



NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2025

ST. GERMAIN HOODSPORT

www.saintgermainhoodsport.org

HAPPENINGS ON THE HILL

THE VICAR'S BRAIN - Rev. Bill Fulton



I have a love-hate relationship with the season of Lent. I love it because it's gutsy, demanding, and stern. Lent is tough love. It asks us to give something up, to dig deeper, to love Jesus more. I like that.

But I hate Lent because it's all drab clothes and moony sentiment, moping around about our sins and penitence and such like. The penitence-industrial complex has made Lent into a Wal-Mart of moroseness.

So for this Lent I've decided to memorize some scripture. I know, it sounds fundamentalist. Pound some scripture verses into your brain only to forget them days later. But actually I find that memorization over a long time helps me not only retain the passage, but enter into it more deeply.

I've memorized a number of Psalms (this is an ancient and widespread Christian practice) and I find them helpful when I'm searching for the words of prayer. One of the Psalms comes to mind and I can recite the words from memory. It helps when I wake up in the middle of the night.

This Lent I plan to memorize Psalm 51, the classic Psalm of penitence that we say in the Ash Wednesday service. Okay, not all of Psalm 51, but let's say the first thirteen verses. I don't memorize as fast as I used to, so it may take me the whole season of Lent.

I challenge you to memorize some scripture or part of the service. Most of us have memorized the Lord's Prayer and half-memorized other parts of the service like the Confession, the Nicene Creed, or the Post Communion Prayer. Why not take one and just memorize it completely? It imprints it in your brain so that the words begin to work on you.

You may have other plans for Lent, and that's fine, too. But I hope you'll find some way to observe this prickly, in-your-face season. Happy Lent to you.

Bill



**Join us Sundays at 10:30 a.m.
for Holy Communion**

**Potluck on the last Sunday of the
month after the service**

Many of us grew up Lutheran, Roman Catholic, Presbyterian, Baptist, Methodist, Episcopalian and other faiths.

You will find yourself very familiar with our liturgy and our celebration of Holy Communion. Our doors are open to **ALL** and we believe that a community of diversity and acceptance starts in a safe and inclusive place of worship.

You are welcome to join us in our faith journey toward greater love, understanding and mutual respect. No matter your identity or orientation, you are always welcome here!



OUR MISSION:

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 that is grounded in God's Word and Sacraments.

OUR VISION

Be the inclusive people of God



**"We gratefully
acknowledge
the Skokomish
Indian Tribe and
all Indigenous**

**Peoples. Our building and facilities
stand on the traditional land of the
people, whose ancestors have resided
here since time immemorial.**

**We honor and thank them for their
culture, resilience, and Indigenous
identity."**

ASH WEDNESDAY AND LENT



Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the forty days of Lent. Christians have been preparing for the celebration of Easter by walking through a “Holy Lent” since ancient times. This is patterned after Jesus temptation in the wilderness.

Lent is a season of repentance, fasting, and self-reflection. Of course, all of this happens with the sure knowledge of God’s love and grace to us through Christ. Lent and Ash Wednesday are in no way about *condemnation*. They are a time in which human beings, given a pronouncement of forgiveness and absolution through Christ, can be honest with God, with ourselves, and with each other. With the terror of judgment removed, we can speak the truth.

Ash Wednesday is the day in which Christians gather to receive the imposition of ashes. Ashes on the head have signified repentance from biblical times. Job said, “I repent in dust and ashes.” Ashes are the result of burning. They remind us that we are living in this mortal world, this fallen world, and that we are made from dust, when all else is burned away. We are mortal and will return to our maker. We believe that through the death and resurrection of Christ we can be forgiven and “boldly go before the throne of grace.” We feel the pain of sin and brokenness. Ash Wednesday and Lent remind us that we still live in this fallen world, and that we are a part of that fallenness. No one is free of sin. It gives us permission, in fact it calls us, to acknowledge the reality we see within ourselves, and around us. (*Greg Goebel, Anglican Compass*)



Early Christians observed "a season of penitence and fasting" in preparation for the Paschal feast, or Pascha. The season now known as Lent (from an Old English word meaning "spring," the time of lengthening days) has a long history. Originally, in places where Pascha was celebrat-

ed on a Sunday, the Paschal feast followed a fast of up to two days. In the third century this fast was lengthened to six days. Eventually this fast became attached to, or overlapped, another fast of forty days, in imitation of Christ's fasting in the wilderness. The forty-day fast was especially important for converts to the faith who were preparing for baptism, and for those guilty of notorious sins who were being restored to the Christian assembly. In the western church the forty days of Lent extend from Ash Wednesday through Holy Saturday, omitting Sundays. The last three days of Lent are the sacred Triduum of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday. (*BCP, p. 265*).

REFLECTIONS by Curtis Pennington

Peggy and Alec Pennington graciously share these reflections by Alec's dad.

My Guide

*Jesus is my guide
He came to earth
With thoughts so Divine
To set us on the path
Hallelujah.*

*Jesus gave the word
On the meaning of life
That we might know the
Father who provides us all
A life of truth, joy and love.
Hallelujah.*

*Jesus walked among us with a healing touch
And words of life so true
That we might know the spirit of God that
sets us free.
Hallelujah.*

*Jesus gave his life upon the cross
In pain and suffering
As he called us to the Father
So we might know his spirit in our lives.
Hallelujah.*

WOMEN'S GROUP

Wednesdays 11 am - 1pm



We spend the first hour checking in, and sharing our monthly topic. The second hour of our meeting is devoted to event planning and administering our outreach ministries. Bring a lunch and if you have a craft to do while we meet (knitting, drawing, etc.) feel free to bring it. Please join us...all women from the community are welcome to attend!



One way our faith community cares for one another is by bringing the needs and thanksgivings of all before God in our prayers. During the service the congregation prays for those on the Intercessory Prayer List. Prayers can be said for loved ones who have died or are ill, grieving, or facing adversity. You may add your petition to the prayer list by filling out a prayer request card and giving it to the usher or simply adding it silently or aloud during the Prayers of the People. Confidential prayer requests are forwarded to the members of the Intercessory Prayer Group for inclusion in their private, regular prayers. Each petition remains on their prayer list for one month (unless instructed otherwise).

BISHOP'S COMMITTEE



Our members are caring folks who are willing to share their own faith, perspective, and experience to engage with other members to collaboratively manage the affairs of the church with a view toward a faith-filled, sustainable future.

Everyone is invited to join us for our monthly meeting on the **3rd Wednesday of each month at 1:30 p.m.** to learn about current events, stay abreast of church ministries, finances, status updates, proposals, and more.

Minutes of February Meeting

Treasurer's Report: Reviewed and discussed. John had questions about the format of the report. Donna announced she was stepping down, and we will find her replacement asap—possibly Jann Goodpaster, or use outside person (at least for the payroll portion—Carrie is working on this). We will have four people who agree to help with the Sunday collections and deposits (Kit, Amy, Peggy and Carrie volunteered). Acceptance of report moved by Kit and seconded by Carrie. Vote: aye 9, nay 0.

Review of office administration tasks. Donna provided list of tasks she has been volunteering to do for the last several years. The committee eliminated some tasks, and the remaining tasks were taken over by other committee members. A list of who does what will be generated by Amy, as she agreed to be the clerk for the BC for the following year.

Discussion about paying Donna to continue with the bulk of admin duties concluded with a motion to pay Donna \$300 each month on a provisional basis for one year. Acceptance of the motion moved by Peggy and seconded by Kit. Vote: aye 9, nay 0.

Other: Schedule of special services: Ash Wednesday service on March 5 will be at noon. Palm Sunday service is on April 13, and Good Friday service on April 18 will be at noon. Easter is on April 20, 2025.

Next month's meeting would have been on the 19th, but due to several member's request it will be the following Wednesday, March 26th at 1 pm.

On February 26th the Bishop's Committee held their annual retreat at St. David's in Shelton.. These are the goals we have set for the coming year.

2025 GOALS

- ❖ Have more groups using our church (reach out to AA, and other service groups), possibly advertise the community center space as use for private events like parties, weddings, social gatherings
- ❖ Have an open house for local area businesses: brainstorm ways to support each other and benefit the community
- ❖ Create a study group/bible study for adult education and personal growth
- ❖ Add to our facilities (b-ball hoop, etc.) to encourage youth to use our facilities
- ❖ Host end of life seminar to include planned giving
- ❖ Offer more help to seniors: rides to church, invitations to share meals, or bring meals/groceries to those who are ill or unable to get out
- ❖ Host job fair or trade fair to encourage a sharing of skills among our community
- ❖ Have confirmation classes at the church
- ❖ Offer tutoring to area students

FUND BALANCES 2-1-2025 thru 2-28-25

Business Savings	23,416.71
Grant Savings	7,382.42
Soul Purpose Savings	3,655.66
<u>Business Checking</u>	<u>11,073.51</u>

TOTAL BALANCES \$46,543.99

Howard Wilder Trust Market Value
4,540.58

NET CHANGE IN MARKET VALUE +\$1,200.49

Have you seen our new highway banner?

Whoever you are, wherever you are on your journey, you are always welcome at our table.

St. Germain's Church



Holy Communion

Every Sunday at 10:30AM
Live stream service on Facebook



ALL are welcome here!

360-877-9879

saintgermainhoodsport.org

Thank you to Catherine at Tiny Mushroom Shop for creating this and all our banners and signs.



March Birthdays

12 Rose Kallal 25 Jerry Frye

*O God, our times are in your hand:
Look with favor, we
pray, on your servants as
they begin another year. Grant
that they may grow in wisdom and
grace, and strengthen their
trust in your goodness all the days of
their lives; through Jesus Christ our
Lord. Amen.*

LOCAL AUTHOR SHOWCASE & BOOK SALE



CALLING ALL LOCAL AUTHORS!

We are planning a local author's event on Saturday, April 12th. This is a great opportunity to showcase your literary talents, promote your work, as well as connect with fellow authors and the local community.

Each author will have a table (we will not charge you) and during the event you can sign up to do a reading, take questions, etc.

If you are interested or know someone who is, please contact Donna at the Church Office 360-877-9879

Get ready to be part of an unforgettable celebration of local literature! Thank you

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



THANK YOU. Thank you for knowing how to serve. You are the backbone of our church, serving in countless ways in sharing the love of Christ with others. We are thankful for your selfless service because many churches wouldn't be able to accomplish nearly as much...or have as great of an impact...without the help of volunteers.

At St. Germain's Church, we deeply value our volunteers who play an integral role in nurturing our church community. To honor their commitment, we've created the "Volunteer Spotlight" to shine a light on who they are. Each month we will highlight different volunteers.

Everything you do at St. Germain's makes a difference. We are grateful for each and every one of you for your vision, dedication, time, energies and talent!



On February 15th our Music on the Hill concert featured Hank and Claire's Celebration of Love Concert and free spaghetti lunch. Our wonderful women's group kitchen queens cooked and baked, serving over 40 people! Thank you so much to Kathryn, Yvonne, Carrie and Peggy!

Thank you also to Alec and Paul for helping with set up and more.



While the roots of this tree presented a hazard by lifting the concrete to our walkway, it was a breeze for John to safely take it down. John also was able to finally clear all the downed trees from the rear of the church last month.

CONNECTIONS

Visit our website at

stgermainhoodsport.org

Sermons are posted on our

YouTube channel at

Saint Germain Church677

Watch a live stream of our

Sunday service on our

Facebook page.

St. Germain's Church Hoodsport



Find us on:
facebook®



Volunteer Leaders

Events Coordinator - Peggy Pennington

Eucharistic Ministers - Kathryn Jasper, Donna O'Leary, Amy Leonard, Teresa Schenk-Stephens, Kit Brooks

Head Usher - Skip Hash

Music Director - Carrie Sharp

Newsletter - Amy Leonard, Donna O'Leary

Altar Guild Director - Joanne Hash

(Peggy Pennington, Katy Fulton)

Treasurer - Donna O'Leary

Bell Ringer - John Drumm

Church Groundskeeper - Carrie Sharp

Facilities - Alec Pennington

Memorial Garden Sexton - Skip Hash



St. Germain's Episcopal Church

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The Rev. Bill Fulton, Vicar, *billfulton2001@yahoo.com*

Donna O'Leary, Church Office Administrator, stgermainoffice600@gmail.com

The Bishop's Committee

Senior Warden - Carrie Sharp

Junior Warden - Peggy Pennington

People's Warden - Amy Leonard

Treasurer/Clerk - Donna O'Leary

Joanne Hash - Pat Lakeman - Kit Brooks - John Drumm