

# ST ALBAN'S WINDOW



St. Alban's Episcopal Church Newsletter

February/March 2017

## Vicar's Report

Top of the list for me for 2016 is the call you made to me in the early Spring and the Bishop's appointment to serve as your Vicar. I was and remain delighted to serve God with you in this new capacity.

One way we engage as disciples is in being welcoming and friendly both towards those who have attended our congregation for a number of years and also towards those who visit for a Sunday and who have felt drawn to return and to become part of this family life. How we show God's welcome and how we practice this in our daily lives is very important and I hear over and over again that this is one reason why we continue to grow, albeit slowly.

This point of welcome has enabled us to respond compassionately to those who've been sick, and to the families of those who've died. We come together well and quickly in times of stress as well as celebration, something that reflects our faith in our lives as representing Jesus in a world which continues to be able to hurt as well as amaze us. No matter how we may find ourselves distressed, we pray that we may find and share our belief that Jesus walks with us.

This is one of the measures of a faithful congregation. It's relatively easy to be kind, to be hopeful, to be friendly when things are going well. Jesus, I know, is delighted at this. But

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*"No matter how we may find ourselves distressed, we pray that we may find and share our belief that Jesus walks with us."*

*- Father Bob*



The Episcopal Church of St. Alban

## In This Issue

- Thoughts from Father Bob
- Lent Events
- Episcopal Youth Event
- ECW Plans
- 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)

when things begin to make our lives fray, when it's not easy to smile, these are the times when our faith really does begin to show, even if it's in the form of questions. It can sound like a cliché, but I believe that Jesus invites to look on difficulties as challenges to be overcome and not necessarily at walls to keep us back.

John Cage, the U.S. composer who lived from 1912 to 1992, wrote some words that I find encouraging and quite in line with the Gospel message. "I can't understand why people are frightened of new ideas. I'm frightened of the old ones." This is not to say that things which are old, which are familiar, which are "comfortable" are intrinsically bad. However, sometimes they can keep us from discovering new ways in which we may be being called to be ministers in this community of ours.

Looking ahead into 2017, then, I hope that, together, we can find, or re-find, ways in which we can speak to and help those with whom we've had few if any conversations in the past. After all, Jesus had the knack of surprising his friends by constantly introducing new people and new ideas into their midst.

I am pleased to offer my thanks to all those who have brightened our lives and encouraged us in the past. Charlie Mouradian and Karla Swiger, the Senior and Junior Wardens; Jim Allen, the Clerk to the Vestry who had to resign because of the cancer which sapped his energy and led to his death this January; Victoria Harkins who stepped in and assumed the role of Clerk; Maggie Lang, treasurer; and all the members of the B.A.C. Thank you to Pam Reiner and Melissa Babcock Saylor, co-directresses of the Altar Guild, and the other Guild team members; Pam Reiner and the officers and members our E.C.W. branch; all those who made tea and coffee and provided refreshments after our liturgies. The list can go on. Working mostly "behind the scenes", Carolyn Duehn, our secretary, provides invaluable help and advice. Hearty thanks are given to Patty Wheeler who, with Laurel's help, works with the younger members of our congregation week after week – wasn't it great to see so many children helping on Christmas Eve! And also my thanks and great appreciation to Amy Isted, our organist, and Rich Isted, for their wonderful musical gifts and the way they share them to enrich our lives.

I look forward to exploring our mission together in the future!

With my thanks and blessings,

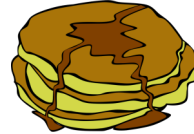
Bob

Robert P. Morrison,  
Vicar

## Shrove Tuesday, Ash Wednesday and Lent

The name “Shrove Tuesday” comes from the act of being “shriven”, having one’s confession heard prior to beginning Lent. In Latin cultures, the name used for the same day, the day before Ash Wednesday, is “Mardi Gras”, “Fat Tuesday”, again referring to the days of Lent in which one is encouraged to set aside eating fat. As one unburdens one’s self in order to concentrate on the final months of Jesus’ earthly life, so one can alter one’s diet, again, using this as an exercise as a means to focus on the fact that life with Christ calls for a sacrificial intent on our part.

However one views Shrove Tuesday, the Men’s Group will be cleaning off their grills and offering their traditional Pancake Supper on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February, from 5:30 to 7 pm.



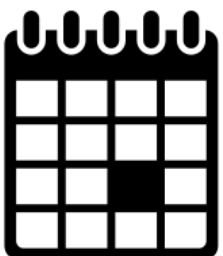
On Ash Wednesday, the 1<sup>st</sup> of March, there will be two opportunities to listen to God’s call to renewal and reconciliation, to receive the Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion. Pastor Mark Bringman of Faith Lutheran Church and I have been talking about our Lenten schedule and he will be attending St. Alban’s, with members of Faith Lutheran’s congregation who are able and wish to come, at 12:10 p.m. Both congregations will be offering the same liturgy at 7 p.m. in their respective worship buildings.

On the Sundays in Lent, we will be using “Enriching Our Worship” liturgy, with its more contemporary text and placement of some of the segments of worship.

On the weekdays of Lent we will be holding two similar five-week classes, one on Wednesday morning at 10 a.m. and the other on Thursday evening at 6:30 p.m. Both will make use of a video presentation entitled “Embracing a Life of Meaning: Discovering What Matters”, led by Kathleen Norris. A workbook will be available. The morning class will begin on Ash Wednesday (1<sup>st</sup> March) and the evening class on the next day, Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup>.

I hope you’ll be able to engage with others at these events. News of Holy Week and Easter activities will be published in the next “St. Alban’s Window.”

Bob



For the latest available information on Holy Week and Easter activities or any other events, click on **Calendar** at <http://www.albanyoregonepiscopal.church/>. We keep the online calendar as up-to-date as possible, and also post announcements and updates on our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/stalbans.albany.oregon/>. If you have any calendar updates, please contact the office—contact information is on the back page.

### *More in February/ March*

Thursdays:  
Discussion  
Group 6:30 pm  
February 3:  
Healing  
Service and  
Holy  
Eucharist,  
10:30 am,  
followed by  
Lunch Bunch  
February 14:  
Valentine’s  
Day  
February 20:  
Presidents’  
Day  
February 28:  
Shrove  
Tuesday  
March 1: Ash  
Wednesday  
March 3:  
Healing  
Service and  
Holy  
Eucharist,  
10:30 am,  
followed by  
Lunch Bunch  
March 12:  
Daylight  
Savings Time  
Begins  
March 17:  
Newsletter  
Deadline



A small group of singers from St. Alban visited four retirement homes during Christmas week bringing residents and staff a special kind of holiday cheer. Rich and Amy led the group, overlooking our periodic musical missteps. As our music drifted down the hallways residents gathered to enjoy the music and their own special memories of many seasons past. Some sat smiling or chapping their hands, some closed their eyes to better remember, and some happily sang

along with us. Everyone, residents, staff and carolers came away warm with memories and the spirit of Christmas.

Jill Van Buren

*Have an idea for a newsletter article? Jill would love to hear from you! At 541-981-9973 or [mjvb47@gmail.com](mailto:mjvb47@gmail.com)*

Photo courtesy of James Howard

## Episcopal Youth Event July 10-14, 2017 University of Central Oklahoma, Edmond, OK Open to youth currently in 9th – 12th grades

The Diocese of Oregon youth ministry program sponsors diocesan-wide gatherings for youth in middle and high school. Participation and support in attending national and provincial youth gatherings is promoted among senior high youth. These events, in addition to a variety of opportunities for youth to participate or be a leader in the diocesan camping program, are building the faith of our youth and strengthening their identity as Episcopalians.

EYE is a triennial event for the entire Episcopal Church (pronounced E-Y-E). About 1000 people (high school students, their adult mentors, and Bishops from around the church) come together and

live on a college campus for a little under a week. Time is spent in worship (amazing, awesome and very memorable worship), large group presentations, small group discussions on the presentations (youth led), workshops on a variety of topics (from meditation to outreach to knitting, and everything in between), and a lot of time hanging out and meeting people from around the world.

Our Diocese will be sending a group of high school students and adult mentors. Participants will be chosen with an application process.

**Applications are due into the Diocesan office by February 15, 2017.**

More information at <http://www.diocese-oregon.org/youth-ministries/> Or contact:

The Rev. Canon Carol W. Sedlacek

Canon for Christian & Leadership Formation

Episcopal Diocese of Oregon

[CarolS@diocese-oregon.org](mailto:CarolS@diocese-oregon.org)

541-401-4606 or 971-204-4124





# Celebrations in our Church Family



## February

## March

### ***Birthdays***

### ***Anniversaries***

### ***Birthdays***

### ***Anniversaries***

2 Carol Leder  
3 Sharon Isted  
9 Patrick Anderson  
10 Maggie Lang  
10 Megan Meyer  
12 Dolores Mouradian  
18 Patty Wheeler  
23 Elaine Eastman  
24 Elizabeth Reiner  
28 Rich Isted  
28 Kendrick Jackson

2 Gail and Tom  
Wilson  
24 Diane and Lee Sims

*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.*

5 Betty Holcomb  
7 Frances M  
7 Emily Taylor  
8 Teresa Graber  
13 Marjorie Oughton  
13 Alicia Allen  
17 Victoria Harkins  
18 Tyler Hogan  
20 Patrick Sims  
22 Patty Nordyke  
28 Anne Transue

5 Carol and Larry  
Thurber  
21 Melissa and Steve  
Saylor  
22 Jami and Rick Kenyon  
25 Anne and Lloyd  
Transue

Have an article or  
photo for the next  
newsletter? Please  
get it to the office by  
March 17 to be  
included in the April/  
May newsletter.

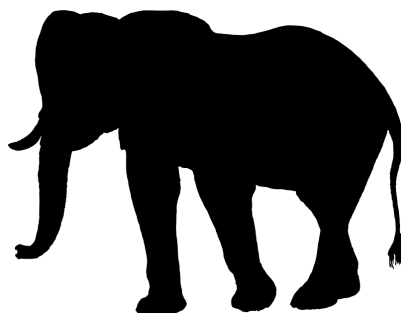
## ECW LOOKING AHEAD!!!

We will again be holding our **parking lot trunk sale** in August, so don't throw away those sale-worthy items you no longer want.....save them for the trunk sale!!! We hope to have an awesome turnout with profitable results!! Questions.....talk to Pam Reiner or Bobbi Butts.

Also, if you have Christmas decorations, etc., that you perhaps might not use again, please save those as well for our **Holiday Bazaar**.

Thanks so much for your contributions. We need everyone's help to make these two events a success.

Sharon Reid



## **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



[www.albanyoregonepiscopal.church](http://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

**St. Alban's Episcopal**

**Church, 1730 Hill Street**

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

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

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