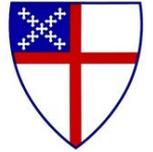


ST ALBAN'S WINDOW



St. Alban's Episcopal Church Newsletter

December 2016/January 2017

My Dear Friends,

So many times we can't wait for something to happen that we miss not only the potential excitement in which we can participate in the waiting, but also the waiting that can intensify the pleasure when the event finally arrives.

This, I suppose, is the theme on many people's lips at this Season of the year. Hearing it often and knowing that we have heard it doesn't make it any less true however. No matter how often one may have driven a section of I-5, there are always things for which to look, as well as things for which to be alert.

For as many years as I can remember, I've been impressed by the number of hawks that sit on the fence posts and the power poles along the straight stretch of the interstate between Albany and just north of Eugene. My initial thought may have been "Thirty-five miles and no curves. How boring!" But soon I learned to watch for all those other signs and gifts along the way.

The famous Advent lesson from Isaiah talks about the way that the Hebrew nation longed for God's redemptive Visitor to bring relief from fear, and pain, and abuse, even from the daily tasks, repeated so often that they became almost monotonous. People longed for a sense of purpose. They'd grown tired of waiting. Of course they knew that the God who created them held them in love. Of course they were aware of how the prophets had provided both correction and encouragement when the people needed it. But sometimes if someone says, "I'm coming" or "I'll be right there" often enough, and if it appears that nothing happens, then the listeners can get somewhat tired, even cynical.

"We can take our time to think through that Jesus' birth has caused such a wide variety of actions both of love and, yes, we have to admit, fear and hatred too."

- Father Bob

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The Episcopal Church of St. Alban

In This Issue

- Thoughts from Father Bob
- Liturgy schedule
- Annual Meeting January 29th
- Dinner Group update
- 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)

Carol Leder (‘17)

Ron Shreve (‘17)

Jack Stevens (‘17)

Susan Greenup
(‘18)

Ron Shreve (‘17)

Maggie Lang,
Treasurer

Diocesan
Convention
Delegates:

Katherine Harkins
Melissa Saylor
Susan Greenup

Alternates:

Karla Swiger
Victoria Harkins

St. Alban's
Window Editor: Jill
Van Buren

(Continued from page 1)

In that section of the prophetic book of Isaiah that's labeled "Second Isaiah" because the author of chapters 40-55 is not the same as that of the first thirty-nine chapters, the prophet brought a word from God both to encourage and to arouse the careless. It's time to be up, to be active, to do something positive not only for the listeners but for everyone in creation. "Prepare in the desert a way for Yahweh (God). Make a straight highway for our God across the wastelands." (Isaiah 40:3)

Sometimes in humor, sometimes in seriousness, when I hear that verse, I think of the stretch of I-5 just south of us. Learning from that, perhaps we should fix our hearts and our minds on this so that we can take the best way there. Those who constructed this section of the interstate, and of Highway 99 before them and, probably, those who may have driven cattle and ridden in wagons before that, didn't want to have too many hills to negotiate. Nor did they want to get bogged down in marshy land. So they looked for the best possible way to get to the south end of the Valley. Whether they thought of it or not, the Native peoples who set down trails for themselves so that they could winter in safety and enjoy good grass and crop land in summer – our native ancestors laid out a straight path for us so that we might follow it as plainly as we can.

Travelling for these weeks in Advent, then, one thing on which we can reflect, perhaps, are those who made the early preparations for our pilgrimage, thus giving us time to look around to right and to left, to look for the wonders and blessings of God to lighten our way, to pique our interest, to keep us moving.

Then, when we enter the Christmas Season on the Eve of the Nativity, we may rejoice and, once again, offer our gifts of thanksgiving for the ministry of the Christ Child. We may rest and reflect on how God blesses us in the company of our ever-enlarging family. We can take our time to think through that Jesus' birth has caused such a wide variety of actions both of love and, yes, we have to admit, fear and hatred too.

The days following the Nativity are each Holy Days in their own right – The Feasts of St. Stephen (26th), St. John (27th), The Holy Innocents (28th), St. Thomas Becket (29th) and on to the Feast of the Epiphany on January 6th.

This year, The Eve of The Nativity is on a Saturday. Special Prelude Music will begin at 10:30 p.m. and the Liturgy of the Word will begin at 11:00 p.m. The Nativity (25th) and The Most Holy Name of Jesus (1st January) are Sundays. We will worship at the usual time of 9:30 these mornings. And this year The Epiphany falls on the first Friday of the month. We will celebrate with our Healing Liturgy and the Holy Eucharist at 10:30 a.m.

We have a way to go till we get to these places, however, so I wish for us happy travelling, and suggest that we take intentional times to rest while we're on the road.

God's blessings with you and me as we watch, and wait, and journey!

Bob

THURSDAY EVENINGS IN ADVENT

The evening discussion group will meet on the 1st, 8th, 15th and 22nd December at 6:30 p.m. to reflect on our Advent Journey, using Raymond Brown's short book, "a Coming Christ in Advent" and the scripture passages to which it refers. The relevant material will be available for you in class.

ADVENT LESSONS, POETRY AND HYMNS

We will hold our traditional service as part of Advent preparations on Sunday evening, the 18th December at 7:00 p.m.

LITURGIES AND WORSHIP IN ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

Thanksgiving Eve	Wednesday	23 rd November	7:00 p.m.
1 st Sunday of Advent		27 th November	9:30 a.m.
Healing Service	Friday	2 nd December	10:30 a.m.
2 nd Sunday of Advent		4 th December	9:30 a.m.
3 rd Sunday of Advent		11 th December	9:30 a.m.
4 th Sunday of Advent		18 th December	9:30 a.m.
Advent Lessons, Poetry & Hymns		18 th December	7:00 p.m.
Christmas Eve	Saturday	24 th December	10:30 p.m.
The Holy Name of Jesus		1 st January	9:30 a.m.
The Epiphany	Friday	6 th January	10:30 a.m.

Annual Meeting
January 29th
after church
 Reports are due 5th of January

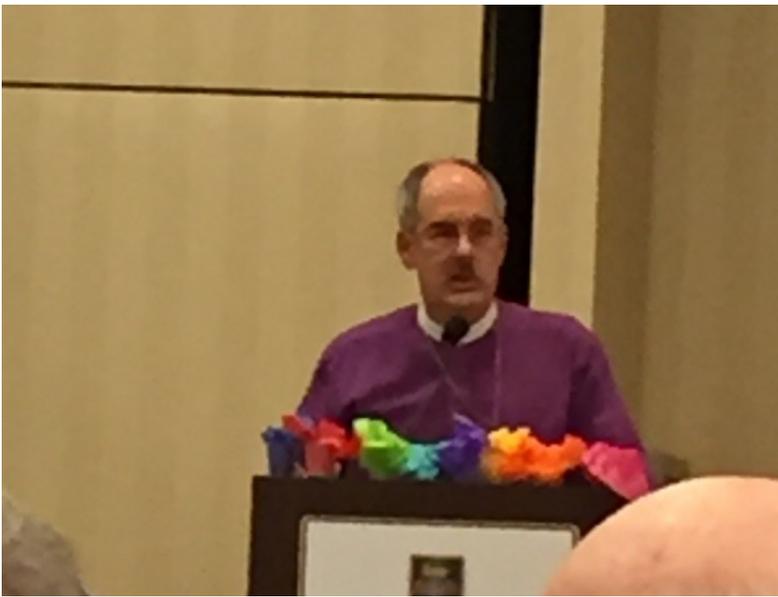
At the Annual Meeting, we will be electing new members of the BAC. Because of two resignations, we will elect



five new members. Anyone interested in serving should talk to Father Bob or Charles Mouradian as soon as possible.

Longest Night Dec. 21st
 7:00 p.m.
Liturgy Faith Lutheran Church, Queen Ave & Elm St.

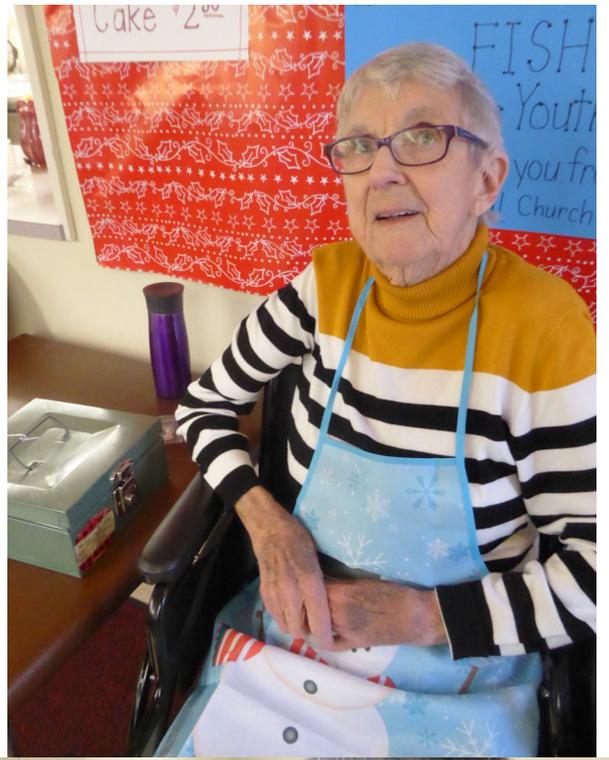
A gathering to reflect on the difficulty of celebrating holidays while grieving the death of loved ones.



Photos from the Diocesan Convention, 4th November 2016 (Top to bottom): ELCA Bishop David Brauer-Reike, Rev. Margaret McMurren and Deacon Peggy Bernhard, Susan Greenup and Victoria Harkins, Victoria Harkins and Father Robert Morrison



Opposite page, photos from the 2016 ECW Bazaar (Clockwise from top left): Patty Nordyke and Bobbie Butts; Sandy Palmer; Melinda Stevens and Carol Thurber; Melinda Stevens; Arlene McNabb, Joan Meyer, Betty Holcomb, and Peggy Ciapusci; Dolores Mouradian and Maggie Lang



St Alban's Dinner Group Update

The first six months of St Alban's re-established dinner gatherings have proven so successful that the original group was expanded into two.

Members meet at the home of the designated host who decides on the main dish for that month. Everyone else brings a side dish or a dessert.

There is time for interesting visits, sometimes a bit of wine, and always a lot of laughter.

Now that one round of dinners has been completed there will be a break for the holidays. In January names will be drawn again to determine who will belong to each group, and the fun will begin again. While many of those involved are couples, singles are encouraged to pair with other church singles and be part of the gatherings.

If you are interested in joining these enjoyable evenings when they begin again in January, and did not sign up though Time and Talent, feel free to contact Jill Van Buren at mjvb47@gmail.com or any of those now taking part.

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



Friends, you may have filled out a Funeral and Burial Wishes form in the past, but we would like to update these so that we have the most current information possible. You may have changed your minds on some things, or your contact people may have moved, obtained a new email or physical address, or cell phone number. These are all good for us to keep on file. Please fill out a form for us and get it to Carolyn in the Church Office at your convenience. Thank you!



Celebrations in our Church Family



December

January

Birthdays

Anniversaries

Birthdays

Anniversaries

- 2 Carol Thurber
- 2 Ted Tannish
- 2 Sally Steelhammer
- 3 Tom Wilson
- 3 Jerry Nenninger
- 8 Julie Homan
- 9 Mara Lou Denham
- 11 Melissa Saylor
- 15 Dennis Bousquet
- 16 Larry Thurber
- 17 Linda Wehling
- 19 Susan Bevington
- 25 Edith McConnell
- 28 Marion Weinand

- 4 Tonya & John Fagan
- 16 Evy Rich & Marion Weinand
- 20 Nonie & Paul Harcombe
- 21 Jane & Jim Allen

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.

- 3 Grace Anderson
- 6 Mike Nordyke
- 8 Rachel Fagan
- 8 Julia Wehling
- 9 Julie Jackson
- 9 Bobbie Shreve
- 12 Jane Hogan
- 16 Karla Swiger
- 17 Joan Louise Holcomb-Meyer
- 20 Phyllis Foley
- 24 Todd LeRoy Saylor
- 26 Sara Miller
- 26 Dick Reid
- 29 Billie Nenninger
- 20 Alan Sanderson
- 31 Jami Kenyon

- 4 Dean True

Save paper and postage, help the environment, AND get *St. Alban's Window* in full color! let Carolyn in the office know if you would like to be added to the newsletter email list. Also consider signing up for the weekly prayer list email, which includes announcements and updates.

Have news or information you would like to contribute to the newsletter? Contact Carolyn (office contact info on back page) or call Jill Van Buren at 541-981-9973

Deadline for the next newsletter is November 15.

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



Have an article or photo for the next newsletter? Please get them to the office by January 16 to be included in the February/March 2017 newsletter.

LITURGIES AND WORSHIP IN ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

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The Epiphany	Friday	6 th Jan.	10:30 a.m.



www.albanyoregonepiscopal.church

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

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Albany, OR 97321
(541) 967-7051

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