

Herald

St. Alban's Mission:
"Christ-Centered, Radically Embracing People and Creation"

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE MEMBERS AND FRIENDS
OF SAINT ALBAN'S PARISH, SALISBURY, MARYLAND



2023
HAPPY NEW YEAR

“May your coming year be filled with magic and dreams and good madness. I hope you read some fine books and kiss someone who thinks you’re wonderful, and don’t forget to make some art – write or draw or build or sing or live as only you can. And I hope, somewhere in the next year, you surprise yourself.”

—Neil Gaiman



Published monthly: Send articles & photos by the 3rd Sunday of the month.

Physical Address
302 St. Alban's Drive
Salisbury, MD 21804

Office Hours: Monday -Thursday
8:00 am - 12 Noon

Mailing Address
P.O. Box 1511
Salisbury, MD 21802

Phone 410-742-6595
Emergency Pager 410-380-7052

@ stalbanssalisbury@gmail.com

www.stalbanssalisbury.com

facebook.com/stalbanssalisbury

Sunday Worship

Starting January 8th, there will be two services with Eucharist each Sunday:

– Holy Eucharist, Rite I
at 8:00 a.m. with no music

– Holy Eucharist, Rite II
at 9:30 a.m. with music

ALL ARE WELCOME!

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



This is our identity as a parish, which we articulated with these words. We endeavor to follow Christ in welcoming “all sorts and conditions of [humanity].” We offer baptism and eucharist to all, and the pastoral offices of reconciliation, ministry to the sick, and Christian burial to those who ask. We do not discriminate with regard to gender, ethnicity, or sexual orientation or identity, or mental capacity. With regard to marriage, our policy is to meet all couples desiring a Christian wedding. The legal requirements, both civil and church, must be met. We do not discriminate on the basis of gender. However, the clergy may decline to officiate for other reasons.



A Message from **Rev. Margaret +**

As we begin 2023 let us look at what our Episcopal Book of Common Prayer says about Christian Hope. We need to remember our faith and how it affects our lives as we enter into this new year. I pray for you to be able to use this whenever questions come to you this year.
Rev. Margaret, Rector

The Christian Hope

Q. What is the Christian hope?

A. The Christian hope is to live with confidence in newness and fullness of life, and to await the coming of Christ in glory, and the completion of God's purpose for the world.

Q. What do we mean by the coming of Christ in glory?

A. By the coming of Christ in glory, we mean that Christ will come, not in weakness but in power, and will make all things new.

Q. What do we mean by heaven and hell?

A. By heaven, we mean eternal life in our enjoyment of God; by hell, we mean eternal death in our rejection of God.

Q. Why do we pray for the dead?

A. We pray for them, because we still hold them in our love, and because we trust that in God's presence those who have chosen to serve him will grow in his love, until they see him as he is.

Q. What do we mean by the last judgment?

A. We believe that Christ will come in glory and judge the living and the dead.

Q. What do we mean by the resurrection of the body?

A. We mean that God will raise us from death in the fullness of our being, that we may live with Christ in the communion of the saints.

Q. What is the communion of saints?

A. The communion of saints is the whole family of God, the living and the dead, those whom we love and those whom we hurt, bound together in Christ by sacrament, prayer, and praise.

Q. What do we mean by everlasting life?

A. By everlasting life, we mean a new existence, in which we are united with all the people of God, in the joy of fully knowing and loving God and each other.

Q. What, then, is our assurance as Christians?

A. Our assurance as Christians is that nothing, not even death, shall separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

A message from the Senior Warden

Mary Doak - January 2023



I'd like to take the opportunity to thank the outgoing members of the 2022 Vestry as they complete their terms of service. To Jim Cockey, Senior Warden for 2022; Cristina Machin, Vestry Liaison for Fellowship and Liaison for the Rector Search Committee; and Jeremy Cox, Vestry Liaison for Communication--a heartfelt THANK YOU for your service, dedication and commitment to St. Alban's Parish!

The Vestry is a diverse group of lay members of the church who are elected by you, the congregation, to serve with the Rector as the leadership and governing body of the Parish. Our Vestry is called to work together for the betterment of the Parish. I ask each of you to keep all the Vestry members in your prayers so that we will be better equipped to do the work of the church. Knowing that we have your love, support, and prayers will make that work so much easier!

Christmas Eve Setup

By: Michelle Ben

Here are the pictures I took of Altar Guild setting up and of the final set up. Everything looks wonderful.





Photos By: Arlene White

Greening of the church 2022





Jim Brack: The man who never stopped singing

By Jeremy Cox

When Margaret Brack was hired by St. Alban's and Faith Lutheran as their shared rector, it was a package deal.

Her husband, Jim, has no official title with either congregation. But don't let that fool you. Throughout their more than three decades of marriage, each partner has offered the other mutual support. And that continues to be the case in Salisbury, where Jim literally has Margaret's back – when she's at the pulpit, he's behind her in the choir.

Singing has been a constant thread in his life. It landed him his first job at 7 years old, introduced him to his wife and gave him heightened purpose during his retirement years.

Some info about Jim's background: He grew up in Southwest Baltimore in a neighborhood called Violetville. He served in the Air Force from 1962-1966. After training in Texas, he was shipped to South Korea and later Italy. He worked as an air policeman, rising to the rank of an airman second-class.

Jim graduated with a sociology degree from the University of Maryland Baltimore County and then went on to work for the state for 35 years as a parole/probation officer. Upon his retirement, he followed Margaret on her journey from the seminary in Wisconsin to her priest-in-charge gig in Western Maryland to her current position in Salisbury.

I met with Jim for an interview at St. Alban's on a drizzly morning in mid-December. If the weather was gloomy, you wouldn't have known it from Jim's disposition. He smiled from the first minute to the last of our hour-long chat. The guy just radiates warmth.

Here is a transcript of our conversation, edited for length and clarity.

You've lived a life. You contain multitudes, and now we're gonna condense that all down to one page. Oh, okay. No biggie.

As first things are concerned, when I was 7 years old, my mother answered an ad in the newspaper for a boy chorus in the Episcopal church that was across town. And, and so we answered that ad. And I sang "My Country Tis of Thee" [in the audition] and was accepted into the choir and started singing and was paid.

How did she know that singing was your vocation?
Because I sang all the time. Like around the house.

Did you volunteer for the Air Force?

Well, you volunteer to dodge the draft. My number would have come up and I could have gone into the Army for three years instead of Air Force.

Why did you leave the Air Force?

That kind of life was exciting to be in Korea in Italy. But that's not what I wanted to do.

Did those experiences overseas shape who you are today?

Oh, in many ways. Getting along with other people and other cultures and exploring those kinds of things. I grew up in Baltimore, and I can't ever remember having my parents having a road trip anywhere. Except in the state.

To be a parole/probation officer, it seems like a kind of job that just invites constant frustration. Maybe I'm wrong. Is it?

I enjoyed it. Yeah, I have a lot of fun doing that. I enjoyed the people that I met that I supervised. They were probably certainly more enjoyable than the administration that I had to deal with.

What drew you to being a parole/probation officer?

I passed the test.

Okay. I'm sure you can pass other tests.

Well, yeah.

But you say you enjoyed working in the criminal justice system. I don't imagine that would spring to mind for most people, but it does for you. Why is that?

I don't know. I have a positive attitude towards the people I was working with. They were criminals, but they weren't criminals. I didn't treat them as criminals, I treated them as people who maybe had problems and needed to work with. In my agency, I also trained adjuncts or just volunteered as an adjunct trainer, or just volunteered to do training for the agency and taught stress management to my peers appears, and I had really a lot of fun doing that.

How did you and Margaret meet?

Yes, we sang in a course together in Columbia, Maryland, and would show up early for rehearsals. And we started talking.

What was that spark between the two of you?

Well, I mean, she is a spark there's no doubt Yeah. And she was certainly irresistible to me. From that beginning, we formed an acapella quartet, from members of the chorus. And we did national anthems for the Baltimore Orioles, national anthems for when Toronto would come, we'd sing "O Canada." We performed as a quartet doing festivals in parties. Christmas parties was a busy time of year.

What was the name of your quartet?

It was called the New Supreme Quartet. We got together after choir rehearsals at a place called the Supreme Court. It was racquetball court. And so we would get there after rehearsal and have a pitcher of beer and some pretzels.

What's the secret to staying together so many years?

Well, it's having a sense of humor, for one. You have to laugh at everything. And just know you want to get along. And we enjoyed singing.

What's it like to have your spouse come up to you and say, you know, "I think I want to go into the priesthood." [Note: Until this point in their marriage, Margaret had been working for the Roman Catholic church, and they attended Catholic Mass. Jim, not being a Catholic, was unable to take communion with her.]

There was an opening at an Episcopal Church, where they needed an organist and choir director. The priest there at the Episcopal Church asked, five minutes into the interview, "Why haven't thought about being a priest." And that's when it started.

The neat thing about that was that she then stopped being Catholic. She said, "Yeah, I'll be a be an Episcopalian." We were able to have communion together for the first time and really participate in a religious ceremony together.

What did that mean for you?

Well, that meant a lot. I didn't know how much it meant until it happened.

So as you see it, what is the job, if there is a job, of a pastor's husband?

For me? To maintain my sense of humor. I mean, it's, it's what keeps me going. Yeah, have fun in life. I've had some, I guess, rough things that have happened to me. But they're all funny. No, being hit by a car is not fun. Not on the face of it. Yeah and having cancer was not fun. But I could have fun, make fun of it.

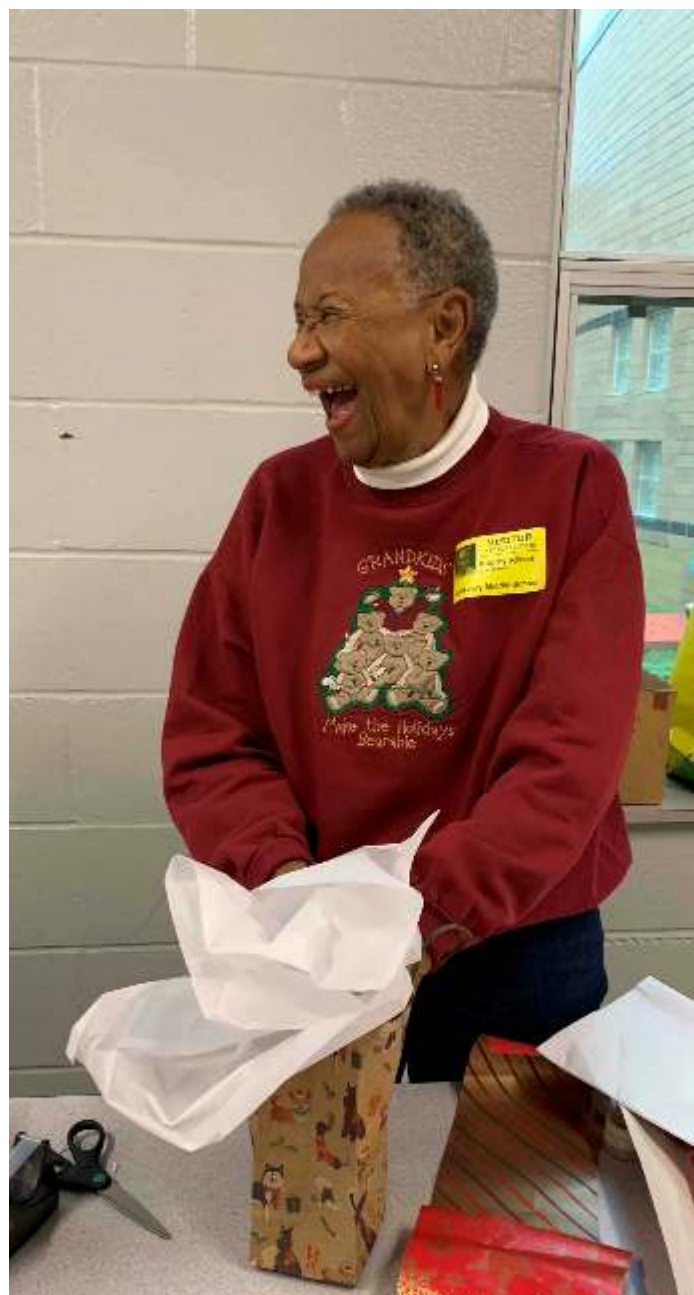
You want to go into the cancer story there.

Yeah, I was diagnosed with prostate cancer. And so I had robotic laser surgery.

So this was like about, what, 15 years ago?

I guess around maybe 2010, 2011. Yeah. I have a blur of years. After 1941, nothing interesting happened after that.

The Salisbury Middle Holiday Shop



The Salisbury Middle Holiday Shop

The SMS holiday shop was an enormous success this year, and would not have been possible without the support of St. Alban's. From the creatively decorated gift bags, to the many, many items donated to the holiday shop, to the dedicated "wrappers" - your gifts of time, talent, and treasure allowed middle school students to shop for their families and friends. Students take great delight in choosing the perfect gift for a parent, grandparent, or sibling. A special thanks to Arlene, Audrey, Howard, and Kathy who came to school to wrap the gifts for students. I am blessed to be a member of such a giving community

- with gratitude and love, Katherine



The Ordination to the Sacred Order of Deacons of Susannah Elizabeth Southern December 17, 2022

Photos by: Kim O'Grady and Michelle Ben



A New Year's Resolution.

Place 52 pennies - bright and shiny or dull and worn - in a jar.

At the beginning of each week, remove a penny from the jar. Use it to consider the importance of the week to come, the importance of each day of that week, anticipating the ordinary blessings held within as well as the extraordinary ones. And then, at the end of the week, give thanks for all you have experienced and received.

This may be done by individuals or by groups.



Beth Jones & Chuck Porter New Roles!

January brings a pair of big announcements in the form of job changes for a couple of members of St. Alban's who work at Wor-Wic. Beth Jones is moving into a new role as the college's Director of Assessment. Chuck Porter is moving into Beth's former role as the chair of the Arts & Humanities Department. Please wish both Beth and Chuck luck in their new positions!



Elizabeth C. Jones, PhD



SHUVUNDA and Men's Spaghetti Bash

Saturday January 28th, 2023, 5:30pm.

Men of St. Alban's: Please sign up to cook a spaghetti dinner. We count on you for this evening! Sign up in the breezeway



What the heck is Shuv-unda!? Well, you know those items in your house that you have that you never opened, and you swear you'll open them one day? You know, the ones you “shuved unda the bed?” Shuv-unda is a fun and interactive gift exchange. This an opportunity to “move forward” a present that was not your favorite (only new/unused present- bought or made)- no judgement!

There will be a fun way to do the exchange. Warning: there is a potential you will bring this gift to 2024 Shuvanda!!!

Sign up in the breezeway so we can plan how much spaghetti we need. If you want to participate in Shuvunda, bring a wrapped gift.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

The Fellowship Committee

Christmas Caroling

By: Cristina Machin



For the Dec 11th Caroling, organized by Nancy Link and joined by members of Faith Lutheran, two groups of singers went caroling around town.

Outside or inside, we drew a crowd! Some people joined and sang their heart out. We may even appear in the newsletter at Mallard Landing. The most excitement took place when the Salisbury zoo wolves decided to howl along with our caroling (we were caroling nearby).

Plan on coming next year- you never know who may join us!



Celebration of Attar Guild on 12/4.

Photos by: Cristina Machin

Pictured: Katherine West, Sona Morrison, Carrie Conelly, Jim Cockey, Debbie Rossi, Sandy Grim, Linda Tolbert and Michelle Ben.



Thank you for
your service
in this ministry.

St. Alban's and Community News



Chili Sale

Thank you to everyone who supported the Chili Sale on December 4. It was a sell out (13 quarts, 24 pints, 24 loaves of bread and 140 cookies). All profits, \$453.05, will be sent to the Maryland Food Bank. Thank you to Julie Crabill and Jim Cockey for making the bread and Cristina Machin for helping with the sale.

--Shelly Madsen

Episcopal Youth Event, July 4-8, 2023, College Park, Md.

EYE and PEYE (Province 3 Pre-Eye) are on for summer '23!

Monday, July 3, 2023, 10:00 PM

The Episcopal Youth Event (EYE) will take place July 4-8, 2023 at the University of Maryland! And Province III Youth will gather on the 3rd to enjoy fellowship and a special tour of the National Cathedral! So, put this special event on your calendar now. More details as they are available.





St. Alban's
Episcopal Church
Herald Newsletter

P.O. Box 1511
Salisbury, MD 21802

Happy New Year!

Bloom where you are planted.

1 Corinthians 7: 20-24



Christmas rose

Photo by: Pat Layton

This is a hellebore, variety Christmas rose blooming now. We've never had it bloom before Christmas but it's a bright spot in a winter garden!