November 2026

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 Rector

As I flipped through YouTube videos on the couch with the rector of St Philip's Episcopal Church last week I was struck by the number of citizen journalists posting reports on the devastating surf pummeling the southern California coast. Numerous multi-million dollar homes perched above the beach were assaulted over and over again by gigantic waves in relentless succession. Many of the homes broke apart and crumbled into an unrecognizable heap. And while it's hard to feel overly sad for folks who have been blessed with plenty of resources to rebuild or relocate, your heart breaks to see anyone lose the place they call home. In addition, the beaches themselves have been irreparably changed or damaged. The only people happy about the events unfolding down there are the surfers who are elated about catching the perfect wave. For all of this we have the super el Nino in the equatorial region of the Pacific Ocean to thank. It's already begun to radically alter the weather in every corner of the country. We, here in the Pacific Northwest, will escape the worst of it and experience a mild winter with warmer than normal temperatures. That may mean, however, drought or water shortage next summer. We shall see.

With all that is happening in the world, whether politically or climatologically, there is much to be concerned about. The month of November provides a welcome antidote to all that may press in upon us and coax us into despair. This typically rainy and dreary month offers a lot of hope because it invites us into one of the deepest and most transformational spiritual practices. It invites us to take up the gift of gratitude. It invites us to give thanks. The Austrian-American Benedictine monk, Br David Steindl-Rast, wrote a wonderful book about this topic (and gave a Ted Talk). He says we cannot be grateful for everything, but we can be grateful *in* everything. In every given moment, how ever difficult, he says, there is an opportunity to rise and respond in gratefulness and hope. Br David is most famous for wisely observing that "It is not happiness that makes us grateful. It is gratefulness that makes us happy."

One of the many things for which I am grateful is a new ministry at St Aidan's. Through Erin Lavery-Mullins, a member who attends the 8:00 service, we have been able to establish a partnership with Counseling Centers of North Puget Sound (a Christian organization). Erin is a therapist and specialist who works with individuals and families and will be offering her services (in some cases pro-bono) to children, families, and persons in the wider community who may benefit from it. Her hours at St Aidan's will be M-Wed., 9:00 - 3:00. If you know of anyone who may benefit from such services, please contact the church office and/or Erin directly.

As All Saints Day (Nov 1) approaches one can't help but be led into an even greater sense of thanksgiving. Not only do I think about the community of St Aidan's and the many saints in this place, I think about the parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, teachers, mentors, friends and others who have shown the presence, grace, and wisdom of God exactly when it was needed most. Perhaps there is someone — past or present — that has been a saint in your life. Please bring a picture of them to church on All Saints Day, November 1st – a day to be reminded that we are truly surrounded by a "great cloud of witnesses" that have blessed us and helped us grow in grace.

May this November be for you a month of thanks and praise, and therefore, above all, joy.

Yours in Christ,
Drew+



From the Senior Warden

A Thanksgiving Harvest of Time and Talent

“The earth has yielded its increase; God, our God, has blessed us.” — Psalm 67:6

As autumn brings its beautiful colors and the harvest season draws to a close, we are reminded of the many blessings God has given us. Thanksgiving is a time to reflect upon this abundance, express our gratitude, and consider how we might share our blessings with others.

For generations, the harvest has been a time of gathering. Farmers gather the fruits of their fields, families gather in thanksgiving, and communities celebrate the bounty of God's creation. At St. Aidan's, we too have a harvest to gather—not of crops from the fields, but of the time and talents God has placed in the hearts and hands of our parish family.

Each of us has been blessed with unique gifts. Some offer their time through worship, volunteering, welcoming visitors, caring for our church, or helping those in need. Others share talents in music, teaching, organizing, gardening, preparing meals, or simply offering friendship, encouragement, and compassion.

Just as a bountiful harvest requires many hands working together, a thriving parish depends upon the willingness of its members to share their gifts.

These gifts strengthen our fellowship, enrich our worship, sustain our ministries, and help us extend God's love beyond the walls of St. Aidan's.

As we celebrate Thanksgiving, let us remember that gratitude is more than recognizing our blessings. It is also finding meaningful ways to share them.

Michael Palmer

Blessing of the Animals - October 4th



Important Events at St Aidan’s in November

November 1	All Saints Day
	Feed My Sheep Sunday
November 11	Women of St Aidan’s, 11am
November 16	Bloodworks NW, 10am to 4pm

See calendar on page 6 for more activities and events at St Aidan’s.

Always check St Adain’s weekly ePistle for any updates or additional events. You can sign-up to receive the ePistle by email on the St Aidan’s website or by contacting the church office.

From the Junior Warden



It has been A Beautiful Month!

Finally went back east to visit friends and family...we hit the leaf show perfectly!!I just had to share a picture of this lovely village and church where my friend Becky is pastor.

We have had a busy month here at St Aidan's as well. We have created additional handicap spaces and visitor spaces in the parking lot. We now have a new, more efficient heating system for the child care room, choir room, and Dietel Hall.

Hellen DeMoyse



Canterbury, New Hampshire, town square and Canterbury United Community Church

An update from the Extreme Cold Weather Shelter (ECWS) Team

The ECWS team, Kevin King, Peter Dunphy, Kusum Batey and Donna Myers, met in early October to plan and prepare for the upcoming Fall/Winter season. For the last three years, the team has worked closely with the Unhoused Work group of Stanwood/Camano. The shelter opens when temperatures drop to 32 degrees or lower for two consecutive nights. Due to weather fluctuations, operational days can vary significantly—we were open for only two days last winter, compared to three consecutive weeks the previous year. These unpredictable conditions pose challenges for volunteer retention. The shelter operational calendar generally runs from November 1 through March 30. Volunteer Coordinator, Kevin King, will send out the calendar for monthly sign-up details for first and second shifts.

A dedicated phone number is updated daily on shelter open/closed status. We continue to partner with Snow Goose for transportation for those who need the service and we appreciate our ongoing relationship with Arlington Laundry Station. On days that we don't have big loads, the staff at the Little Green House in Stanwood, which is an extension of the Community Resource Center, has generously offered the use of their laundry facility.

As always, the team appreciates meals provided by our congregation. For those interested in donating meals, please contact Kusum Batey. We thank all our St Aidan's volunteers who have donated meals and/or their time to staff the shifts. Our hope and prayer is that this ministry continues to grow and bless those in need.

Seattle Seafarers Center / Mission to Seafarers 2026

Dear Friends as we approach the Holiday Season, once again the St Aidan's community is gathering goods for the Seafarers who visit our shores, in our case at the Port of Everett.

Every donated item small or large is put in a Ditty Bag and distributed to the incoming seafarers during the Christmas Season. This will be the only gift these sailors will receive this Christmas and they are forever grateful for your generosity and kindness.

Any personal items like shaving cream, shampoo, soap, razors, feminine products, toothpaste etc, are welcomed, also watch caps and socks. We already have a good number of watch caps knitted by JoAnn (from Arizona) of Festival fame, and our own Jan Donovan.

We have until Sunday, November, 8th to fill the box in Dietel Hall. We will be delivering our haul down to the Seattle Seafarers Center that week for final assembly at St John the Baptist Episcopal Church in West Seattle on Saturday November 14th.

We thank you for your past generosity and for any goods you donate this year.

Again thank you and Blessings.

Karen, Karole and Rob.
Ship Visitors.



Night of 100 Pumpkins



Another successful "Night of 100 Pumpkins," was held on October 23rd with s'mores, walking tacos and games. Many thanks to all of the volunteers who made this possible, as well as many thanks to Schuh Farms for again providing the pumpkins for this event.



Food Bank Sunday (November 1th)

"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.

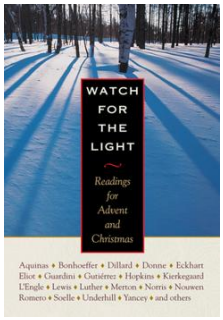
St Aidan's Directories

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.

Tuesday Book Group

The Tuesday Book Group is reading and discussing Kat Armas' book "**Liturgies for Resisting Empire: Seeking Community, Belonging and Peace in a Dehumanizing World."**



Beginning November 24th the group will be focused on **"Watch for the Light: Readings for Advent and Christmas."**

All are welcome to join in the informal discussion, Tuesdays at 10:30AM in Dietel Hall.

Thursday Bible Study

Join in on the study and discussions on the book of Acts, Thursdays at 1:00PM in Dietel Hall. Following Thanksgiving, the study group will begin the Book of Amos.



Brad Whitaker	06	Bill Sontheimer	16
Bob Perry	07	Walter Early	18
Carol Swain	11	Bill Vermilye	24
Theresa Strain	12	Cheryl Wood	27

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 (November 1).....A-D
Second Sunday (November 8) ..... E-L
Third Sunday (November 15) ..... M-R
Fourth Sunday (November 22) ..... S-Z
Fifth Sunday (November 29)..... 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 (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.

Coming in December

The Women of St Aidan's will be holding their annual Christmas Bake Sale on Saturday December 12th. Besides delicious treats this sale also includes Christmas decorations. Do you have favorite Christmas treats that you would like to contribute to the sale or Christmas items that you are ready to pass on?

More information will be coming as the date gets closer.



Walter & Debee Early	11
Robert & Candace Bialon	21
Colin & Lynn Kyles	28

*November 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
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
All Saints 8:00 am Holy Eucharist I 10:00 am Holy Eucharist II (also live streamed on YouTube) **Food Bank Sunday**) 	*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*
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
The Twenty-fourth 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*	10:00 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		*7 pm AA*
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
The Twenty-fifth 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 TORCH DEADLINE		*7 pm AA*
22	23	**24**	25	26	27	28
The Last Sunday After Pentecost 8:00 am Holy Eucharist I 10:00 am Holy Eucharist II (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	**Thanksgiving Day** 		10:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry *7 pm AA*
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
The First Sunday of Advent 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	November 1	November 8	November 15	November 22	November 29
Lector	Kathy Hosley	JoAnn Moffett	Ann Morgan	Jim Miller	JoAnn Moffett
Chalice Bearer	Ann Morgan	Ann Morgan	JoAnn Moffett	Ann Morgan	Ann Morgan
Acolyte	Jim Miller	Jim Miller	Jim Miller	Kathy Hosley	Jim Miller
Usher	JoAnn Moffett	Kathy Hosley	Kathy Hosley	JoAnn Moffett	Kathy Hosley
10:00 AM	November 1	November 8	November 15	November 22	November 29
Lector	Rob Gorman	Jeff Maxwell	Tori Ritchey	Jeff Johnson	Nancy PR
Chalice Bearers	Freda McKeown Dean Nelson	Bob Perry Peter Dunphy	Jeff Maxwell Mary McConnaughey	Theresa Strain Peter Dunphy	Mary McConnaughey Bob Perry
Crucifer/Acolyte	Dean Nelson	Isaac Taylor	Mary McConnaughey	Peter Dunphy	Bob Perry
Ushers	Ethel Maxwell Kathy McNally	Suellen Eberhart Marshall Eberhart	Dick Bingay Joey Sontheimer	Susie Johnson Bill White	Bill Sontheimer Dick Bingay
Counters	Pam Sontheimer Patty Dunphy	Kathy McNally Marilyn Rockwell	Pam Sontheimer Julie Vaux	Bev Maxwell Patty Dunphy	Ethel Maxwell Kathy Hosley
Childcare	Julie Vaux Pam Sontheimer	Ethel Maxwell Donna Myers	Patty Dunphy Deannie Dunbar	Pam Sontheimer Gayle Thomas	JoAnn Moffett Deb Huebenthal
	November 1	November 8	November 15	November 22	November 29
Altar Flowers	Marilyn Rockwell	Lucy Armstrong Gloria Archambault	JoAnn Moffett	Gayle Thomas	Mary McConnaughey

Altar Guild Teams for November

November 1-15

Team 2: Judy Bingay, Gayle Thomas, Candi Bialon

November 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 the church office.

NEXT TORCH DEADLINE

<u>Thursday, November 19th</u>

Email submissions to: mcnallyk@outlook.com

Photos, suggestions and/or comments are greatly appreciated



ST AIDAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1318 SR 532; Camano Island, WA 98282
(P.O. Box 145; Stanwood, WA 98292)