

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS:

If you need to speak to someone immediately, we're here to help. Call the church office at 410-742-6595. Office hours (Monday - Thursday, 8 am - 12 Noon). For after hours contact, please use the Emergency Pager: 410-380-7052. Leave a call back number and a Vestry member will contact you as soon as possible.

If you need mini-chalices, they will be available from Monday - Thursday 9 a.m. - noon when the office is open. If you are unable to come into the office, please call Stephanie and she will bring them outside. If you need mini-chalices delivered to your home, let Stephanie know by 10 a.m. any Thursday and a Vestry member will deliver them to you.

It's that time again!!!! Our annual dinner at the Red Roost. On Wednesday, August 18th at 5:30. Please RSVP to Kim OGrady, 410-251-2786 or pkograde3@yahoo.com. See you then!!!

St. Alban's Choir is rehearsing Friday, August 20, with a pot luck social at 6:30pm in the choir room, and Thursday, August 26 at 7 pm. Anyone interested in joining the choir - please contact Veronica.

Attention Crafters: Faith Lutheran has been the recipient of a LARGE amount of donated yarn! Much of it is acrylic and worsted weight, but there are some other varieties, too. There is nearly every solid color and many variegated. Much of it is in smaller amounts—partial skeins. This is perfect for knitters, those who crochet, and other crafters of smaller projects. The yarn is currently spread out in Faith's fellowship room for easy "viewing." Karen Price can give you access to it at a time convenient for you—just call or text at 443-783-5212.

Sacred Ground is coming to St. Alban's.

The Sacred Ground program, created by the national Episcopal Church, will be led virtually by Julia Connelly Zahn of Camp Wright. Starting in September.

<https://www.episcopalnewsservice.org/2021/04/28/episcopalians-share-transformative-experiences-with-sacred-ground-racial-justice-curriculum/>

https://www.episcopalchurch.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2021/02/BBC-Becoming-Beloved-Community-Where-You-Are_2020.pdf

<https://www.episcopalchurch.org/sacred-ground/>
Questions: Jim Cockey james.cockey@gmail.com

Happy Birthday

Donna Parks 8/19



Happy Anniversary

Howard & Mary Doak 8/22



Masks/Singing – Masks are again recommended in general in church or on church property, and again we are recommending that people do not sing.

Seating / Social distancing -The front area of the nave from the breezeway doors forward, including all pews and 1 row of red chairs, is open with no restrictions regarding social distancing. You may sit wherever you choose, with whomever you choose. The back of the church, primarily with red chairs, will still have social distanced seating. People will self-select where they wish to sit and feel the most comfortable and safe.

UPCOMING

THURSDAY, AUGUST 20:
Choir Rehearsal

SUNDAY, AUGUST 22:
NO SERVICE AT ST. ALBAN'S CHURCH
Old Green Hill Church Service, 10:00am

St. Bartholomew's Church, Old Green Hill:

Everyone is invited to attend the annual worship service at St. Bartholomew's Church, Old Green Hill, on Sunday August 22nd at 10:00AM, which will feature live choral music. A

Community Picnic by the river will follow. A big change this year is that all food and drink will be provided free of charge, including famous Red Roost fried chicken. Picnickers need only to bring a lawn chair. Offerings at the service help to fund the picnic.

Bishop Santosh Marray will preside at the service assisted by clergy from the five Episcopal churches in Wicomico County. Only consecrated wafers will be offered during communion. There will be no live streaming of the Green Hill service nor a worship service at St. Alban's that day. Check the Old Green Hill Facebook page for future updates and for the service bulletin/program to be posted the week of the service.

PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT MASKS WILL BE MANDATORY DURING THE SERVICE. IF YOU PREFER TO SOCIAL DISTANCE, PLEASE BRING A LAWN CHAIR AND PLAN TO SIT OUTSIDE, NEXT TO AN OPEN WINDOW.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 24:
Vestry Meeting, 7:00pm

SUNDAY, AUGUST 29:
Deacon Mass, Rite II Service, 9:30am

LECTORS: Jen Cox, Jeremy Cox
TECH TEAM: Cristina Machin, Jim Cockey
VESTRY PERSON/USHER: Jeremy Cox
ALTAR GUILD: Sharon Walsh

On Sunday, August 15 we had 36 people attend in-person, we had 12 people join us via Zoom. And 0 on Facebook! Come and join us!

Epistle continued on page 2 & 3

Link to Vestry Minutes and Financials:
Please click [HERE](#) for the approved Vestry Meeting Minutes and approved Financial Statement.
(Minutes and Financial are posted once they are approved.)

Below please find the minutes from the joint meeting of members from St. Alban's Vestry and Search Committee and Faith Lutheran's Church Council. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Arlene White, Senior Warden or Dee Rinehart, Chair of the Search Committee.

Partnership Planning St. Alban's and Faith 8/1/2021

Arlene and Karen explain how we arrived at this point of creating a partnership.

Questions and discussion:

1. Worship times? Faith is flexible and has talked about possible Saturday evening services, although we currently worship at 11:00 a.m. on Sundays. St. Alban's holds a Rite 1 service Sundays at 8:00 a.m. and a family service using Rite 2 at 10:30 a.m. Each congregation holds only one summer service. Our liturgies are similar and our liturgical calendar is the same.
2. How are the logistics going to be handled? Faith needs a preacher for worship and regular pastoral care – 10 hours a week and St. Alban's would have 30 hours per week. It was suggested to create a joint council to handle incidentals as they come up. Episcopal Bishop suggested that Lutheran synod meetings would not be necessary for the shared pastor. The shared pastor would not have any administrative responsibilities at Faith.
3. Assuaging fears of change? Communication between the congregations and with the pastor is essential; need to emphasize we are not merging the churches – this will be a joint ministry which is very important for our larger community.
4. How will the search process involve Faith? Episcopal search process was explained: applications go to Dee and then to the Search Committee; the Search Committee conducts the first interview, and then if the candidate moves forward, Faith will be involved with the second interview; one person from Faith will serve on the Search Committee. Then members of the Search Committee visit the congregation where the pastor is serving and invite the pastor to visit the churches. This would be for the purpose of touring the community and visiting with each congregation's leadership. Before the candidate leaves the area, he or she would meet with the Bishop or their designee from the diocese/synod
5. This search process will likely be a slow one, it is not something that is rushed into. We will all need time to get to know one another better and learn to work together. This is an opportunity for both churches to have a place in the larger community by working together.
6. What will be involved in contract negotiations? Treasurers from both congregations will be involved with this. All points of a contract will be considered – health insurance, pension...
7. What will timeline look like? Does this shared ministry proposal have the potential to limit or expand the pool of candidates? Written agreement between churches for potential candidates should be the next step. Both synod and diocese agree to explore the joint ministry. We already have some shared ministries: Joseph House, faith-based partners with schools, St. Alban's shared Faith's PFLAG fundraising link.
8. Does St. Alban's have online services? A webmaster? Yes, they have Zoom, a webpage and Facebook live streaming and "sort of" a webmaster who does take care of the website. Faith has live services only; they don't have the capabilities or equipment for online services.
9. Would we share holiday services that have to be on specific days or times? Possibly.

Hopes:

- A way forward for both congregations
- opportunities for more activities together
- ability to expand outreach ministries
- that we can prove to the world this can be done
- can grow together
- have lots of opportunities to share – adult education, VBS, choral concert
- double the opportunities and ministries to serve
- stronger ministries for each congregation
- moving beyond parochialism
- each achieves calling a wonderful pastor for their church
- excited about having a consistent spiritual leader
- share environmental ministry

Karen, Dee and Arlene will begin work on the shared covenant.



August 22nd is **Be an Angel Day**. The day encourages us to give thanks for angels by imitating them, by encouraging good deeds and kindness towards others (anonymously if that's possible, just like angels often do).

Be an Angel Day was started by Jaune Howard of Upperco, Maryland, in 1993 when the concept of doing random acts of kindness and when angels were beginning to attract some attention among the general population. "The primary goal," says Jaune, "is to reach someone who is shut off from love."

As the years continued, **Be an Angel Day** evolved into a day of putting others before ourselves. It is primarily a non-denominational, non-profit event, and the manner of serving is left up to each participant.

The angelic help you can offer is not defined or limited. It can be physical, emotional, or spiritual. Use kind words, forgive or pray for someone. Think about paying a stranger's toll, sending an anonymous card to someone who needs cheering up, or, if you can afford it, buy some groceries for a family out of work and leave them on the porch. Donate blood. Take a child on a nature walk or help her plant a tree. Visit someone in a hospital or nursing home.

The angels, our faithful companions, are sure to be delighted as we share our knowledge of them with one another. Let us let our angelic side shine through, this day, and always!