

August 2026

THE TORCH

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

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From the Rector

If one had to name a particular moment in time when the summer season peaks it has to be mid July, right around July 18th. Since moving to Camano twelve years ago St Aidan's summer festival extravaganza has become such a fixture in life that summer would not be what it is without it. It's a flag planted right in the middle of this gorgeous stretch on the calendar. When our cherished event was on hiatus during covid a piece felt missing from what made this season great. Now with the festival in our rearview mirror all eyes are on August and it feels like fall might as well be upon us! Of course, summer is still very much in play and August has much to give us inside and outside the church.

If you're like me you keep your feet firmly planted on the earth and your eyes fixed on the horizon looking forward to what is coming. But August gives us good reasons to

look up and consider the heavens, the moon and the stars God has made. From now until August 24th there will be spectacular things to behold in the night sky. Meteors from leftover comet particles and broken bits from asteroids will be streaking across the galaxy. The comet's name is the Swift-Tuttle comet and it takes 133 years to orbit the sun once. It's space debris interacts with our atmosphere to create what's known as the Perseids Meteor Shower. It peaks in mid August and provides the best light show of the year. The Perseids leave long "wakes" of light and color as particles stream across earth's heavenly canvas. "Fireballs" are also a common sight. Larger bits of space dust burning at a significantly brighter magnitude. If ever there was a time to marvel at the universe God has made, mid August on a crystal clear night is it.

August is also known as the wedding month par excellence in our region of the country. Many would erroneously guess June. On a national level it would be October. But here the peak time is August. St Aidan's has hosted a few, but we should all be praying for many, many more! Weddings are such a blessing and a joy for everyone involved.

We can be thankful, however, that more baptisms will soon be happening at St Aidan's. This month three candidates are undergoing baptismal preparations with the rector with the goal of becoming baptized on our patronal feast day, the feast of Saint Aidan. There are five days spread throughout the year on which baptisms are especially appropriate, and the parish's patronal feast day is one of them. For us this falls on August 30th. The other special days are All Saints Day, the Baptism of Our Lord, Easter, and Pentecost. But there really is no 'wrong' time for a baptism. Any and all baptisms are cause for celebration as we welcome new members into the household of God.

In addition to being a great time for baptism, St Aidan's Day reminds us of who we are and how far this amazing "little country church" has come since 1958. It connects us to the blessed Aidan of Lindisfarne who also lived on an island connected to the mainland. Through his great love of neighbor, and unshakable commitment to Christ, he shined the light of God's love on a whole region and transformed it. For this reason his symbol is the torch, which also happens to be the name of this fine publication! Not unlike Aidan's Lindisfarne, St Aidan's Camano Island, by all accounts, has become lighthouse.

May God bless you in this month of August, and may you know the love and light of God that shines in you and through you.

Yours in Christ,
Drew+



From the Senior Warden

Several of the articles that I have written in the past have dealt with everyday issues such as budgets planning and in general happenings around the Parish today, I would like to focus this article on just one word and that word is joy. The dictionary definition of joy is "the emotion of great delight or happiness caused by something exceptionally good or satisfying."

Over the past week we had our annual Festival. The entire week was filled with joy in so many ways. Seeing so many of our parishioners working so diligently to make this event happen was the manifestation of the definition of joy. So many Festival donations surely brought joy to those sharing their treasures and cherished memories. The joy was so clear in those who purchased those items that they would become many more new memories. This was so evident in a child who purchased several gently used books who could hardly wait to start reading about new adventures. As you know, the proceeds from the festival go to support our Parish Outreach Ministries. Imagine the joy that will be felt by the many people that those ministries reach. Lastly, there is our own joy knowing that God blesses each one of us in our good works like the festival.

Michael Palmer

Adult Dinner Social Groups

Social dinner groups for adults will begin again in September. Groups will be formed and information sent out to all who want to be involved toward the end of August.

A huge thank you to Julie Vaux and Brad Whitaker for putting these groups together and getting the information out for the last six years!

If you are new to the dinner groups, want to be removed from the list, or would like more information, please email Micki-Jo Palmer at staidensdinnergroups@gmail.com by August 15.



Time to Wear Your Plaid!

St Aidan's Day will be celebrated on **Sunday, August 30th**

Salmon Fest is Coming- Save the Date!!!

St Aidan's Annual Salmon Fest will be held on the first Saturday after Labor Day on **September 12th**. Save the date so that you won't miss this event for St Aidan's members. This will be a potluck for side dishes and desserts. Grilled salmon will be provided.



Important Events at St Aidan's in August

- August 2 Feed My Sheep Sunday
- August 10 Bloodworks NW, 10am to 4pm
- August 23 **Summer Selah**, 5pm
- August 30 St Aidan's Day (if you can – wear plaid to church)

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

Well, I have only been back in town for a week and a half since the last Torch, but as you all know, that was the most important week! The festival prep was in full swing, and Saturday was great success thanks to the hard work of so many volunteers.

Not much out of the ordinary to report here. Construction on the failing back stairs will begin late July/ August. We will not have a work party in August...everyone needs a break! We will be having a small work party early to mid-September. It will be for those of you that are willing/able to do some minor repairs to the playground fence, and help rebuild the failing outdoor planter box on the garden stage behind the sanctuary. Date to be announced sometime in August.



We received several compliments on our gardens from people attending the festival...one person told me "this place looks loved." We all know that it is.

Hellen DeMoyse



Me and Ken at the Cliffs of Moher
Ireland July 2026
Totally fogged in and soaked

Note From Vestry Community Engagement Liaison

This note from the Community Engagement will be brief, but hopefully, an informative one.

The shredding event which was tentatively scheduled for August has been cancelled. Unfortunately, the event just did not make a great deal of sense.

Bloodworks Northwest continues to love us hosting their drives on such a regular basis. We continue to host a monthly blood drive on the second Mondays of the month. On these days Dietel Hall is usually fully packed with about 40 donors over the course of the day. These donations result in the gathered blood helping over 120 patients. This is so vital for Bloodworks Northwest. A true blessing for those in very desperate need.

I do want to pass on to the potential donors some of the non-medical advice I have received from the staff when they are asked; "What would make a donation go easier?" Their unofficial, reply is to eat a salty meal the evening before a scheduled donation to retain a bit of extra fluids, have eaten a well balance diet with high iron and to be very well hydrated the morning of your appointment.

Unfortunately, it is with deep sadness, that they failed to make any mention of the required chocolate chip cookies.... But, it does remind us of the need to maintain the reputation of St Aidan's as the best host with the best cookies from the best bakers for the donors. Please consider making a few extras for the drive on August 10th. Any flavor, size or amount is so very much appreciated, Thanks everybody!!

Last but not least is to keep thinking for any ideas YOU would like to see here at St Aidan's! Just let me know your thought and I will see what can be incorporated into our schedule.

Thank you, and may God Bless you and yours,

C. Marshall Eberhart
Community Engagement

St Aidan's Summer Festival Update

Well, it's a couple of days after Festival and I don't know about you, but I am gassed. Adrenaline is a wonderful thing until it runs out. Anyway....

Thank you all for your participation in the 34th St Aidan's Festival. Based on feedback and my "unbiased" assessment, it went extremely well this year.



Key positives we will carry forward into next year are as follows:

- Closing off the entrance made for a much safer Festival with NO HWY 532 PARKING (yes, I am shocked too)
- Updated traffic pattern seemed to keep the cars moving better
- Continued use of the periphery of the property allowed us to absorb more furniture
- St Aidan's volunteer support was steady through the week (? free lunch helped)
- Scripted announcements every 15 minutes helped acquaint visitors to our treasures
- The remote St Aidan's parking lot made room for 32 additional cars at the LDS church (even though the LDS lot filled by 8:07, it opened up quickly)
- Snow Goose transportation gave us parking flexibility and helped those who with limited walking distances
- Jim, Jo Ann, Larry and Margot (RV Nomads) were once again big assets and a joy to work with

I certainly feel like this was once again a blessed event. A few stories to add to that sentiment.

A handicapped couple was dropped off at their usual Island County bus stop at Hwy 532 and Smith Rd. They climbed up the hill with their walkers only to find the entrance that was open for past Festivals closed off. We helped them over the guard rail so they could seek out their much-needed treasures. They acquired a small love seat that will replace the one lost in a flood. Gloria got them back to the Island County bus stop.

The second story is the early afternoon purchase of the Perry dining room set. Friends recommended that they sell the oversize dining table, but Bob and Sue felt it was best to donate to the Festival. Its destination is a Women's Shelter in Marysville which touched Sue's heart. The lady who bought it was so excited because it would seat 10 ladies.

A third story involves a young man named Cameron, his wife and their baby. They just purchased a new home on the island and shopped the furniture section and kitchen section. They were having the time of their lives. It was so fun to watch them find treasures for their new home.

We will be delivering the love seat and dining room set later this week.

Per the latest from Jeff Maxwell, the Festival grossed over \$24,000. Another successful year financially.

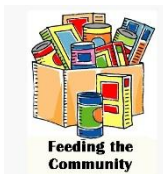
So we can continue to improve our Festival experience, please drop me an email with any comments or suggestions. Please title it as "Festival Feedback". I will read them after I get through my "Festival Cleanse" in a few months.

News Flash – the St Aidan's Festival is featured in the Stanwood-Camano News thanks to Verlie Vigil.

https://www.goskagit.com/scnews/st-aidans-summer-festival-draws-customers-volunteers-from-far-and-wide/article_9786a73e-13d6-49df-a78f-12b357b6ddda.html

Looking forward to working with "all you all" next year.

Kevin King – 2027 Festival Chairman
kevinaking16@gmail.com



Food Bank Sunday (August 2nd)

“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.

Are You and/or Your Photo Still Missing from the Directory?



Help us keep our directory up-to-date. If you and/or your photo is missing from our church directory or your info needs updating please contact the church office so we can make sure you are included.

Old St Aidan's Directories

Ready for an updated directory? The Parish Office will be happy to make a new one available to you and you can drop off your old one to be shredded. It will provide a secure way to dispose of those old directories.

Torch Format

The Torch formatting is in transition as we experiment with using MS Word to replace MS Publisher as a tool to for putting the Torch together for printing. (MS Publisher will no longer be supported by Microsoft after October this year.)



Jeff & Ethel Maxwell	05
Phil & Candy Trautman	06
Mark & MaryBeth Hinrichs	08
John & Mary Rauch	10
Ron Graham & Donna Conner	17
Peter & Robin Ringland	20
Drew & Dawn Foisie	22
Allen & Jerri Feris	23
Rick & Cheri Simmons	26



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 (August 2)	A-D
Second Sunday (August 9)	E-L
Third Sunday (August 16)	M-R
Fourth Sunday (August 23)	S-Z
Fifth Sunday (August 30)	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. 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.

Please **No Food** (Soiled Paper Plates or Napkins) in the Recycling Bin!

Your help and thoughtfulness are needed! The transfer station is picky about this kind of thing.

Bible Study?

Are you interested in joining with others at St Aidan's for a Bible study? We are planning on starting a Bible study in September and hope you will join us. More information will be coming.



Sky Lavery-Perez	04	Maria Anastario	19
Molly LeMaster	05	Carrie Buffington	21
Connor Berggren	12	Candy Trautman	21
Brent Standerfer	12	JoAnn Moffett	26
Sara Em Buffington	13	Steve Jensen	28
Tori Ritchey	16	Dillinger Lavery-Perez	30

August 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
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
The Tenth 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	5:30 pm AA		10:00 am Holy Eucharist I			7 pm AA
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
The Eleventh 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)	10am-4pm Bloodworks NW Blood Drive 5:30 pm AA		10:00 am Holy Eucharist I			7 pm AA
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
The Twelfth 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 Vestry Meeting 5:30 pm AA		10:00 am Holy Eucharist I			10:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry 7 pm AA
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
The Thirteenth 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) 5:00 pm Summer Selah	5:30 pm AA	TORCH DEADLINE	10:00 am Holy Eucharist I			7 pm AA
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
The Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost St Aidan's Day 8:00 am Holy Eucharist I 9:15 am Adult Forum 10:00 am Holy Eucharist II (also live streamed on YouTube)	 St Aidan of Lindisfarne (Window #7) 5:30 pm AA		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 2	August 9	August 16	August 23	August 30
Lector	Kathy Hosley	Ann Morgan	JoAnn Moffett	Kathy Hosley	Jim Miller
Chalice Bearer	Ann Morgan	JoAnn Moffett	Ann Morgan	Ann Morgan	Ann Morgan
Acolyte	Donovan Knouse	Jim Miller	Donovan Knouse	Jim Miller	Donovan Knouse
Usher	JoAnn Moffett	Kathy Hosley	Kathy Hosley	JoAnn Moffett	Kathy Hosley
10:00 AM	Augst 2	August 9	August 16	August 23	August 30
Lector	Rob Gorman	Tori Ritchey	Jackie Humes-Fear	Rhoda Venditto	Jeff Maxwell
Chalice Bearers	Freda McKeown Theresa Strain	Mary McConnaughey Dean Nelson	Theresa Strain Bob Perry	Jeff Maxwell Peter Dunphy	Mary McConnaughey Bob Perry
Crucifer/Acolyte	Isaac Taylor	Dean Nelson	Bob Perry	Peter Dunphy	Bob Perry
Ushers	Susie Johnson Jeff Johnson	Suellen Eberhart Marshall Eberhart	Joey Sontheimer Bill Sontheimer	Ethel Maxwell Bill White	Joey Sontheimer Dick Bingay
Counters	Bev Maxwell Kathy McNally	Patty Dunphy Pam Sontheimer	Jackie Humes-Fear Julie Vaux	Ethel Maxwell Patty Dunphy	Kathy Hosley Marilyn Rockwell
Childcare	Kathy Hosley Julie Vaux	Donna Myers JoAnn Moffett	Sue Perry Ethel Maxwell	Marilyn Rockwell JoAnn Moffett	Pam Sontheimer Patty Dunphy
	August 2	August 9	August 16	August 23	August 30
Altar Flowers	JoAnn Moffett	Gayle Thomas	Mary McConnaughey	Marilyn Rockwell	Lucy Armstrong Gloria Archambault



Altar Guild Teams for August

August 1-15

Team 4: Jan Donovan, Vonda Buse,
Bev Maxwell, Debby Philmlee

August 16-31

Team 1: Patty Vermilye, Donna Myers,
Freda McKeown

Need Help?



If you need help please
contact the church office.

St. Aidan's Technology Issues?

If you have any questions or concerns about the operation of St. Aidan's website, Facebook pages, or YouTube please contact Verlie Vigil, Liaison for Technology..

**NEXT TORCH
DEADLINE**

Thursday, August 20th

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



ST AIDAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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