

May 2026

# THE TORCH

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

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## *From the Rector*

As I write this pastoral message I do so from a long, thin peninsula that juts out into the Salish Sea with Drayton Harbor to one side and Semiahmoo Bay to the other. I feel certain I could solo swim across to the border town of Blaine if I had a wild hair to do so, though the icy cold water might present an unwelcome challenge. On the opposite side, the neighborhood hills of White Rock, BC look close enough to spit on, though I would never think of it.

The location of this year's clergy retreat for the Diocese of Olympia couldn't be more wonderfully chosen. The natural beauty of God's creation, and the sense of being away but not too far away, make for the perfect setting to breathe deep and connect with friends and co-laborers. And though being at the Semiahmoo Resort feels (to my mind) a bit luxurious for a clergy retreat, one can be grateful that Bishop Phil has prioritized relationships, dialogue and connection for the clergy he is tasked to lead. The truth is connection, rest, and renewal are essential for all of God's people. It helped one gain some perspective, and that's never a bad thing.

The presenter of Tuesday's workshop took the room on a veritable tour of the depth and breadth of liturgical practice in the Episcopal Church, asking everyone to consider where their congregations might fall on a spectrum of various practices. Questions were posted around the room with the most extreme answers at either end of a long line. Is it the Hymnal 1982 all the way or a creative mix of music drawn from random sources? Is your worship calm and contemplative or warm and lively? Does your community prefer transcendence and mystery or intimacy and welcome? Is your liturgical life pretty stable or always changing? Participants were invited to take a marker and put a line where they thought their church landed. As I went from question to question making marks on behalf of our community a sense of gratitude welled up for the church that we are. We love the 1982 Hymnal, but we also have a music director and choir who lead us into spectacular music beyond that one wonderful book of hymns. We are a church that embraces quiet and contemplative moments (Holy Week services and Selah, anyone?) and one that's *full* of intimacy and welcome. We are a stable Prayer Book congregation and one that will use other resources and try new things from time to time.

As we finished up the exercise I thought the picture of our diocese that would emerge would be obvious. Everyone would either be clumped in the middle or clumped all the way to one side on every question. I was completely wrong. The tick marks that spread across each line were beautifully well distributed. There were solemn and traditional churches, and there were boisterous and lively ones. There were Book of Common Prayer all the way churches, and there were churches who never met an alternative liturgy that they didn't like. And there were "broad" churches like St Aidan's that largely embraced the spectrum. As it turns out, our brothers and sisters across the diocese are as diverse as can be! (Within the Episcopal tradition.) There is truly a place for everybody.

What unites us as a worshipping people will always be Christ, in whose name we gather around the altar. Our liturgy is holy and useful for our worship, but what fills our hearts is not the liturgy but Christ himself. As we come together from Sunday to Sunday we do so with all of our differences and struggles, but what makes us one is the Lord and his love working in and through each one of us.

As you make your way through this month may the Spirit bless you with an appreciation for the beauty and wonder of life and the diverse gifts God has given us in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Yours in Christ,  
Drew+



## *From the Senior Warden*

In the next few days, the St Aidan's Vestry will hold its annual retreat. The purpose of this is to review and update the core values which guide our Parish. Reviewing these values is a focused reminder of who we are as a Parish and how we meet the spiritual and social needs of our parishioners and the community in which we live. Additionally, we will review the goals we set for the parish last year and measure our success in meeting them. Based on input of Fr. Drew and the Vestry, our goals and timelines for implementation will be established for the year ahead. The vestry eagerly anticipates the retreat and will share key outcomes in next month's Torch. Please keep us in your prayers for a successful retreat.

In other news from the vestry, continued progress is being made in redefining the processes for capital improvements and accounting reports. New guidelines are now in place for the evaluation of new capital improvements projects which include priorities, cost, and timelines for implementation. A new accounting report is now available which tracks each project individually from start to finish. These new tools will assist us in clear communication and evaluation of future projects.

Michael Palmer

## *Important Events at St Aidan's in May*

- May 2 Shred-It Event, 10am to 1pm
- May 3 Feed My Sheep Sunday  
Newcomers' Class, 4pm (Continues May 17(at 5pm), May 31, and June 3)
- May 7 Festival Kick-off Dinner, 5:30pm
- May 11 Bloodworks NW, 10am to 4pm
- May 13 Women of St Aidan's, 11am
- May 15-16 St Aidan's Plant Sale, 9am-4pm
- May 17 Stanwood High School Saxophone Concert, 3pm
- May 28 Breakfast at the Cookie Mill, 9am followed by a **Work Party** back at St Aidan's, 10am

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



## *Note Regarding the Torch Calendar*



Six months out of the year you will see notations in the Torch calendar for the feast days of the saints represented in the ten windows of St Aidan's sanctuary. This month St Bede, the Venerable and St Augustine of Canterbury are honored.

## *St Aidan's Annual Plant Sale*



Set up will begin at 11:am on Thursday, May 14th. Please bring plants and cardboard boxes anytime that day. The sale will run 9am to 4pm on May 15th and 16th. Plants will still be available to parishioners on Sunday the 17th.

Like last year, leftover plants will go to the Community Resource Center. Proceeds from the sale benefit Stanwood Youth Dynamics, a ministry devoted to at risk youth.

Thank you for donating and shopping the sale!

Gayle



## *Stanwood High School Saxophone Concert at St Aidan's*



Come enjoy the concert on a Sunday afternoon May 17th at 3:00 pm. Admission is by donations to help raise funds for new mouthpieces and reeds for the Stanwood HS Band Program.

## *From the Junior Warden*

Well, well, well...I am happy to report that St Aidan's now has a newly remodeled pump house, new well pump and equipment! Many thanks to my amazing husband Ken for being super patient and understanding during this process.



We also now have a new septic panel that will allow our system to function efficiently.

The Columbarium pond is running, thanks to Greg Meyers, and maples in the garden trimmed.

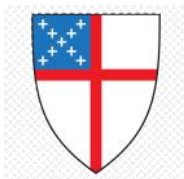
A work party will be scheduled for Thursday May 28th. We will meet at the Cookie Mill at 9am or if you would like, just meet at the church at 10am.

F.Y.I., on May 16th, Sno Isle library will be using our parking lot as overflow for an event at the Terry's Corner facility.

Hellen DeMoyse

## *Newcomers' Class*

**Sundays at 4:00 pm, May 3, 17 (at 5pm), 31, and June 7**



Are you new or new-ish to St Aidan's?? (Or to the Episcopal Church?) This class will help you get to know other newcomers at St Aidan's and give you a brief orientation to the church's mission, theology, organization, gifts, blessings, and opportunities.

There is a sign up in Dietel Hall.

## *F AE Update*



Dear Friends we wanted to keep you updated on our fundraising for the Foundation for Academic Endeavors (FAE). The fundraising was to assist children in getting the appropriate paperwork and passports in case their parent or parents were deported.

Our original goal as a community was to raise \$2,000, this would assist 10 kids with the paperwork and passports. We are pleased to announce we have doubled that amount and have raised in excess of \$4,000. The St Aidan's community really came together and we have doubled the original goal! Thank you for this wonderful display of generosity.

We met with Carol Rodin FAE director a few weeks ago and she explained the summer program and how the passport effort is going. Immigrant families are obviously nervous about the current situation and are applying for the paperwork and passports for their kids.

This year there will be 12 teachers for the FAE Summer program and remarkably 7 of those teachers (who teach for local school districts during the school year) attended the FAE program as kids. What a testament to this invaluable program for immigrant kids, talk about making an impact!

The St Aidan's FAE organizing committee will continue to meet throughout the year and we will continue to fundraise.

Again thank you, and more importantly the FAE community of families thanks you.

St Aidan's FAE organizing committee.

## *Shredding Event Early May and Other Info*

I have some great news for every one!! The blood drives continue to have great news of how many people we are assisting during these blood drives. Please remember, each donation can be used to help three different persons in need of the product from the donation of one pint of blood. For a typical drive, we get about 35 donations. Thank you so much to the donors from our congregation! You are true heroes! Also, there are other heroes. They are the ones who make the cookies which are SO much appreciated by the donors, the crews from Bloodworks North West and those of us staffing the canteen. Your cookies really help pass the time and are great starting points for conversations about the great things we do here at St Aidan's.

Coming on May 2nd there will be a special event which is not a blood drive!! Shocking, I know! St. Aidan's will be hosting a truck from Shred-it. Shred-it is a shredding service for the disposal of documents with sensitive information. The truck will be in the parking lot on May 2nd between 10:00am to 1:00pm. We are asking for a donation of at least \$10.00 to help defray the cost of the truck and to please limit your papers to about 2 bankers boxes.



### **What to Bring to a Shred-it Event**

**Old Financial Documents:** If not needed for taxes, anything with financial information should be destroyed.

**Shipping Labels:** Shipping labels can have personal information including names and addresses.

**Photos:** Photos can be stolen and used for fake identification.

**Duplicates:** If information is saved on a computer or another document, copies should be shredded.

### **What NOT to Bring to a Shred-it Event**

**Hard Drives:** These require a special destruction process that will not be offered at Community Shred-it Events.

**Batteries:** Seek guidance from your battery's producer to learn about secure disposal.

**Medical Waste:** Attend your local Drug Take Back Day event to dispose of pharmaceutical waste and contact your local government to learn about other medical waste disposal options

This short recap of my efforts towards Community Engagement is about concluded. My thanks to all who have helped me make this position an easy task. You truly meet my definition of angels, reaching out to protect and help others in need. May God bless you and keep you close.

ps. OH, OH, OH!! I almost forgot. If anyone has thoughts on potential events, please let me know and I will see what might be done. It could be interesting!!

Thank you,  
C. Marshall Eberhart  
Liaison for Community Engagement

## *Festival Kick-Off Dinner, May 7*

Festival efforts are starting to heat up and its time to start getting the word out. At this stage, the left (south) Festival shed is about 3/4 full. There is still room for small items or boxed items. Please stack high as best as you can. The right (north) shed is about 2/3 full and has some room for furniture and larger items. For both sheds, please keep the aisles open so we can eventually get the garage doors open for unloading.

We have set May 7th for the Festival Kick-off Dinner starting at 5:30 pm. Hot Dogs will be provided. Please bring an appropriate "tail-gate" type side dish. The purpose of this event is to fire-up the congregation, seek volunteers for all the key roles and introduce new folks to what the St Aidan's Festival is all about. If you can't make that date, there will be plenty of other opportunities to plug in.

Save the week of 12 July for Festival setup and prep. It's an "all-hands" event. See also the June Torch for information on scheduling a pickup during the week prior to the 18 July Festival.

Kevin King – 2025 Festival Chairman  
[Kevinaking16@gmail.com](mailto:Kevinaking16@gmail.com)  
206-867-2744

## Food Bank Sunday (May 3rd)

### *“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.

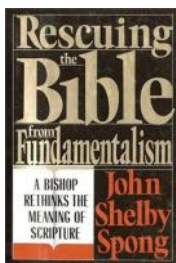
Thank you for your donations.

## Tuesday 10:30 am—Study Group

The study group meets in Dietel Hall or the conference room, depending on availability.

The book currently being read is “Rescuing the Bible from Fundamentalism” by John (Jack) Shelby Spong.

Books are selected through suggestions by group members. This is a very informal group, stop by and join in the discussions.



## 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.

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Michael & Micki-Jo Palmer	03
Chris & Patty Clark	14
Bill & Patty Vermilye	22
Shawn & Tory Ritchey	25

## Happy Birthday

Edward Wurtz	02	Kusum Batey	20
Nic Whitaker	06	Susie White	20
Don Avalon	11	Julie Vaux	22
Bill White	11	Jackie Humes-Fear	27
Beverly Maxwell	12	Carol Avalon	31
Will Smith	14	Nancy Pates-Riches	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 (May 3)	A-D
Second Sunday (May 10)	E-L
Third Sunday (May 17)	M-R
Fourth Sunday (May 24)	S-Z
Fifth Sunday (May 31)	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.

## A Message From the Kitchen “Angels”

Please remember to take your dishes after Coffee Hour or other social gatherings. In order to keep the kitchen tidy, after one month left behind dishes will be donated to the Festival.

Thank you!



## 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 let Ann Boid (apbrb041539@gmail.com) know or 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.

## Message from the Bingays

Please be advised Dick & Judy Bingay no longer have a landline. You can contact them using their cell phone numbers.

# May 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
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
<b>The Fifth Sunday of Easter</b> 8:00 am Holy Eucharist I 9:15 am Adult Form 10:00 am Holy Eucharist II (also live streamed on YouTube) <b>Food Bank Sunday</b>	5:30 pm AA  7:00 pm Stations of the Cross	10:00 am Guided Meditation  10:30 am Study Group	10:00 am Holy Eucharist I	5:30 pm Festival Kick-off Dinner	7	7 pm AA
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
<b>The Sixth Sunday of Easter</b> 8:00 am Holy Eucharist I 9:15 am Adult Form 10:00 am Holy Eucharist II (also live streamed on YouTube) <b>Mother's Day</b>	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	11 am Plant Sale Set-up	10 am—4 pm Plant Sale	10 am—4 pm Plant Sale  7 pm AA
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
<b>The Seventh Sunday of Easter</b> 8:00 am Holy Eucharist I 9:15 am Adult Form 10:00 am Holy Eucharist II (also live streamed on YouTube) 3:00 pm SHS Saxophone Concert	4 pm Vestry Meeting  5:30 pm AA	10:00 am Guided Meditation  10:30 am Study Group	10:00 am Holy Eucharist I	TORCH DEADLINE		7 pm AA
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
<b>The Day of Pentecost Whitsunday</b> 8:00 am Holy Eucharist I 9:15 am Adult Form 10:00 am Holy Eucharist II (also live streamed on YouTube)	 <b>Memorial Day</b> St Bede the Venerable (Window #10)  5:30 pm AA	 St Augustine of Canterbury (Window #4) 10:00 am Guided Meditation  10:30 am Study Group	10:00 am Holy Eucharist I	9:00 am Cookie Mill  10:00 am Work Party		10:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry  7 pm AA
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
<b>The First Sunday After Pentecost Trinity Sunday</b> 8:00 am Holy Eucharist I 9:15 am Adult Form 10:00 am Holy Eucharist II (also live streamed on YouTube)	5:30 pm AA	10:00 am Guided Meditation  10:30 am Study Group	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	May 3	May 10	May 17	May 24	May 31
Lector	JoAnn Moffett	JoAnn Moffett	Kathy Hosley	Kathy Hosley	Ann Morgan
Chalice Bearers	Ann Morgan	Ann Morgan	Ann Morgan	Ann Morgan	JoAnn Moffett
Crucifer/Acolyte	Jim Miller	Jim Miller	Jim Miller	Jim Miller	Jim Miller
Usher	Kathy Hosley	Kathy Hosley	Kathy Hosley	Kathy Hosley	Kathy Hosley
10:00 AM	May 3	May 10	May 17	May 24	May 31
Lector	Rob Gorman	Nancy Pates-Riches	Theresa Strain	Rhoda Venditto	Jeff Johnson
Chalice Bearers	Freda McKeown Peter Dunphy	Mary McConnaughey Bob Perry	Jackie Humes-Fear Bob Perry	Freda McKeown Jeff Maxwell	Jackie Humes-Fear Mary McConnaughey
Crucifer/Acolyte	Peter Dunphy	Bob Perry	Bob Perry	Isaac Taylor	Mary McConnaughey
Usher	Marshall Eberhart Suellen Eberhart	Dick Bingay Joey Sontheimer	Jeff Johnson Susie Johnson	Ethel Maxwell Bill White/Kathy McN	Ethel Maxwell Susie Johnson
Counter	Sue Perry Patty Dunphy	Pam Sontheimer Marilyn Rockwell	Jackie Humes-Fear Julie Vaux	Ethel Maxwell Kathy Hosley	Marilyn Rockwell Kathy Hosley
Childcare	JoAnn Moffett Sue Perry	JoAnn Moffett Marilyn Rockwell	Kathy Hosley Vonda Buse	Donna Myers Deb Hubenthal	Julie Vaux Gayle Thomas
	May 3	May 10	May 17	May 24	May 31
Altar Flowers	Mary McConnaughey	Marilyn Rockwell	Lucy Armstrong Gloria Archambault	Gayle Thomas	JoAnn Moffett



## Altar Guild Teams for May

**May 1-15**

**Team 2:** : Judy Bingay, Gayle Thomas,  
Candi Bialon

**May 16-31**

**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 an questions or concerns about the operation of St. Aidan's website, Facebook pages, or YouTube please contact St Aidan's Office until new Liaison for Technology appointed.

**NEXT TORCH  
DEADLINE**

**Thursday, May 21st**

Email submissions to: [mcnallyk@outlook.com](mailto:mcnallyk@outlook.com)  
Photos, suggestions and/or comments are greatly appreciated

ST. AIDAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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