

St. Alban's Anglican Church

3315 South 19th Street

Tacoma, Washington

Church Office: (425) 413-2033

Rector's Residence: (425) 413-2030

NEWS FROM ST. ALBAN'S

January/February/March, 2010

The Latest News

Happy New Year everyone! Welcome to the start of another joy filled year at St. Alban's.

Our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service was absolutely beautiful. The children's processional, lessons and music all in praise to the Lord for His wonderful gift to the world. Thank you to everyone who made it possible.

Thank you to the Sunday School as well for the beautiful sand dollar ornaments they made for the congregation.

Our Annual Meeting was held Sunday January 10th. The 2010 Budget was presented and by the Lord's blessings we were able to increase the salaries for our rector as well as the organist. All looks promising for the coming year.

We celebrated St. Agnes Day on Sunday, January 17th (actual date is Jan. 21st). As a symbol, Joy Kirkland gave out little memorial lambs to the congregation. For those who are interested, Joy also has available for lend a DVD about St. Alban's Church in England and it has some wonderful English scenes. You can contact Joy.

A Review of What's Been Happening:

Sept. 27th - Thanh & Stephanie Hoang's children Maggie, Emily and Nathan were all baptized via full immersion. What a joyous experience that was for everyone.

Thankfully, Abundant Life Fellowship was very generous in allowing us to use their facilities as few parishes have accommodations for full immersion baptisms. Afterwards, the congregation enjoyed a delicious dinner prepared by Jeanne Hansen and Stephanie Hoang back at our Parish Hall. A very blessed event indeed.

Dec. 4th – The ladies of St. Alban's held their annual Christmas luncheon at the Red Lobster off 72nd & I-5. It was very well attended and by all reports everyone had a great time.

Dec. 6th - As a fund raiser, St. Agnes Guild raffled off several fabulous donations provided by the congregation. Susan Clingerman made two gorgeous prayer shawls, Beryl Christianson Raggedy Ann & Andy dolls and Christmas pillow, Joy Kirkland put together an all English basket as well as an Advent Musical House, and Yvette Chambers did up a wine basket. A fun time was had by all and St. Agnes Guild now has operating funds for the coming year.

Much gratitude to Bonny Colbert for making new altar linens and to Denise Durbin for her generous contribution. (2 rose colored stoles, burse and veil in white, purple, green and red). They are beautiful and were blessed and used for the first time in November.

Ordo Calendars were made available again this year. Cost is \$5.00 each. If you missed out on ordering and wish to purchase a calendar, please contact Rev. Chikos.

Announcements

On a sad note, the Mass on Sunday, Feb. 21st was offered to the glory of God and in loving memory of Gil Hofling who passed away on Saturday. May he rest in peace with our Lord.

We would like to welcome our newest member Dimple Kiernan to the congregation. We are very glad to have you Dimple.

Its difficult to say goodbye to Debbie Simcoe who has moved to San Antonio, Texas to be with her grandchildren. We are sad to see Debbie go but know that her family needs her. All our blessings to you Debbie, we miss you. She will be sending us her new address, but in the meantime you can always reach her via email.

REMINDER: Every second Sunday is our monthly Food Drive for FISH Food Bank. The poor in our community are always in need, especially during these tough times.

Katherine has updated our Church Directory for 2010. If you haven't received a copy and would like one, please contact her.

Upcoming Events and Services

Jan. 17th – Epiphany 2 HC at 9:00 a.m.
Jan. 21st – St. Agnes Day – celebrating Sun. Jan. 17th
Jan. 24th – Epiphany 3 HC at 9:00 a.m.
Jan. 31st – Septuagesima HC at 9:00 a.m.

Feb. 7th – Sexagesima HC at 9:00 a.m.
Feb. 13th – The start of our Lenten Bible Study
Feb. 14th – Quinquagesima HC at 9:00 a.m.
Vestry Meeting
Feb. 16th – Shrove Tuesday
Feb. 17th – Ash Wednesday
Feb. 21st – Lent 1 HC at 9:00 a.m.
Feb. 28th – Lent 2 HC at 9:00 a.m.

Lenten Bible Study – Our Deacon Paul Chikos will again be conducting a Lenten Bible Study series on Saturday mornings at 10:15 a.m. in the Parish Hall starting Feb. 13th. We will be studying the Book of James this year. You can contact Rev. Chikos for further information.

March 7th – Lent 3 HC at 9:00 a.m.
March 14th – Lent 4 HC at 9:00 a.m.
Vestry Meeting
Food Drive
March 21st – Passion Sunday HC at 9:00 a.m.
March 27th – Meet in the Parish Hall to make palm crosses
March 28th – Palm Sunday
April 1st – Maundy Thursday
April 2nd – Good Friday
April 4th - Easter

Mark Your Calendars!

Keep in Your Prayers

Dawn, Tracy, Minnie, Phillip, Marline, Carla, Doug, James, Christian, Jeanette, Jerome, Greg, Katherine, Bob, Pam, Lisa, Pat, Fr. Craig+, Rosalind, Victoria, Cathy, Janet, Beryl and Bud.

Please let Fr. Luesing know if you need someone added to/or taken off the parish Prayer list.

Items of Interest from our English roots

SHROVE TUESDAY aka Pancake Day and falls on February 16th this year. Shrove Tuesday is the Tuesday before Lent, and gets its name from the ritual of shriving, or confessing sins, on that day. The name Pancake Day comes from the tradition of making pancakes to use up eggs, butter, and fat

before Lent begins, during which time they were forbidden by the church. All sorts of interesting activities surround this day.

First and foremost, everyone celebrates by eating pancakes. The traditional English pancake is very thin and served rolled in a cylinder, often dressed up with caster sugar and a dash of lemon juice, or golden syrup or jam.

Another Pancake Day tradition is the pancake races, now held all over England. Pancake races are derived from the story of an Olney woman in 1445 who was running late, and so upon hearing the shroving bell she ran to church to shrive with her frying pan still in hand, hot pancake still inside. In today's races, competitors run a course whilst flipping a pancake several times in a hot frying pan. In order to win, they must complete the course in the shortest time and still have an intact pancake in their pan.

In Scarborough, everyone gathers on the promenade to skip, sometimes as many as ten people together on one long rope stretched across the road.

In Ashbourne, Derbyshire, Shrove Tuesday is the first day of a massive football game played over two days with thousands of players. The goals are three miles apart and the rules are few. This is the oldest, largest, longest football game in the world.

What's Collop Monday?

The day before Shrove Tuesday, of course, named after the traditional dish of the day: collops of bacon served with eggs. A collop is small slice of meat, especially a single rasher of bacon. In addition to providing meat for Monday's meal, the collops also contributed some fat for the following day's pancakes.

MOTHERING SUNDAY is March 14th.

Mothering Sunday is a day for showing respect and love to our mothers, similar to Mother's Day in the United States and many other countries. It always falls on the fourth Sunday of Lent, and like Pancake Day it has its roots in religious customs. It began as a day in Lent when people made a point of visiting their "mother church," the nearest cathedral. People who had made the visit were said to have gone "a mothering."

Historically, young British girls and boys working as maids and servants were only permitted to visit their family on one day each year. Usually they went for Mothering Sunday. Often the housekeeper or cook would allow the maids to bake a cake to take home for their mother. Sometimes a gift of eggs or flowers from the garden was allowed. Flowers were traditional, as the young girls and boys could gather them on their way home through the meadows.

Many people bake a simnel cake for Mothering Day, though today it is more commonly made in celebration of Easter Sunday. Simnel cake is a fruit cake topped with a flat layer of marzipan, which is itself topped off with 11 marzipan balls, one for each of the 12 apostles save Judas, who betrayed Christ.

Mothering Sunday is also sometimes known as Simnel Sunday because of the tradition of baking Simnel cakes.