



St. Germain Hoodsport

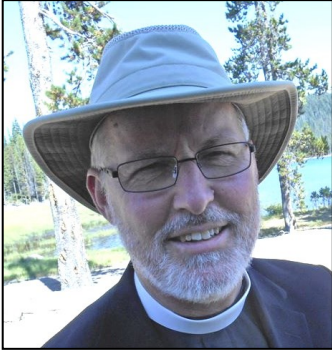
www.saintgermainhoodsport.org

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2026

HAPPENINGS ON THE HILL

THE VICAR'S BRAIN - Rev. Bill Fulton



I recently had a duty to perform that was also a delight. Our neighbors across the street asked me to officiate at their wedding in a local park. How sweet is that?

These two young people have a seven year old daughter together and welcomed a newborn son in November. They said that it seemed like the right time to make it official. I agreed to officiate right away because it was clear that these two are a committed, loving couple.

I told them up front that as an Episcopal priest, I had a few requirements to meet. I had to ascertain that neither of them had been married and divorced (neither had). I had to get their signatures on the Declaration of Intention (that marriage is a lifelong commitment between two people). And I had to meet with them for premarital counseling.

With all of that taken care of, we met in a wooded corner of a local park on the December 21 (the winter solstice) with their children, their mothers, and me. Seven people. There was no wedding coordinator, no musicians, no photographer, no florist, no attendants. It was perfectly simple.

As an Episcopal priest, naturally I used the wedding rite as found in the Book of Common Prayer. I omitted all the extra parts and stripped it down to the essentials, which are surprisingly few. I had thought that they would like to read their vows to each other, but the groom was so emotional about his vows that he asked me to read them for him to repeat. It was a touching moment.

These two young people don't attend a church, but they wanted a religious wedding performed by a minister. They were clear about old baggage they carried from earlier, negative experiences of churchgoing, and they firmly didn't want a "church wedding."

But I was touched to be part of their ceremony where they stood in the presence of God and promised to love each other "until we are parted by death." To me, this is the core of what a wedding is about.

Sometimes doing things the simplest way is also the most profound way.

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.

A Testimony of Faith by Joanne Hash, November 14, 2022

In 1976, I was determined to celebrate our country's bicentennial here in Washington by having an oyster and clam feast on our beach property down on Hood Canal. As we drove up Highway 101 and passed the Hoodsport Winery, I noticed that the house next door had a sign in front of it that read St. Germain Episcopal Church. I was thrilled.

Two years later, we returned to the camp on our property and the sign was gone. My spirits dropped. I didn't want to have to drive half an hour into town to attend St. David's. But as we came up Highway 119 and rounded the corner, not only did I see the sign for St. Germain Episcopal Church, I saw this building. My heart warmed, and I was deeply glad.

We are a loving community and I love coming to church. When we walk through the door, everyone in the parish hall greets us: How are you? It's good to see you? What are you doing? It's wonderful to come here because you genuinely care about one another.

When I enter the nave and see the rock wall with the empty cross representing our risen Savior, I rejoice. We are here, representing our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

This is a wonderful little church. I have seen Sunday services grow from five people to twenty-two. Our priests have come from Sequim, Port Angeles, Olympia, Bremerton and Silverdale, and each has offered us food for thought— guidance on how to live the lessons Christ taught us in today's world.

It is comforting to sit in the pew. In recent weeks, I have realized that I have been Episcopalian long enough to have memorized the service. I especially love the prayers, when after the Eucharistic minister reads from the prayer book, Father Bill adds his own words. He is the first priest I have known in this church to do that, and it reflects our concern for one another and the world. We love each other, and that is why I come to church. When I don't come, the following week feels empty. I come here to hear the Word of God spoken— to receive direction, to ponder the teachings— and to receive the Eucharist, the symbols of the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ who gave himself for us.

I need to give myself for Him. And we need to give ourselves— our time, talents and our resources— to keep this church open, to serve the community of Hoodsport, to fellowship with one another, and to love our Lord and Savior by doing all we can to be together, to care for one another, and to show His love within our community.

Feeding our neighbors

The Hood Canal Food Bank is a non-profit organization that provides nutritious food with dignity to our neighbors in need in Hoodspport and the Lower Hood Canal area, through donations and the work of dedicated volunteers.

The food bank is a fully 100% volunteer-based organization. Dozens of people volunteer many hours to keep our food bank functioning. Please put your non-perishable donations in the barrel by the parish hall for volunteers to take to the food bank.

The need for food is not just during the holidays, please remember to continue to provide for our neighbors in need throughout the year.

DID YOU KNOW?

Our involvement with the Food Bank began because of our concern for the community. The food was first distributed from our church on the occasion of a strike by the Simpson workers in Shelton in the early 80's.

How to Contribute

The most secure way to make your regular donations to St. Germain's is by setting up automatic payments on your bank's website. By adding St. Germain's as a "Payee" and using your bank's automatic bill pay process, we receive a paper check which is counted regularly with the monies put into the plate on Sundays. If you are set up on bill pay through your regular bank you may send your donation in that way. Our address and bill pay info is as follows:

St. Germain Episcopal Church
PO Box 222
Hoodspport, WA 98548

Otherwise, you can write a check and put it in the offering plate or mail it to the church office. Pledge envelopes are available in the parish hall. Also, cash can be placed in an envelope and placed in the offering bowl. Again, thank you with all our hearts for your pledge, your presence, and your engagement in God's mission as it is expressed at St. Germain's.

Please remember to pick up your copy of Forward Day by Day in the parish hall.

Forward Day by Day is a booklet of daily inspirational meditations reflecting on a specific Bible passage, chosen from the daily lectionary readings as listed in the Revised Common Lectionary or the Daily Office from the Episcopal Church's *Book of Common Prayer*. The meditations are rich in substance and offer a wide range of witness and experiences. Each month's meditation is written by a different author.



Saint Germain Annual Meeting

Your voice matters!

Sunday, January 25th, 2026

11:30 AM



Agenda includes the 2026 budget, election of new Bishop's Committee members, and election of two diocesan convention delegates, plus various reports. Lots of good information on the health of our church. **Please plan to attend.**

Poinsettias

Our annual tradition of giving poinsettia's in memory or honor of a loved one resulted in a beautiful altar. Here are the people who we remembered:

Rich Kallal

Jerry Jasper

Steven Presley Klaum

Mary Ellen Jost

Peder, and Ron Hash

Wanda, and Bonnie Randolph

Jack Sharp

Fr. Donald Maddux

Dennis Smith

Terry Carr

Jill Goodpaster



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 to learn about current events, stay abreast of church ministries, finances, status updates, proposals, and more.

**January meeting is
THURSDAY, JANUARY 22 at 10 a.m.
This is a change of time.**

Also, two of our committee members will be completing their term of service in January. We will need replacements for them, so please pray and discern if this is something you could help with. No special skills needed other than a willingness to help keep St. Germain a vibrant church.

REFLECTIONS by Curtis Pennington

The Common Bond

We share the common bond of the one Creator.

We share the Love
from which our world was born.

We shall know the peace for which we all yearn

As we practice the truth of our brotherhood
As we accept Love as the essence of our being
And know in Truth that Love for one another

Is how we were created.

WOMEN'S GROUP



NEW MEETING TIME

and DAY.** wear your comfy clothes, and we will have coffee ready. We spend the first hour checking in, and sharing spiritual readings: currently using the book *Dancing from the Inside Out*. The second hour of our meeting is for hands on work, event planning or whatever needs to be addressed. Bring a snack 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!**

****NEW DAY & TIME:**

Every Wednesday from 9 AM to 11 AM

January Birthdays



January 1 Yvonne Westover

January 5 Anne Hash

**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 them who trust in your good-
ness all the days of their lives;
through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

*If your name does not appear in our birthday list please let
Amy or Donna know so that we can add you and celebrate
your special day.*

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®



Events Coordinator - Peggy Pennington

Eucharistic Ministers - Kathryn Jasper, Amy Leonard, Donna O'Leary and Kit Brooks

Head Usher - Skip Hash

Supporting ushers- John Drumm and
Veronica Garcia

Music Director - Carrie Sharp

Newsletter - Amy Leonard, Donna O'Leary

Altar Guild Director - Joanne Hash

Members- Peggy Pennington,
Katy Fulton, Veronica Harlan

Treasurer - Jann Goodpaster

Bell Ringer - John Drumm

Church Groundskeeper - Carrie Sharp

Facilities - Alec Pennington



St. Germain's Episcopal Church
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Hoodsport, WA 98548

saintgermainhoodsport@gmail.com 360-877-9879

The Rev. Bill Fulton, Vicar, billfulton2001@yahoo.com
Church Office saintgermainhoodsport@gmail.com

The Bishop's Committee

Senior Warden - Carrie Sharp

Junior Warden - Peggy Pennington

People's Warden/ Clerk - Amy Leonard

Treasurer - Jann Goodpaster

Joanne Hash - Kit Brooks - John Drumm