

St Alban's
Episcopal Church

February 2021

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

February 1:
1st day of Black
History Month

February 14:
Valentine's Day

February 15:
President's Day

February 16:
Shrove Tuesday /
Mardi Gras

February 17:
Ash Wednesday

Trust in the
LORD
with all
your heart

Proverbs 3:5

www.StAlbansSalisbury.com



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JOIN US via ZOOM FOR

Sunday Worship

9:30 AM

Sunday Zoom Service at 9:30am

We are limited to a total of 20 people in church as requested by the Bishop. **Please make a reservation for each Sunday service you are planning to attend.** For reservations: call or email the office no later than 10:00 am the Thursday before each service.

We realize that our local COVID numbers are still elevated so please make your decision based on your own personal circumstances.

You will continue to receive the link and bulletin for each week's service via email.

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.



Angels' Corner

Angels do not always make direct appearances....even when the landscape seems unoccupied by angels, their presence can be felt. They have flown, subtly but unmistakably, into the very texture of ordinary life.

- Harriet Scott Chessman

INTRODUCING VESTRY MEMBER

Sharon Walsh

Vestry 2021 - Recording Secretary



I've been a member of St. Alban's for over 40 years though I was raised a Methodist. I have enjoyed participating in the life of the church in many ways-singing in the choir, serving on the Fellowship Committee and Altar Guild, helping with Joseph House, two terms as a Vestry member and three years as secretary to the Vestry, and holding the editor's job for the Epistle and Herald in their early years. Both my daughters, Katy and Anne, were baptized here and served as acolytes.

I retired in 2008 from Wor-Wic Community College where I taught English composition and literature and English as a Second Language. Until this past fall, I taught an adult English class five hours a week in the Princess Anne mosque where most of my students were Sudanese women, a wonderful and inspiring group.

My husband Ron grew up in Catonsville, MD and is a retired project manager for NASA. In our blended family, we have 5 adult children (4 girls and a boy) and five grandchildren (four boys and a girl). We have a 32-foot sailboat and spend most of our sailing time on the Choptank River with occasional excursions along the Bay. We also like kayaking, hiking, and in pre-Covid times, traveling, especially to Germany where two of our grandkids and their parents live.

Both of us are Board members of Allen Historical Society-Ron is VP and I'm recording secretary-and have been active in getting a museum established there. As a history lover, I also volunteer at the Nabb Center transcribing handwritten historical documents. I am looking forward to working with the Vestry again in this important time of transition.

Senior Warden's Letter - February 2021

Arlene White



The month of February pulls our thoughts almost immediately to Valentine's Day on February 14th but we should also remember February 15th as National Friendship Day. We have often said that "You can't pick your family; that's why you get to pick your friends." Our friends often come in all sorts of shapes, sizes, ages. They come from various parts of our lives. Some stay for the long haul; some stay only briefly but have an everlasting influence over who we have become. Sometimes it seems that it was easier to make friends when you were a kid. You weren't carrying so much baggage perhaps. But making friends when you are an adult allows you to dig deeper into yourself and others, allows you to choose those people who can support you, be honest with you, and love you no matter what.

Friends are important to our well-being. This past year has given us ample proof of that. We have depended greatly upon those friends who were sharing our anxiety, fear, sadness, faith and joy. Zoom, Facebook, FaceTime opened new windows to the world as well as

providing us access to familiar faces. Perhaps we had more or better time to get to know people in different and meaningful ways.

There were many examples of strong friendships in the Bible. When Naomi's husband and two sons died, she thought God had forsaken her. She decided to return to Bethlehem alone. But Ruth, her daughter-in-law, refused to leave Naomi's side, saying "Wherever you go, I will go." The two became inseparable friends and looked out for each other. In the New Testament, Jesus was friends with Mary, Martha and Lazarus. They were so close that when Lazarus died, Martha and Mary sent Jesus a message. Jesus answered their call and raised their brother from the dead.

We have many examples of friendship here at St. Alban's - friendships that date back many years, and some that have just recently started. But all include a shared faith in each other and in God and the friendship manifests itself in so many ways. There are the phone calls and e-mails checking on people. There are people offering rides to doctors' appointments or dropping off food when someone is ill or sad. Sympathetic ears and virtual hugs are very much in demand. And we don't have to ask for any of these things because we know that "a friend loves at all times."

THREE TRAITS OF A POSITIVE FRIENDSHIP

by Holly Lebowitz Rossi

(excerpted from an article on Guideposts.org)

Cultivating just a few positive relationships can be a source of joy, support and satisfaction throughout your life. The following are 3 traits of positive friendships:

They are intentional. As few as five friends - people you consider true companions who understand you, influence you to be your best self and are there to encourage you when life's challenges arise - can make a big impact on your overall well-being.

They are based on common interests. Experts indicate that positive friendships often start with common interests. This might seem intuitive, or counter to the idea that "opposites attract," but even if you love spicy food and your best friend craves comfort food, a shared love of cooking and eating together is a bonding experience that forms a solid base for an authentic, deeply meaningful friendship.

They are Connected in real Life. While social media allows us to stay connected with friends and family near and far, it's the "real" connections of conversation, time in the same place and even phone calls that cement friendships and bring out their most positive aspects. Dan Buettner, a researcher who studies longevity and friendships, told the *New York Times*, "In general you want friends with whom you can have a meaningful conversation. You can call them on a bad day and they will care."

Valentines to give your children and others

Acceptance: Teach them they are loved for what they are.

Give this gift with a kiss.

Self-Confidence: Help them understand that they can trust themselves.

Give this gift with a hug.

Life without needless fears: Don't let them see you as a worrier.

Give this gift with laughter.

Appreciation: Help them become a person who has a and everything around them.

Give this gift as they go out the door.

Faith: Introduce them to God, the best friend they will ever have.

Give this gift by taking them to church every Sunday.



VESTRY UPDATE

VESTRY UPDATE FROM THE JANUARY 2021 VESTRY MEETING

Here are some highlights from our meeting in January:

INTERNAL PROPERTY

- Roof update: The work is not complete and there are still leaks in two places: rear bathrooms and rector's office corner near private restroom. Custom flashing over the rector's office and a new collar for the rooftop fan motor are needed.
- Air purification system: Howard Doak is communicating with vendors about proposals and may have more information in February
- White boards have arrived for the 3 classrooms and will be hung soon.

FINANCES

- Year-end statements have been sent. Contact Shelly Madsen if you have questions.
- The 2019 Audit was sent via Federal Express to Diocesan Office by Jenny Buchanan and a copy of the original 2019 Audit was provided for the office file.
- Recommendations by the Audit Committee for changes in some procedures are being reviewed.
- The 2021 budget was approved which includes paying our diocesan apportionment in full, as has been our tradition.

WORSHIP

- The Church's Comcast contract is up and running and the last couple weeks of services have been streaming using the Comcast internet. We currently have WiFi in the nave, but it is not strong enough to be available in the offices and throughout the entire church without running some wires through the attic. Brian Raygor is still overseeing the completion of full installation and is making plans to run the necessary wiring through the attic and provide WiFi for the entire church.
- Zoom services are currently being simultaneously streamed over Facebook to provide an additional option for congregation members to view. Currently, Zoom is the more popular option, which is probably because (1) people are used to it and (2) not everyone is "friended" with St. Alban's on Facebook. We could probably broadcast a higher quality signal directly to Facebook, rather than broadcasting the Zoom feed onto Facebook, but since Zoom is more popular for now, that is probably putting the cart before the horse. However, if we wish to continue broadcasting once regular services resume, then Facebook is the better option, and it is free.
- The sound system in the church is now connected to the laptop to improve sound quality in the nave.
- Information will be forthcoming regarding the availability of ashes in the parking lot on Ash Wednesday in the morning and at lunch.

Continued on page 7

COMMUNICATION

- Information will be forthcoming regarding updating / creating a new parish directory.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

- There will be a Lenten study / prayer group meeting via Zoom on Sunday evenings in Lent from 6:00-7:00 p.m. See the link in the E-pistle and bulletin.

FELLOWSHIP

- Continue to watch for updated information in the E-pistle and bulletin on the Service Auction and Gift Card Raffle. Funds raised will support the Rector's Discretionary Fund.

SEARCH COMMITTEE

- Our last round of searching ended without a call for a rector. We will be reviewing our OTM paperwork, and reopening the search end of February beginning of March.

GENERAL INFORMATION

- The Vestry continued a discussion of long range goals for 2021.
- The Vestry will begin to prepare the 2020 Parochial Report for the diocesan and national office. It is due March 1, 2021.
- The Vestry is again participating in the Prayer Project where Vestry members pray for all members of the church on a regular basis.
- The Bishop has agreed to the Vestry's request to have Alisha stay with us longer. He has extended her stay until at least April 4, 2021. She will continue to preach on the 4th Sunday each month.
- The Vestry approved 2 new members for the Endowment Fund Committee: Mary Doak and Cristina Machin.

If you have any questions, please contact a Vestry member listed in the bulletin each Sunday. Our meetings are on Zoom and are open to everyone. Just let Jeremy Cox know if you need the link.





BLESSINGS

Mike Mathers



On Sunday, January 10th, St. Alban's celebrated the Feast of the Epiphany in part by reviving an old tradition of writing a blessing on the front door of the house with chalk. That Sunday, and during the week afterwards, a team of volunteers delivered blessed chalk and prayer instructions to as many members of the congregation as possible so that we might feel united, even while isolating in our homes, by participating in this tradition together. Please enjoy these pictures of homes receiving the blessing.



The coming season of Ash Wednesday and Lent will also require creative thinking to unite the St. Alban's family while many of us continue to isolate. Please keep an eye on the weekly E-Pistle for announcements of the service schedule and any other projects and activities.



Blessed Chalk

Photos shared by: Cristina Machin

Blessed Chalk event 1/10/2021.

Rev. Laura Dorsey blessing the chalk.

Blessed chalk bags for delivery.

What I Love



When Jose died, I took over care for my little partner, Gizmo, who has traveled by car to Texas and back as well as restaurants, library, choir, stores and church meeting lovely people along the way.

In my late partner's inspiration, a reading garden in Maria's honor

NANCY LINCK



Photos shared by:

ARLENE WHITE



ONLINE CLOSED BID SERVICE AUCTION AND RAFFLE

By: Shelly Madsen



Event: Online closed bid service auction and raffle

Goal: Raise \$750 for the Rector's Discretionary Fund

Our 2020 Fall Auction fundraiser was canceled at the worst possible time: area residents need financial help now more than ever, and we were not able to contribute to the Rector's Discretionary Fund through our annual auction.

Members of the auction committee have put their creative thinking caps on, and are going to host a service auction in February, with 100% of the proceeds going to the Rector's Discretionary Fund (RDF). The RDF supports people in our community that have immediate short term financial needs. Money from the fund is often spent to help make a rent or utility payment. In the past, the service portion of the Fall Auction has raised \$500-\$1,000; we hope to be able to raise at least \$750 for the Rector's Discretionary Fund this year.

The list of auction items will be published on February 8 and will include great services you can bid on such as kayaking on the creek, special meal deliveries, yard work, etc. We'll also publish a list of gift cards in the gift card raffle baskets at that time. Auction bids will be accepted February 8-17. This will be a closed bid auction, so you won't be able to see what anyone else has bid. You can submit one "best" bid for each item you are interested in. Bids can be submitted via our online portal, phone, or email. When you are submitting your bids you can also buy raffle tickets.

Service winners will be notified by February 21 and payment will need to be received by March 10. Payment for raffle tickets will also be due by March 10. Payments can be made by dropping a check off at the church, mailing a check to the church's PO Box or by paying online via WeShare.

Service donors will be notified of who has bought their service only after payment has been received.

The gift card raffle will take place after the March 14 service.

Timeline

February 8 – List of services and raffle basket(s) published, bidding opens (Link to the online bidding portal, and details of how to bid by email or phone, will be published on February 8)

February 8-17 – Individuals submit bids by online portal, email or phone (Submit one "best" bid for each item you are interested in – all bids are confidential)

February 21 – Winners notified

March 10 – Payment due (Once payment has been received, the service provider will be notified of who bought their service)

March 14 – Raffle Sunday – Raffle winners will be picked following the 9:30 church service



Search Committee

Dee Rinehart - Committee Chairperson



Search Committee News

When we reopened our search in the fall, Canon Collins warned us that the fall numbers of clergy seeking positions were half of what they were in the spring. While our search was open, all applicant names were held by the diocese until our search was closed. (It is current diocesan practice to hold all applicant names until the end of the parish's application period to give every applicant a fair chance at consideration.)

What that means for us is that discernment may be already be underway between candidates and other parishes in search of priests by the time we receive their names, as was the case with both of our searches. We received four names from Canon Collins on November 18. Two of the priests accepted calls elsewhere within days of our initial contact with them to arrange a first interview, and we began discernment with the two remaining candidates in Advent and through the Christmas season. One did not to match our parish, and the final candidate, just this week, announced acceptance of a call to another parish.

We take a deep breath and a brief pause to review our Office of Transitional Ministry files to make sure that the information is current and reopen our search to coincide with the spring Transitional Ministry Conference. Your supporting prayers and patience mean the

Black History Month

Songs of Freedom and Justice

Dr. John Wesley Wright, the Wright Studio Quartet, and Veronica Tomanek present: Songs of Freedom and Justice, a community interactive learning experience.

Dr. John Wesley Wright is an African American song traditions educator and has developed programs that enlighten participants to the evolution of these song traditions. The songs include spirituals, work songs, freedom songs of the Civil Rights movement, and more. The messages of these pieces are more relevant today than ever. They are songs for everyone!

Dr. Wright, with students from his vocal studio at Salisbury University & St. Alban's music director, Veronica Tomanek, will present two different sessions on Sunday, February 21 at 3 pm & Sunday, February 28 at 3 pm. Both sessions are available to the public, and will be presented in a virtual format via Zoom link. After each presentation, there will be time for Q & A. add If you are interested in both events, you must register for both. Due to limitations with Zoom, we will only have 100 links available. To register or for more info, Call 410-742-6595 or email: StAlbansSalisbury@gmail.com.

MEN'S COLD WEATHER SHELTER



Photos and article by Kim O'Grady



On Saturday, January 16th, a few volunteers met at the Langelier building in Salisbury to prepare dinner for the Men's Cold Weather Shelter.

We made chicken with rice, string beans, cole slaw and a roll. For dessert they enjoyed vanilla pudding and a brownie. We fed 26 very thankful men.

Thank you to those amazing volunteers.

Not pictured are George Demko and Rod Layton.

THERE ARE STILL OPPORTUNITIES TO VOLUNTEER!

The shelter is still looking for volunteers to donate food, new socks, underwear, gloves, hats, scarves, toiletries, personal sanitizer, masks etc., help with checking the men in, and men to stay overnight. Donations are greatly appreciated. Take your donations to the Langalar Building (after 5pm) on N. Division St. or contact Kim O'Grady

pkograde3@yahoo.com

Thank you for your continued support!

CHRISTIAN FORMATION REPORT

By Jim Cockey

My Vestry assignment this year is Christian Formation. Reflecting on my task led me to wonder 'how is a Christian formed?' All church activities have an element of formation. It is clearly present in preaching, worship, in the eucharist, in welcoming strangers, in visiting the sick, in outreach, in faithful stewardship of church money and property, in the fellowship of cooking and eating together. St. Alban's and much of modern Christianity has come to embrace the notion that care for the environment is also part of our call as Christians.

I see my Vestry responsibility in Christian formation as adding on the small element which is not routinely addressed in the other aspects of our shared ministry: ensuring that opportunities for shared, personal prayer and study are available at St. Alban's, especially during this period when we are forced to be apart.

An Advent study group met online for the four Monday evenings in Advent, using the Living Compass series books as a common thread. It was an opportunity to pray and study together with friends, despite the pandemic, during a holy season.

We also had a single session January 6, for the Feast of the Epiphany. The planned meditations and prayers were redirected in response to the violence at the Capitol earlier in the day.

We will be starting a prayer and study group for Lent. We will be meeting on Sunday evenings in Lent, from 6:00 to 7:00. We will be basing our meetings on the weekly lectionary readings and that day's sermon. Any other suggestions are welcome.

Prayer and Lenten Study Group Info:

Lenten study/prayer group will meet virtually Sunday evenings from 6:00 to 7:00, on March 7, 14, 21, and 28. The format will be based on the lectionary readings and sermon for each Sunday. Other ideas are welcome. Please contact Jim Cockey with questions, ideas and whether you might be interested in participating.

Please contact Jim Cockey with questions, ideas and whether you might be interested in participating. james.cockey@gmail.com

To Join:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85750735353?pwd=V0JaMkFjZDhINUNCUC83eUlyYXZqQT09>

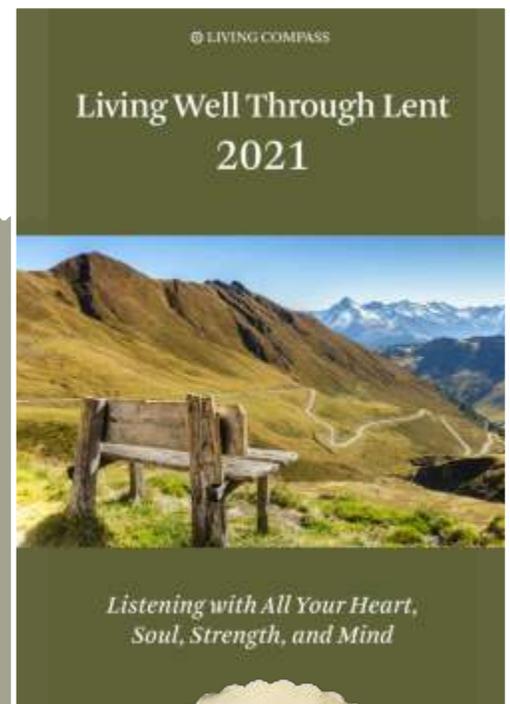
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Passcode: 840463

One tap mobile

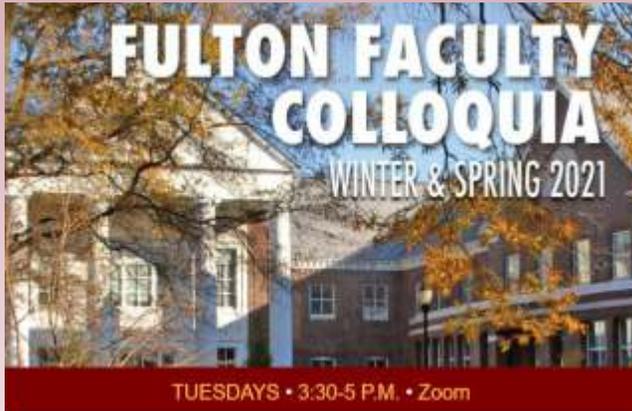
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**Copies
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individual
study**

St. Alban's and Community News



Fulton Faculty Books:

Multimedia Journalism and Health Communication

Dr. Jennifer Cox,
Associate Professor, Communication

Author of Feature Writing and Reporting: Journalism in the Digital Age, published by Sage Publications

This book offers a fresh look at feature writing and reporting in the 21st century. The award-winning author illustrates the fundamentals of feature writing and reporting while emphasizing the skills and tools needed to be successful in the digital era. Special attention on new multimedia and online reporting prepares readers for success in a rapidly changing media landscape.

COMMUNITY

By: Kim O'Grady

The Rector's Discretionary Fund is used to assist parishioners and the community where there is a financial need. The Rector, or appointed person, will decide when request can be honored. The request can be for rent, utilities, repairs and other items. The colder winter months tend to bring in more request for assistance with bills. With your donations we help to continue to spread the love of Christ throughout our community.





Professional Asphalt Maintenance

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Saint Alban's Herald