and God calls draws you into a new chapter of your journey may you find yourself sustained and buoyed up by who God is, by the grace and love of He who walks with you.

Yours in Christ,
Drew+



From the Senior Warden

Resolution Solution

A few weeks ago I headed down to the basement closet to bring up my cold weather clothes and put away all the summer stuff. I put on a pair of jeans and sweater, but I was shocked to find they had shrunk! In fact, that seemed to be the case with almost everything I tried on. What had happened in that closet over the last few months? It couldn't possibly be all those extra trips through the buffet line, could it? We did quite a bit of traveling this past year, and I've always lived by the rule: "All food and drink consumed while traveling has no calories." Apparently, the universe disagrees.

So, like a lot of folks, I started thinking about the changes I need to make in the New Year. I want my clothes to fit, but I also want to be healthier. The problem is that making resolutions and being accountable only to myself is not always--in fact, hardly ever--successful. There are lots of programs, supplements, etc., that work for a while, as long as we keep it up. But we all know what happens when we reach a goal (or give up on one): we often slide right back into the old habits. That happens especially during the holidays when some of us tend to indulge a bit more than we normally would.

I sometimes think that "sliding back" happens, not just with all our resolutions to get healthy, but with other things as well. "The Big Dark" is here and will be here for several more weeks. The days are gloomy, the celebrations are over, and those bright, colorful lights are starting to come down. As Christians, we've spent the last two months in an ultra "giving mode." How do we keep that momentum going after the Holidays? The weeks following the holidays are often the hardest for charities because donations drop off just as the coldest weather hits.

We are so blessed at St. Aidan's to be part of a loving and giving community. Just take a look at the weekly ePistle or monthly Torch, or listen every Sunday to folks making announcements about ways to give and serve all year long. So, in the spirit of accountability, maybe this could be our New Year's Resolution: "Together with our community, we resolve to keep the spirit of giving alive throughout the year."

Candi Bialon

POVERTY 101

January 31, 2026
9AM - 2:30PM
St. Aidan's Camano
1318 Hwy 532, Camano

Created by Everett Gospel Mission to transform the community, Poverty 101 is an insightful and interactive workshop on relational poverty alleviation. Whether you're new to the topic or looking to deepen your understanding, Poverty 101 is the perfect opportunity to learn, engage, and take action. Don't miss out!

Free entry. Lunch included.

- Delve into the complexities of poverty
- Explore the root causes of poverty
- See the impact on individuals and communities
- Discover ways we can all work together to make a difference.

Please reserve your spot

QR code and logos for Community Resource Center of Stanwood Camano, egm, and St. Aidan's Episcopal Church are at the bottom.

On January 31

Don't forget that St Aidan's will be hosting this free event on Saturday, January 31. Space is limited. This event will also be open to others in the community so if you are interested in attending reserve your spot sign up soon.

Use the QR code on the poster (one is located in Dietel Hall) to register or search for the event on the Eventbrite website.

If you have any questions on how to sign up contact Kusum Batey.

From the Junior Warden

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to each of you. During December we completed rebuilding and re-installing the Millstone and Japanese Guidepost at the far south end of our outdoor service area. Rich Witek volunteered to rebuild the frames; Bob Perry assisted with logistics of the moving of heavy old frames, Peter Dunphy supervised tricky installation and Sunshine Landscaping got them into the ground and properly into the new frames. Yes, it does take a village to get things done well and my thanks to each of you for your dedicated assistance.



With a little research, I discovered that the Millstone is from our English 19th century roots and the Guidepost is date unknown and Japanese.



Allan Roofing has generously donated their labor, gutters and down spouts attached to the new roofing over the breezeway. Another hearty thanks go to Hellen DeMoyse for the green boughs decorating the two planters just below those new gutters and two urns at the entrance to Dietel Hall.

Marilyn Rockwell

Important Events at St Aidan's in January

January 4	Feed My Sheep Sunday
January 14	Women of St Aidan's
January 14	Annual Report Articles due
January 25	Holy Eucharist II at 9am followed by the Annual Meeting at 10:15am
January 29	The Gathering Place, 5 pm
January 31	Poverty 101, 9am-2:30pm, requires pre-registration

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

**NEXT TORCH
DEADLINE**

Thursday, January 15th

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

Bloodworks Northwest at St Aidan's - 2025

I wanted to pass to the congregation the results of our contributions to the community. Enclosed is an excerpt from a note from my liaison at Bloodworks Northwest, Hannah McNutt.

*"This year, your unwavering dedication and compassion has helped us **register 359 donors, collect 277 units of blood and welcome 15 first timer donors to the Bloodworks family!** Your commitment to saving lives and making a difference in our community is truly inspiring. Each time we gather to host these events, we are not just donating blood; we are providing hope, health, and a second chance for so many individuals and families in need.*

As we look ahead to the new year, I am excited about the possibilities that await us. Together, we can continue to raise awareness, inspire more donors, and support those who rely on our efforts.

Thank you once again for your hard work, commitment, and kindness. I am grateful to be part of such a caring and dedicated team, and I look forward to all that we will accomplish together in the upcoming year.

Wishing you all a joyful holiday season filled with love and warmth."

In addition to Hannah's wonderful comments, I would like to add my personal appreciation of all of those involved in the support of this ministry but especially;

Lenore for preventing conflicts to the usage of Dietal Hall, the printing of the flyers and just keeping me out of trouble. It's a big job but, somebody has to do it. Thank you.

For all who contribute, so reliably, the goodies but especially you, the congregation, for your unfailing support. This support is so constant that I try not to sound like I am making "asks" or reminders for the cookies but, I am sure my announcements could be interpreted that way. The support "just seems to show up." I want everyone to know I am aware the goodies do not "just show up" and are VERY much appreciated. Also, be sure to understand the appreciation from the donors. St. Aidan's is reported as the ONLY site with fresh, home baked goodies. Donors have told me that they continue to donate at our site because of the cookies. So, thank you!!

The last two groups I wish to voice my appreciation to is the entire congregation. Thank you for all of the help, friendship and tolerance of my constant reminders of upcoming drives. And last, but certainly not least, are the very reliable donors, especially those from our congregation. You truly meet my definition of angels, reaching out to protect and help others in need. May God bless you and keep you close.

Thank you,

C. Marshall Eberhart
Community Engagement

Tuesday Morning Guided Meditation from 10-10:30 am

Every Tuesday morning in the church nave Rob Gorman leads a guided meditation time of prayer for all who wish to join in.

All are welcome.

Rob is an oblate with the new Anglican monastic community (uncloistered), The Community of the Incarnation (associated with the Center for Spiritual Imagination.) Their gift is integrating ancient spiritual practices with contemporary life.

Another source of guided meditation is offered weekly on Mondays at 6:30pm EST (3:30pm PST) on Zoom. You can reach the link to join on the Center for Spiritual Imagination under "Offerings" - Events & Courses.

[Weekly Meditation and Contemplative Prayer | Center for Spiritual Imagination](#)

If you have any questions contact Rob Gorman.



St Aidan's Journey to Christmas 2025



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.

**HAPPY
ANNIVERSARY**

Rob & Karol Gorman	01
Dale & Molly LeMaster	16

Happy Birthday

Patty Vermilye	05	Peter Rockwell	25
Joseph Walters	13	Debby Philmlee	28
MaryBeth Henrichs	16	Lucy Armstrong	29
Adele Lee	18		



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

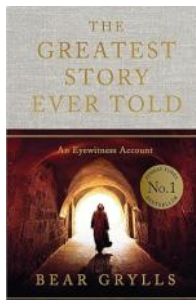
Make sure the front door is locked before leaving. If you do not have a key, no problem just lock the front door from the inside and leave by the double doors that lead to the sanctuary.

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 will begin reading and discussing a book by Bear Grylls called "The Greatest Story Ever Told."

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

Food Bank Sunday (January 4)

"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.

January 2026—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	31	1	2	3
The First Sunday after Christmas 8:00 am Holy Eucharist I 10:00 am Holy Eucharist II (also live streamed on YouTube)	5:30 pm AA		New Year's Eve 10:00 am Holy Eucharist I	New Year's Day		7 pm AA
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
The Second Sunday after Christmas 8:00 am Holy Eucharist I 10:00 am Holy Eucharist II (also live streamed on YouTube) Food Bank Sunday	5:30 pm AA	The Epiphany of Our Lord Jesus Christ 10:00 am Guided Meditation 10:30 am Study Group	10:00 am Holy Eucharist I			11:00 am Bob Meade Memorial 7 pm AA
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
The First Sunday after Epiphany 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	10:00 am Guided Meditation 10:30 am Study Group	10:00 am Holy Eucharist I 11:00 am Women of St Aidan's Annual Report Articles Due	TORCH DEADLINE		7 pm AA
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
The Second Sunday after Epiphany 8:00 am Holy Eucharist I 10:00 am Holy Eucharist II (also live streamed on YouTube)	4 pm Vestry Meeting 5:30 pm AA	10:00 am Guided Meditation 10:30 am Study Group	10:00 am Holy Eucharist I			10:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry 7 pm AA
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
The Third Sunday after Epiphany 9:00 am Holy Eucharist II (also live streamed on YouTube) 10:15am Annual Meeting	5:30 pm AA	10:00 am Guided Meditation 10:30 am Study Group	10:00 am Holy Eucharist I	5:00 pm The 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	December 28	January 4	January 11 Baptism of Our Lord	January 18	January 25 9am Service
Lector	JoAnn Moffett	Kathy Hosley	Ann Morgan	JoAnn Moffett	One service
Chalice Bearer	Ann Morgan	Ann Morgan	JoAnn Moffett	Ann Morgan	One service
Acolyte	Jim Miller	Jim Miller	Jim Miller	Jim Miller	One service
Usher	Kathy Hosley	JoAnn Moffett	Kathy Hosley	Kathy Hosley	One service
10:00 AM	December 28	January 4	January 11 Baptism of Our Lord	January 18	January 25 9am Service Annual Meeting
Lector	Rob Gorman	Jeff Maxwell	Nancy Pates-Riches	Rob Gorman	Rhoda Venditto
Chalice Bearer	Jackie Humes-Fear Mary McConnaughey	Freda McKeown Bob Perry	Jackie Humes-Fear Peter Dunphy	Freda McKeown Bob Perry	Jackie Humes-Fear Mary McConnaughey
Acolyte	Mary McConnaughey	Bob Perry	Peter Dunphy	Bob Perry	Mary McConnaughey
Usher	Susie Johnson Jeff Johnson	Suellen Eberhart Marshall Eberhart	Ethel Maxwell Bill White	Dick Bingay Joey Sontheimer	Susie Johnson Jeff Johnson
Counter	Marilyn Rockwell Kathy Hosley	Patty Dunphy Sue Perry Ethel Maxwell	Julie Vaux Jackie Humes-Fear	Marilyn Rockwell Ethel Maxwell	Pam Sontheimer Kathy McNally
Childcare	Kathy Hosley Marilyn Rockwell	JoAnn Moffett Pam Sontheimer	JoAnn Moffett Deb Hubenthal	Gayle Thomas Kathy Hosley	Patty Dunphy Julie Vaux
	December 28	January 4	January 11	January 18	January 25
Altar Flowers	Gayle Thomas	Mary McConaughy	Marilyn Rockwell	Lucy Armstrong Gloria Archambault	JoAnn Moffett



Altar Guild Teams for January

January 1-15

Team 4: Jan Donovan, Vonda Buse,
Karole Gorman, Bev Maxwell

January 16-31

Team 1: Patty Vermilye, Freda McKeown,
Donna Myers

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.



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