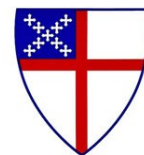


# ST ALBAN'S WINDOW



St. Alban's Episcopal Church Newsletter

December 2019 / January 2020

Dear Friends,

Color is one of the ways in which our lives are enriched. Some people, of course, have varying degrees of being challenged. I don't know the science, but I suspect that each of us sees color in a slightly different way. Spiritually, mentally and emotionally, we may feel drawn to a particular range on the color spectrum, so we may think that a certain shade leads in one direction or another.

However we see it – and I hope that we're all able to appreciate color in one way or another – our minds can be captivated and stimulated, set at ease, encouraged, filled with hope and joy when we watch such things as the change in the seasons and the leafing out of trees, for instance. Similarly, the turning of leaf color and their falling to the ground in autumn reminds of life-progression. When, finally, the trees and flowers around us seem to have lost their color, this is not a mark of desolation but of the recharging of creation. Experience teaches us that our hope for renewal is not misplaced. Life returns, slowly. In fact, it continues out of our sight as roots, tubers and bulbs soak in nourishment from the earth, resting in preparation for a new year. So the “dark” colors – browns, greys and blacks – are not lifeless or hopeless, but marks during regeneration.

The Church has made use of this understanding and effect of color as a way to replenish our spiritual lives. Just as in the physical world in

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When we encounter the Blue of the Season beginning on the first of December, then, let's reflect on the wonder, the changes in which we're to re-engage, and on the ways in which each of us will encounter God and God's messengers throughout the rest of our lives.

—Robert P. Morrison, Vicar



The Episcopal Church of St. Alban

## In This Issue

- Colors in the Season
- Upcoming Events
- Advent Celebrations

Bishop: The  
Right Reverend  
Michael Hanley

Vicar: The Rev.  
Robert Morrison

Deacon: The  
Reverend  
Peggy Bernhard

Bishop's  
Advisory  
Committee –  
*Term expiration  
date noted in ()*

James Howard,  
Senior Warden  
(‘20)

Alan Sanderson,  
Junior Warden  
(‘22)

Marty Gault  
(‘22)

Jane Allen (‘22)  
Peggy Ciapusci  
(‘21)

Theresa Kidd  
(‘21)

Jane Stoltz (‘21)  
Melissa Saylor  
(‘20)

Larry Thurber  
(‘20) Treasurer

St. Alban's  
Window Editor:  
Audrey  
Southwick

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creation, so in the spiritual realm we're guided, encouraged, nourished and drawn to reflection in the way that different Church Seasons and Occasions talk to us at different times and situations in our personal and communal lives.

The season of Advent begins, appropriately enough this year, on the first of December, helping us to see clearly the focus of what we're doing and where we're going, and, as we enter the door into the new year, we note a change in atmosphere, brought about in no small part by the color shift.

The color violet or purple used to be prescribed for Advent and Lent. This signified penitence during the period of preparation leading up towards the next observance. In the case of Advent, this preparation leads to the Feast of the Incarnation and the following season of Christmas. This penitential preparation emphasized the need for recommitment as we prepare to celebrate Jesus' birth and the hope of His Second Coming.

Liturgical scholars, however, pointed out the different "feel" that exists between Advent and Lent, and suggested a return to the practice at Salisbury (Latin name, Sarum) Cathedral in the south of England. There, blue was used to signify hope and expectation along with the fact that blue has long been used to show a connection with Mary, the mother of Jesus. This helps to give a new appreciation for what we anticipate during the weeks leading up to the Incarnation. It also points towards rethinking who Mary was and how we may have misread and misjudged her life and ministry.

Luke's Gospel is the only one to tell us about the approach of the archangel Gabriel to Mary. Carols and tradition have led us to believe that Mary, when she conceived Jesus, was a meek, pliant, even subjugated, teenager. In actual fact, it is Gabriel who is overcome when Mary and the archangel meet. Gabriel kneels in wonder before the grace which is present in her. Gabriel discovers what God knew, that this was a woman of intelligence, of humor, of strength, who was willing to challenge when need be.

The writer Nancy Rockwell points out in "No More Lying about Mary" that, unlike some of the other women mentioned in both Hebrew and Christian Scripture, Mary's domestic prowess is never mentioned. She was alert to the religious tradition in which she'd been raised, but she was equally alert to the social inequalities and injustices of her day. The "song" which she sang in her visitation to Elizabeth, the mother of John

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the Baptist, talks about the need for a radical overhaul of the social and political structure present in her day (and still present).

As Rockwell wrote, “Mary, wanted by God, according to the angel, for her bold, independent, adventuresome spirit, decides to bear a holy child – for a bold agenda: to bring the mighty down from their thrones; to scatter the proud in the imagination of their hearts, to fill the hungry with good things and send the rich empty away. This is Mary: well-spoken, wise, gritty.”

And this is the Mary who would raise Jesus. It’s little wonder he turned out as he did. Son of God and Son of Mary – how else might he have lived and taught; how else might he have died and risen?

When we encounter the Blue of the Season beginning on the first of December, then, let’s reflect on the wonder, the changes in which we’re to re-engage, and on the ways in which each of us will encounter God and God’s messengers throughout the rest of our lives.

May we live a wonderful, eye-opening Advent and celebrate with great joy the birth of God among us. May we enter into the mystery of Epiphany, the revelation of what happens when God is in our midst.

With anticipation,

Bob

***STEWARDSHIP is about being grateful, responsible stewards of the gifts we receive from God.***

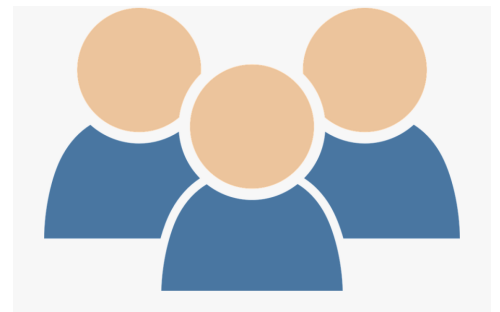
## **Thank you!**

The BAC and officers of the congregation are very appreciative of the way in which the members work together to engage in ministry both inside our family and in the wider community.

We are particularly grateful to those who’ve made a commitment by filling out and returning a pledge card for 2020. This indicates a willingness to continue the work of Jesus through our church.

If you have not yet returned your card, please do so soon. Our pledges help the Finance Committee and the BAC to draw up a budget in December and plan for the new year. Each year seems to present exciting opportunities and we look forward to our journey together in 2020!

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Larry Thurber, our Treasurer at [thurbs350@comcast.net](mailto:thurbs350@comcast.net).





## ADVENT IS HERE!

### ADVENT POETRY AND HYMNS

Join us on Sunday, December 1st as we celebrate the first Sunday of Advent with a service of poetry and hymns. Invite your friends and neighbors as we celebrate the season of Advent. 7:00-8:00 pm

### ADVENT CLASSES

#### TUESDAY NIGHTS/WEDNESDAY MORNINGS

Starting December 3rd (6:30 pm) and December 4th (10:00 am), we will have Advent classes each Tues/Wed in December. No class the week of Christmas. To be determined whether we will hold class New Year's Eve or on The Holy Name of Jesus.

### THE JESSE TREE

*"There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse." (Isaiah 11:1)*

A Jesse Tree is a small tree decorated with symbols portraying the spiritual heritage of Jesus. It begins bare of leaves or decorations and as the days of Advent pass, more and more symbols are placed on it. During Advent we have a Jesse Tree at the front of the worship space.

The tree we use will be planted on the Church grounds after Christmas and, we hope, it will flourish (as last year's has) to remind us of the hope it represents.

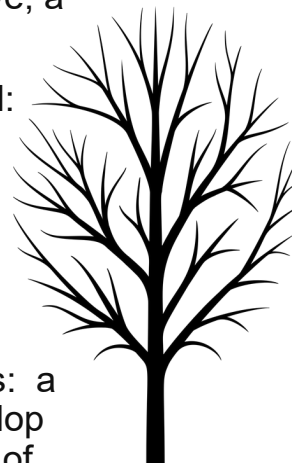
On the First Sunday of Advent, depending on the date, one or more of the following are placed in the tree as the first symbols - a dove, a fruited tree and a rainbow.

On the Second Sunday of Advent, the following are added: the sky with stars, a ram, a ladder, a sack of grain, a burning bush, raw dough in a bowl and two stone tablets.

On the Third Sunday of Advent, the following are added: ram's horn, a water jar, a lyre, a stone altar, tongs and a burning coal, a royal crown and stalks of grain.

On the Fourth Sunday of Advent are added these symbols: a great fish, a watch-tower, the sun of righteousness, a scallop shell, the lily of purity, a carpenter's square, and the scroll of Caesar's proclamation.

The last ones, the manger and the star, are added on Christmas Eve.



### December/January Events

Dec. 1st: 7-8 pm  
Advent Lessons,  
Poetry and Hymns

Dec. 3rd - 6:30 pm /  
4th at 10 am: 1st  
Advent Class

Dec. 10th - 6:30  
pm / 11th at 10 am:  
2nd Advent class

Dec. 13th - 5:00 pm  
ECW Christmas  
Party

Dec. 17th - 3:30  
pm / 18th at 10 am:  
3rd Advent class

Dec. 18th - 6:30 pm  
BAC meeting

Dec. 24th - 7:30 pm  
Christmas Eve  
Service

Dec. 25th - 9:30 am  
Christmas Day Holy  
Eucharist

Jan. 1st - 9:30 am  
The Holy Name of  
Jesus Eucharist  
service

Jan. 25th - St.  
Alban's Annual  
Meeting following  
9:30 am Holy  
Eucharist





# Celebrations in our Church Family

## December



### ***Birthdays***

### ***Anniversaries***

### ***Birthdays***

2 Carol Thurber  
2 Sally Steelhammer  
2 Ted Tannish  
8 Julie Homan  
11 Melissa Saylor  
16 Larry Thurber  
19 Susan Bevington  
21 Peggy Ciapusci  
25 Edith McConnell  
28 Marion Weinand

4 John and Tonya Fagan  
16 Evelyn Rich and Marion Weinand  
20 Paul and Elnora Harcombe

6 Mike Nordyke  
8 Rachel Fagan  
9 Bobbie Shreve  
9 Julie Jackson  
12 Jane Hogan  
16 Karla Swiger  
17 Joan Meyer  
20 Phyllis Foley  
24 Todd Saylor  
26 Dick Reid  
26 Sara Miller  
30 Alan Sanderson  
31 Jami Kenyon

*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.*



Choctaw Mary and Jesus  
by Fr. John Giuliani



## ***ECW Christmas Party***

Friday, December  
13th 5:00 pm at  
Dolorès Mouradian's  
home.

*Bring a treat to share!*

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## **CHRISTMAS LITURGIES**

### **CHRISTMAS EVE**

Our service on Christmas Eve begins with prelude music at 7:30 pm. The liturgy starts at 8:00 pm.

### **CHRISTMAS DAY**

On Christmas Day, the liturgy with hymns begins at 9:30 am.

## 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:** Fr. Bob is usually in M - F from 9 - noon.

Audrey's office hours are:  
Mondays and Fridays from 9-noon and  
Wednesdays from 1-4

### St. Alban's Episcopal Church,

1730 Hill Street  
Albany, OR

### **Mailing Address:**

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PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

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