

# St. Anne's Connections

The Newsletter of  
St. Anne's Episcopal Church,  
Washougal, WA



CONNECT, SERVE & CELEBRATE  
*in God • in Community • in Nature*

<https://www.stanneswa.com/> | [office@stanneswa.com](mailto:office@stanneswa.com)  
<https://www.facebook.com/StAnnesWashougal>



## *A Note from Rev. Annie*

Thank you to all who attended St. Anne's Annual meeting on Sunday 1/25. We continue to grow in the number of those who join us for worship and in the amount of time you all give to keep the mission and ministries of our church functioning so well. You donated approximately 3,860 volunteer hours and donated \$33,480 beyond individual pledges! Thank you again for your generosity sharing the good news of Jesus and bringing his love to this part of the world.

Unfortunately, pledge dollars and donations are not enough to cover all the costs incurred running a church. In 2021 The Bishop's Committee moved forward in faith to continue improving our outreach and hired a full-time priest (me). Since then, we have been using savings to bridge the gap between pledges and the actual costs. This was according to the plans from 2021, but what didn't happen was the anticipated increase in pledge amounts.

At this time, we have used more savings than planned and can no longer continue doing so. We will be consulting with the Bishop to gather strategies to become more financially secure. For the near future please pray for guidance for the Bishop's Committee and for your ability to help cover the \$77,000 shortfall. It seems like a lot, but with faith we can do this is!

We will be meeting with a consultant with the Bishop's Office within the next few weeks and will keep you posted on the advice and options given to us. The Bishop's Committee will continue to meet and discuss our next steps. Our Senior Warden, Paul Anderson, will report during our Sunday morning announcements to keep all of us current as we move forward.

## **Lent begins in February**

Lent is the Church season of the five weeks before Easter on Sunday April 5, 2026. This offers us a time to focus on Jesus' gift of his life to us. It's a time for increased prayer, reading of Scripture and to evaluate our own lives as followers of Jesus Christ. We are invited to spend time deepening our spiritual practices. We encourage everyone to integrate reading the daily Gospel into your existing practice. As a faith community we can all use "Forward day by Day" booklet or website for lectionary-based readings for daily prayer that also provides a reflection for a "spring cleaning of the soul."

Physical copies are available on the bookshelf downstairs where the children play. Electronic versions are available at: [www.prayer.forwardmovement.org](http://www.prayer.forwardmovement.org)

There are many ways to increase one's time in prayer, Scripture, alms giving and working for justice. Many are listed on our church website: [www.stanneswa.com](http://www.stanneswa.com) under the tool bar option: "pray."

## Shrove Tuesday February 17

Self-examination, of considering what wrongs we need to repent, and what amendments of life or areas of spiritual growth we need to ask God's help is an important aspect of a Christian's life. Doing this before the start of Lent is a long tradition in the church. Shrove or shriven means to be absolved of our sins.

Fasting is also a common practice during Lent. For some it's eating less or abstaining from certain foods as a reminder to pray in thanksgiving for all we have. Some fast or stop behavior that distracts us from our work of loving God, ourselves, and our neighbors. Some increase the amount of money they give to those in need, and some increase their time volunteering to serve the poor. All this is to bring us closer to God.

During Lent many give up an indulgent food or activity to remind themselves to focus on Jesus' suffering and to pray This Lenten sacrifice lasts for the 40 days of Lent, not including Sundays, a day of celebration.



Shrove Tuesday parties often include eating pancakes to use up the butter and milk – considered a rich food before the ritual fasting. The term Mardi Gras is French for “Fat Tuesday”, again referring to the last day to eat rich and fattening foods. Shrove or Fat Tuesday is a carnival day for eating or gorging before the fasting period of Lent.

Please join us for a **PANCAKE SUPPER Tuesday February 17 from 5:30 to 6:30 PM.** We will be serving food and playing some Mardi Gras games in the dining room at church.

## Ash Wednesday February 18

[Ash Wednesday](#) is the first day of Lent, rooted in ancient Jewish and Christian traditions of penance, where ashes symbolize mortality and repentance. During Ash Wednesday service, each person receives the marking of a cross on their forehead as part of the 40 days of spiritual preparation before Easter. The ashes remind us that we are mortal and to use our time to turn from sin to life with God



Ash Wednesday worship, including the imposition of ashes will be held in the church **Wednesday February 18 at Noon and at 5 PM.**

## Meet Your New Bishop Committee Members

Many thanks to our retiring committee members for their three years of service: Thomas Ternan and Suzanne Tourtelot. They rotate off the committee in January, 2026.. Meet our two new members:

### Steven Clark



Cherie and I moved here in 1992 and my job was to find a church for us. We were taken by the thoughtful preaching of Rev. Robin Leuthe and we joined the church. I was part of the lay ministry team when the Diocese had lay ministers lead Morning Prayer as a way to bolster small congregations before they were able to call a priest. I taught many years of very fun Sunday School when our children were in the classes. In 1995, Cherie and I were married in this church.

Cherie and I have been together since 1987. We have one foster son, Marcel, one adoptive daughter, Lakisha, and our granddaughter, Kacee, whom most of you know. We've raised her since she was 3 and she's now at Western

Washington University.

I am a naturalist at heart. I lead Bee Campus at Clark College and am on the board of the Washington Native Plant Society. Every year I do field biology on rare native plants, American pika, rare sage grouse and bees. Cherie and I love our pets, our natural yard and birds. You can almost always find me out running on wild trails with our dog, Phoebe.

### Ariana Marble



Hello! My name is Ariana Marble. I was originally born in Utah, but consider myself to be from Riverton Wyoming, as that's where I lived most of my life. In 2020, I moved to Portland Oregon for work, and now live in Camas WA. Not long after moving to PDX I met my wife, Rachel, and we've been happily married for 3 years. We also have 3 cats: Valerie, Noelle, and Biscuit. I would say my main hobby is collecting older video games, and tinkering with all things tech.

At the end of 2024, I was questioning a lot of things and was somewhat losing my faith in the world. A good friend of mine, who is an Episcopalian, spoke with me and recommended reaching out. She did some searching for me and found St. Anne's. I emailed Rev. Annie and scheduled a meeting. I was a bit weary as my previous experiences with church had been fairly negative, but after talking with Annie and going to my first sermons, I knew that St. Anne's was different. It really is a wonderful and supporting community.

I'm looking forward to contributing to the church more, and hope that we can continue to lift each other up.

## ST. BRIGID'S DAY & CANDLEMAS

On the liturgical calendar February 1<sup>st</sup> is the Feast of St. Brigid, and February 2<sup>nd</sup> is Candlemas. In our churches today, we generally pay no attention. If we've even ever come across the word before, we probably thought, "Is that the same as Whitsunday?" And we pay as much attention to it as we do to Ember Days and Rogation Days.

Holidays – holy days – of course reflect the needs of a people, and our urban, industrial society has little need of a holiday that is rural and agricultural in origin. But I think we should reclaim this holiday, not least because it is a woman's holiday.

St. Brigid (c.450- c.523) is one of the three patron saints of Ireland, and the patron saint of pregnant women and midwives, of fertility and fire, of poets, scholars, and artisans. In short, a most suitable saint for women. The legends and stories of St. Brigid abound. There is some doubt that she was a real person, we don't have any biographies of her until 200 years after she was to have lived. But the stories are a lot of fun, and they all represent the goodness and generosity of God. One story has it that she kept giving away or sold her family's possessions to get money for the poor. Her father got so fed up that he wanted to sell her into slavery to get rid of her. A potential buyer came out to have a look at her, and found her giving away her father's sword from the back of the cart where she was waiting. He decided she was too much trouble, and the deal was off.



By Andreas F. Borchert,  
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<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=87407565>

February 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> have been celebrated as holy days for well over 2000 years. February 1<sup>st</sup> is also Imbolc, the festival of the Celtic goddess Brigid, and it celebrated the beginning of spring, and the birthing of lambs and human babies. After Christianity came to Ireland, February 1<sup>st</sup> became the feast day of St. Brigid, and most of the old trappings and symbolism came right along. After all, spring comes regardless of whether one is pagan or Christian.

February 2<sup>nd</sup> is 40 days after December 25<sup>th</sup>, so it is the day appointed to celebrate the Purification of Mary and the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple. Under Jewish law a woman was "unclean" for 40 days after giving birth to a boy. (It was 60 days for giving birth to a girl; it's a good thing Jesus was a boy or else the Purification of Mary would be on February 22<sup>nd</sup>, and that's Washington's birthday, and they don't really go together!) I like to think of this holy day, rather than purification, as the Celebration of Mary over the birth of her child. The Purification of Mary was first celebrated in the 4<sup>th</sup> century, and was celebrated with processions and candles. The candles were especially important, as they honor Simeon's description of Jesus as "a light to enlighten the nations". As time went on, all the candles that were to be used in the church throughout the year were blessed on this day, hence: **Candlemas**.

It is no accident that both goddess and Saint Brigid were associated with light, fire, and candles, and that this is near the same holy day as Candlemas. One custom of Candlemas was to light a candle in each window of the house and leave it burning all night. It is also no accident that Brigid was – and is – called The Mary of the Gaels.

Brigid worked to bring Christianity to the many people she met and was once called to the deathbed of a dying man. She set about gathering the rushes from the floor of the room and made a cross, now called the St. Brigid's cross. With this cross she explained how Jesus died for all people and the dying man was converted before he died. She founded the monastery at Kildare, which was the first monastery in Ireland, and the first all-women monastery as well. Later it became a dual monastery for both men and women, and Brigid is said to have been in charge of it all. One legend has her “accidentally” ordaining a Bishop. She was known for her abundant generosity to all, and not afraid of a good time either. This prayer is attributed to her:



By Culnacraeann - Own work,  
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<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=3500722>

*I would like to have the men of Heaven in my own house; with vats of good cheer laid out for them.*

*I would like to have the three Mary's, their fame is so great.*

*I would like people from every corner of Heaven. I would like them to be cheerful in their drinking.*

*I would like to have Jesus sitting here among them. I would like a great lake of beer for the King of Kings.*

*I would like to be watching Heaven's family Drinking it through all eternity.*

The first of February still seems like winter, but it marks the beginning of spring. Houses were cleaned in preparation for the visitation of Brigid, thus foretelling our own tradition of spring cleaning. It was a day sacred to home and hearth. The holiday is sacred also to the field as well as hearth. Farmers began to break ground in preparation for planting.

Candlemas is also officially the last day to take down Christmas greens. So if you haven't taken down your Christmas lights yet, you might want to get on it! Candlemas is a holy day. It is a day to give thanks for the birth of babies, especially for baby Jesus, for the birth of animals, and of the germination of new crops. It is a day to prepare the home and the self for spring and renewal, and for the blessing of the hearth by St. Brigid. In Hungary, Candlemas is called “Blessing of the Candle of the Happy Woman.” May we all rejoice in this holy day.

~Janet Fischer

## *EVENTS & UPDATES*

Our Annual Meeting was held on January 25. The annual budget and a narrative budget were distributed and discussed and an updated church directory was distributed. Retiring Bishop's Committee members Thomas Ternan and Suzanne Tourtelot were thanked for their service and we welcomed new members Steven Clark and Ariana Marble.



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

### 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Updates

This year marks the **75<sup>th</sup> anniversary** of the founding of our St. Anne's Episcopal Church here in Washougal. We will celebrate our anniversary on the Feast of St. Anne, celebrated on **Sunday, July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026**. More details and ways to help will be announced in the coming months, but mark your calendar for this special day! **AND**, Bishop Phil LaBelle will be joining us that day. He will celebrate and preach at our 10 AM worship! Plan to be here!

I will be assembling a pamphlet of the history of St. Anne's, using info from prior history pamphlets, info sent from the archivist at the Diocese, and updated with current info. I would like to include short messages from the congregation about why you love and attend St. Anne's. We probably can't use all of them, but please send your comments to me at [jfischer@stanneswa.com](mailto:jfischer@stanneswa.com) and we'll use what we can. **We'd especially like to hear from both our oldest members and our newest.** Thank you!  
~Janet Fischer

**Book Club:** Meets Wednesdays at 10:30am in the downstairs conference room. Starting **February 4**, we are reading together ***Mere Christianity***, a classic by C.S. Lewis. Still in print and available from your preferred bookseller. Everyone is welcome to join us.

### Cursillo and Ultrea News



You are warmly invited to join us the **First Wednesday of each month at 7pm** for a Zoom Ultrea – Be sure to bring your moment closest to Christ. Here is the Zoom Ultrea direct link: <https://tinyurl.com/OregonZoomUltrealink>.

Please join our Facebook

group: <https://facebook.com/groups/94289009763>

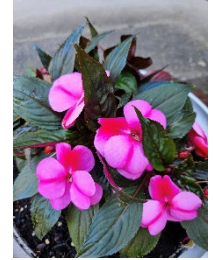
Visit our Oregon/SW Washington Cursillo website at <https://www.oregon-cursillo.org/>

**Upcoming Cursillo – April 30-May 3, 2026.** Contact Rev. Annie or Rev. Sheryl with any questions.

**Pledges:** We run a tight ship here at St. Anne's and it makes a big difference when we receive your pledges weekly or monthly. Please help the Bishop's Committee and our financial team be good stewards of your pledge and donations by maintaining your financial contributions year-round. Please prayerfully consider sharing a portion of your tax return or any unexpected financial gifts with St. Anne's. Our ability to be a loving and progressive place for worship, community and service depends on your support in volunteer time, sharing skills and your commitment to contributing money to cover our costs. Thank you so much!



**Altar Flowers:** A lovely way to honor someone is to donate altar flowers or plants in their name. A \$50 donation would be greatly appreciated! Please indicate on the check or envelope “flowers.” Flowers may be donated for any reason - in memory, for a birthday, or just because. Thank you!



**Coffee Hours at St. Anne's:** Be sure to come downstairs after church for our coffee hours! Thank you to everyone who contributes goodies for our coffee hours and to the good souls who helped with kitchen duties over the month. Please continue to sign up to bring food and to clean up. ~ Maryanne Lovell

## *Serving Our Neighbors*

- ❖ **Streetlight Outreach** is a new outreach program in the Washougal area. They operate Thursday through Monday from 5pm to 11pm by ministering to the unhoused living out in the cold. They provide transportation to shelters, detox facilities, and the hospital. They also distribute kits to the unhoused and could use the following supplies:

tents, tarps, blankets, sleeping bags, lots of bottled water, reusable bags or backpacks, thermal socks, gloves, beanies, emergency blankets, hand warmers, ponchos, Cup(s) of Soup, protein items (tuna pouches, jerky, spam singles, etc.), peanut butter crackers, packs of peanut butter, travel hygiene items (wipes, sanitizer, toothbrushes and paste, lip balm, tissues, etc.), small first-aid items (Band-Aids, alcohol wipes, Neosporin packets, etc.)

Please drop off your donations in the box labeled "Streetlight Outreach" in the back of the church.

- ❖ **Outreach Resource Hour** at St. Anne's, first and third Wednesdays of each month. See what is offered at <https://stanneswa.com/outreach/>. Contact. Rev. Sheryl with any questions.
- ❖ **Pill Bottle Collection:** We are collecting your used prescription bottles! This is part of [Matthew 25: Ministries](#) and they send the pill bottles along with shipments of medical supplies to developing countries. They are used to deliver smaller amounts of medications (which are delivered in bulk) to patients. There is a bin for your cleaned pill bottles in the Parish Hall. Chip Lees will handle the mailing of them to Matthew 25: Ministries. If you can contribute to the mailing costs as well, please talk to Chip. Guidelines: Matthew 25: Ministries accepts donations of clean, empty, recapped, label and residue-free plastic pill bottles.
- ❖ **Recovery Café** Recovery Café of Clark County meets in the St. Anne's Parish Hall every Monday from 9am-1pm. <https://www.recoverycafec.org/>.



- ## Ways to Pray and Worship

## Prayer Requests and Prayer List

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PRAY SEEK

*For our family and friends, especially: Bruce, Dave, Mica,  
the Phillips family, Tim, the Baker family, Gaia, Patrick,*

*For those who have said no prayers, and for whom no one has prayed.*



provided by Carol Peterman. Please drop in and give this a try! Don't worry if you think you can't carry a tune; everybody can do this.

## *Easy Ways to Participate in our Ministries*

- ❖ **Sidewalk Pantry** – The need is great. Our sidewalk pantry can always use your donations of food for the needy. As soon as food is added it is gone! Please consider picking up a few extra items at the grocery store and bringing them each Sunday. See this list of most needed items [here](#). Used books also welcome.

- ❖ **Manna Bags** - a Girl Scout in Washougal prepared 300 hygiene kits as a part of her Gold Award. Please take a few from the box downstairs and hand them out to those in need.

- ❖ **Stewardship** - Give back to God from all the gifts God has given us. We invite you to share your gifts of Time, Talent, and Treasure with St. Anne's and our local community. Please ask how you can share. *Thank you!*

TIME - Your gift of time is unique, because you are the only one who can give it.

TALENT - Your gift of talent is a special gift only you can give. In the words of St. Francis of Assisi, "It is in giving that we receive."

TREASURE - Your financial contribution is important for the ministry of St. Anne's. If viewing online, you can click on the Donate button. Online or viewing in print, you can scan our QR code.

- ❖ **Laundry Love** - This program helps people in need wash their clothes. This is an ongoing community-wide program that St. Anne's supports. Bring your quarters, dollars, or checks (made out to Camas Friends Church, note in memo line: Laundry Love) and put in the jar at the back of the church. Friends Church gives cards to those needing to wash their clothes which they redeem for quarters at the laundromat. Friends Church then reimburses the laundromat.

**Donate**



## *St. Anne's Bishop's Committee*

Please check the bulletin board in the Parish Hall for the most recently approved meeting minutes and financial report. Minutes are posted *after they are approved* at the next meeting. The next Bishop's Committee meeting is **Sunday, February 1.**

## *Contacts:*

- ❖ **OFFICE** - [office@stanneswa.com](mailto:office@stanneswa.com)
- ❖ **Vicar** - The Rev. Annie Calhoun: 949-300-8434 or [revannie@stanneswa.com](mailto:revannie@stanneswa.com)
- ❖ **Deacon** - The Rev. Sheryl Haase: [deacon@stanneswa.com](mailto:deacon@stanneswa.com)
- ❖ **Senior Warden**: Paul Anderson: [srwarden@stanneswa.com](mailto:srwarden@stanneswa.com)
- ❖ **Pastoral Care & Prayer Ministry** - The Rev. Annie Calhoun and The Rev. Sheryl Haase: [prayerministry@stanneswa.com](mailto:prayerministry@stanneswa.com)



Image courtesy of StockCake.com

## THE WIDER CHURCH



### The Episcopal Diocese of Olympia

The Episcopal Church in Western Washington

<https://ecww.org>

You can sign up for diocesan newsletters to be delivered directly to your email. Go to <https://ecww.org> and scroll to the bottom of the page for the link to newsletters.

Our cathedral, St. Mark's in Seattle, has a quarterly publication: *The Rubric*.

The issues are available online at <https://saintmarks.org/connect/the-rubric/>.

**Silence and Honey Cakes: Lessons from the Desert for Modern Communities.** February 21 | 8:30 am - 12:00 pm. Saint Mark's Cathedral, Seattle and online via Zoom.

The desert mothers and fathers of the 3rd and 4th centuries understood that the heart of the Christian path was communion with God and with one another. They also knew the challenges of belonging and community. These ammas and abbas will be our teachers as we explore belonging, loving, and navigating the blessings and temptations that can manifest in community. Suggested donation: \$25. Registration is required for in-person or online participation (register to receive Zoom link).

**Cathedral Day 2026**, April 25. Saint Mark's Cathedral, Seattle 1245 10th AVE E., Seattle. Save the date for Cathedral Day 2026 - a joyous time of celebration as we come together as the entire Diocese at our cathedral for a day of confirmations, receptions, reaffirmations, food, and fun!

## Trinity Episcopal Cathedral

Episcopal Diocese of Western Oregon

147 NW 19th Avenue (at NW Everett), Portland, Oregon 97209

<https://www.trinity-episcopal.org/spiritual-formation-special-events>

### Contemplative Chanting

Join us every 2nd & 4th Tuesday for sacred chant. We will chant the Psalms (using both the

Biblical and the Nan Merrill translations), Taize, Gregorian, contemporary and Songs of the Presence as a way to connect with the Spirit in prayer. Free to attend, but advance registration is required. Registration is always open; join anytime! Register in Advance:

<https://onrealm.org/TrinityEpiscopalpdx/PublicRegistrations/Event?linkString=ODdjMzljMzMtMmE5Mi00ZDg5LWFhNDgtYjBlMTAwMDkyMDAy>.

### **Contemplative Prayer Group ONLINE**

Join fellow spiritual seekers every Saturday morning on Zoom for a group contemplative practice – a wonderful way to find support for your own meditation practice. All mindfulness practices & religious traditions are welcome! No experience necessary. Questions? Contact Pat Zimmer,

[przimmer@comcast.net](mailto:przimmer@comcast.net). Register at:

<https://onrealm.org/TrinityEpiscopalpdx/PublicRegistrations/Event?linkString=NTZjMzZlMWltOTQxOS00N2Q4LWFmM2QtYWVmMDAwYzUzNDM2>.

## **The National Church**

<https://www.episcopalchurch.org/>

**Public Witness Weekly Prayers:** The Episcopal Church Office of Public Affairs weekly prayers are available in English, French, and Spanish as we seek God's guidance and discern how each of us can respond. Prayers are at: <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/ministries/office-government-relations/public-policy-and-witness-weekly-prayers/>

