

September 2026

THE TORCH

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

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From the Rector

Some people love attending high school class reunions, others not so much. Some of us are in the middle; we could be happy going of staying home. However, now that I think about it, I don't remember seeing an invitation to a reunion this year, which is strange because 2026 marks 30 years for our class of 1996. The fact that society today is hyper connected by social media may have zapped the motivation for class presidents to take up the task of planning a shindig. We've all seen each other's vacation photos, career milestones, heartbreaks, and triumphs, even if only from afar. Facebook has helped us see who has gone bald, who has died, and has been remarried once or twice (or not at all). And to be honest, it's all been a little wonderful and a little bit bizarre. None of us had this on our bingo card, that's for sure!

This September, as our students head back to Pullman, or Stanwood High School, or wherever they attend, the relationships they will build, the memories they will form, and the hard won lessons they will gain are top of heart and mind. Many of us know how formative those experiences are, and the way in which God uses them to launch us on a path through life that helps us discover joy and meaning in pursuits that reflect his love working within us.

The journey students take is a great reminder that none of us can do it alone. It takes all sorts of people coming into our lives at different points to give us what we need at just that moment. Recently, at a forty-year wedding anniversary party with friends (of an older cohort) from my childhood church of St James, Kent, I rediscovered this truth. Whole swaths of people were there who are *not* on Facebook. I encountered familiar faces I had not seen in 30 years, but that were just as bright and warm as they were when I was sixteen. They were a slightly older generation who loved and mentored those below them with faithfulness and patience. While sipping rose wine and catching up on the details of their lives I realized the impact they had made and it was tremendous. The importance of community and the spiritual grace inherent in the Body of Christ is incredible and in some ways immeasurable.

This is one of the reasons I (and many others) was drawn to St Aidan's. So many feel the presence of Christ alive in the community here, a community that is intentional about being in each other's lives. There is a quiet knowing that none of us can do it all by ourselves. We need each other's prayers and presence. These simple things can literally be healing balm.

With this in mind a public service of healing is planned for Sunday, September 20th at the eight and ten o'clock services. This is a service where all are welcome and encouraged to come forward and receive the laying on of hands and special prayers for healing — whether, physical, emotional, spiritual, or otherwise. It is a time for the whole community to receive the healing balm of Christ that is present among us and available to all. I urge everyone that can attend to do so, if possible. Your presence as a member of the Body of Christ brings grace and power with it!

As you make your way through September may you find joy among friends and may you know that love and healing grace of God.

Yours in Christ,
Drew+



From the Senior Warden

St. Aidan's is so blessed to have so many parishioners involved in the many ministries and activities of the Parish. The level of involvement by so many demonstrates genuine caring for the parish and all its members. This is our faith in action and the commitment we have to our parish.

There is no shyness on the part of our parishioners to "step up" and satisfy any needs of the parish. Whether those needs involve outreach to others, maintenance of our facilities, programs to grow and enhance our faith or activities in which we enjoy interactions with our fellow parishioners; there is always a group or individual to say, "Here I am Lord."

The role of the Vestry and its members at St Aidan's is to provide oversight and coordination to all activities involving the parish. If there were no coordination with all the activities in which the parish is involved, we would invite confusion and overlap of actions designed to resolve the intended need. As an extreme example, imagine if the festival activities were scheduled for the same week the parking lot was repaved. The Vestry is tasked with coordination and clear communication with the individuals or groups involved in an activity which could result in confusion as an example.

Communication is a two-way street. If a group or individual wishes to begin a parish activity or project in response to "Here I am, Lord," the Vestry should be notified so it can establish priorities and prevent overlapping efforts. Individual Vestry members have been assigned to coordinate and communicate with various parish ministries and activities. In this issue of *The Torch*, Jeff Maxwell provides a list of Vestry members and their areas of responsibility. Please contact the appropriate Vestry member if you or your group would like to start a new activity or project. This contact is essential to coordinating our efforts and achieving the best outcome for the parish.

If we all work together with common actions, we will answer God's call with "Here WE are Lord."

Michael Palmer

Salmon Fest is Coming- September 12th, 5-8pm!!!

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

There will be entertainment provided by talented members of St Aidan's.



Important Events at St Aidan's in September

September 6	Feed My Sheep Sunday
September 9	Women of St Aidan's, 11am
September 12	St Aidan's Salmon Fest, 5-8pm
September 13	Esprit Joyeux concert, 2pm
September 14	Bloodworks NW, 10am to 4pm
September 20	Holy Eucharist and Healing Service, 8am and 10am services

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

HOORAY!! Luke Kooyman, our contractor, has completed the long awaited stair/railing project. As you may be aware, the old railings were rotten and falling apart. Rot was also found behind the siding around the choir room exterior door, which was repaired. The children's room porch was also rotten, and the existing stringers to the porch had never actually been attached! Luke laughed and said "that makes demo a bit easier." Rails were also added to the back northwest exit of sanctuary, where none had existed before. It is an emergency exit, with a significant drop off to the ground, and being without rails was a significant safety hazard.



Thanks to an amazingly generous donor, our brand-new coffee maker is now up and running! This new coffee maker may look very much like the old one, but it has important upgrades to enhance safety. The old coffeemaker has been sold as is and delivered to its new home.

'Tis the season. One rather large, and another smaller paper wasp nest were removed from the back of the office eaves, and from the front of the sanctuary eaves. They establish quickly, so let me know if you notice any more.

Our Reme Halo filters have been changed (once every 5 years). This should help reduce viruses, mold spores, pollen and odors in the sanctuary. Please note that many people are quite sensitive to perfumes, so please limit their use while attending church.

Hellen DeMoise

Budget Planning Begins

It's just about time for the Vestry to begin planning St. Aidan's 2027 budget. This process is intended to be transparent, but I suspect that not many of our parishioners really know much about how the budget comes together. Each area of expenditure in the budget falls under the purview of one or more Vestry members. For example, the most high-profile of these is all things building and property-related, which is the responsibility of our Junior Warden.

We want to invite all members of St Aidan's who are so inclined to offer input to the budget process. To that end, here is a list of Vestry members and their areas of responsibility:

- Building & Grounds, Capital Projects – Helen Demoyse & Marilyn Rockwell
- Outreach – John Mathis
- Community Engagement – Marshall Eberhart
- Communications & Technology – Verlie Vigil
- Worship – Candi Bialon
- Christian Education – Mark Heinrich
- Congregational Life – Kusum Batey

If any church member would like to propose budget items for any of these areas, please reach out to the appropriate Vestry member. Preliminary budgets will be proposed in mid-October, with a tentative budget presented to the Vestry at its November meeting and a final budget approved in December.

Jeff Maxwell, Treasurer

September – a Restart and a Start

With the start of September several activities at St Aidan's will begin again.

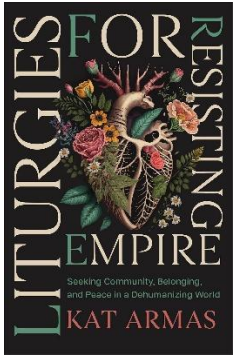
The Women of St Aidan's:

The Women of St Aidan's will meet in Dietel Hall on the second Wednesday of the month, September 9th at 11:00 am following the 10:00 am Wednesday morning service. The business meetings are followed by lunch (bring a sack lunch) and fellowship.

Incarnation Meditation:

Beginning on September 8th, Incarnation Meditation will return on Tuesdays at 10:00 am. Rob Gorman leads this half hour of meditation and contemplation in the sanctuary.

Book Study Group:



Also, beginning September 8th the Book Study Group (AKA "Down the Rabbit Hole" study group) will begin meeting again on Tuesdays at 10:30 am in Dietel Hall. Books that have been and are being read have been suggested by different members of the group and may not always reflect the beliefs of everyone in the study group. All are welcome to join.

The book that will be for discussion beginning this September is "**Liturgies for Resisting Empire: Seeking Community, Belonging, and Peace in a Dehumanizing World**" by Kat Armas. The plan is to read and discuss this book until closer to Thanksgiving and then begin another book focused on Advent. The book under consideration for Advent reading is "**Watch for the Light: Readings for Advent and Christmas**" (Plough Daily Devotionals) with daily readings beginning on November 24th.

Bible Study Group:

This is a new group that will meet on Thursday afternoons at 1:00 pm beginning on September 10th in Dietel Hall. The group is considering taking on the books of the Bible in alphabetical order which will provide a mix of Old and New Testament on the journey. The first book up will be Acts. All are welcome to join in.

There are many opportunities to get involved at St Aidan's whether helping out in office tasks as one of Lenore's Office Angels; supporting the creation of St Aidan's roadway sign messages (Sign Sisters); knitting/crocheting (Prayer Shawl Ministry); writing messages of celebration and acknowledgement (Greeting Card Ministry); praying daily for the needs of those in distress or "afflicted in mind, body or estate" (the Bedeswomen); volunteering in support of the operation of the Cold Weather Shelter; baking for the monthly blood drives held in Dietel Hall; or, participating in the various social events at St Aidan's.

St Aidan's Ministry Leaders & Coordinators

Festival Funds Distribution Chair.....	Patty Dunphy
Selah Service.....	Jeff Johnson
Editor of The Torch	Kathy McNally
Altar Guild	Vonda Buse
Flower Guild.....	Mary McConnaughey
Head Usher.....	Bill White
Service Assistants Coordinator	Kathy Hosley
Dinner Group Coordinator	Micki-Jo Palmer
The Women of St Aidan's (ECW) Chair.....	Jackie Humes-Fear
Summer Festival Coordinator.....	Kevin King
Bedswomen Pray-ers (prayer chain)	JoAnn Moffett
Prayer Shawl Ministry.....	Jan Donovan
Cold Weather Shelter	Kevin King
Sign Sisters.....	Freda McKeown



Food Bank Sunday (September 6th)

"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.

Healing Service - September 20th

On Sunday September 20th at both the 8 am and 10am services of Holy Eucharist there will be a Healing Service with the laying on of hands for those who desire healing for anything - emotional, physical, spiritual.



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.

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.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

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



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 6).....A-D
Second Sunday (September 13)..... E-L
Third Sunday (September 20) M-R
Fourth Sunday (September 27) 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. 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** (Including 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.

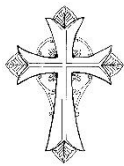
Happy Birthday

Sue Perry	01	Nancy Uhlmansiek	21
Gayle Thomas	01	Debee Early	22
Rich Witek	05	Hellen DeMoyse	23
Teresa Bennett	06	Yonnah Ben-Levy	25
Wendy Campbell	09	Jeri Feris	27
Gloria Archambault	13	Claudia Stphens	29
Donna Myers	17	Frank Spina	30
Phil Trautman	17	Moses Walter	30

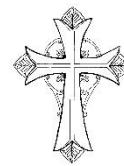
September 2026—Activities Calendar*

*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
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
The Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost St Aidan's Day 8:00 am Holy Eucharist I 10:00 am Holy Eucharist II (also live streamed on YouTube)	 St Aidan of Lindisfame (Window #7) 5:30 pm AA		10:00 am Holy Eucharist I			7 pm AA
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
The Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost 8:00 am Holy Eucharist I 10:00 am Holy Eucharist II (also live streamed on YouTube) Food Bank Sunday	Labor Day 5:30 pm AA	10:00 am Incarnation Meditation 10:30 am Study Group	10:00 am Holy Eucharist I 11:00 am Women of St Aidan's	1:00 pm Bible Study		5-8pm St Aidan's Salmon Fest 7 pm AA
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
The Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost 8:00 am Holy Eucharist I 10:00 am Holy Eucharist II (also live streamed on YouTube) 2:00 pm Esprit Joyeux Concert	10am-4pm Bloodworks NW Blood Drive 5:30 pm AA	10:00 am Incarnation Meditation 10:30 am Study Group	10:00 am Holy Eucharist I	1:00 pm Bible Study TORCH DEADLINE		7 pm AA
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
The Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost 8:00 am Holy Eucharist I and Healing Service 10:00 am Holy Eucharist II and Healing Service (also live streamed on YouTube)	4:00 pm Vestry Meeting 5:30 pm AA	10:00 am Incarnation Meditation 10:30 am Study Group	10:00 am Holy Eucharist I	1:00 pm Bible Study		10:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry 7 pm AA
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
The Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost 8:00 am Holy Eucharist I 10:00 am Holy Eucharist II (also live streamed on YouTube)	5:30 pm AA	10:00 am Incarnation Meditation 10:30 am Study Group	10:00 am Holy Eucharist I	1:00 pm Bible Study		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 30	September 6	September 13	September 20	September 27
Lector	Jim Miller	JoAnn Moffett	Ann Morgan	Kathy Hosley	JoAnn Moffett
Chalice Bearer	Ann Morgan	Ann Morgan	JoAnn Moffett	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	August 30	September 6	September 13	September 20	September 27
Lector	Jeff Maxwell	Tori Ritchey	Nancy Pates-Riches	Shawn Richie	Jackie Humes-Fear
Chalice Bearers	Mary McConnaughey Bob Perry	Bob Perry Dean Nelson	Freda McKeown Theresa Strain	Jeff Maxwell Bob Perry	Freda McKeown Mary McConnaughey
Crucifer/Acolyte	Bob Perry	Dean Nelson	Isaac Taylor	Bob Perry	Mary McConnaughey
Ushers	Joey Sontheimer Dick Bingay	Dick Bingay Kathy McNally	Suellen Eberhart Marshall Eberhart	Susie Johnson Jeff Johnson	Ethel Maxwell Bill White
Counters	Kathy Hosley Marilyn Rockwell	Kathy McNally Marilyn Rockwell	Jackie Humes-Fear Julie Vaux	Sue Perry Bev Maxwell	Pam Sontheimer Marilyn Rockwell
Childcare	Pam Sontheimer Patty Dunphy	JoAnn Moffett Deb Hubenthal	Vonda Buse Kathy Hosley	Julie Vaux Ethel Maxwell	Donna Myers Sue Perry
	August 30	September 6	September 13	September 20	September 27
Altar Flowers	Lucy Armstrong Gloria Archambault	JoAnn Moffett	Gayle Thomas	Mary McConnaughey	Marilyn Rockwell



Altar Guild Teams for September

September 1-15

Team 2: Judy Bingay, Gayle Thomas,
Candi Bialon

September 16-30

Team 3: Susie White, Micki-Jo Palmer,
Sue Perry

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, September 17th

Email submissions to: mcnallyk@outlook.com

Photos, suggestions and/or comments are greatly appreciated



You are cordially invited to our September recital.

Musicians: Gretchen Pigott, Mandy Walters-Whitaker, &
Natalie Hagglund

Come enjoy a variety of compositions that are sure to delight!
Featuring C flutes, oboe, English horn, piccolo, alto flute, & piano.

Sunday September 13th at 2 pm

St Aidan's Episcopal Church
1318 State Highway 532 Camano Island, WA

Voluntary donations gratefully accepted to benefit
Stanwood-Camano Area Foundation

ST AIDAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1318 SR 532; Camano Island, WA 98282
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