

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.

Handicapped Access: Please do not park in the space immediately in front of the sidewalk leading to the office door to provide easy handicapped access.

SAVE THE DATE! Bishop Santosh Marray has requested a pastoral visit at St. Alban's on Sunday, July 25. He will be with us during the service at 9:30 a.m. and would like us to be available afterwards in the parish hall to bring greetings and answer questions.

During July and August, if you need mini-chalices because you are viewing the service on Zoom or FaceBook, they will be available from Stephanie Monday through 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.

St. Alban's Choir: The choir is rehearsing occasionally through the summer: July 15, July 22, August 20, and August 26. Rehearsals start at 7 pm, and take place in the sanctuary. The choir will sing during the following services: July 25 and August 29. Anyone interested in joining the choir - please contact Veronica.

The August Herald articles & photos due July 18th: The theme for the August Herald is "Vacation Fun" Please share photos of your summer vacation or summer fun. Email photos & articles to stalbanssalisbury@gmail.com

Altar Flowers: Since we are now permitted to have flowers on the altar again, please sign the sheet on the table in the parish hall if you are interested.

PLEASE NOTE VENUE CHANGE!

Come enjoy a mid-summer evening of fellowship, good food and fun at Abbott's Grill on Broad Creek in Laurel. Address is 111 Delaware Avenue Mark your calendars for Sunday, July 18, at 6 p.m. RSVP by Thursday, July 15 to Sharon Walsh at sharon.walsh68@gmail.com or 410-749-0426.

JULY SCHEDULE**SUNDAY, JULY 11:****Holy Eucharist Rite II Service, 9:30am****LECTORS:** Linda Torbert, Richard Hunter**TECH TEAM:** Brian Raygor, Lana Raygor**VESTRY PERSON/USHER:** Richard Hunter**ALTAR GUILD:** Linda Torbert**SUNDAY, JULY 11:****Holy Eucharist Rite II Service, 9:30am****THURSDAY, JULY 15:****Choir Rehearsal****SUNDAY, JULY 18:****Holy Eucharist Rite I Service, 9:30am****THURSDAY, JULY 22:****Choir Rehearsal****SUNDAY, JULY 25: Bishop's Pastoral Visit****Holy Eucharist Rite II Service, 9:30am**

On Sunday, July 4 we had 33 people attend in-person, we had 11 people join us via Zoom. And 0 on Facebook! Come and join us!

St. Paul's by-the-Sea has closed its Red Doors program operations at our Community Center on Worcester Highway in Berlin.

They are conducting a liquidation sale of the inventory which we will not be able to use for church purposes going forward. This inventory includes childrens' craft supplies, sporting goods, toys, and costumes; housewares; furnishings and books.

They are conducting the sale on Friday, July 9 from 12:00 – 5:00 p.m., and on Saturday from 7:00 a.m. – noon at the Community Center at 10959 Worcester Highway in Berlin. If you have any questions about what's in our inventory, feel free to contact Debbie Shuster at ocshu@comcast.net and she will get back to you.

Epistle continued on page 2*Happy Anniversary***Chuck Porter and
Kelly Neuharth 7/8**

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.)

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: contact Jim Cockey (james.cockey@gmail.com)



The St. Alban's Reopening Task Force and the Vestry have begun to look at the guidelines sent out by the Diocesan Reopening Task Force regarding post-pandemic protocols. These will be coming out in stages and may continue to be modified.

- we will no longer ask people to sign covenants, pre-register for services, or sign in when entering the building.
- we will no longer follow disinfectant protocols for cleaning.
- prayer books have been returned to pews and may be used, as well as kneelers / cushions.
- we will allow Eucharistic visits in homes if all parties are vaccinated and agree to the visit.

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 are asked to wear masks in that section and not sing. People will self-select where they wish to sit and feel the most comfortable and safe.

Masks - Masks are no longer required in general in church or on church property. People are free to continue wearing them if they choose to, except in the back of the church where they will continue to be required to provide a safer environment in that section of the nave.

Singing - We will resume congregational and choral singing softly for vaccinated people. We will maintain the current limits of verses (2-3 verses per hymn) and add one piece of service music to the service. We wish to maintain an overall time limit of 70 minutes for the service.

June 22 release

At the regularly scheduled June meeting, the Vestry discussed additional issues related to re-opening which we would like to share with you. We continue to monitor COVID information related to hospital admissions, deaths and vaccination rates. We considered comments that you have shared with us as well as recommendations by the CDC and the state. We realize that our decisions today may change in the near future due to changing conditions. Thus we ask for your patience and your feedback as procedures continue to change and evolve. Our decisions are

based on the needs and wants of our St. Alban's family which may be different from those of other churches.

We will continue to offer on-line worship for those individuals who prefer that format or who are still not comfortable coming to church in person. For those individuals who have chosen or will choose to return to in person worship, we continue to move toward what was accepted as "normal."

As we continue to re-examine procedures, the Vestry recommends at this time:

- The Nursery will remain closed until September. We still have some cleaning to do in that space and currently have no younger children regularly attending at this time.
- The water fountain will remain off until September. You are encouraged to bring water to church with you, if desired.
- Scheduled ushers, greeters, acolytes and crucifers will return in September. The VPOD (Vestry Person of the Day) and other Vestry members will continue to welcome you to services.
- Presentation of gifts will resume in September when we have ushers available.
- The red doors to the parish hall will be the main entrance on Sunday mornings. Bulletins will again be available as you enter the sanctuary or you may continue to bring a device on which to view the bulletin.
- The prayer request log and visitors' log will be made available in the parish hall. If you have prayer requests, please complete the form with the necessary information and names will be read during the service. If you are zooming and have a name to add, please leave the information with Stephanie in the office by 10:00 a.m. each Thursday. If you are interacting with visitors, please invite them to sign the visitors' log.
- Beginning July 25, flowers will again be permitted on the altar and in the church. Please sign the sheet in the parish hall if you would like to donate flowers.

Again, we appreciate your patience as we continue to loosen the restrictions that were placed upon us. We will continue to review protocols on a regular basis. Please continue to contact any Vestry member with your questions and concerns.