



***St. Alban's: Christ Centered,  
Radically Embracing People and  
Creation***

# **St. Alban's Episcopal Church**

**Salisbury, Maryland**

**Parish Profile**

**2020**

## **Transition Collect**

*O God, giver of every good gift, look graciously upon your whole church and upon St. Alban's. Guide us to use the diverse gifts, talents and skills with which you have blessed us so that we may increase our commitment to one another and to the mission of Jesus Christ. May we choose a faithful rector to lead us to love, serve and grow in our congregation, in our community in the world through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen***

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*“There is a lot of Jesus here” - Parishioner during the 2020 parish interviews*

# Our Past

The first new mission in the Diocese of Easton in more than a century, St. Alban's Chapel came to be a reality in the early 1960's, created by Salisbury Parish, St. Peter's, overseen by their Chapel Committee. Among the members of the committee was G. William Truitt, who became our first vicar. During the planning stages, Richard H. Hodgson negotiated the purchase of the land our parish buildings occupy. Mr. Hodgson has since become a major benefactor of St. Alban's and the other Episcopal churches in Wicomico County.

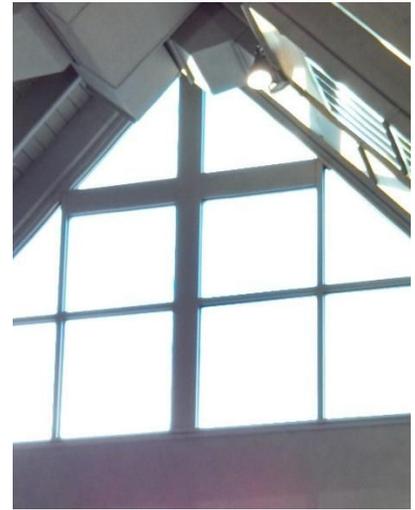
The new chapel was struggling with membership and with finances when The Rev. Guy Butler came to be our vicar. Serving from 1961 until 1965, Father Butler saw St. Alban's through a time when there was a question about the chapel's viability.

In 1966, Charles Mason became vicar. Under Charlie's leadership, the chapel gained its independence from St. Peter's in 1968-69 and parish status in 1971. It is from this time that St. Alban's developed its passion for *social justice*. Father Mason left St. Alban's in 1976.

Since then, our parish has been blessed with growing stability in membership and finances. The Rev. Joseph M. Clark became our second rector in 1977 and served our congregation until 1985. Joe led us into *servant ministry*. During his tenure as rector, our involvement with twelve-step groups and the Joseph House ministries blossomed. It became apparent that we were outgrowing our space and began to look at expanding our physical plant. Father Clark earned his Doctor of Ministry during his time on sabbatical at St. Alban's.

*"We are a servant congregation and many of our ministries arise from interests and calls felt by members of the congregation." from Visioning Summit*

Our next rector was M. Douglas Girardeau, who came to us in the fall of 1987. Doug shared that he was advised to avoid St. Alban's, as we were a church that had worn out its old parish hall by welcoming community groups who needed meeting space. He decided that we might be the parish for him. The decision had been made to address our "informal communion space," our parish hall, and add an office and choir room before Doug arrived. Doug led us through the construction of our new parish hall, and involvement with twelve-step groups grew as did our involvement with the Joseph House. We had volunteers who worked each week at the facility, and we began to serve



a meal once each month to the homeless. During his tenure, St. Alban's became, and continues to be, involved at the diocesan level of leadership. The parish began an involvement with Habitat for Humanity. Between 1997 and 1998, St. Alban's undertook a study and redesign of our worship space in order to become *accessible to the physically handicapped/barrier-free*. *Diversity* became a characteristic of our congregation. Father Girardeau retired in 2000, but he and Ellen, his wife, remain members of our congregation.

Another important person in the life of our parish was Reese Rickards, who came to St. Alban's in 1993 as a member and served as a deacon in our diocese. Reese kept the needs of the world in front of our congregation. Aside from his many gifts of the spirit, Reese had gifts of technology, and introduced St. Alban's to the internet. The mark Reese and Jean, his wife, have made on St. Alban's is permanent.



St. Alban's called the Rev. Frieda L. Malcolm to be its fourth rector in 2001 during which time she earned her Doctor of Ministry degree. Our parish continued to grow in stability and ministries. Our social justice and servant ministries flourished, and Frieda led us to an awareness of *creation care*. Solar panels were installed as we aspired to become a "Green Church." Vestry meetings became organized around parish goals and mission, and vestry members became accountable for their areas of concentration. Outreach to the community and social justice ministries grew. Frieda has repeated service as a delegate to the General Convention. In her last years as rector,

the parish formed a committee to study the improvement of our organ, as the music ministry at St. Alban's is important. The digital organ enhancement of our existing pipe organ was accomplished in 2018. The parish became more serious about outreach, and in 2008 we began to have a fundraiser to provide funds for community, national, and international service organizations. Over the years, we have raised and donated almost \$100,000. The Very Reverend Doctor Frieda Malcolm retired in the summer of 2019. The Holy Spirit moves in our parish. Our congregation has discerned and raised four people to the vocational diaconate and three people to the priesthood. We have another entering seminary in the fall of 2020.

Social justice, servant ministry, physical accessibility, diversity, and creation care have become part of the St. Alban's identity, and we are open to what the Holy Spirit has in store for us in the future.

*"We have a diversity of thinkers," "Open, welcoming, diverse," "Congregation greets new people" - St. Alban's 2020 parish' interviews*



*“I came to St. Alban’s because my sister was a member. I felt connected to other people at St. Alban’s. It is a warm and welcoming parish- not felt at many other churches. The opportunities to contribute at St. Alban’s are significant and meaningful.” from parish interviews*

## Where We Are Now

### **Worship**

There are two Sunday services at 8 and 10:30 am. The early Eucharistic offers Rite I without music and the second service offers Rite II with music led by the choir. During the summer, it has been our practice to hold only one service with alternating Rites I and II. The Worship Committee meets multiple times a year to assist the rector with planning, evaluating and generating new ideas for our regular, seasonal and special occasion worship services.



*“I feel fed spiritually via music and liturgy.” from parish interviews*

The St. Alban's congregation has a strong lay presence both in the chancel and "behind the scenes". Eucharistic ministers, altar guild, acolytes, lectors, choir, greeters and ushers facilitate and enhance worship services.

Parishioners who are in charge of oblations for the service not only present elements at the altar but they also host the post worship fellowship. Lay Eucharistic Visitors take the Eucharist from the service to parishioners unable to attend when requested. In addition, our congregation includes those who have come from denominations other than the Episcopal Church.



We have an openness to a variety of liturgical experiences and might describe ourselves as both contemporary and traditional. Collaboration, flexibility and a solid background in Anglican liturgical theology and practice, are qualities we seek in a rector, one who will enhance our worship and meet the spiritual needs of our diverse St. Alban's family.



Music helps us “pray twice” at St. Alban’s. Our choir is an all-volunteer organization, which includes teens and adults of all ages. The choir practices once each week and leads the music at the 10:30 service on Sunday mornings. They have joined with other choirs, from area churches and with a regional university to perform in the Salisbury area. Most recently the choir has joined the American Spiritual Ensemble to perform the Duruflé *Requiem*.

Guest musicians accompany the choir and provide service music periodically during the year. Soloists and ensembles from the choir lead the summer service several times during the summer months.



**The choir entertains at the Fall Auction**

### **Christian Formation**

Adult Christian Formation is usually lay-led by parishioners, as are discussion forums on biblical or theological themes, supported by relevant readings and materials. Though the group examines a series or book over a number of weeks, participants may attend whenever they wish. Each summer, St Alban’s collaborates, along with other churches in the community, in providing a Vacation Bible School for children in our parish and in the community.



## **Care For Neighbor/Pastoral Care**

St Alban's is very serious about the ministry of caring for our neighbors. Those within our walls and all around us.

Throughout the school year, we help to support the students of Wicomico High, our public - faith partner school. We have donated school supplies, toiletries, gently used clothes, new hats, gloves and socks. We also donate nonperishable foods, along with help from the Maryland Food Bank, to the food pantry. This pantry has served as many as 70 students during the months of December and January.

We also prepare and serve lunch at Joseph House on the first Wednesday of the month. We serve an average of 70 people. Monies collected on the Sunday before, along with Advent and Lenten lunches donations, help support this mission.

When a family is in need, a food wagon provides meals and if necessary, childcare, transportation, and other needs.

During the winter for the past several years, a group of volunteers joined with other churches to take turns preparing and serving dinner for the homeless men staying at the cold-weather shelter housed at St. Peter's Episcopal Church. They served about 30 men. Volunteers from St. Alban's supervised overnight at the shelter during the month.

We volunteer to construct 2 ramps with the Chesapeake Housing Ministry, one in the spring and one in the fall. This ministry builds ramps for individuals with mobility issues who are in need.



Agape Ministries, which supports children of incarcerated parents, is also busy throughout the year. In the summer, the children attend Camp Wright. In August, backpacks filled with school supplies were provided. In December, the children are gathered for a Christmas party.



*St. Alban's 2020 Parishioner Interviews: "We believe in love and encouragement. 'Being Jesus' to people. For us it is important to give back and we care deeply for each other. There is also support and encouragement for mission trips." from parish interviews*

St. Alban's building is a resource for the community. Several 12 Step groups meet throughout the week. Many other groups also use the building for various reasons.

Mission trips have been offered through the Diocese, and St. Alban's parishioners have participated in trips within the United States (Niagara Falls) and abroad (Cuba, Costa Rica, and Peru).

### **Fellowship**

We are a warm, caring and accepting parish and have a myriad of exciting opportunities for gatherings throughout the year. The fellowship community is very active providing a connection between visitors, new members and established members of the congregation. Greeters are assigned every Sunday to welcome all. The life of the church includes many other opportunities: Advent and Lenten Lunches after services, Soup for the Soul (once a quarter Lunch), the Greening of the Church, and Game Nights. Our Annual Fall Auction brings everyone together to plan and put together this successful fun event. The resulting auction parties, events, and services are then enjoyed throughout the next year.





Checks are presented to Students Helping Honduras, a student organization that builds schools in Honduran villages. St. Alban's has supported this organization at the University of Maryland, College Park, and Salisbury University for several years.





“Greening of the church” done before Christmas Eve services by parishioners.



## **Finance**

With the support of the parishioners, St. Alban’s continues to meet its financial obligations and is particularly proud of its history of fulfilling the annual apportionment to the Diocese in full, which is a pledge our vestry made when we gained parish status. Local outreach and maintaining the physical plant are top priorities for the Vestry and our Finance Committee.

The 2020 Vision Capital Campaign has benefitted St. Alban’s recent and current projects. To date 74% of the total pledged amount, of just over \$84,000, has been received. Funds from this campaign have been used for solar panels, organ

enhancement, and floor restoration. A bid of just over \$15,000 has been approved for restoration of the labyrinth. In addition plans are to create a rain garden with thirsty native plants to provide natural beauty and reduce runoff to the Chesapeake Bay.

Two of our parishioners also bake bread at least once a month and the sales of the bread contribute to the budget. Although it is a small amount, the smell that brings into the parish hall on the baking Sunday and the deliciousness of the bread are priceless!



*“We met our budget and we increased the number of pledges this year”*

### **Property Internal**

We have been working towards becoming as environmentally sustainable as possible by installing:

- recyclable carpeting
- energy-efficient lightbulbs
- automatic timers for bathroom lights
- paper, plastic, aluminum, and battery recycling
- energy-efficient HVAC systems, natural gas for heating

St. Alban’s offers barrier-free accessibility. The building (most of which was constructed in 1960) has four classrooms, a nursery, a choir room, separate offices for rector and administrative assistant, and a small group/prayer room. There are four bathrooms, two of which have multiple stalls. The health department certified kitchen was recently updated with new cabinets and countertops. Several rooms were recently painted, with more painting planned for the upcoming months. There is a large parish hall (constructed 1992) where we hold coffee hour after each service, as well as church events. Several groups,



including three different 12-step groups, use this space for their meetings during the week.

### **Care of Creation (Property External)**

St. Alban's commitment to environmental sustainability extends outside our walls. Most noticeable are the solar panels in front of the building. We also host a community garden, and have recently received grant funding from the Chesapeake Bay Trust for the installation of a rainwater cistern and a native plant pollinator garden. There is a mostly closed-in courtyard including a columbarium. St. Alban's is home to a publically accessible labyrinth, which is under contract to be resurfaced in the Spring of 2020.



Our Solar Panels



Fall and Spring grounds cleanup crews



### **Communications**

We stay connected with our parishioners through our weekly online “E-pistle.” Here parishioners can find information about events for the week, birthdays and schedules for the weekly tasks. Our monthly publication, the Herald, is posted online and includes messages from the rector and senior warden, articles about newcomers and information about events.



**St. Alban's**  
Episcopal Church

**E-Pistle**  
*Christ Centered – Radically Embracing People and Creation*

E-Pistle Week: 2/25/2020 - 3/2/2020

February 25, 2020



Our social media presence is evolving through the use of Facebook, [www.facebook.com/stalbanssalisbury](http://www.facebook.com/stalbanssalisbury). Our sermons, choir performances, and pictures of events are posted regularly.

Our website, [www.stalbanssalisbury.com](http://www.stalbanssalisbury.com), is currently being updated.

## **Leadership**

The vestry of St. Alban's consists of nine members, including the Junior and Senior Wardens. Vestry members are elected by the congregation, three members at a time each year for three-year terms. Vestry elections occur at the Annual Meeting each year. A vestry member may be elected to a second consecutive three-year term; however, a year must intervene before further terms may be served. Wardens and the treasurer are elected by the vestry each year. The Registrar is an appointed office.

Our paid staff consists of the Rector, Administrative Assistant, nursery staff person and Music Director/Organist.

# **Our Future**

## **Preaching**

As a parish that welcomes children to be part of the entire worship experience, St. Alban's is searching for a priest whose sermons relate the scriptures to the life experiences of our diverse congregation. Because sermons are the primary venue of Christian formation for many in our congregation, they ideally would address the connection of Holy Scripture and our Baptismal Covenant to our spiritual journeys as the basis for our various parish ministries to the poor, the addicted, the challenged (mentally, physically, and emotionally), children of prisoners, and our own flock. We appreciate sermons that are delivered "in our midst" more frequently than formal addresses from the pulpit.



## **Teaching**

Christian formation is important for us all. Presently we do not have a core of children who can be grouped in "classes." In fact the only class is for adults, which meets on Sunday mornings between our two principal services. We are searching for a rector who will foster the development of varied formation experiences that might include multi-generational retreats, family-centered study, on-line opportunities, bible study prayer groups, and other events that occur not just on Sunday mornings.

*"There is an openness and willingness to share during the Adult Bible Study." from Visioning Summit*

## **Stewardship**

Because Stewardship is a large topic, we are looking for a priest who is skilled in communicating the theological basis for caring for all of our resources: our finances, yes, but also our personal well-being, our relationships, our spiritual lives, and our environment. We are a parish that is committed to living within its means and has been blessed with the ability to meet our fiduciary responsibilities, but stewardship has been limited to a once-a-year every-member canvass with reminders several times a year. St. Alban's seeks a priest who will foster a broader view and year-round awareness of all forms of stewardship.

*"Everyone is very giving of time and talent, not just in our walls but in our community." from Visioning Summit*

## **Evangelism**

St. Alban's ministries extend to many community needs in Salisbury and beyond. We are an inclusive and diverse congregation, interested in service, the environment, and social issues. Our Sunday services often include liturgies from other branches of our Anglican Communion. Our choir provides a variety of choral genres. We seek a rector who can help us understand evangelism and share who we are with our community in order to grow our ministries of taking Christ to the world.

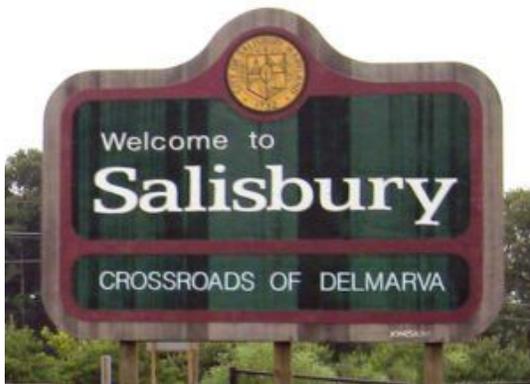


The Old Fire at Easter Watch

## Salisbury: Capital of the Eastern Shore

Saint Alban's is located in Salisbury, Maryland. The estimated population of the county is 102,900 including 33,100 residents of the city of Salisbury. We are located on the Delmarva Peninsula, which includes Delaware, the Eastern Shore of Virginia and part of Maryland between the Chesapeake Bay and the Atlantic Ocean. The area is within thirty minutes or less of sandy beaches, picturesque rivers and streams, historical sites, golf courses, parks and other areas of interest. Larger metropolitan cities are comparatively

close Washington D.C. (119 miles), Baltimore (106 miles), Norfolk, (132 miles), Philadelphia (128 miles), and New York City (220 miles).

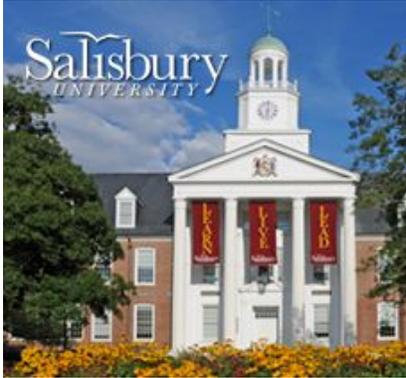


Salisbury is the county seat of Wicomico County and is home to many attractions highlighting the historical and cultural character of our area. The Ward Museum of Wildfowl Art is a world-renowned museum featuring wildfowl carvings and related

artifacts. The Chipman Cultural Center, on the site of one of the oldest churches in Salisbury, showcases the rich African American heritage of the area. An award-winning zoo within the City Park features animals of the Americas in natural settings. Many activities are hosted at the City Park throughout the year. Salisbury is proud to have been chosen as one of 26 communities around the country to host the National Folk festival for the past two years. This highly successful event hopes to become an established tradition in our area.

The Salisbury-Wicomico Area boasts a championship minor league baseball team, the Delmarva Shorebirds, affiliated with the Baltimore Orioles. The team plays its home game in the Arthur W. Perdue Stadium built in 1996. Visitors and residents enjoy, attending entertainment and sporting events at the Wicomico Youth and Civic Center, browsing local museums, and shopping in the modern shopping mall and the Historic Downtown Plaza.





A strong public school system operates in Wicomico County with a student population of 15,000 students. There are sixteen neighborhood elementary schools, one elementary/middle school, three middle schools, one middle/high school, three high schools and one evening night school. In addition to public schools, several private and parochial schools offer educational opportunities to students.

Wicomico County is home to two institutions of higher learning. Salisbury University was established in 1925 as a teacher’s college and now offers more than one hundred undergraduate and graduate major and minor degree programs. Money Magazine 2019 listed SU as one of the “Best Colleges for your Money.” Wor-Wic Community College, founded in 1975, is a fully accredited public two-year college offering an Associates Degree in fourteen credit programs. In nearby Somerset County, the historic town of Princess Anne is home to the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, which like SU, is a member of the University of Maryland System.



Peninsula Regional Medical Center (PRMC) in Salisbury, a subsidiary of the Peninsula Regional Health System, offers the widest array of specialty and subspecialty services on the Delmarva Peninsula. They are the largest and most experienced health care provider in the region. In operation since 1897, they have over 3,000 physicians, staff and volunteers to serve the residents of Salisbury and surrounding areas.

A wide variety of residential housing is available in Salisbury and Wicomico County. The Newtowne District is Salisbury’s oldest neighborhood with homes dating from the nineteenth century. Neighborhoods and housing developments surround the city offering numerous options for both rental or purchase in anywhere from urban to rural settings.

# Diocese of Easton

The Diocese of Easton is comprised of nine counties on the Maryland Eastern Shore, bounded by the Chesapeake Bay, Delaware and the Atlantic Ocean. It was created out of the Diocese of Maryland in 1868 and is comprised of 38 parishes, 70 clergy and 10,000 members. The largest cities in the Diocese are [Salisbury](#), [Ocean City](#), and [Easton](#), the centrally located city from which the diocese takes its name and where Trinity Cathedral, the bishop's seat, is located. Camp Wright, the diocesan camp, is located in [Stevensville](#). [Christ Episcopal Church of Kent Island](#), the oldest Christian congregation in Maryland, is a part of the diocese, and is also located in Stevensville. The Rt. Rev Santosh Marray, XI Bishop of Easton joined us in November 2016.

We are a Prayer-Centered Mission shaped Diocese. The Diocesan cross is also a visual reminder of four comprehensive focal points to organize our work moving forward: Mission! Spirituality! Formation! Vocation!

For more information: [www.dioceseofeaston.org](http://www.dioceseofeaston.org)



Camp Wright



Trinity Cathedral, Easton, MD

# **St. Alban's Search Committee 2020**

**Dee Rinehart - Committee Chairperson**

**Mike Carey**

**Carrie Conelly**

**Cristina Machin**

**David Mitchell**

**Alannah Raygor**

**Donna Parks**

**Kim O'Grady - Vestry Liaison**

## **CONTACT:**

**With questions:**

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**(410)376-3413**

**P.O. Box 406, Vienna, MD 21869**

## **Applications:**

**The Rev. Patrick Collins**

**Canon to the Ordinary**

**410-822-1919, ext. 304**

**[patrick@dioceseofeaston.org](mailto:patrick@dioceseofeaston.org)**

***St. Alban's invites you to worship with us.***



*“All these people took an interest in me. That was special for a kid.” from parish interviews*

**St. Alban's Episcopal Church**

**Location: 302 St. Alban's Dr., Salisbury, Maryland 21804**

**Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1511, Salisbury, Maryland 21802**

**410-742-6595**