

# 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



MERRY  
Christmas

"REMEMBER, IF CHRISTMAS ISN'T FOUND IN YOUR  
HEART, YOU WON'T FIND IT UNDER A TREE."

~ CHARLOTTE CARPENTER.



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

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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.

## WORSHIP DECEMBER

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6

12:00 pm Wednesday Midday Service

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10

8:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite I Service

9:10 am Adult Education, Faith Room

10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II, Service *with hymns*

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13

12:00pm Wednesday Midday Service

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17

8:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite I Service

9:10 am Adult Education, Faith Room

10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II, Service *with hymns*

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21

12:00pm Wednesday Midday Service

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

8:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite I Service

10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II, Service *with hymns*

2:00 pm Greening of the church

4:15 pm Christmas Choir *at Faith Lutheran Church*

4:30 pm Family Christmas Eve Service,

*at Faith Lutheran Church*

10:15 pm Christmas Carols

10:30 pm Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 25

9:15 pm Christmas Carols with Rev. Margaret & Jim

9:30 am Christmas Day Service

Parish Office Closed

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28

12:00 pm Wednesday Midday Service

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31

8:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite I Service

9:10 am Adult Education, Faith Room

10am Holy Eucharist, Rite II, Service *with hymns*

11:30 am Lessons and Carols Service, *at Faith Lutheran Church*



# *A Message from* Rev. Margaret +

**ADVENT** is the most magical time of the Church year for me. Unfortunately, we really can't experience this season because the secular world has made Christmas Season a monetary focused time that overrides everything. We have been robbed of having the four weeks of Advent in the purest sense of anticipation, but gratefully in our churches and our homes we can create a time of 'waiting' for the birth of Jesus Christ. Advent is the time we become ready for God who comes to be with us! Emmanuel! One way we celebrate this time is by putting up nativity scenes and imagining the future baby in the manger, the shepherds, animals and especially the Magi coming from afar to see the newborn king. What we need to remember when we are unwrapping the box with the Nativity in it, is that Advent is before all of this happened. The shepherds went about their shepherding, the magi were in their palaces and the world went about its business. Few knew the coming of the Savior was imminent. We approach Advent in a way that already knows the next chapter of the story, where Mary and Joseph know the significance of the Godchild in Mary's womb. We often don't think about Mary's pregnancy during Advent and how she was publicly shamed by the unexpectedness of it. When she makes her Visitation to her cousin Elizabeth, the scripture says she went in haste. Some scholars say the translation of "haste" alludes to a going in fear or worry or anxiety. In Jewish history there were miraculous births in old age, but not of a virgin. Mary had no scriptures or history to offer her comfort. Great trust in God was required for Mary, especially during her own Advent waiting... Trust and faith are often mistakenly interchanged, and faith is frequently defined as blind trust. But faith is much more complex than that. Faith is about our relationship with God and one another, but most importantly, faith must allow us to develop revelatory insight, that is, grace from God. It should push us to keep seeking for truth, and since a healthy faith is not blind trust, it leaves room for doubt and questioning. "How can this be?" Mary said to the angel. Her question follows the pattern of many annunciation stories in the Bible. The recipient of the news says, "Wait, what?" Not because they don't trust God, but because faith pushes us to seek truth. After Mary asks her question, the angel tells her "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and God's power will rest upon you. For this reason, the holy child will be called the Son of God." Mary and Joseph's faith required not only trust that God would make good out of seemingly imperfect circumstances, but that any worries they had would be put to rest.

**This Advent** let us become part of Mary and Joseph's extended family and join in their excitement and anticipation as well as their anxiety and worry. When a family is expecting, much preparation is in order. We have an opportunity to turn the busyness of this Advent Season, into a meditation on the original Advent story, filled with its own anxieties and joys, all preparing for the birth of Jesus. Like Mary and Joseph, we look to Christmas day with great hope. As Jesus comes to reconcile our world, perhaps we can seek to reconcile with our family members. As Jesus comes to dwell with those he loves, we go to dwell with those we love. We see Christ's coming as the beginning of the coming of God's kingdom, one with lots of hope and redemption. **This is why Advent is a Season of Hope.** God's faithfulness was shown through a simple couple from a town called Nazareth. As we approach the birth of Jesus, great hope is placed in this yet-to-be-born Son of God. The Advent story mirrors this longing, as a story of trust, faith, and hope, with its questioning, doubts, joys, and excitement. This story becomes a part of our own story: God is coming to dwell with our family.

*Let us allow ourselves to fully enter into this Season of Advent!*



# A message from the Senior Warden

Mary Doak, December 2023

*Dear Congregation,*

*This will be my last monthly article to you as the Senior Warden. My term ends at the end of this month and the Vestry will elect someone else to be Senior Warden for 2024.*

*I would like to thank the Vestry members for their support during the year. We truly have strong leadership here at St. Alban's. By relying on each other, we all succeed. It has been my privilege and honor to be associated with this Vestry as Senior Warden.*

*We have so much to be thankful for, not the least of which are the many gifts God has given this congregation. Being your Senior Warden has deepened my connections to my fellow parishioners and I feel so blessed for that.*

*And, so, I send greetings to all and offer you a wish for a very Merry Christmas and a splendid New Year!*

*With love,  
Mary*



## Salisbury's Promise

On Nov. 16th Rev. Margaret attended the event to recognize St. Alban's role as the Faith-based partner to Wicomico High School. Kim and Maggie O'Grady and Margaret had a great time meeting with Wicomico high school Assistant Principal.



# Annual Meeting

The 53rd Annual Meeting of St. Alban's was on Sunday, November 19th, and was led by Rev. Margaret Brack.



# Beacon of Hope



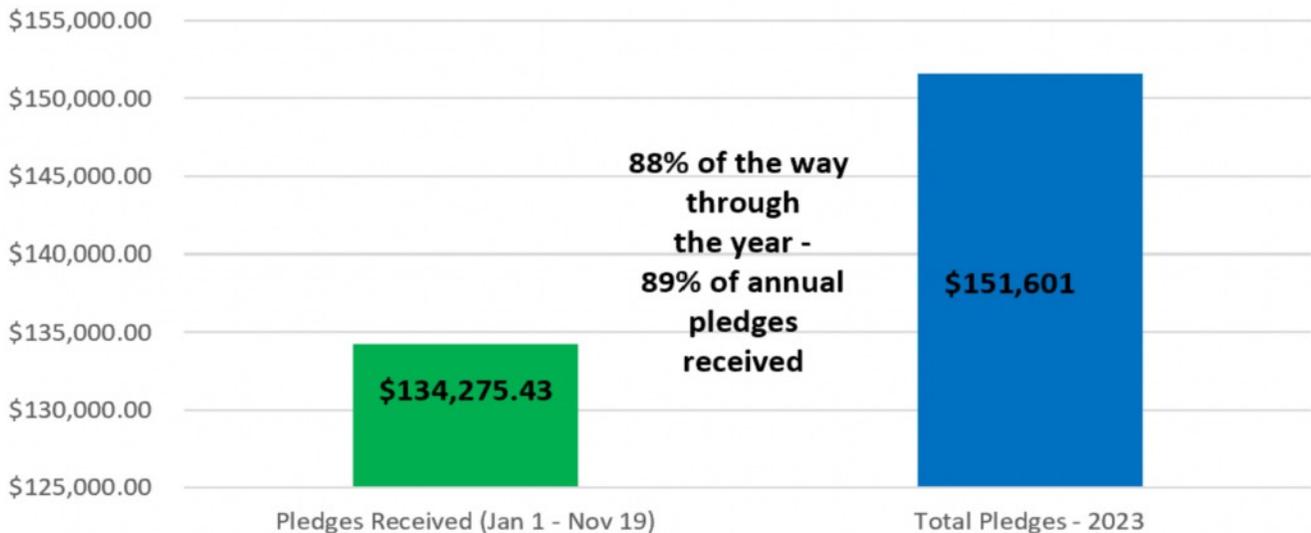
Rev. Margaret and Audrey Rivers were at the unveiling of the Harriet Tubman 'Beacon of Hope' statue in down Salisbury. The statue will be there until 1/31/24. Please go see it!

# MONTHLY FINANCIAL UPDATE

By: Shelly Madsen, Pledge Secretary



## 2023 Pledge Information - January 1 - November 19



\$11,230 received year to date in plate income.

# THANK YOU FOR MAKING THE 2023 FALL FEST AUCTION A SUCCESS!

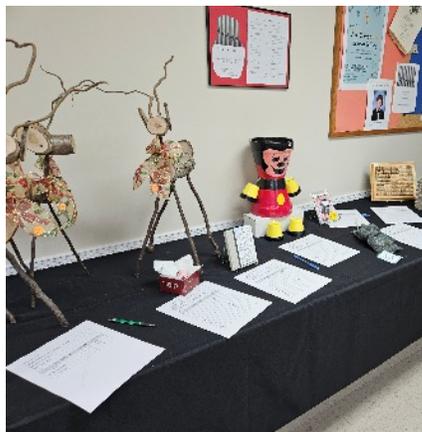


By Shelly Madsen

Photos by Harry Hoke, Kim O'Grady, Michelle Ben, Shelly Madsen, Sam Hotton, and Cristina Machin

Thanks to the enthusiasm of 85 Fall Fest auction attendees – 24 of whom are not parishioners at St. Alban's – this year's auction raised nearly \$9,000 for charity. This 11th auction, our first since before the pandemic, raised money primarily through the sale of party tickets, services, gift cards and the St. Alban's Artisan Market. An Italian dinner made by St. Alban's own cooks raised more than \$1,000 of the total receipts for the evening. Without the help of the many volunteers and donors, this successful evening would not have been possible. Funds raised will support the Rector's Discretionary Fund, relief for victims of the deadly Lahaina wildfires in Hawaii and to support programs, students, teachers and staff at Wicomico High School.

More than 50 people will attend parties hosted by members of St. Alban's in the coming year, starting with Christmas caroling and New Year's Day parties, allowing our famous hospitality and fellowship to continue throughout the year. If you have specific questions about the auction or how its proceeds will be used, please do not hesitate to contact me. Plans for 2024 are currently underway!





# Fall Auction Continued

Photos by Harry Hoke, Kim O'Grady, Michelle Ben, Shelly Madsen, Sam Hotton, and Cristina Machin



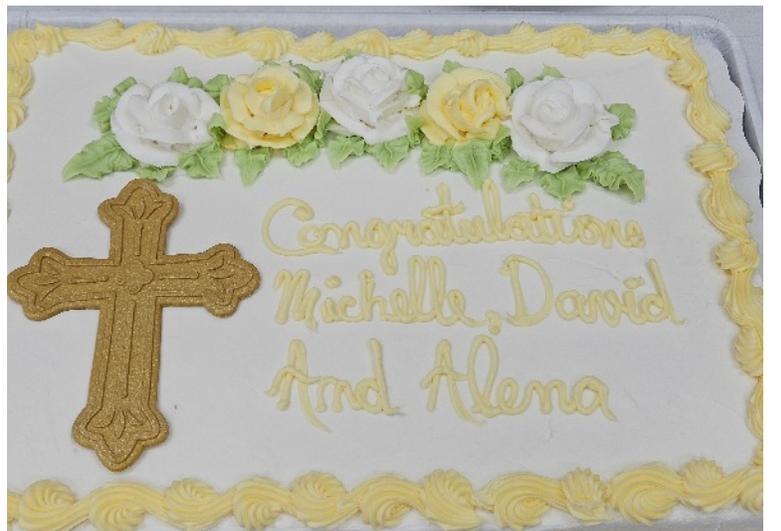


# Bishop's Annual Visitation





**Congratulations on your Confirmation  
Michelle Ben, David Simkins and Alena Wilkens.**



Photos by: Sam Hotton and Kim O'Grady

# Celebrating Margaret's first year at St. Alban's and Gary Stiegler's Birthday Sunday, November 26, 2023

By: Donna Parks



# The History of Christmas Cards

© Deborah Whipp  
<https://www.altogetherchristmas.com/>

**O**ne enjoyable aspect of the holiday season is the sending and receiving of Christmas cards. Today's Christmas cards are available in a variety of styles, from traditional cards depicting holiday scenery or decorations, to cards that play music upon opening, personalized family photo cards, greeting cards sent via the Internet and many more. Christmas cards are a wonderful way to send season's greetings to family and friends. But how did this custom originate?

Before the age of e-mail and cell phones, the printed word was the primary form of personal communication. The art of writing letters was an important social skill in Victorian England, a period from 1837 to 1901 when Queen Victoria ruled. During this era, proper Victorians composed letters of introduction, business, congratulations, love, apology and more. Well written, elegant letters were a sign of good breeding and considered an obligation by ladies and gentlemen of that period.



*the first Christmas card*

English schoolboys away from home composed an early form of Christmas greeting in the 19th century. The boys practiced their penmanship and displayed proof of their writing progress by composing "Christmas pieces" or "school pieces" for their teachers and families. Though holiday messages were conveyed in letters, it is England's Sir Henry Cole who is credited with the creation of the first commercial Christmas card.

A civil servant with a strong interest in art and design, Henry Cole (1808-1882) began his career in the Public Records Office in London at the age of 15. Here he played a key role in organizing Britain's national archives. While assistant to Sir Rowland Hill, Cole was instrumental in reforming the Penny Post (British postal service) and in introducing the first adhesive postage stamp known as the "Penny Black".

**The first Christmas card.** When Cole found he did not have time to send personal Christmas letters one year, he approached friend and artist John Callcott Horsley and commissioned Horsley to illustrate a Christmas greeting card.

In 1843, Cole's cards, featuring Horsley's illustration, were printed in lithograph form and then colored by hand. 1,000 cards were initially printed featuring the sentiment, "A Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year To You." After addressing cards to his friends and family, the remaining cards were sold for sixpence each, thus becoming the first commercial Christmas cards.



# WiHi Apples/SoSA/ Care of Neighbor



By: Mary Doak

On November 8, Mary and Howard Doak helped distribute 40,000 pounds of apples that the Society of St. Andrew (SoSA) received from orchardists in West Virginia. Volunteers helped box/bag apples for distribution to local food banks and pantries on Delmarva. The Doak's filled the back of their car with boxes of apples and delivered them to the food pantry at Wicomico High School, where they were distributed to students that day. It was a win-win for SoSA and for WiHi!





# St. Alban's and Community News

Source: for Ornament, Recipe, and Clipart - <https://www.togetherchristmas.com/>



## Clothespin Soldier Ornaments

### Supplies

- Round top wooden clothespins
- Red and blue craft paint
- Red pipe cleaners
- Red and blue pom poms
- Gold craft braid
- Gold string or thread
- Thin black marker
- Craft glue gun



### Instructions

Paint the clothespin with blue craft paint up to the split and red craft paint above that leaving the head unpainted. Let dry.

Beginning in the front waist section where the blue and red paint meet, use a glue gun to attach one end of the gold braid on the left side. Wrap the braid up to the right, around the head and down in front to form a cross, then wrap around the waist section three times. Cut the braid in back and affix with glue gun.

Cut a small piece of gold braid and glue to the head section as a chin strap, making it long enough the pom pom hat will cover the edges.

Snip yarns off of one side of pom pom so hat will fit more snugly to clothespin head. Glue the pom pom to the head section.

Cut pipe cleaners to create arms extending from shoulder section to just past waist section. Attach with glue.

Cut small length of gold string/thread (2 to 3 inches) to create hanging loop. Glue each end to the head section, one on either side, by separating pom pom yarn and glueing close to the clothespin.

Use a black marker to draw eyes, nose and mouth.



## Easy Crab Dip

### Ingredients

- 6 oz. crabmeat, drained
- 8 oz. package cream cheese, softened
- 2 tablespoons onion, finely minced
- 1/2 teaspoon horseradish
- dash of lemon juice
- pinch of salt
- pinch of pepper

### Directions

Soften cream cheese, then blend all ingredients.

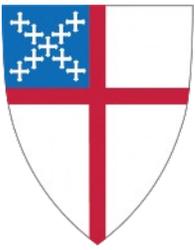
Put in oven safe dish and heat in the oven at 375 F. for approximately 15 minutes.

Serve with crackers or toast points.



**"Christmas gift suggestions:  
To your enemy, forgiveness.  
To an opponent, tolerance.  
To a friend, your heart. To a customer, service. To all, charity. To every child, a good example. To yourself, respect."**

~ Oren Arnold (1900-1980),  
American author.



**St. Alban's**  
Episcopal Church  
*Herald Newsletter*

P.O. Box 1511  
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## St-Alban's-Green-Team-Leadership



Jim Cockey, Rev. Margaret Brack, Steve Crabill and Julie Crabill