



FEBRUARY 2022

# The MESSENGER

## MISSION STATEMENT

*So that ALL may know and serve God, our mission is to let the love of Christ shine brightly in our daily lives by being a welcoming, nurturing, and supportive community grounded in God's Word and Sacraments*

Services begin each Sunday morning at 10:30 am

## WELCOME REV. BILL FULTON!



Sometimes life takes funny turns. You think you know what's coming next, but God has other plans. When I retired as an Episcopal priest, I figured that was it. Next chapter, please. I could focus on watercolor painting and hiking in our beautiful Olympic National Park.

Little did I know how much I would miss celebrating Holy Eucharist, preaching, and pastoral care. You do something for 26 years and it gets into your system. On Saturday night, you feel like something is wrong because you have no sermon prepared.

So it was more than a coincidence that St. Germain's needed a new priest just about the time that I was going through my withdrawal stage. God has a funny sense of humor, and before I knew it Katy and I were having a discussion about taking the position of interim vicar of St. Germain's. The answer was yes, the start date, February 1.

The title "interim" is a slippery thing. It can mean just about anything, I think. So I guess we'll all have to discern just what it means for us as priest and people. My first job is just to get acquainted and learn about the family of St. Germain's. I hope you'll forgive me if it takes me some time to learn everyone's name and remember where the bathroom is. Katy and I are the newcomers, and we'll do our best to fit in.

The job of a priest is to listen to God and listen to the people. It can be a baffling and unpredictable task, but it's one that I enjoy. Who knows where God will lead us? I hope you'll help Katy and me as we learn what it means to join the congregation of St. Germain's.

In God's love,  
*Bill*

**St. Germain Episcopal Church  
"The Church on the Hill"**

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**The Rev. Bill Fulton**

**We are an inclusive, welcoming  
community of faith and**

**EVERYONE IS  
WELCOME HERE!**



**Please visit our Facebook page  
St. Germain Episcopal Church  
Remember to "Like" the page  
and share it with your family  
and friends!**

## TREASURER'S REPORT

### JANUARY - DECEMBER 2021

	<u>YTD</u>
Operating Revenues	46,775.64
Operating Expenses	<u>62,953.91</u>
Net	(16,178.27)
Non Operating Revenue	
Grant	4,000.00
Building Fund	23,551.12
Other	48.94
Net Net	<u>11,421.79</u>

### SOUL PURPOSE OUTREACH JANUARY - DECEMBER 2021

<b>Fund Balance as of 12/31/2021</b>	<b>\$3,926.08</b>
<b>Donations received for 2021</b>	<b>4,005.50</b>
Discretionary fund	340.00
Chaplains on the Harbor	700.00
Community Lifeline	500.00
Episcopal Relief and Development Fund	200.00
Hood Canal Food Bank	1,150.00
Hood Canal Lions	75.00
Mason County Humane Society	700.00
Quixote Communities	450.00
<b>YTD Donations</b>	<b><u>\$4,115.50</u></b>

**In addition to the monetary donations the following was disbursed:**

- Over 1,108 lbs. of food to Hood Canal Food Bank
- Over 800 lbs. of clothing & toiletries to  
Community Lifeline Shelter
- Over 300 lbs. of pet food & supplies to  
Turning Pointe Shelter
- Over 100 lbs of diapers, toiletries, blankets,  
toys, & clothing to a family in need.

*“Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you”* Matthew 17



A childhood memory is always triggered when I hear the parable of the mustard seed: I was given a gift by my godmother, Aunt Lucy, for my first holy communion. It was a bracelet that had a round crystal globe containing a mustard seed. She said that from the tiniest beginnings, anyone can accomplish anything.

For those of you who don't know, mustard is an annual plant which comes up in late April and early May and is visible in fields because of its bright yellow flowers. I'm a native Californian, and growing up I learned about how we got so darned much mustard in our state. It seems Father Junipero Serra, the Franciscan priest who founded the missions in California, sowed mustard seeds as he made his way up the coast ... and farmers have complained about his actions ever since! The landscape of California is very similar to that of Palestine (where my aunts and uncles were born in the early 1900's) – and mustard grows like wildfire. It spreads everywhere and you cannot get rid of it nor can you contain it. If you clear out a plot of land and leave it empty ... the following year you will have a plot of mustard, that just takes over.

We talked about the mustard seed in our women's group one day, and how it was meant to be a reminder of the power of even a tiny bit of faith...but it also reminds us of the power of the “little things”...the seemingly insignificant actions that mean more than words can describe. So, I have been jotting down my thoughts and insights I've read for a few months and here is what I believe.

The life of our church is rarely found within the four walls of our church building. Location is not our strong suit. Our church is tucked away in a rural community off the main thoroughfare. Is our location a hindrance to our mission? How will they find us? I believe our location is our saving grace because it forces us to reach out into the community to let people know we were here and ready to serve our neighbors.

We emphasize numbers in the world of churches. We gather and report on numerical data - How many members, average Sunday attendance, number of pledges made, etc. Was that more or less than last year? This leads to the way we evaluate congregations. Steady or rising numbers indicate a stable or growing church. Shrinking numbers mean, uh-oh, that church is struggling, or worse... “If this trend continues, well, someone's going to have to make a decision to keep that church or close it”. After all, how can a church with a small number of households survive?”

The church that draws 500 people catches the attention...not the modest group that faithfully gathers each Sunday morning to worship and share fellowship. We think the wealthiest and biggest church must be the best and must please God the most. But the God we discover in the Bible is forever picking out something insignificant and ordinary and making it important: a tiny mustard seed, a lily, a sparrow, a pinch of salt, ordinary household oil.

The kingdom of heaven is made of people like you and me, simple, ordinary folks who plant tiny seeds of faith along the way. We are a mustard seed sized church that relies on God's promise that nothing is impossible with faith. We are still a small church and expect we always will be. But I believe we are: a small church with a big mission. I am excited for our future as we begin a new journey of discernment.

Jesus put before the crowds another parable: *“The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”* Matthew 13

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