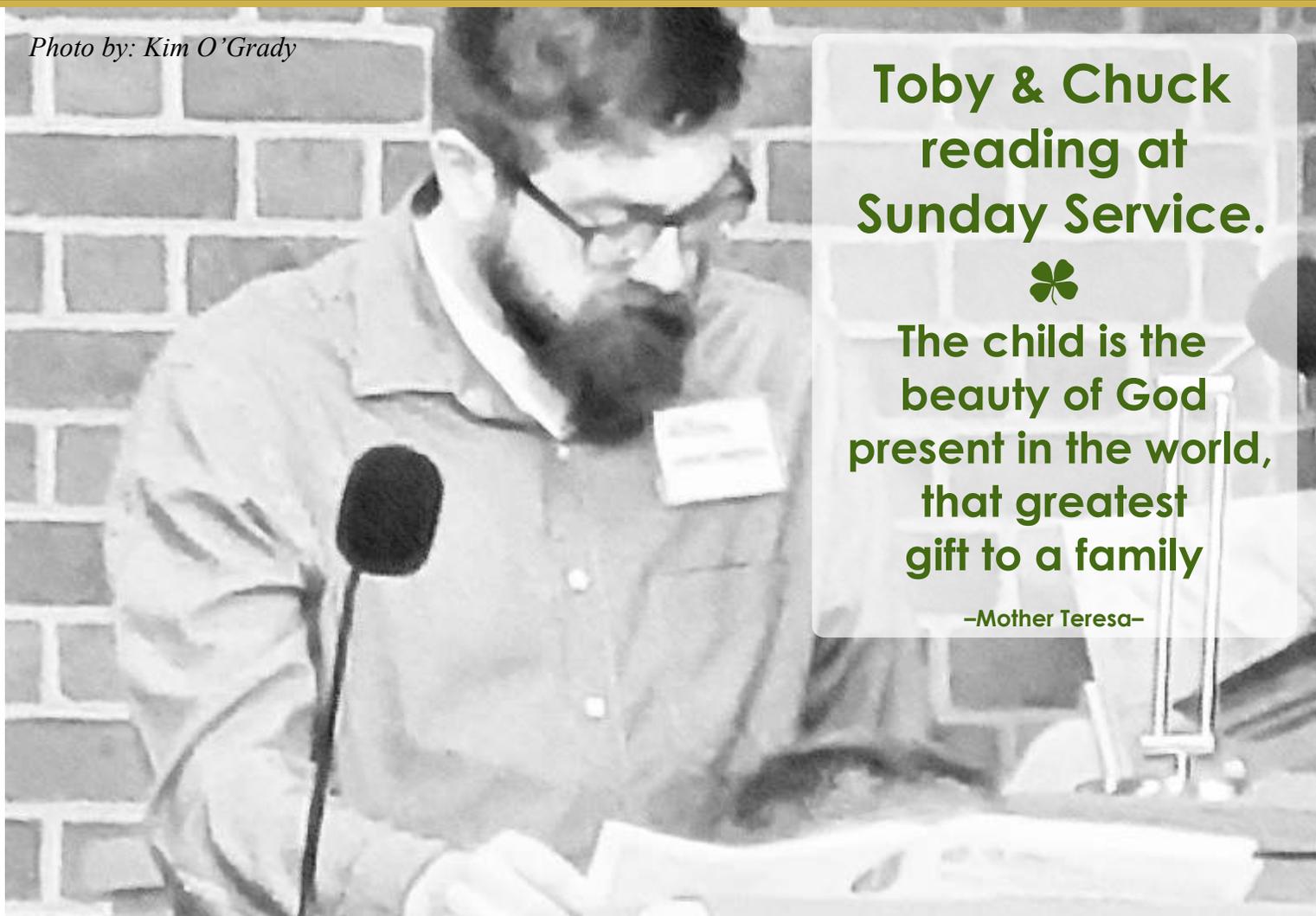


Herald

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

Photo by: Kim O'Grady



Toby & Chuck
reading at
Sunday Service.



The child is the
beauty of God
present in the world,
that greatest
gift to a family

—Mother Teresa—

Happy St. Patrick's Day

Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me, Christ in me...

From a prayer of St. Patrick



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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.



Sunday Worship

There are two services with Eucharist each Sunday:

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

- Holy Eucharist, Rite II
at 10:00 a.m. with music

Wednesday Lenten Midday
Prayer Service - Noon

ALL ARE WELCOME!



PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 2

8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I
10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II

MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 6

6:00 pm Agape Meal
7:00 pm Service with Eucharist

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 6

Noon Good Friday Service
5:30 pm Stations of the Cross

HOLY SATURDAY, APRIL 6

10:00 am - Noon Quiet Day of Study

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 9

6:20 am Sunrise Service [Outside weather permitting]
8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I
10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II



A Message from Rev. Margaret +

LIFE TRANSFORMED: THE WAY OF LOVE IN LENT & A QUIET DAY FOR LENT

As a community I am going to lead St. Alban's & Faith communities through "Life Transformed: The Way of Love in Lent" over these next weeks. I have already shared the Calendar to use during this time and it is available in the church and online. The journey through Lent into Easter is a journey with Jesus. We are baptized into his life, self-giving, and death; then, we rise in hope to life transformed. During this Lent we will walk with Jesus in his Way of Love and into the experience of transformed life. Together, we will walk through the depths of salvation history into the fullness of redemption. The Quiet Day for Lent we will hold will tie the Easter Vigil readings to the seven practices of the Way of Love. Drawing on the ancient practice of setting aside Lent as a period of study and preparation for living as a Christian disciple (known as the catechumenate), this curriculum encourages us to reflect on salvation history; walk toward the empty tomb; and embrace the transforming reality of love, life, and liberation. As we stand with the three women at the empty tomb, we hear his call to go and live that transformed reality. As people of God, ours is an ongoing journey. After the 40 days of Lent, we will enter into a 50-day Eastertide "Test Kitchen." During this time we will actively "GO" with Jesus from the tomb to bless the world – and then share and inspire each other with accounts of how we are living the Way of Love.

I invite you to enter into these offerings at any level you wish, anywhere from just reading what is posted for the day in the calendar and following that guide to studying with us at church for the Adult Education series at 9:10am-9:40am every Sunday throughout Lent & Easter. I will also have the materials used there available online. Look for my emails! I pray that these days of looking deeper into our personal faith will bring us to a fuller expression of our Christianity.

During Lent I will be leading a Midday Prayer Service on Wednesdays at Noon beginning March 1st.

Grace & Peace,
Rev. Margaret, Rector

A message from the Senior Warden

Mary Doak, March 2023



Lent and Gratitude

According to the Encyclopedia Britannica, "Lent, in the Christian church, a period of penitential preparation for Easter. In Western churches it begins on Ash Wednesday, six and a half weeks before Easter, and provides a 40-day period for fasting and abstinence (Sundays are excluded), in imitation of Jesus Christ's fasting in the wilderness before he began his public ministry." That's all very well and good but I have to confess that during Lent, I feel more gratitude than anything else.

If you want to see how gratitude helps you in your daily life, have a look [here](#). Better health, deeper relationships, better sleep – wow, all good! What about a deeper relationship with God? In Psalm 116, the psalmist asks us, "How can I repay the Lord for all the great good done for me?" Maybe one small way is by being intentionally grateful? By looking for the good in everything that happens to you, even being grateful for the air that you breathe. There is a Jesuit tradition of finding God in all things that I think applies here.

I'm not advocating that you turn into a Pollyanna. I recognize that bad things happen. Bad things have happened to me. But I am alive, and all of life is a gift of love from God.

As this is something that I have to work on every day, I think it falls into "Lenten practice" (or maybe just "Life practice"). It helps me focus. If I am feeling particularly energetic, I keep a journal of gratitude. If I'm being lazier, I just ruminate on gratitude. The things that you focus on grow, so what if you focus on what is right, not what is wrong?

I am grateful that I have the commitment of God's love to nourish me. This is a conscious choice, this gratefulness. And it is something that I have to work on earnestly, every day. Why? Because it is hard. Because I'm totally human. Because I'm busy, just like you. But gratitude brings me into God's presence. That's why it is a great Lenten practice for me. Is it something that you think might help you too?



**Rev. Margaret's Birthday
is January 26th, her
church family celebrated
with her on January 29th.**



King Cupcakes

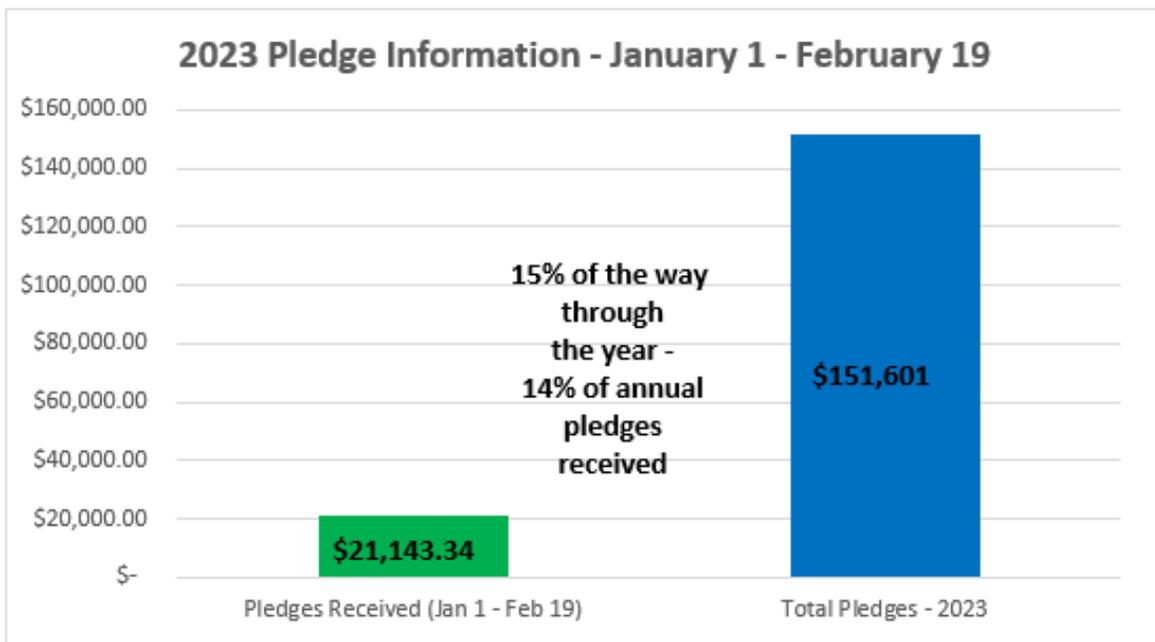
By: Shelly Madsen

During coffee hour on February 19, St Alban's members picked a cupcake in hopes of finding baby Jesus inside. Congratulations to Harry Rinehart, who chose the winning cupcake! Harry is king for the day and according to tradition, he is off to a very good year filled with good luck and prosperity. As the finder of baby Jesus, Harry won a gift card to Rise Up Coffee.



MONTHLY FINANCIAL UPDATE

By: Shelly Madsen, Pledge Secretary



\$1,315 received year to date in plate income.



Spaghetti & Shuvunda

By: Arlene White

About 40 parishioners and guests gathered in the parish hall for a delicious spaghetti dinner, complete with salad, dessert and ice cream sundaes. Our kitchen crew, headed by Jim Cockey, consisted of Jim Brack, Steve Crabill, George Demko, Vic Evans, Harry Hoke, Bob Payne and Walt West. They did a great job! Lots of people got seconds!

After dinner, we played SHUVUNDA where we got to choose a gift from the pile of gifts brought by people attending. The trade table did a brisk business too - as anyone could trade what they opened for something else! As always, a great time was had by all!

Photos by: Kim O'Grady, Michelle Ben, Shelly Madsen







Celebrating our Ministries

By: Beth Jones, Communications

On February 12 we celebrated the very important ministries which allow us to share the eucharist within and outside of our walls.

Our Eucharistic Ministers, and the Eucharistic Visitors, Steve Crabill, Jim Cockey, Sandy Grim, Megan Pomeroy, Nancy Linck, and Dee Rinehart and the new Eucharistic Ministers, Linda Torbert and Shelly Madsen.



PASTOR'S PANCAKES

We enjoyed a Mardi Gras meal served at Faith Lutheran Church, featuring pancakes, sausage and coffee. A shared community meal of St. Alban's and Faith, cooked by the staff of both congregations. Donations were given to the Maryland Food Bank.



A Bit of Parish History

By: Dee Rinehart

As we begin a relationship with a new rector, it is time to remember and reflect on the St. Alban's journey since its inception.

The first new mission in the Diocese of Easton in more than a century, St. Alban's Chapel came to be a reality in the early 1960's, created by Salisbury Parish, St. Peter's and governed by their Chapel Committee. Among the members of the committee was the Rev. G. William Truitt, who became our first vicar. During the planning stages, Richard H. Hodgson negotiated the purchase of the land our parish buildings occupy. Mr. Hodgson became a major benefactor of St. Alban's and the other Episcopal churches in Wicomico County.

The new chapel was struggling with membership and with finances when The Rev. Guy Butler came to be our vicar. Serving from 1961 until 1965, Father Butler saw St. Alban's through a time when there was a question about the chapel's viability. In 1966, Charles Mason became vicar. Under Charlie's leadership, the chapel gained its independence from St. Peter's in 1968-69 and parish status in 1971. It is from this time

that St. Alban's developed its passion for social justice. Father Mason left St. Alban's in 1976. Since then, our parish has been blessed with growing stability in membership and finances.

The Rev. Joseph M. Clark became our second rector in 1977 and served our congregation until 1985. Joe nurtured our servant ministry. During his tenure as



CHURCH FROM SIDE NEAR TWILLEY CENTER.

rector, our involvement with twelve-step groups and the Joseph House ministries blossomed. It became apparent that we were outgrowing our space and began to look at expanding our physical plant. Father Clark earned his Doctor of Ministry during his time on sabbatical at St. Alban's.

Our next rector was the Rev. M. Douglas Girardeau, who came to us in the fall of 1987. Doug shared that he was advised to avoid St. Alban's, as we were a church that had worn out its old parish hall by welcoming community groups who needed meeting space. He decided that we might be the parish for him. The decision had been made to address our "informal communion space," our parish hall, and add an office and choir room before Doug arrived. Doug led us through the construction of our new parish hall, and involvement with twelve-step groups grew as did our involvement with the Joseph House. We had volunteers who worked each week at the facility, and we began to serve a meal once each month to the homeless. During his tenure, St. Alban's became and continues to be, involved at the diocesan level of leadership. The parish began an involvement with Habitat for Humanity. Between 1997 and 1998, St. Alban's undertook a study and redesign of our worship space to become accessible to the physically handicapped/barrier-free. Diversity became a



GROUND BROKEN. The Rev. G. William Truitt, assistant rector of St. Peter's Episcopal Church, breaks ground for new chapel on Mt. Hermon Road. Looking on are the rector, Dr. Robert P. Varley, left, and George O. Henriksen, senior warden, both of whom also tossed spades of earth. Ground-breaking services for new \$125,000 building were held yesterday at 1 p.m. J. Ireland

characteristic of our congregation. Father Girardeau retired in 2000, but he and Ellen, his wife, remained members of our congregation.

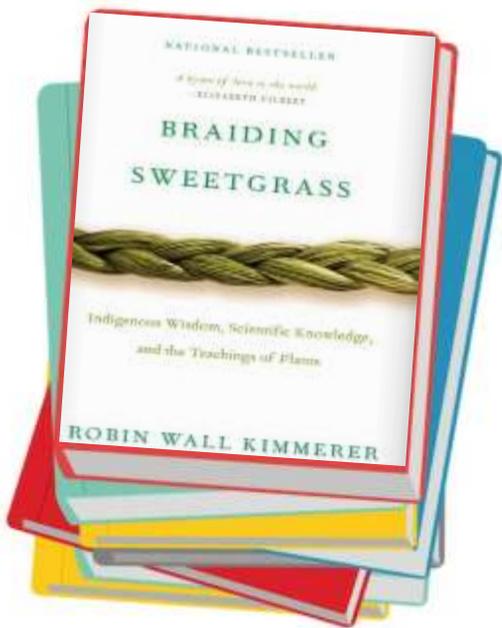
Another important person in the life of our parish was the Rev. Deacon Reese Rickards, who came to St. Alban's in 1993. Reese kept the needs of the world in front of our congregation. Aside from his many gifts of the spirit, Reese had gifts of technology, and introduced St. Alban's to the internet. The mark Reese and Jean, his wife, made on St. Alban's is permanent.

St. Alban's called the Rev. Frieda L. Malcolm to be its fourth rector in 2002 during which time she earned her Doctor of Ministry degree. Our parish continued to grow in stability and ministries. Our social justice and servant ministries flourished, and Frieda led us to an awareness of creation care. Solar panels were installed as we aspired to become a "Green Church." vestry meetings became organized around parish goals and mission, and vestry members became accountable for their areas of concentration. Outreach to the community and social justice

ministries grew. Frieda had repeated service as a delegate to the General Convention. In her last years as rector, the parish formed a committee to study the improvement of our organ, as the music ministry at St. Alban's is important. The digital organ enhancement of our existing pipe organ was accomplished in 2018. The parish became more serious about outreach, and in 2008 we began to have a fundraiser to provide funds for community, national, and international service organizations. Over the years, we have raised and donated almost \$100,000. The Very Reverend Doctor Frieda Malcolm retired in the summer of 2019.

The Holy Spirit moves in our parish. Our congregation has discerned and raised four people to the vocational diaconate and three people to the priesthood. We have another completing her priestly training at Sewanee in the spring of 2023. Social justice, servant ministry, physical accessibility, diversity, and creation care have become part of the St. Alban's identity, and we are open to what the Holy Spirit has in store for us in the future.

St. Alban's Green Team Book Club



The St. Alban's Green Team will hold a video book discussion on Thursday evenings, starting on March 23, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. This book club is open to everyone. Our first book will be *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer. *Braiding Sweetgrass* is a wonderful meditation on the natural world through the eyes of a plant biologist who is also a Native American and sees nature through both lenses.

The book can be bought through the Amazon link below. It is also available at the public library and other bookstores.

For further information, contact Mary Doak or Jim Cockey

Mark your calendars now to participate in this fun activity!

We will meet on the video platform, Google Meet. Here is the link: meet.google.com/ew-zudk-zod

**Click Here for
the Amazon
Link!**

https://www.amazon.com/s?k=braiding+sweet+grass&gclid=CjwKC AIA9NGfBhBvEiwAq5vSy_BIfz5eacNORziEz-3zgNzuPzof85vcsDfuRCBztUqGDebGCXPoABoCiV8QAvD_BwE &hvadid=616862916930&hvdev=c&hvlcophy=1018702&hvnetw=g &hvmqt=e&hvrnd=13838848522208349589&hvtargid=kwd-124473112404&hydadcr=24634_13611738&tag=googhydr-20&ref=pd_sl_5efij3ozb_e



**THE CELEBRATION OF NEW MINISTRY
AND
THE INSTALLATION OF**
The Rev. Margaret Brack
AS THE 5th RECTOR OF
St. Alban's Episcopal Church, Salisbury, Maryland





Photos by: Sam Hotton, Michelle Ben, and Kim O'Grady



St. Alban's has been our church home since moving to Salisbury, MD in 1980. What a lot of memories! The opportunity to worship on Sunday in the virtual space of my laptop and YouTube platform has helped me hold some of those threads of community and parish family, as well as be able to participate in corporate worship. Although you do not hear my voice singing or praying, my heart is touched by all that is happening. Probably there is even more going on during the service that I cannot see or hear because of the select focus of the camera, but as an introvert, it allows for a deeper dive into the words, and fewer distractions. I choose not to pull up the service program, the readings, for a split screen experience and its challenge of juggling technology. I listen and respond as if it were storytelling and in receiving the Word and responding, I am a participant in the Story. Once I was told that we do not know what will be received as good news in corporate worship. It could even be an announcement that brings an answer to prayer.

What is for me less accessible online is receiving communion, seeing all worshippers, taking in the spirit of the building and those gathered, honoring the lives lived, exchanging the Peace, greeting others, and being seen. As a great deal is contained in this list, returning to worship in person brings up a lot of emotion.

Seeing (online) and knowing the church members who have created this opportunity for us to continue to participate in corporate worship fills me with gratitude for their expertise or willingness to stretch into new areas of service. I am sure it has been no small feat to establish and maintain a team for the YouTube broadcast of services. The definition of "virtual" for online programming as "being so in effect although not in actual fact or name" (Webster Compact Office Dictionary) begins to diminish the experience, challenges me, and begs the question what is the effect, and how to respond to this love.



St. Alban's and Community News



Ice Cream Sundaes

At the end of January, several members of St. Alban's and Lower Shore Enterprises came to Salisbury Middle to serve ice cream sundaes to over 400 students. These students met or exceeded their mid-year reading growth goal on the county reading assessment. We are so proud of our students' growth in reading! With so many students making progress, the ice cream sundae incentive would not have been possible without volunteers from St. Alban's. Shout out to Sue, Howard, Audrey, Beth, Walt, Pat, and Pat's granddaughter Annabel for their help. Thanks to Kim for organizing two groups from Lower Shore Enterprises who volunteered as well. You all are a blessing to Salisbury Middle!

With gratitude- Katherine West

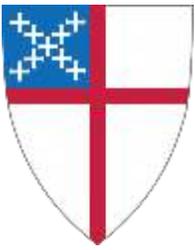


SPARE CHANGE

Reminder: Collect your spare change and bring it back to St. Alban's on April 16. We will enjoy a pizza lunch while rolling the coins and vote on which non-profit to which to donate the money.

Thanks,
Shelly Madsen





St. Alban's
Episcopal Church
Herald Newsletter

P.O. Box 1511
Salisbury, MD 21802

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.

