Glad Tidings

December 2026

ST. ANTONY OF EGYPT EPISCOPAL CHURCH
11885 Old Frontier Road
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2822, Silverdale, WA 98383 360-698-0555
E-Mail: stantonysilverdale@gmail.com Website: www.saintantonys.com
The Rev. Hillary Kimsey, Vicar

Vicar's Voice

At the beginning of this year, on Epiphany, I drew the star word "Dream" for the year. I added an "er" to the end, and made the word *Dreamer.* At the time, we had just finished reading the story of Joseph, Jesus's father, who famously had a dream encouraging him to take his family on the run to Egypt to escape the wrath of King Herod.

Other famous dreamers of the Bible include: the Old Testament Joseph, of the coat of many colors fame; King Nebuchadnezzar, whose dreams were written down in the book of Daniel and since he was a King who often misbehaved, often contained warnings from God; Daniel, who famously survived the lion's den; and of course, the Apostle Paul, who often heard messages from God in his dreams.

While I can't say that God has given me any divine dreams in 2026, I have witnessed God's dream for our world coming to life here and there throughout our congregation, our neighborhood, and our world. From baptisms to funerals, peaceful protests to peaceful elections, the kindness of strangers to the generosity of neighbors-- the Kingdom of God is breaking in!

Whenever I see the Kingdom of God or Kingdom of Heaven in scripture, I reframe it in my head as the Dream of God. This way, I am not just thinking of the Kingdom of God as a place we go after death. Rather, the Dream of God is for THIS life, for THIS world! And everything we do at St. Antony's is an opportunity to practice that dream! Our relationships, celebrations, acts of service, worship, and so much more all give us a chance to live into God's Dream.

So what is God's Dream? Jesus told many parables describing it and Mary's Magnificat captures it. I believe God's dream is of a world where no one goes without what they need, where the hungry are fed and the oppressed go free, a world where justice and mercy abide together, and where every person knows they are beloved.

How would you describe God's Dream? And what do you think God's dream is for St. Antony's in 2027?

Mother Hillary +

The mission of St. Antony's is to be a loving and welcoming community who worships God, grows in Christ, and serves others.

Gather, Grow, and Go!

Musings from the Bishop's Warden

The Magic of Christmas

It's that wonderful time of year when family and friends gather to celebrate the Christmas season. The festivities may include shopping, giving and receiving presents, holiday parties, decorating the home inside and out (including the Christmas tree), matching Christmas pajamas, baking cookies, sipping eggnog, visiting Santa, and welcoming the Elf on the Shelf—and the list goes on. Amid all the preparation and merriment, let's not forget the reason for the season.



The magic of Christmas is not in the presents, but in His presence. May His love surround you this holiday season.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,

Kathy Avery, Bishop's Warden

Altar Guild: Preparing the Table, Preparing our Hearts

Long before the first hymn is sung, the first prayer is spoken, or the congregation gathers in the pews, the work of worship has already begun.

In the Episcopal tradition, the Altar Guild plays a quiet but essential role in the life of the church. Its members prepare the sacred space where we gather to encounter God through Word and Sacrament. But this work is more than simply arranging the necessary items for a service. It can also be an act of prayer, an offering of time, attention, and care that becomes part of the worship itself.

There is something deeply meaningful in the small, deliberate actions of preparing the altar. Laying out the fair linen, carefully arranging the corporal and purificators, setting the chalice and paten in their proper places, and ensuring that the candles are ready to be lit are all practical tasks. Yet each action also offers an opportunity for contemplation. The hands that smooth the linen, polish the vessels, and prepare the bread and wine are participating in the sacred work of hospitality, making ready a place where the community will gather at Christ's table.

In this way, the work of the Altar Guild can become a form of embodied prayer. It is prayer expressed not necessarily through words, but through attention, intention, and service. The care taken in preparing the altar reflects the care with which we approach the Eucharist itself. Each small act contributes to something greater than the individual task.

And that prayer does not end when the preparations are complete. It carries forward into the liturgy, becoming part of the offering of the whole congregation. When we gather around the altar, receive the bread and wine, and join our voices in thanksgiving, we are participating in worship that has been lovingly prepared by hands that often go unseen.

The ministry of the Altar Guild reminds us that worship is not confined to the words we say or the hymns we sing. It begins in the preparation, in the willingness to serve, and in the quiet devotion of those who make our common prayer possible.

If this sounds like a ministry you feel called to explore, please reach out to Mary Collier. Her contact information can be found in the church directory. No special experience is necessary; just a willingness to serve and learn about a practice deeply rooted in our Christian tradition.

Heidi Hood, Faith Formation Commissioner

St. Antony's Annual Christmas Pageant

Our annual Saint Antony's pageant will be held on December 20th this year (instead of Christmas Eve). It is entitled "Annunciation Interrupted: A sort of Reader's Theater for the 4th Sunday in Advent," adapted from *Christmas Interrupted* by Jerusalem Greer. If your family will be in town that Sunday and your children/grandchildren are interested in participating in the pageant, please contact Kristen Fabry. All children are welcome to participate in the pageant - there will be costumes available for everyone and a small number of easy speaking roles! No memorization is required, but a couple of low-intensity rehearsals will be scheduled once key roles have been cast (we are tentatively planning two short rehearsals during coffee hour after the 10:15 service on 11/29 and 12/6)

Heidi Hood, Faith Formation Commissioner

Faith Formation

It's that time of year! Join us for Advent Soup Suppers beginning the first week of December. They will take place on Wednesday nights from 5:30 to 7:00 pm. Dates are December 2nd, 9th, and 16th. There is a sign-up in the narthex to bring soup, bread, salad, or fruit. The dinner will be held from 5:30 to 6 pm. Learning, discussion, and prayer will be from 6 to 7 pm.

Youth group helped put together a Candy Land-themed Trunk or Treat on October 31st. Pictures can be found on St. Antony's Facebook page and will soon be on our website as well. We had some truly awesome costumes and a ton of fun. In other news, the group is finishing up a series on the sacraments through the year. They will also host a Christmas cookie-decorating party the Monday before Christmas. Look to the Happenings for more information on the decorating party.

Bible Study members are making their way through the Apocrypha and have covered several important biblical figures, including Judith and Esther. This lively group meets every Thursday at 12:30 pm in the Gathering Room. All our welcome.

Thank you to everyone who stepped up to help with Godly Play. Godly Play now has three people who have volunteered to teach! Those include Jesse Sherwin and Wendy Fox, while Kathy Gero has agreed to sub on occasion. There are several second adults as well now: Holly Hoxeng, Claire Bovet, Connie Zapp, Erika Morrelli, Chelsea Reader, Lincoln Fox, and Carol Smith. Godly Play also has two junior shepherds, Laurel Rogers and Ellery VanAs. We are thankful to all those who take time to shepherd our youngest members.

Just a reminder that Episcopal 101 is held every Sunday (unless there is a joint service) between the 8 am service and the 10:15 am service. This group is open to anyone, whether you are new to the Episcopal faith or have been practicing since the cradle. Topics vary but are always centered on learning more about our great tradition. For more information, reach out to Mother Hillary.

Finally, a reminder that New Beginning Contemplative Prayer has moved to the first and third Wednesday of the month from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm. This is a smaller group that practices Lectio Divina, which is a way of closely reading and contemplating a biblical passage or other Christian writings. We also occasionally practice Visio Divina, which involves contemplating a piece of art, or Audio Divina, which is the practice of listening to a piece of music. It is a very friendly, open, and warm group that is always happy to see new faces. No prior knowledge or experience is required.

Heidi Hood, Faith Formation Commissioner

Outreach

What can I give him, poor as I am?

If I were a shepherd, I would give a lamb.

If I were a wise man, I would do my part.

What I can I give him, give him my heart.

Christina Rossetti

This wonderful poem (the final stanza of "In the Bleak Midwinter," if you were wondering) is such a reassurance to me. When I am not able to contribute financially from my "*treasure*," or I cannot find "*time*" to participate, or I am not feeling I have a "talent" to offer, I can always give my "*heart*," my "*love*."

That reminder is especially important this time of year as the current outreach opportunity requires you to spend money! The collection bins for the **Kidzz Helping Kidzz toy drive** are in the narthex and the sanctuary. If you are able, we invite you to donate NEW unwrapped toys for children and youth ages 2 through 16. The bins will be here through Sunday, December 13th. Let's fill those bins!

BUT, yes, we on the outreach commission are always trying to find outreach opportunities of other kinds, *i.e.*, opportunities for you to participate with your time and your talent and your love. You should have received the email seeking help packing food boxes for seniors at Central Kitsap Food Bank on Thursday, December 10th, from 3:30 to 5:30pm. For more information, contact Tim vanAs (tcvanas@gmail.com, (401) 808-0825).

As Saint Teresa of Avila (1515–1582) reminds us:

Christ has no body but yours,

No hands, no feet on earth but yours,

Yours are the eyes with which he looks

Compassion on this world,

Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good,

Yours are the hands with which he blesses all the world.

Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,

Yours are the eyes, you are his body.

Christ has no body now but yours.

Teresa of Avila (1515–1582)

Holly Hoxeng, Outreach Commissioner

St. Antony's Witty Knitters



The Witty Knitters met in November to put together the year's work of knitting and crocheting hats, scarves, baby items, and lap blankets to be given to Dept. of Family and Children, Coffee Oasis, North Kitsap Fishline, Central Kitsap Food Bank, Bremerton Foodline, and Port Washington Post-Acute Care (formerly Forest Ridge Health and Rehab) for distribution. The Witty Knitters meet the third Tuesday of the month 11:00 – 2:00 in the Gathering Room. If you knit, crochet or just want to learn, consider joining us January 19. We always have a good time whether we're "witty" or not.

Meet your Bishop's Committee



Kathy Avery
Bishop's Warden
Term ends Jan. 2027



Marj Zantek
People's Warden
Term ends Jan.2027



Cris McCarty
Clerk of the BC
Website Manager
Term ends Jan. 2027



Kathy Gero
Parish Life
Term ends Jan. 2028



Chelsea Reeder
Welcoming
Term ends Jan. 2028



Holly Hoxeng
Outreach
Term ends Jan. 2029



Heidi Hood
Faith Formation
Term ends Jan. 2027



Karrie Wiley
Pastoral Care
Term ends Jan. 2029



Sarah Rogers
Communications
Term ends Jan. 2028



Dave Peterson
Building & Grounds
Term ends Jan. 2027

Please contact one of these persons if you have questions or concerns or ideas within their commission.

Koboko #1

The dream is getting close to becoming reality. The Uganda Prison System had contacted Kairos and requested Kairos to offer the full program of Kairos Inside in Uganda even before I visited Uganda in 2017. It was upon contacting Kairos Prison Ministry International about the requests I received during my 2017 visit that I learned that Kairos was already in the process of coming to Uganda.

There is a complicated process that involves some legal registrations, so I was asked to help those that talked to me about starting a prison ministry, but not to work on setting up Kairos nationally. The CEO of Kairos Prison Ministry International was already working on that. Eventually she found well placed Ugandans to work with her, but CoVid stalled the momentum. Finally, by 2023, the team that would become Kairos Uganda was trained, registered as a Ugandan company by limited guarantee and Kairos officially began in Uganda.

The prison ministry team that I work with here in Koboko was asking me about Kairos. Now I could give them more than generalized answers. They voted to affiliate with Kairos Uganda in 2024. We learned about the process and by 2025 the paperwork was done. We became Kairos Uganda's first prison ministry team. The national team had been given the task of forming local prison ministry teams and getting the Kairos program started. We were a ready-made answer to their task.

However, the task of preparing for Uganda's first ever Kairos weekend was just beginning. I knew what a weekend involved, but not how to set it up from scratch. My involvement was with a well-established program and many seasoned team members serving at Monroe, Washington, USA.

It has taken time to find out about what items are needed. Many of them were there at Monroe, so I did not even notice, preferring to focus on the program elements. Fundraising has also been a concern, but Kairos Prison Ministry International has offered some help once the national team set up a bank account. (That took months and was not completed until mid-October 2026.) The prison ministry team here in Koboko has started a pig raising project, with the idea of selling piglets to supplement the one-time funds from Kairos Prison Ministry International and the ministry funding that I receive.

It is now late October. [I need to write my Advent/Christmas letter before November 1 to make use of the deal CTEN gives me for printing newsletters. The rest of the year my newsletters are printed and mailed the same week that I write them.] I am experiencing many of the weekend leader's fears. Will there be enough volunteers to form a Kairos weekend team. Will they show up for the required 34-36 hours of team formation so we can go through the group dynamics process. Do the officers at the prison know everything they need to know so the weekend can run smoothly without causing concerns for their security team? Can we get all the materials we need? Do we have a base camp near the prison, or do we have to commute and worry about people arriving in time (enter once as a team, leave once [each day] as a team)?

The first team formation meeting was last Saturday. Attendance was good, not great, but much better than feared! There were several that said they would come beginning with the second meeting. (Based upon attendance the first week of each school term here in Koboko, I probably should have expected that.) If they come, they will still meet the required attendance of 75% of team formation time. I pray that they do; I need them to have enough people for a minimum sized team. We had to change the location of our team formation meetings, but an alternative site was provided.

Continued on next page.

God's blessing seems to be upon it all, but I still do the human thing and worry. Let me give an example. During the first team meeting, shortly before it was time to show a video, there was a power failure (common here). God's blessing was upon me. I did not panic or complain. I just said a short prayer, your will be done, Lord. Power came back in seconds, not the typical hours. The computer to display screen connection had to be reset, but the videos (2) were shown as scheduled.

Thanksgivings	**Prayer Requests**
• Agape, items expressing prayer for the participants of Koboko #1 is beginning to arrive, praise God. More is still needed. • People are coming and team formation is underway.	• Kairos Prison Ministry as we prepare to offer the first Kairos weekend in Uganda, 10-13 December. • Safe travel for each of you as you travel for family gatherings and worship services this Advent and Christmas season

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Donation Mailing Address
Commission to Every Nation
P.O Box 291307
Kerrville, TX 78029-1307

Phone: 800-872-5404 (press 1)
Email: charles.L.smith@wavecable.com

Giving link: www.cten.org/africa-missionaries/charles-smith



December Birthdays

1	*Jackie Vincent*
2	*Carole Nau*
2	*Carolyn Sorrell*
5	*Phil Bonderud*
7	*Melo Scanlon*
7	*Elizabeth Burgess*
13	*Gail Ferguson*
16	*Winter Winslow*
16	*Matthew Allen*
19	*Helen Stockton*
21	*Connie Zapp*
21	*Braden Robinson*
22	*Bill Reeder*
24	*Carol Smith*
28	*Rev. Hillary Kimsey*
28	*Daniel Ferguson*
29	*Donny Manning*



December Anniversaries

21	*Melo & Lenia Scanlon*
30	*Mark & Gail Westin*

The deadline for the January Glad Tidings is ***Monday, December 21st*** at 10am.
Please send all submissions to:
stantonysilverdale@gmail.com

Welcome to our church family!

Chris & Louise Butler
Owen & Leo

Steve & Shawn L'Esperance

(Please see the office for their contact information. Their address and phone will not be put online.)

Financial Report October		**Year-to-date**
Operating Income	$30,198.10	$306,321.44
Operating Expenses	$23,311.87	$306,790.72
Net in October	**$6,886.23**	**($469.28)**

Account Balances	
Local Checking	$25,712.71
Local Savings	$397.15
Diocesan Investment Funds	$186,313.29
Total	**$212,423.15**

December 2026 Schedule

JOBS	December 6 2nd Sunday in Advent	December 13 3rd Sunday in Advent	December 20 4th Sunday in Advent	December 24 Christmas Eve 5:00pm	December 24 Christmas Eve 10:30pm	December 25 Christmas Day 9:30am	December 27 First Sunday after Christmas
EM	Elizabeth M.	Elizabeth M.	Heidi H.			Holly H.	Mary C..
LC/OT & NT	Grayson D.	Dee P.	Cheryl W.			Melo S.	Heidi H.
EM 10:15	Holly H.	Peter S.	Sarah R.	Ruth L.	Peter S.		Cris M.
LC/OT 10:15 am	Cris M.	Audra A.	Luke R.	Norma T.	Peter S.		Stu S.
LC/NT 10:15		Stu Smith	Jim Foley	Sarah R.	Peter S.		Jim Foley
ACOLYTES	Ellery	Caroline Nolan	Luke				Cris
USHER	Mark W.	Holly H. Tim V.		Tim V.			Linda
COUNTERS		Tim V. David W.					Marj Z. Norma T.
COFFEE HOUR				Youth Group	Youth Group		
Bpod	Marj Z.	Karrie W.	Marj Z.				Holly H.
1st LESSON	Isaiah 40:1-11	Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11	2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16	Isaiah 9:2-7	Isaiah 9:2-7	Isaiah 52:7-10	Isaiah 61:10-62:3
PSALM	Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13	Psalm 126 or Canticle 15 (or 3)	Canticle 3 or Canticle 15 or Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26	Psalm 96	Psalm 96	Psalm 98	Psalm 147 or 147:13-21
2nd LESSON	2 Peter 3:8-15a	1 Thessalonians 5:16-24	Romans 16:25-27	Titus 2:11-14	Titus 2:1-14	Hebrews 1:1-4,(5-12)	Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7
GOSPEL	Mark 1:1-8	John 1:6-8,19-28	Luke 1:26-38	Luke 2:1-14-20	Luke 2:1-14-20	John 1:1-14	John 1:1-18

Roster of Volunteers for Services
If you cannot serve on your assigned Sunday, please call someone from this list.
(A strike through a name means they are not available now but will be back.)

LECTORS 8am	LECTORS 10:15	EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS	COUNTERS	USHERS	ACOLYTES
Grason Dalke	Audra Alford	**8am**	Jim Foley-A	Suzanne Brock	Caroline A.
Donna Hilton	Elizabeth Flagg	Mary Collier	Holly Hoxeng-A	Bill Fagan	Nolan A.
Heidi Hood	Jim Foley	Donna Hilton	Norma Tipton-B	Holly Hoxeng	Jason K.
Ruth Lindstrum	Nyah Fox	Heidi Hood	Tim van As-A	Carole Nau	Chelsea R.
Elizabeth Moorhead	~~Jason Kimes~~	Ruth Lindstrum	David W.-B	Dave Peterson	Luke R.
Dee Perreira	Cris McCarty	Elizabeth Moorhead	Marj Zantek-A	Linda Robuck	Soren V.
Melo Scanlon	Luke Rogers	**10:15 am**		Rich Rogers	Ellery V.
Norma Tipton	Sarah Rogers	Kristen Fabry	A – Comp.	~~Peter Stockwell~~	Cris McCarty
Cheryl Wright	Maggie Scott	Holly Hoxeng	B - Assist.	Tim van As	
	Stu Smith	~~Jason Kimes~~		Mark Westin	
	~~Peter Stockwell~~	Cris McCarty		Rick Zapp	
	Marj Zantek	Sarah Rogers			
	Tucker Johnson-sub	~~Peter Stockwell~~			
		Marj Zantek			

December

2026

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
		1 **Noon** Drop-in Grief Group **4:30pm** Welcoming Team Mtg. **6:30pm** Symp.Chorale Rehearsal	**2** **11:30am** New Beginnings Contemplative Group **5:30pm** Advent Soup Supper	**3** **12:30 pm** Bible Study	**4** Vicar's Day Off **7:00pm** Bremerton Symphony Chorale Concert	**5** Vicar's Day Off **1pm** Memorial for Rev Barry Winn @ St. Columba in Kent.
6 **8 am** Holy Eucharist **9am** Episcopal 101 **10:15 am** Holy Eucharis Teen Bible Study	**7**	**8** **1:30 pm** Pastoral Care Mtg.	**9** **11am** Outreach Mtg. **5:30pm** Advent Soup Supper	**10** **12:30 pm** Bible Study **3:30pm** CK Foodbank Food packing Event	**11** Vicar's Day Off **Music Group 9- noon** **Cleaners**	**12** Vicar's Day Off
13 **8 am** Holy Eucharist **9am** Episcopal 101 **10:15 am** Holy Eucharist Teen Bible Study Minute for Mission **11:45am** Bishop's Committee Meeting **6:00pm** Youth Group	**14** **Noon** BC Reports Due **6:00pm** Health & Safety Team Mtg. **<** **Loose plate Offering - Bremerton Foodline**	**15** **11 am** Witty Knitters	**16** **9am** Landscape Team Mtg. **11:30am** New Beginnings Contemplative Group **5:30pm** Advent Soup Supper	**17** **12:30 pm** Bible Study **6:00pm** Blue Christmas Service	**18** Vicar's Day Off **Music Group 9- noon**	**19** Vicar's Day Off **8am** Men's Christmas Breakfast/ Gift Exchange **10am** Greening of the church
20 **8 am** Holy Eucharist **9am** Episcopal 101 **9:30 & 11:45am** Choir Rehearsal **10:15 am** Holy Eucharist Teen Bible Study **6pm** Youth Group	**21** **10am** Newsletter Deadline **2:00pm** Cookie Decorating with Youth Group	**22**	**23**	**24** Christmas Eve 5:00 & 10:30 	**25** Christmas Day 9:30am 	**26** Vicar's Day Off
27 Morning Prayer **8:00 am** Morning Prayer **10:15 am** Morning Prayer **Project Linus 1-4**	**28**	**29**	**30**	**31** New Years Eve		

St. Antony's Episcopal Church

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P O BOX 2822

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