

# 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

## Welcome Spring!

For behold, the winter is past; the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth, the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land. —*Song of Solomon 2:11-12*





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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.



**WATCH ONLINE EVERY SUNDAY**

### **SERVICE HOURS**

#### **SUNDAY**

**8:00 am Rite I Holy Eucharist**

**10:00 am Rite II Holy Eucharist**

#### **WEDNESDAY**

**12 pm Wednesday Midday Service**

*All are Welcome!*

### *Laetare Sunday*



*By: Margaret Brack*

**On this past 'Laetare Sunday' parishioners Donna Parks and Judy Gracey joined Rev. Margaret+ in donning pink!**



# *A Message from* Rev. Margaret +

## THE GOD OF SPRING and of ALL THE SEASONS!

*14 And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, 15 and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth." Gen 1:14-19*

We have begun the season of Spring. This is the time when we feel a new hope and an energy come from seeing buds on the trees and yellow daffodils coming up along the sidewalks. Spring begins on either March 19th, 20th, or 21st each year. This year it was on Wednesday, March 20th. There are many similarities in both the Spring and the Fall seasons. The day these seasons begin is called the **equinox**, which is Latin for equal night. The daytime and the nighttime occur for an equal amount on this day. Also, on the day when our Spring equinox began here in the Northern Hemisphere, the fall equinox began in the Southern Hemisphere. What is also interesting is that there is an equal type of connection with the first day of Summer and Winter which is the Solstice. On these days at noon, the sun is at its highest or lowest point in the sky. Each year this marks the longest and shortest lengths of daylight. This ordered marking of seasons and time are a sign of God's hand.

*19 You have made the moon to mark the seasons; the sun knows its time for setting. 20 You make darkness, and it is night, when all the animals of the forest come creeping out. Ps 104:19-20*

It is interesting to see how the seasons, sunlight and rainfall are spoken of in the bible. In the gospel of Matthew, we hear of how God gives to all the same gifts of nature. Jesus points out that it is the benevolent and gracious character of God to provide daylight and rain for evil and unjust people, just as he does for those who are good and just.

*.so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. Matt 5:45.*

So, what should be our response as Christians to this season of gardens, sunshine and warm breezes? I believe it should be a time of thankfulness. We are now able to open a window, step out and stay on our porches, watch the spreading of the tree branches and bushes with their new buds. Perhaps you'll see even more different species on your bird walks! I believe this is when we can see the action of God around us. There is no machine that can create the incredible blooms we see in a garden, the view of Jupiter alongside the moon or the magnificence of the waves of the Atlantic coming ashore. Let this Springtime fill you with a sense of hope, renewal, and trust in your faith. A faith built upon a God that created all that we see around us in all its glory!!

*11 for now the winter is past, the rain is over and gone. 12 The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land. Song of Solomen 2:11-12*

# Senior Warden's Corner

April 2024 Senior Warden Report    Jim Cockey



On March 2, the Vestry held its Mutual Ministry Review led by Mrs. Mimi Delcuze of Annapolis. In the weeks prior to the meeting, we each submitted our written reflections in response to questions posed by Mimi about the functioning of the Vestry, rector and the church. At the meeting, she guided us through recognizing our past successes and shortcomings, our present strengths and challenges, and our hopes for the future.

We have now embarked on a long-term parish wide project of envisioning our future, based on embracing our past and present. You will be hearing more about our Visioning quest over the next year and a half. We are developing plans for remembering and honoring our past leaders and accomplishments; intentionally engaging with our present strengths and weaknesses; identifying where we want to apply our energy for future ministry; and dreaming about where we might be in 5-10 years. You will be updated regularly on all of this.

In addition to the MMR, the Vestry has been working on the online Congregational Vitality Assessment tool (CVA). It is an app made available for free to congregations by the Episcopal Church Foundation. Participants answer questions about their church; the data is collated, and an analysis is sent back. We may eventually roll it out to the entire congregation.

We will be having at least three parish-wide meetings over the next year where we will intentionally and deliberately engage with our past; our present; and our dreams and plans for the future. You will be hearing about this regularly for a long time. We hope to engage the entire congregation in this exciting, life-giving process.

Our journey will culminate in a big celebration of St. Alban's 65th anniversary, tentatively planned around the feast of St. Alban, in June, 2025. The last time we did something similar was in 2005, when we rented out a private suite at Shorebirds stadium for the celebration. The details of the celebration will be worked out over the next year.

I ask that all members of our church engage in and pray for our Visioning quest.

# COMMUNICATIONS by Arlene White

## Vestry Portfolio: COMMUNICATIONS

COMMUNICATION is important in the life of a church. It allows parishioners to be informed about activities and enable them to participate.

Here are some things that we are working on with COMMUNICATIONS this month:

- Several Vestry members have chosen bulletin boards in the parish hall to update and keep you posted regarding the work of their committees. We hope to update them monthly so please take a stroll around the parish hall when you have time.
- We have been working on making it possible for YOU to contribute to our St. Alban's Facebook page - stay tuned for more information.
- At the March Vestry meeting, we will be talking about the possible new look of the updated parish directory - format, contents, updated pictures. This will be an opportunity to make sure that your information is current and correct. You will be receiving information soon regarding how you can complete a form to make this happen! How you can update your directory photo! And more.....
- There are still openings within the Communications Committee to help with a variety of activities - both short and long term.

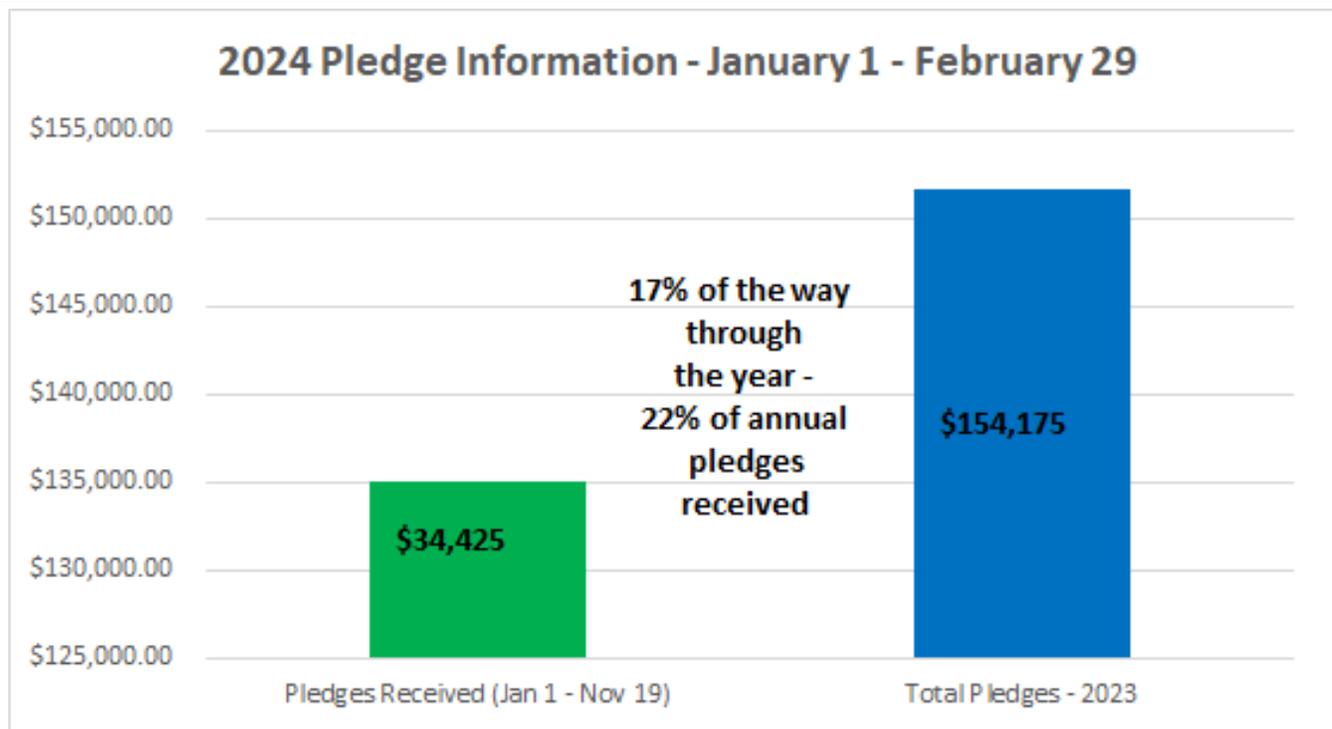
Do you have any questions? If so, please contact Arlene White, Vestry Liaison for Communications, at 410-251-0584 or [afwhite@salisbury.edu](mailto:afwhite@salisbury.edu) .

# MONTHLY FINANCIAL UPDATE

By: Jenny Buchanan, Pledge Secretary



2024 Pledge Information - January 1 - February 29



# The Dove Pointe Choir



On Sunday, March 10, we welcomed the choir from Dove Pointe! Dove Pointe is located on Mt. Hermon right across from our church lot. It has provided 56 years of quality day and residential services to benefit children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The programs offered at Dove Pointe are diverse, reflecting individual choices and interests. We were so happy to have their choir here on this Sunday as we celebrated “Laetare” when we rejoice for a day and break from our more solemn Lenten Season. Thank you to our special guests!!



By: Margaret Brack

Photos by: Michelle Ben and Julie Crabill



# PROPERTY

by Mary Doak

Happy Spring, St. Alban's family!

I am the Inside Property Liaison for the Vestry for 2024. Here is a report on what has been happening inside the church at St. Alban's in this year's first quarter.

Early in January, it was reported that the coffee maker in the all purpose room was leaking. HOBART was contacted and came out to inspect. A part had to be ordered and HOBART came back and replaced the part.

The toilet in the men's bathroom in the office hallway was stopped up. A plumber was called and cleared the blockage but in doing so, damaged the sink faucet. They replaced the faucet at no charge after we complained.

Jim Cockey reported to me that one of the kitchen doors was hard to open and close. We inspected the door and realized that the hinge at the top was broken. Howard figured this out and fixed the problem.

In January, we had a soaking, hard rain that left some of the ceiling tiles in the church building wet and/or falling down. Howard and I did an assessment of the tiles and called Peninsula Roofing to come out and meet us to discuss the situation. On February 2, we met with Peninsula Roofing employees and showed them the issues. They inspected the roof and found 4 punctures in the roof and 3 coping laps open which they repaired. We have ordered new ceiling tiles and will replace the ones that were affected.

Also in January, I met with an electrician to discuss the possibility of making the red doors automatically open. After our discussion, he researched this and met me again to discuss the costs involved. Ultimately, the Vestry decided that it was too expensive at this time to do this. There was a request to add a doorbell to the area around the red doors and also at the outside door on the office side of the building. These doorbells have been installed as of March 15. If you are unable to open the red doors yourself, please ring the doorbell and someone will help you.

At Al Rayne's funeral in January, I noticed that it was very difficult to open the doors into the courtyard. Howard and I investigated and found that one door is broken and the other door has a lintel that is sagging, making it hard to open. This could be a safety issue as these doors need to be functional in case of an emergency. We are in the process of getting estimates to replace these doors.

In January, Delmarva Time and Control came and inspected the fire alarm system. They needed to replace the batteries. The fire alarm system passed inspection after the batteries were replaced.

In February, Brian Raygor, Veronica Tomanek, and myself met with Shane Causey from Shore Audio to review an estimate that Shane had given us to replace the sound system in the church to improve the sound both within the sanctuary as well as on-line. Brian presented the contract to the Vestry which passed a motion to have Shore Audio replace the current sound system. In March, Shore Audio replaced the system with a new one which we all hope and pray will be much better than the one we had! Our electrician has dedicated one circuit in the electric box in the church to the new sound system and installed additional outlets.

The timing on the outside lights was changed after Daylight Savings time went into effect in March.

Howard has agreed to repair/update the name tag stand in the all-purpose room. There have been complaints that it is too hard to move and the name tags do not fit in the spaces. He will revamp the stand and put it on locking casters to make it easily movable.

EASI SYSTEMS is our service provider for our boiler/HVAC/mechanical systems. We have been in contact with EASI and when the weather permits, they will be inspecting the systems and replacing a part for the air-handler on the roof (due to a noise Rev. Margaret heard in December). Aside from a noise which they fixed that was heard in the mechanical room, no other issues have been identified this year.

If you see anything that concerns you about the inside of the building, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Mary Doak, Interior Property Vestry Liaison  
marydoak@gmail.com

# NEW SOUND EQUIPMENT



Photos by: Rev. Margaret Brack



## WORSHIP *by Sandy Grim*

### ACOLYTES

Acolytes play an important role at St. Alban's and are central participants of the service. An acolyte is a layperson who assists in worship. While the roles vary, they are all integral to the worship service. The crucifer carries the cross in the processional at the beginning of the service and recessional at the end of the service. The torch bearers carry the candles in the processional and recessional. The altar server lights and extinguishes the candles, distributes and receives the offering plates, receives the bread and wine and assists the celebrant in preparation for communion.

This ministry is open to adults, teenagers, and children, age 8 and older. This gives a layperson the chance to be involved in worship, actively assisting the priest in the celebration of the Eucharist. We welcome new parishioners to join. Training will be held to prepare individuals to perform each of the duties of the acolyte (torch bearer, crucifer, and server). Kim O'Grady will conduct the training. She is the acolyte leader for St. Alban's and has been actively involved in all roles of an acolyte for a number of years.

If you are interested in serving as an acolyte in any capacity, there is a signup sheet located in the breezeway or you can contact Sandy Grim ([sandongrim@verizon.net](mailto:sandongrim@verizon.net)) if you have any questions.

Sandy Grim  
Vestry Worship Liaison

# CARE OF NEIGHBOR By: Kim O'Grady



This winter, St. Alban's Church prepared 3 dinners for the Hands and Hearts Ending Homelessness Shelter. Howard Doak and Julie Crabill made chicken soup and various volunteers donated rolls, salad and desserts. Thank you to all who donated food. It is greatly appreciated and enjoyed by the men. Howard and Mary Doak pictured and also pictured is Ms Pat. She helps run the shelter kitchen.

Looking forward to serving again next winter.

# MEMBER CARE by Dee Rinehart

Is there someone in your part of town who might like a ride to church on Sunday morning? Perhaps your neighbor has not been part of a worship community for a while and might find our parish to be a welcoming place where spiritual needs are met. Please consider inviting a friend to come with you on a Sunday morning.

If you are willing to provide transportation to church for a neighbor who does not drive, please let Margaret or me know. Also, please notify me if there is anyone who might need a meal delivered during illness or recuperation.

Dee Rinehart

# Litany for Our Nation Services

Article by: Dee Rinehart, Photos by: Nancy Linck and Dee Rinehart

Nineteen people joined in Prayers for our Nation tonight at St. Alban's Episcopal Church and joined in a supper of soup and bread afterwards. This is a service led by a licensed lay Worship Leader. Our next Prayers for our Nation will occur on April 10 at 5:30 pm. All are welcome. You are invited to join us as we pray together at 302 St. Alban's Drive, in Salisbury.

We use Litanies and prayers from our *Book of Common Prayer* and additional prayers. Here is an example: Give us grace, O God, to understand what it means to share in the human venture. Help us to call to our remembrance the many generations of those who have gone before, living on the earth as we do, searching for the meaning of life as we search for it, hearing the call of duty as we hear it, entering the struggle between true and false, fighting the battle of right against wrong, deciding between love and hate, even as we do. Join us in spirit to those who fought until they triumphed, raising the level of our common life and broadening the scope of human possibility. – Help us to know that what was done by them, we can do: that greatness of life is not the gift of circumstance but the fruit of high resolve. Let us not say that such living was for others, but it cannot be for us. Take away our shelter, our evasions, our excuses. Join us, O Spirit Holy, to the greatness of the venture, until we are ennobled by it and its joy is in our hearts.

From: *The Language of the Heart: A Book of Prayers*, by A. Powell Davies, Farrar, Straus and Cudahy: New York, 1956

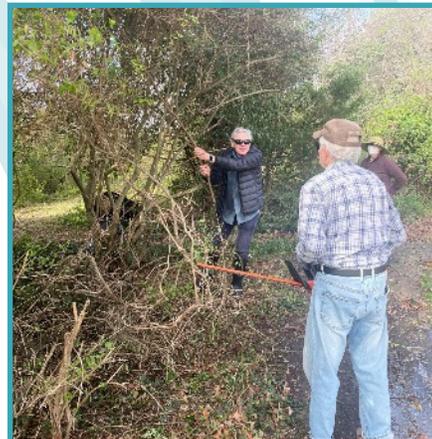
*Scheduled Prayers for our Nation: April 10, May 18, June 12, July 17, August 14, September 18, October 16.*



# Cleaning and Preparing the Labyrinth

By: Rev. Margaret Brack

A team of parishioners and a friend cleaned the St. Alban's Labyrinth and spruced up the surrounding grounds on Saturday, March 16th. The hearty workers included Stan & Rachael Shedaker, Jim and Amy Issacs, Steve and Julie Crabill, Linda Thompson and Rev. Margaret+. They worked to get the labyrinth ready for the Good Friday service March 29th at noon which will conclude with a silent Labyrinth Walk and also for World Labyrinth Day on Saturday, May 4th. There will be a Labyrinth Walk that day at 1:00pm. People all over the globe will join in walking at this time for world peace. We hope you will come join us!



# Let's Break Bread Let's Bake Bread



**WHY DID THE BREAD GO TO THE DOCTOR?**  
IT WAS FEELING A LITTLE CRUMBY



Guests enjoyed fresh baked bread, with cheeses, wine, beer, and fresh home roasted coffee. They brought their aprons, and engaged in mixing, kneading, shaping and baking loaves of bread. Each guest went home with some fresh bread, some dough to bake at home, and a jar of Jim's own sourdough mother starter, which he has kept going for 20 years.

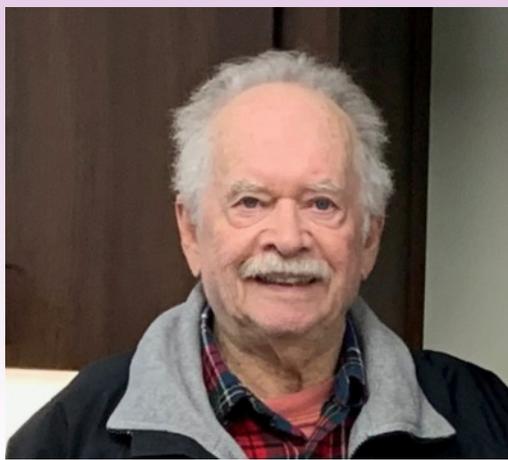
*Jim Cockey - author*

*Donna Parks - photographer*



# LENTEN SOUP LUNCH

Our second Lenten Lunch was held on Sunday, March 10 after the 10 a.m. service. The delicious soups were prepared by our master cooks Shelly Madsen, Greg Glass, Katherine West, Erica Howard, and Cheryl Hoke and additional help in the kitchen came from Pam and Dean Dedicatoria. We were delighted to have had members of the Dove Point Choir join us.



by Arlene White

Pictures by: Shelly Madsen



Dear Vestry of Saint Alban's Parish,

Thank you for helping make Relay For Life successful. Together, we honor all people living with cancer and remember loved ones lost. We are able to take action against this terrible disease because of support from donors like you.

You are helping boost our efforts to measurably improve the lives of people facing cancer and their families through advocacy, research, and direct patient support.

**We are so grateful for your support.**

Your gift is helping us save lives. In fact, thanks in part to research discoveries supported by American Cancer Society donors like you, cancer death rates are the lowest they have been in decades.

**Together, we can help every community touched by cancer.**

With your help, we are working to ensure everyone has the opportunity to prevent, detect, treat, and survive cancer.

**Thank you again for helping us improve the lives of people facing cancer.**

We sincerely appreciate your generosity, and thank you for supporting the American Cancer Society's vision to end cancer as we know it, for everyone.

Warm regards,

William L. Dahut, MD  
Chief Scientific Officer  
American Cancer Society

P.S. Have you considered a monthly gift? You can provide the kind of steady support the American Cancer Society needs to achieve our vision of ending cancer as we know it, for everyone. Visit [cancer.org/givemonthly](https://cancer.org/givemonthly).

**YOUR RECENT CONTRIBUTION**

**GIFT DATE                      GIFT AMOUNT**

01/30/24                                      \$102.25

No goods or services were provided for this gift. Your gift is tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law. Please consult your tax advisor regarding specific questions about your tax deductions.

# New Doorbells

*By: Mary Doak*

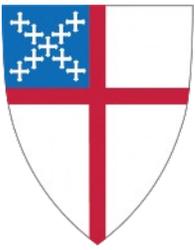


Since the vestry decided that automating the red doors was too expensive to tackle at this time, it was suggested that we install doorbells at the red doors and the office doors. Your vestry inside property liaison team ordered the doorbells and installed them in mid-March.

The doorbell at the red doors is there to help you if you are unable to physically open the red doors. If you need assistance, simply ring the doorbell and if there is someone inside the parish hall, they will come to your assistance.

The doorbell at the office door is there if you need to speak to someone in the office but do not have a door key. Ringing the bell will alert the parish assistant that there is someone who needs to enter.

The Vestry inside property team hopes this helps you!



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