

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS:

If you need to speak to someone we're here to help. Call the church office at 410-742-6595. Office hours (Mon-Thurs, 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 ASAP.

The February Herald articles & photos due January 16th. The theme will be the many faces of love. Please email photos and articles to stalbanssalisbury@gmail.com. Thank you for submitting your photos and articles.

Mini-chalices, are available Monday-Thursday 9am-12 Noon. 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, call Stephanie to make arrangements.

A memorial service will be held at St. Alban's Church for Helen Lucille Kantzes on Saturday January 15 at 11:00am, with visitation beginning at 10:00 am.

Change of date for Randy Delano's memorial service: The new date will be Saturday, February 19th. The times are the same: visitation 11-12, and the service 12-1. It is still being held at Holloway Funeral Home on Snow Hill RD. This change was due to the increase in numbers of Covid cases in Maryland. Thank you. Sue Delano

The cold weather shelter/Hands and Hearts Ending Homelessness is currently seeking volunteers for the shelter. Please contact Walter Davidson at 410-251-4890 if you would like to volunteer or need additional information.

Sacred Chalk: Saint Alban's will be passing out blessed chalk at the Feast of the Epiphany on Sunday, January 9th, for the ritual of chalking of your door for the new year. If you will not be able to come to the service on 1/9, there are two options for picking chalk up. First, chalk will be available for pick up on Saturday 1/8 at church from 1pm-2pm. If you need a delivery following the service on Sunday, please email Mike Mathers at mikemathers@gmail.com and a delivery will be arranged.

Volunteers needed to help take down christmas decorations: Volunteers are needed to stay after the 1/9 service and help to take down the Christmas decorations. If you can pitch in please consider staying to help, the more volunteers we have, the quicker everything can be packed away.

JANUARY 2022

THURSDAY, JANUARY 6:
Choir Rehearsal, 7:00pm

SUNDAY, JANUARY 9:
Holy Eucharist Rite II Service, 9:30am

LECTORS: Katherine West, Nancy Linck
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER: Jim Cockey
TECH TEAM: Katherine West,
Brian Raygor

VESTRY PERSON/USHER: Nancy Linck
ALTAR GUILD: Linda Torbert

SUNDAY, JANUARY 16:
Holy Eucharist Rite I Service, 9:30am

MONDAY, JANUARY 17:
Office closed (Martin Luther King Day)

THURSDAY, JANUARY 20:
Choir Rehearsal, 7:00pm

SUNDAY, JANUARY 23:
Deacon Mass, Rite II Service, 9:30am

TUESDAY, JANUARY 25:
Vestry Meeting, 7:00pm

THURSDAY, JANUARY 27:
Choir Rehearsal, 7:00pm

SUNDAY, JANUARY 30:
Morning Prayer Service, 9:30am

Save the Date for The General Convention of The Episcopal Church: The General Convention is the governing body of The Episcopal Church. Every three years it meets as a bicameral legislature that includes the House of Deputies and the House of Bishops, composed of deputies and bishops from each diocese. The General Convention also includes Interim Bodies which meet between the triennial sessions to accomplish ongoing work and tasks set in the triennial sessions. The next session, the 80th General Convention, which was originally scheduled for 2021, has been postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and will meet July 7 - 14, 2022 in Baltimore, Maryland.

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.)

VTS to Offer Course through Bishop's

Institute: "Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?" The respondent says, "I will, with God's help." (BCP, pp.293 and 305) This is one of our Baptismal Vows. Now the Virginia Theological Seminary and the Diocese of Easton will offer training for the proclamation part of this vow, specifically preaching. As an outreach program of VTS, the Reverend Doctor Mark Jefferson will offer a hybrid course in homiletics through the Bishop's Institute for those who wish to develop their skills in preaching. Laity who complete the class will be licensed to write and deliver sermons in this diocese. Dr. Jefferson says, "The foundation and future of God's church are not bedazzled with gilded televangelists and charismatic personalities. Jesus's work was with the people, for the people, and thus calls us to be radically human so that we can become the people of God that scripture calls us to be. Therefore, teaching laypeople and deacons how to preach is a passion that directly impacts the future of the church." (Virginia Theological Seminary Magazine, Fall 2021, p. 40) Anyone interested in participating in this course should contact Dee Rinehart (deerinehart43@gmail.com) no later than January 15, 2022. Once we have a cohort formed, more details will follow.

A day to reach out: January 23rd is National Handwriting Day. What better time to celebrate your relationships and reach out to someone you might be missing? A hand-written note is a hug you get to keep. Send some love.

To look like Jesus, Bishop Curry's Jan. 6 Epiphany Events in D.C. Thursday, Jan. 6, at 12 p.m. Eastern:

Join Episcopal Church Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, Washington Bishop Mariann Budde, the Rev. Glenna Huber, and other local and national leaders for a livestreamed celebration of Epiphany, the season of light, from the Church of the Epiphany in Washington, D.C. The worship service will feature the witness and voice of a diversity of people who are the face of Christ—from ordained Episcopal ministers to unhoused people who are also leading the church. Artists will include Kory Caudill, composer and musical director for Concert for the Human Family, and Chanda Leigh Adeogba, lead musician for Imagine Church-Atlanta. Bishop Curry also will offer a videotaped address to the nation later that day. Click on this Link for the livestream: https://www.episcopalchurch.org/tolooklikejesus/?mc_cid=ba583e4fec&mc_eid=61b893f93c

Through the Coming Year

(by Howard Thurman)

(as used by the Rev. Alisha King in her sermon 1/2/22)

Grant that I may pass through
The coming year with a faithful heart

There will be much to test me and to make weak my strength before the year ends. In my confusion I shall often say the word that is not true and do the thing of which I am ashamed. There will be errors of the mind and great inaccuracies of judgement which shall render me the victim of my own stupidities. In seeking the light, I shall again and again find myself walking in darkness. I shall mistake my light for Thy light and I shall shrink from the responsibility of the choice I make. All of these things, and more, will be true for me because I have not yet learned how to keep my hand in Thy hand.

Nevertheless, grant that I may pass through the coming year with a faithful heart. May I never give the approval of my heart to error, to falseness, to weakness, to vainglory, to sin. Though my days be marked with failures, stumblings, fallings, let my spirit be free so that Thou may take it and redeem my moments in all the ways my needs reveal. Give me the quiet assurance of Thy Love and Thy Presence.

Grant that I may pass through
The coming year with a faithful heart.

Project READ needs YOU! At Project READ we believe in TEAM - Together Everyone Achieves More! Our Mission is to increase adult literacy in Wicomico County to improve employment opportunities and the quality of life for individuals in the program and their families. To help us achieve this goal we need volunteers. Just 3 hours a week can change someone's life! If you are interested in volunteering email, call or the Project READ Coordinator at 410.749.3612 ext. 159 or dharvey@wicomco.org . Learn more at <http://www.wicomcolibraries.org/project-read>.

The Sanctus Lamp and Altar Flowers sign-up

form is now available in the parish hall. Please use these forms to sign-up. If you wish to sign-up and you are worshiping from home, please feel free to mail your contribution and message to the church. The contribution for Sanctus Lamp is \$5 and the contribution for flowers is \$45. If someone has already selected the Sunday you request, we will use the next available Sunday. Please feel free to call the office or email your message as well.



Bishop's Pastoral Directive on the Omicron Variant

*"Happy are the people whose strength is in you! * whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way"
(Psalm 84:4)*

My beloved Diocesan Family,

As we enter a New Year, most of us were of the impression that the Covid 19 virus would have been behind us or at least significantly curtailed. The vaccines and boosters coupled with the ongoing efforts of scientific breakthrough developments have served to advance our sense of confidence in the effort toward some level of normalcy. However, as I write this directive this shared optimism remains an unrealized desire. The nation remains in a state of fearful quandary at the rate of infection we witness every day. This regrettably is influenced and driven by two variants - Delta and Omicron. At present, the latter seems to be the more dominant and disconcerting to the scientific and health care communities. It seems to present itself as a rapidly contagious variant even among fully-vaccinated and boosted people. And, this is frightening and worrisome to all citizens of God's world.

As the omicron variant of Covid 19 continues to sweep across the world, our nation, and communities on the eastern shore, it poses a significant threat to the health and safety of the beloved people of God. However, we should not be depressed nor lose hope nor abandon our commitment to continue our diligence in the observance of safety protocols. Let us continue to show love and express kindness to loved ones and neighbors. Please, I urge us all to consider our sisters and brothers with underlying health issues and compromised immune systems.

Likewise, it is my deep conviction that it will require the collaborative efforts of each member of the community to commit to do our part in contributing to the overall eradication or curtailment of the spread. This will require the Christian community to take the lead in living out Christ's dream of embodying the virtue of caring for every human person. I encourage each of us to put the health and safety interests of the entire community over and above that of my personal self-interest, even when the interest of the whole differs from mine. Christianity is at its 'better angel' when followers of Jesus stand up and make a monumental statement of faith. A statement that says 'loving our neighbor as ourself' literally means 'sharing in their welfare and well-being, walking with them in the crises of life, defending them on occasions that threaten their very survival and standing in the 'gap' when there isn't any one bold enough to manifest it'.

My beloved, I wish to reiterate, endorse and direct you to follow the protocols established and circulated by the diocese, and further complemented by parish protocols. Let us recommit ourselves to wear masks at all times in worship and when among people who aren't members of your households. Practice regular sanitization and stay home when showing symptoms associated with Covid. Observe CDC, state, and local guidelines on Covid 19.

Let us pray: Lord God, sustain us in this vale of tears
with the vision of your grace and glory,
that, strengthened by the bread of life,
we may come to your eternal dwelling place;
in the power of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen!

Happy New Year and pledge to stay safe in 2022!

Together in Christ's service,

Bishop San