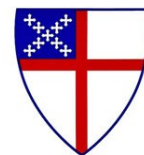


ST ALBAN'S WINDOW



St. Alban's Episcopal Church Newsletter

February / March 2020

My Dear Friends,

The last newsletter issue found us thinking about Advent and Christmas – waiting for and celebrating God's Incarnation among us. Now we move forward.

I was reminded – as if I really needed reminding! – that there are times when praying on a regular basis can find us in all sorts of different, even difficult, moods.

If the day hasn't been going well, if we've been under stress or feelings of uncertainty, we may find ourselves wondering what to say, to God or to anyone else. There's a certain value in being able to be completely open and to exclaim our frustrations. If the listener is a good friend, then she or he will know that our entire life isn't usually consumed by one crisis after another, and that frustrations expressed by us won't be our normal pattern, but simply a way of trying to deal with things that make us anxious. And so we speak what's on our hearts and minds. God expects no less, so the first thought about prayer is that we should just go ahead, say what comes up. Releasing a burden can allow us to see better what else is going on.

In the routine of putting some things in the garbage behind the church building the other day, I happened to see one of our Jesse Trees from a former year. The wind was shaking its branches, and there were only minute traces of leaves left. But then I noticed about a dozen small, red berries still clinging there, waiting for a bird to make of them a

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I invite you to join me in finding ways to work through all that draws us away from the Love of God as we accept the imposition of ashes as a sign of hope in which we're reminded to be on our way to making peace with all whom God loves.

—Robert P. Morrison, Vicar



The Episcopal Church of St. Alban

In This Issue

- Season of Epiphany
- Upcoming Events
- Lent Suppers

Bishop:

The Right Reverend
Michael Hanley

Vicar:

The Reverend
Robert Morrison

Deacon:

The Reverend
Peggy Bernhard

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

Jane Allen ('22)

Peggy Ciapusci
('21)

Tonya Fagan ('23)

Marty Gault ('22)

James Howard
('23)

Matthew Maurais
('23)

Alan Sanderson
('22)

Melissa Saylor
('21)

Jane Stoltz ('21)

St. Alban's Window
Editor: Audrey
Southwick

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portion of its vitamin C intake for the day. The brightness and the usefulness in a January morning made me smile. Wind, cold, and busyness notwithstanding, seeing this caring for creation lifted my spirits.

One of the joys of the season of Epiphany, which runs through 25th February this year, is that we may expect to find such little gifts from God to brighten our days and encourage us. Acknowledging them to God, and sharing our thoughts on this with others, is one of the ways in which we can experience the act of God "Lightening our darkness". Such 'berries' may be tiny, and yet we find in them ways we can discover refreshment and hope, enabling us to start in again, being open to the work of God in our midst.

There are times when we look at such events as, for instance, the visit of Magi to the infant Jesus, as if they brought only temporary joy, as when we pack up the Nativity representation and put it away for another year. There are times in our lives when we may lose track of the way in which each day brings possibilities. Yet God's Love and Joy may be seen in so many places. Even Ash Wednesday – should we say especially Ash Wednesday – is such a marvelous moment in time when God reminds us that not even our human frailty can take us away from the concern of God.

"Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who desires not the death of sinners, but rather that they may turn from their wickedness and live, has given power and commandment to his ministers to declare to his people, being penitent, the absolution and remission of their sins. He pardons and absolves all those who truly repent, and with sincere hearts believe his holy Gospel." (B.C.P. page 269)

We begin Lent on the 26th of February and have the Holy Season to remember that none of us is outside of God's love. This may be very difficult to accept. We all have our pet hates - those people and things which drive us to distraction, or worse. Yet the reconciliation with God which we seek for ourselves must, by its very nature, include reconciliation with others.

Just as praying can, sometimes, be difficult, so is this idea of total reconciliation. I invite you, therefore, to join me in finding ways to work through all that draws us away from the Love of God as we accept the imposition of ashes as a sign of hope in which we're reminded to be on our way to making peace with all whom God loves.

This is one reason we talk of Lenten Discipline, that act of learning more and more about ourselves, about God, and not forgetting to learn more and more about one another. I hope the various opportunities in

Church life and in all of creation may be helpful in our learning this coming Lent.

Let's keep talking! There are times – there are ALWAYS times in our lives – thanks be to God!

In Jesus' Love,

Bob (Robert P. Morrison, Vicar)

★ **THANKS** to all who enabled our Annual Meeting to run smoothly: to the BAC and Committee
★ Chairs who prepared reports; to Audrey for assembling them; to the BAC and their friends who
★ provided lunch for us; and to the congregation for attending and adding their comments!
★

★ Two people who had resigned from their positions were acknowledged. Ron Shreve has served with a
★ wide variety of responsibilities for thirty years or so, and stepped away from them; and Theresa Kidd,
★ resigned from the BAC in order to fulfil her ministries at home and at work. To both of them, we offer
★ our thanks and best wishes!
★

★ At the meeting we elected new members to the BAC. Tonya Fagan, James Howard and Matthew
★ Maurais were elected to three year terms, and Melissa Saylor was elected to a one year term.
★
★ *****

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Laundry Love

We have begun a program, with other congregations in Albany, making it possible for people to wash their clothes around the corner from St. Alban's at the Laundromat on Queen Avenue.

On the third Tuesday of each month, for three hours, representatives of various congregations will be present to give money for two loads of laundry per person/family. We provide the coins and the detergent, and the conversation. St Alban's has committed, with the other congregations, to provide a monthly stipend towards this cost. This program began at the end of last year. It is deeply appreciated by those who have made use it, and is another way that we can minister in, and engage with, the community! If you're willing to offer three hours in the morning on March 17th or June 16th, please tell Fr. Bob.



February/ March Events

LENT STUDY & DISCUSSION

We will be holding a series of discussion groups based on the book, film and play “Les Misérables”. The time and date have not been fixed yet, but we hope to repeat the evening and morning format (same program at each) that we’ve used in the past.

Please let Fr. Bob know if you’re interested and if you have specific preferences about days and times that would work for you.

Each week we’ll talk about a different character and aspect of the novel. Study books will be available to supplement the video, if we know how many books to order.

Feb. 7th: 10:30 am Healing Service,
11:30 am Lunch Bunch at Pop’s
Branding Iron

Feb. 11th—6:30 pm BAC meeting

Feb. 25th - 6:00 pm Pancake Supper

Feb. 26th - Ash Wednesday services
- 12 noon at Faith Lutheran
- 7:00 pm at St Albans

Month of March - Wednesday
Suppers. See ‘Lent Liturgies’

March 6th : 10:30 am Healing
Service, 11:30 am Lunch Bunch

Something to Think About

Now that the annual meeting has been held, it is a good time to reflect. Though we are a small congregation, we do contribute to the work of the church in this community. Some of that work consists of church members contributing their time and talents to improve the community within and outside of the church. For us to continue to be able to make contributions to the work of the church here, we need to recognize that we must be a viable organization. In order to be viable, we must have the means to pay our expenses with the revenue that comes to the church. We can’t long survive if we have more expenses than we have revenue. We have considered our ability to contribute to the work of St. Alban’s by using our time and talents and by contributing financially. We also need to consider how we can locate additional resources for St. Alban’s. This doesn’t mean increasing our pledges (however, you may wish to), but it does mean that we need to explore ways to generate additional revenue. Maybe you have participated in fund-raising projects to support another non-profit organization. Please consider how we may be able to implement similar projects to increase our revenue in this year. As you know, we can’t continue to use funds from savings accounts to operate St. Alban’s. We must identify some additional revenue, or eliminate expenses or we will not be able to continue as a viable church community. Please let the BAC members know of any projects or other sources of revenue that should be considered.

Thank you. — Marty Gault





Celebrations in our Church Family

February



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 Kendrick Jackson
28 Rich Isted

24 Lee and Diane Sims



***Are your
celebrations
missing from
our lists?
Please tell
Audrey and
we'll add them!***

Birthdays

Anniversaries

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

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

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Thank you to Anne Transue for updating our Host Family and Flower charts! And thank you to our members who support these programs. The friendship and caring these ministries represent are very important to our church. To participate, please sign up on the bulletin board by the kitchen. - Melinda Stevens

LENT LITURGIES

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on 26th February. There will be an Ecumenical Celebration at Faith Lutheran Church at 12 noon There will be another liturgy at 7:00 pm at St. Alban's Episcopal Church.

We will be enjoying Wednesday evening Lenten soup and bread suppers with other congregations. The meal will be at 5:30 pm, or when you can arrive, and the worship liturgy will be at 6:30 p.m.

March 4th - Good Shepherd Lutheran
March 11th -St. Alban's Episcopal
March 18th - Faith Lutheran
March 25th - First Christian
April 1st - TBA

On Good Friday, 10th April, we will hold an Ecumenical Liturgy at noon at First Christian Church in downtown Albany. We will have liturgies at St Alban's also. Details to follow.

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

Weekly Church Services:

9:30 am Church services
(Coffee and conversation to follow)

Church hours: Fr. Bob is usually
in M-F from 9am-noon.

Office hours:

Mon, Fri 9am-noon, Wed. 1-4pm

St. Alban's Episcopal Church

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