

ST ALBAN'S WINDOW

St. Alban's Episcopal Church Newsletter

April/May 2017

My Dear Friends,

Abbot Andrew of St Gregory's Abby wrote, "When Jesus was nailed to the cross, nobody who saw it, or had run away before it happened, could have even hoped that the dying man would be raised from the dead to offer us all life beyond imagining."

The Collect for Monday in Holy Week, which is used also in the Liturgy of Stations of the Cross, talks of the same mix of emotions and the same absolute dedication shown by Jesus. "Almighty God, whose dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: Mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen."

We're fast approaching the most holy week of the Church year. There can be a temptation to think of it as a very bleak, depressing time, albeit one that ends with the triumph of the Resurrection. However, if you follow the Gospel stories, you can find within each day's events, in addition to something to sadden us, there is often something to make one feel relief. Tension is released and an example offered for our own daily lives.

It seems as if there are always moments in our lives which make us apprehensive. We don't have as much control over things as we think we might like. Yet living with this seems to be a good part of what Jesus was teaching in his last days.

Jesus could have spent these last five days moping apprehensively. But he didn't. Instead, he engaged the people whom he met, wherever they were, whatever they were doing. He didn't evade difficulties. He didn't stop thinking about what he heard and saw that turned his stomach. He faced

"If you follow the Gospel stories, you can find within each day's events, in addition to something to sadden us, there is often something to make one feel relief."

- Father Bob

(Continued on page 2)



The Episcopal Church of St. Alban

In This Issue

- Thoughts from Father Bob
- Discretionary Fund
- Holy Week & Easter Day Liturgies
- Shrove Tuesday photos
- Events
- Good Friday Offering
- St. Alban's Bell
- Celebrations

Vicar: The Rev.
Robert Morrison

Bishop's Advisory
Committee – *Term
expiration date
noted like this*
('19)

Charles
Mouradian, Senior
Warden ('19)

Karla Swiger,
Junior Warden
('19)

Victoria Harkins,
Clerk ('19)

Susan Greenup
('18)

Katherine Harkins
('18)

Alan Sanderson
('19)

James Howard
('20)

Melissa Saylor
('20)

Larry Thurber ('20)

Maggie Lang,
Treasurer

Diocesan
Convention
Delegates:
Susan Greenup
Victoria Harkins
Karla Swiger

Alternates:
Charles
Mouradian
Dolores
Mouradian

St. Alban's
Window Editor: Jill
Van Buren

up to everything – in the Temple, in the market, at dinner, or just walking – they could all have been equally stressful. Yet in each of these places there would also have been signs of grace.

The smell of the incense, the baskets of pomegranates, the rushing feet of children, the company of trusted friends – God would have been speaking in all of these.

One of the things which I find so attractive and soothing, and helpful, as well as challenging, about our lives as Episcopalians is our ability to embrace the whole picture. We can place ourselves with Jesus on our own places of stress. We can stand with him, and talk with him, about what makes us so sad and angry, about what we don't understand. And we can cling to him when it's quite clear where something is headed.

The great news of Holy Week, of every day and every episode of this sacred week, is that we learn to see and appreciate this more and more through our participation in every scene and act of the drama – even the most painful ones.

The twentieth-century martyr, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, talked about “cheap grace” and “costly grace”. Set aside the fact that all grace is free, what Bonhoeffer meant by cheap grace is when we cherry-pick only the less disturbing, more hopeful events, in other words, when we try not to look at the scary or stressful parts of life. Costly grace envelopes everything in its embrace and holds us more closely when the ride gets scarier. And that seems to be just what we need.

May God bless us on our journey, and keep us close, all our days. May God lead us to and through our Holy Week of pilgrimage!

In Jesus' love,

Bob

Robert P. Morrison

DISCRETIONARY FUND

You may know that Diocesan laws require every congregation to have a discretionary fund to enable the clergy of that congregation to disburse money to those who may have financial needs. Here at St Alban's there can be as many as three requests a week, while at other times the appeals are less frequent. Most often, assistance is needed to help with a partial payment for rent or utilities, especially to prevent the shut-off of service. People also ask for assistance to get gas that they may get to work or an emergency medical visit. Occasionally, help is needed to purchase prescription medication.

In times of economic uncertainty, when workers' hours are cut and income isn't guaranteed from one month to the next, the needs seem to be greater.

The priest tries to evaluate each request on a case-by-case basis and to use these funds as prudently as possible. The BAC sets aside \$250.00 every two months to go into the Discretionary Fund, but individual members may make a contribution at any time if they wish. This may be made to the Treasurer of the congregation, clearly marked regarding its intention. If you have questions, please talk to Fr. Bob or to Maggie Lang, the Treasurer.

HOLY WEEK & EASTER DAY LITURGIES

SUN 9TH APRIL: **THE SUNDAY OF THE PASSION: PALM SUNDAY**
9:30 am Palm Sunday Liturgy with Procession

MON 10TH APRIL: **MONDAY IN HOLY WEEK**
10:00 am Morning Prayer

TUE 11TH APRIL: **TUESDAY IN HOLY WEEK**
10:00 am Morning Prayer
5:00 pm Evening Prayer
6:00 pm Seder Dinner (Reservations, please)



WED 12TH APRIL: **WEDNESDAY IN HOLY WEEK**
10:00 am Morning Prayer
5:00 pm Evening Prayer
7:00 pm Office of Tenebrae

THU 13TH APRIL: **MAUNDY THURSDAY**
10:00 am Morning Prayer
5:00 pm Evening Prayer
7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Liturgy—with foot washing
8:00 pm Watch before the Altar of Repose: continues until 7 pm Friday

FRI 14TH APRIL: **GOOD FRIDAY**
10:00 am Morning Prayer
12:10 pm Stations of the Cross
5:00 pm Evening Prayer
7:00 pm Liturgy for Good Friday and Mass of the Pre-Sanctified

SAT 15TH APRIL: **HOLY SATURDAY**
10:00 am Liturgy for Holy Saturday
Altar Guild
7:00 pm Great Vigil of Easter

SUN 16TH APRIL: **THE SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION**
9:30 am Festal Holy Eucharist



Drivers are needed, especially for Holy Week. If you are able to help in this important ministry, contact the church office (see back page for contact info) or contact Katherine H. as soon as possible.



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Photos by James Howard

"Nice fellowship, good crowd...& fun time."



BRIDGE GROUP: There's been a little extra activity going on around St. Alban's these last few Wednesday afternoons. Jessie Schuetze, Freda MacDonald and Marlene Clarke, all church members, are part of a party bridge card group that had been looking for a quieter and more comfortable place to play bridge. They have been enjoying the last few weeks at St. Alban's and welcome others who enjoy a good game of party bridge to join them.

Have an idea for a newsletter article? Jill would love to hear from you! At 541-981-9973 or mjvb47@gmail.com

BRIDGE ANYONE?

SENIOR PARTY BRIDGE

Meets Wednesdays
here at St. Albans

Noon – 4:00 pm

For More information call:
Joan Hurley
541-926-8917

Or check with Jessie Schuetze

St. Martin's Annual Spring High Tea

To support their community outreach programs including Lebanon Soup Kitchen, Personal Care Kits, Learning Perch Reading Program, Little Free Library, Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, and Venture Crew, St. Martin's Episcopal Church Women are holding their Annual Spring High Tea.

WHEN: Sunday, April 23, 2017, from 2-4 pm—WHERE: St. Martin's Parish Hall at the corner of Milton and Williams Streets, Lebanon. Plenty of parking, and ADA accessible—EXTRAS: In addition to a wide array of delicious sweets and savories, the Spring High Tea features—"Name That Tune" competition and Lively Tea Music by Keyboardist Ray Hendricks—Raffles and door prizes—Tickets: \$12 from Church Office. 541-451-1159; stmartinslebanon@gmail.com



Free Lunch and learn: A Panel

Discussion on pre-planning for life's final details will also take place on Sunday, April 23 at Faith Lutheran Church beginning at noon. Wally Ordeman of Fisher Funeral Home, Pr. Mark Bringman of Faith Lutheran, and Denise Soto of Soto Law Firm will present.

Father Bob will arrange a similar discussion later on in the year, covering pre-planning from an Episcopal perspective as well as other aspects.

ECW Spirituality Day—Seeking Wellness: Keep It Simple Sister

May 20th 2017 St Paul's Episcopal Church 1440 Liberty St. SE Salem Oregon This event is open to all women. The focus will be on spiritual and physical health. Our keynote speaker will be noted author and lecturer Elaine Sanchez. There will also be a variety of spiritual and relevant workshops. The cost of event, which includes luncheon and snacks, is \$25.00. Pre-registration is required. More information along with the registration forms will be available in the next few months.



SAVE THE DATE: Planning is underway for the Ecumenical Mid-Valley Communion/ Picnic, August 13 at Monteith Park. Many area churches will participate.

GOOD FRIDAY OFFERING

Each year, on and around Good Friday, the offering received goes to the ministries of the Episcopal Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East.

Through the years many Episcopalians have found the Good Friday Offering to be an effective way to express their support for the ministries of the four dioceses of the Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East. Pastoral care, education and health care continue to be primary ministries through which the reconciling spirit of the Christian faith serves all in need.

Participation in this ministry is welcome. The generous donations of Episcopalians help the Christian presence in the Land of the Holy One to be a vital and effective force for peace and understanding among all of God's children.

To make a donation to the Good Friday Offering, please write a check payable to the Episcopal Church of St. Alban and marked Jerusalem and the Middle East on the memo line. Your donation may be made at any time, but especially during Holy Week.

Please contact the church office when:

A member of your family is in the hospital

You hear of the death of a church member

Your group, class or committee schedules a new meeting

Your contact information has changed

You would like a ride to and from church

You would like more information about the church

You know of someone who is interested in our church

You would like Holy Communion brought to your home

We can be of help to you in any other way

ALBANY BUILDS ITS FIRST EPISCOPALIAN CHURCH AND IS GIFTED A BELL

The Episcopal Church in Albany has always been small. When it was first considered in 1875 Bishop Babcock remarked, "I am not aware that we have a

single communicant in the town (of Albany), but our church is regarded with a good deal of favor by some of the most influential people, and once able to establish regular services, I have no doubt that our undertaking will prosper."

The first church building was nearly completed

before an English clergyman, Rev. Robert Stevens, offered to take on this rural frontier gathering. Being a man of independent wealth, he paid his own way to Oregon and brought along everything he thought



First Episcopal Church built in 1875 at 6th and Lyon Streets

he and his wife would need, including salt! Luckily he found the area a bit more civilized than he had expected; but it was a good thing he was a rugged fellow and a keen horseman. Besides his duties in Albany he also had to ride to Corvallis and back to supervise a Sunday school there each week of 40 students.

By 1876 Bishop Babcock's gamble had paid off with ten members and two new confirmations. He proudly stated that, for the price,



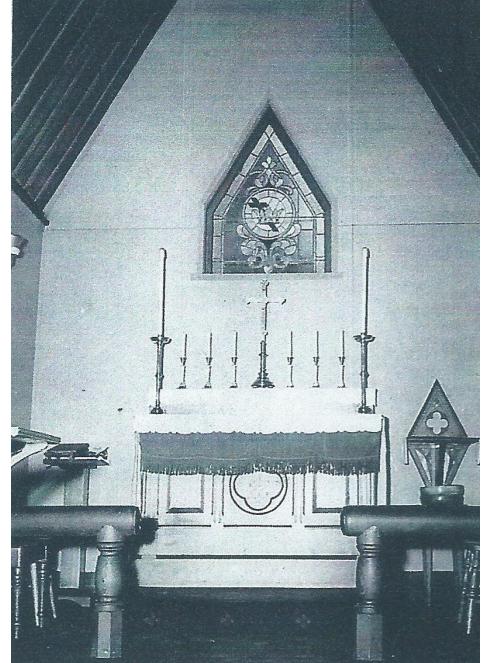
Albany's church could not be surpassed.

Rev. Stevens' wife Mary missed the beautifully mellow bells of her native England and wanted to have one for the little chapel of St. Peter's. They decided to donate a one-ton bell, lined with silver, to the new church.

But Mary's health was delicate and it required they find a warmer and dryer place for her. She and her husband left Albany for California hoping she would improve. Mary never got to hear the sound of her bell ringing. It arrived in Albany after her death. So Rev. Stevens had the bell engraved as a memorial to his wife.

He remained at St. Peter's until ill health struck him as well and he had to move to Yaquina Bay to recuperate. Parishioners feared he would not return. But he was able to come back, building the church congregation and even adding a weekly evening service.

By 1884 the congregation had dropped to the original ten members so Rev. Stevens moved on to work in La Grande, Oregon.



Altar of St. Peter's gifted in 1896

(Continued on page 7)



Celebrations in our Church Family



April

Birthdays

- 3 Susan Sheldahl
- 3 Brandon Young
- 6 Lois Jean Bousquet
- 10 Steve Saylor
- 13 Arlene McNabb
- 13 John Fagan
- 15 Becky Young
- 16 Austin Foster
- 17 Jane Allen
- 17 Barbara Butts
- 17 Susan Greenup
- 18 Tim Alexander
- 19 Tonya Fagan
- 19 Bernice Wirower
- 28 Ron Shreve
- 28 Daniel Yih
- 29 Jill Van Buren
- 30 Hannah Jackson

Anniversaries

- 1 Karla Swiger
- 15 Freda MacDonald
- 26 Grace Anderson

If your family's important events have not been listed or need updating, please contact the church office and let us know so they can be added to future newsletters. See back page for contact information.

May

Birthdays

- 6 Richard Kenyon
- 7 Michael Alexander
- 8 Robert Morris
- 13 Donna Alexander
- 13 Laurel Elliott
- 14 Nicole Weidert
- 21 Ruth Dalen
- 24 Mae Yih
- 25 Ben Jackson
- 26 Melissa Yates

Anniversaries

- 1 Sharon and Rich Isted
- 7 Bobbie and Ron Shreve
- 24 Lois Jean and Dennis Bousquet

April/May Events

- Thursdays:
Discussion Group
6:30 pm
- April 7: Healing Service and Holy Eucharist, 10:30 am, followed by Lunch Bunch
- April 16: Easter Sunday
- April 30—May 14: African Team Ministries items available
- May 5:
Healing Service and Holy Eucharist, 10:30 am, followed by Lunch Bunch
- May 14: Mother's Day
- May 15: Newsletter Deadline
- May 20: ECW Spirituality Day
- May 29: Memorial Day

(Continued from page 6)

Many years have passed. The church building has changed as has the congregation. But the fine old bell that was given in token of a man's love for his wife and for the church they loved, is still with us. It still rings to remind the faithful the service is beginning, and the words of memory still proclaim their gift of a fine English sounding bell. Much has happened since those early days of our church, but the bell and its love story still remains part of our church.



Bell Inscription:

*In memory of Mary B.,
wife of Rev. Robert L. Stevens,
died August 31, 1877*

Have an idea for a newsletter article? Jill would love to hear from you!
At 541-981-9973 or mjvb47@gmail.com

Easter Sunday Liturgy

9:30 am April 16

See Page 3 for complete
schedule of Holy Week
and Easter Day Liturgies

Weekly Church Services:
9:30 am Church services and
Sunday school
Coffee and conversation
following services

Church office hours:
Monday Tuesday Friday, 9 am
to noon

**St. Alban's Episcopal
Church**, 1730 Hill Street
PO Box 1556
Albany, OR 97321
(541) 967-7051

albanyoregonepiscopal.church

office@stalbans1.comcast.biz

[facebook.com/
stalbans.albany.oregon](https://facebook.com/stalbans.albany.oregon)

www.albanyoregonepiscopal.church

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

St. Alban's Episcopal Church
PO Box 1556
Albany, OR 97321

