

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





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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.



HOLIDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE

Tuesday, December 24th

4:30 pm Family Christmas Eve Service at Faith Lutheran Church

10:00 pm Christmas Eve Carol Sing Prelude

10:30 pm Holy Eucharist, Rite II, Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

Wednesday, December 25th

9:15 am Christmas Day Carols with Rev. Margaret & Jim

9:30 am Christmas Day Service Holy Eucharist, Rite II,

Sunday, December 29th

1st Sunday after Christmas 10:00 am Lessons & Carols at St. Alban's with Faith

<u>Member Care</u>

Do you need a ride to a doctor's



appointment or a meal, as you are recovering from an illness or emergency? Please contact Dee Rinehart, the Member Care Liaison.





A Message from Rev. Margaret

The Advent Season begins on Sunday, December 1st this year. We are now in Cycle C in the three-year Lectionary Cycle. I want us to begin this new liturgical year taking a moment to step back and allowing ourselves to truly prepare for the coming of Christ. In these next twenty-four days, we are readying our hearts and minds to be able to accept the overflowing love of the birth of Christ when we celebrate the Feast of the Nativity of the Lord. We will have two services on Christmas Eve, Tuesday, Dec. 24th: Family Service – 4:00 pm at Faith Lutheran and our Candlelight Christmas Eve Service at 10:30 pm at St. Alban's [Caroling begins at 10:00 pm]. Wednesday, Dec. 25th our Christmas Day Service begins at 9:30am [Caroling begins at 9:15 am]

As we prepare ourselves during this Advent Season, here is a program you can follow from The Episcopal Church - Journeying the Way of Love curriculum. We will be using this in our Adult Christian Education classes on Sundays in Advent from 9:10am-9:45am, if you would prefer to be in a group setting. We welcome you to join us in the Faith Room at any time!

Please begin with this prayer throughout the Advent Season -

Great Spirit, God, Creator of all, we receive you into our hearts, our minds, our Souls: Grant us Mary's wisdom to heed the inner voice that we know is you. Guide us to accept your invitation to serve and to do so with strength and courage. Amen. [Daily Prayer for All Seasons, (New York: Church Publishing, 2014), p. 27].

-I encourage you to read and reflect on the passages below from Luke throughout Advent-

Dec 1st 1st Week: The Annunciation: Saying "Yes" to the Journey

Luke 1:26-38

- Where have we heard the invitation to say yes to birthing good news in the world?
- When has such an invitation perplexed or frightened us?

Dec 8th 2nd Week: Mary and Elizabeth: Journeying with Family and Friends

Luke 1:39-56

- Mary notices that Elizabeth is on the journey of love. Whom can you invite on this journey on the Way of Love? Or, whom can you join on the Way of Love?
- Elizabeth says those who believe are blessed. How have you experienced your faith or trust in God as a blessing?

Dec. 15th 3rd Week: The Birth of John the Baptist: Journeying with Community Luke 1:57-80

- Where have you heard God speaking in our church or ministry?
- When have you felt yourself growing closer to God in this church community?
- When have you experienced God's love for you here? When have you felt yourself loving God in the context of this community?

Dec. 22nd 4th Week: The Birth of Jesus: Journeying with the World

Luke 2:1-20

- What do you see as the gifts Jesus' birth brings into the world?
- Where, with whom, and how are you called to share about the good news of Jesus' life and love?
- What amazes you about God? About God's love?

Senior Warden's Corner

Senior Warden Report Jim Cockey

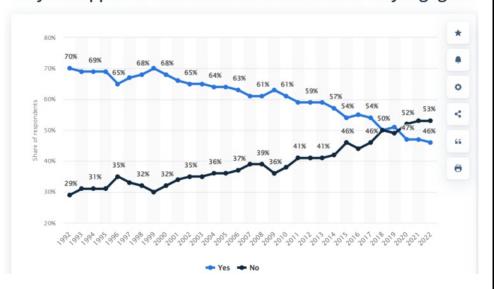


As I prepare to go off Vestry in January, I want to share some thoughts about our future.

The Episcopal Church, like all churches in America and the rest of the developed world, is shrinking.

The membership of churches in the Diocese of Easton has been shrinking for years, exacerbated after 2020 by the COVID pandemic. The church membership at St. Alban's has also been shrinking for years. St. Alban's struggles with the same demographic challenges as the rest of American churches. Our budget has been unbalanced for 2023 and 2024 and will likely be unbalanced for 2025 and the foreseeable future. Our shared ministry with Faith Lutheran has enabled us to keep a rector, but we remain in a negative balance. Savings from the years when we

Do you happen to be a member of a church or a synagogue?



had no rector enable us to continue to function, but those savings will eventually run out. What will we do then?

The new Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, Sean Lowe, has been a leader in creatively and faithfully leading churches and dioceses in adapting to change. Below are his words from a recent Living Church interview which I think describe well the challenge faced by St. Alban's, the Diocese of Easton, and all churches in our country.

"So, yes, the church is in decline, in terms of our numbers. Given the hand we're dealt, given the situation as it is, given the state of Christianity, given the demographics of our various regions — how do we most effectively participate in this mission that we've called ourselves to? I don't know if it's about helping us to decline gracefully, as much as it is to rethink the whole enterprise, particularly the way that we do it.

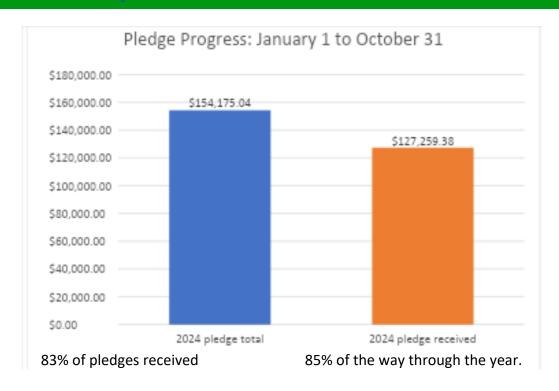
And I think it's going to be leaner. It's going to be smaller, at least in the short term. There's no question about that. The question for me more is, can we get to a level, to a greater level of effectiveness, and can we lay the groundwork in which to grow? But that doesn't happen overnight. We're talking about a multi-decade process here of rethinking, to use an old term, how we prosecute the mission of the church.

I talk a lot about organizational structure. I talk a lot about budgets, strategy — but it's all in the service of the gospel. If we don't get the vehicle working, you can have all the values and all the high aspirations you want, but if the vehicle can't get us there, what good is it?"

St. Alban's, and our Diocese, may or may not survive in their current form. For years, I have felt a strong desire to conserve both. My thinking has changed. Our key commitment is to the gospel of Jesus Christ. As we continually re-dedicate ourselves to the Gospel, our church is likely to change in ways that will be uncomfortable to many, while retaining the strengths which have maintained it for so long.

MONTHLY FINANCIAL **UPDATE** By: Jenny Buchanan, Pledge Secretary





Salisbury Middle's Annual Holiday Shop

Salisbury Middle's Annual Holiday Shop for students will be held on December 19 and 20. Students have the opportunity to use their Eagle Bucks (good behavior bucks) to purchase new or gently used gift items for their family or friends. Students can also use Eagle Bucks to have items gift wrapped.

Every year we rely on the generosity of the community to help stock the holiday shop. When you have a free moment at home, take a look around for new or gently used items that you no longer want and could be re-gifted by our students. It's a great way to get rid of unwanted or unneeded items.

Suggested items include: holiday decorations, purses, costume jewelry, candles, toys, gifts for dad, new with tags still attached clothing (no used clothing), sporting equipment, dvds (no r-rated), coffee mugs, anything that would make a nice gift, or spend \$5 at the dollar store to purchase gift type items for the event

***Gift bags and tissue paper are also very needed (used bags and tissue paper are great) ***

If you bring items to church, please leave them on the table in the "Joy" room at the end of the back hallway, or contact Katherine West (kwest@mywcps.org) and she can pick up items. If you are interested in gift wrapping on Dec. 19 or 20, there will be a sign-up sheet in the breezeway. Thank you for supporting Salisbury Middle!

New Pride Flags

By: Nancy Linck

You will notice the addition of two pride flags now hanging at the entrance on the corner of Mt. Hermon and St. Alban's Drive and also into the parking lot of St. Alban's. This will be an indicator to anyone driving by or visiting our church that St. Alban's "Welcomes All".



History of the Pride Flag

The original pride flag was created in the 1970s by gay activist Gilbert Baker, friend of Harvey Milk, the first openly gay man to be elected to public office in California. Baker used eight colors and corresponding meanings: hot pink for sexuality, red for life, orange for healing, yellow for the sun, green for nature, turquoise for art, indigo for harmony, and violet for spirit.



What the Colors of the Pride Flag Mean

The pride flag colors each hold a different meaning, and each color represents an important value of the LGBTQIA+ community. Let's take a look at what each of the rainbow colors represents.

Red: The red in the flag represents life. This makes sense if you think about how blood is red and how often blood is thought of as a vital life force of the body. Red also represents passion among many cultures. And, passion is ideally where life originates from.

Orange: Orange represents healing. As a color, orange is believed to be a fun and celebratory color. Fun and celebration are both healing activities.

Yellow: If you guessed that yellow represented sunlight, you would be correct. The color yellow functions as the flag's radiant and bright center. The color yellow is said to stimulate new ideas and thoughts.

Green: There's a lot of green in nature, which is what this color on the original pride flag is meant to convey. Nature is a healing place, and the color green is associated with prosperity and growth.

Indigo: The indigo or blue in the original pride flag was for serenity. Little is more important than the ability to feel calm and serene. Blue is known as a relaxing color that soothes the soul. The color blue is often used for nighttime consumer products to represent bedtime and calmness.

Violet: The last color, violet (or purple,) represents spirit. Purple is often thought of as a regal, royal color that, on its own, denotes pride. Like blue, purple is considered a calming color, but rather than being associated only with calm, the color purple connects us to the spiritual realm.



Bishop's Visitatio













November 2024 - Vestry Meeting Tighlights 🚾

We would like to share with you the highlights of the most recent Vestry meeting to provide more transparency and more up to date information on the workings of the church. Please contact Rev. Margaret or any Vestry member if you have any questions.

- ♦ Rev. Margaret continues the search for an administrative assistant. We're planning to have someone in place by January.
- ♦ We reviewed several concept plans to solve the problem of run off and standing water in the parking lot. It appears that we will have to take out part of the western end of the parking lot to successfully address the rainwater problem.
- ♦ Work continues to address the masonry issues in the courtyard.
- ♦ We now have a QR code on the bulletin whose link leads to our website donation button.
- ♦ Preparations were made for our Annual Meeting, Sunday, November 24 at 9:05 a.m. in the nave.
- We will soon establish a small committee to research durable and capital items given as memorial gifts to the parish.
- Plans continue to celebrate our 65th anniversary in June.



All About the St. Alban's Auction November 2, 2024

2024 Auction By the Numbers...

\$8,500+ -Total amount raised after auction expenses (money is still coming in)

......\$3,192 -Raised by Parties

......\$2,144 -Raised by Dinner and the bar

......\$684 -Raised by Services

......\$1,194 -Raised by Gift Cards

.....\$1,361 -Raised by the Artisan Market

.....\$235 -Raised in Donations



Auction Beneficiary Distribution (will be based on final total)

\$2,300+ to HOPE - Help and Outreach Point of Entry

• Serves the unsheltered community and low-income at-risk individuals and families

\$2,300+ to SOSA- Society of St.Andrew

• Gleaning fields to provide food for those in need

\$1,000+ to RDF - Rector's Discretionary Fund

• Funds available for the rector to help those in need

\$2,300+ to WiHi - Wicomico High School

• Our faith-based partner school; for their food pantry/feminine hygiene needs

\$100 to WiHi National Honor Society

• In appreciation for volunteering at the auction





Who Attended?

- 53 church members (including 2 children)
- 21 relatives of church members
- 11 guests
- 7 WiHi National Honor Society volunteers





The 2024 Auction would not have been possible without the invaluable help of those below:

- To everyone that donated parties, crafts, gift card, and services you made the auction possible!
- To everyone who attended the auction and spent money over \$8,500 which will all go back to our community
- To Debbi and her team for setting everything up in the parish hall it was beautiful and welcoming, and people enjoyed having a place setting
- To the chefs who made the salads: Mary, Audrey, Paulette, Jim, Mae, Pattie, and Sharon dinner was delicious!
- To Jim and Mae for volunteering in the kitchen and slicing all that ham
- To Julie for baking 8 different flavors of delectable cupcakes it was the smoothest dessert process in auction history! Mocha and Praline were the big hits of the evening
- To Dean for being the evening's photographer! Pictures are on the next pages. He also created a slide show of the night that will be shared during advent lunches
- To Kevin and Walt for tending the bar, making a profit of \$51.53
- To Arlene for soliciting and organizing parties and dinner reservations
- To Nancy for organizing the artisan market and soliciting donations
- To Mary and Howard for checking people in, and Mary for soliciting services
- To Erica, Lily, and Kathy Justice for the artisan market check out at the end of the evening
- To Kathy H. and Bob P. for being tellers you had a lot of money to count!
- To Linda, Mike, Greg, and Jim for checking everyone out efficiently and with good cheer
- To Jen P. and the WiHi National Honor Society volunteers for helping with food, serving, clean-up, carrying items out to cars, and putting the sacristy back together.

Auction Chairs Shelly Madsen and Cristina Machin YOU ARE THE

What a dynamic duo! Thank you for your tireless organization, communication, and dedication to making the auction such a success. You spent hours behind the scenes planning, soliciting donations, shopping for supplies, and making sure everything ran smoothly, including organizing all those bid sheets on auction night. Your leadership is greatly appreciated. St. Alban's is so fortunate to have you both!



Simply AMAZING!

Has been raised and donated by St. Alban's since 2010 with the proceeds from 12 auctions, 1 online auction, and 1 soup/bread/cookie sale. These funds have supported 23 local, national, and international organizations! Stay tuned for next year...



























































iction 2024

Photos by: Cristina Machin and Dean Dedicatoria











A WARM WELCOME TO PATI AND DAVID PESKETT

By: Sharon Walsh

A friend with a torn Achilles heel was the unlikely catalyst for Pati and David's relationship. David and his friend were scheduled to compete in an international sailing event in Bermuda when his friend suffered the disqualifying injury. David had traveled all the way from England to participate in International Race Week, and Pati, who was working and sailing in Bermuda at the time, felt terribly sorry that he would have to drop out or sail as an alternate on another competitor's crew. She quickly arranged with her boss to take a week of vacation in order to crew for David on his boat. During that week, as they got to know each other, they realized they wanted a future together. After David

returned to England, they kept up a cross-Atlantic correspondence and visited each other several times until they married in Bermuda in 1991.

They spent their early years on opposite sides of the Atlantic, but each was their mother's late-in-life child. Pati was born and raised in Newport News, VA, while David grew up as an only child in Sutton Coldfield, England, which is a suburb of Birmingham. He attended the Church of England regularly. Pati refers to her previous church experience as "evangelical" in both Baptist and Methodist churches.

Pati and David do not have children. David's cousins, nieces, and nephews are spread all over the world— England, Italy, Australia and Canada. Pati has a brother in Virginia, a sister and two nieces. Her sister moved from Newport News to Delmar after Pati settled in Salisbury. One of Pati's nieces also moved to the Salisbury area, and her other niece lies in Hanover, MD, and has followed in Pati's footsteps. More about her later.

Both Pati and David have pursued most of their education as working adults. Patti started her education with an AA degree in Electronics, but she kept going back to school while employed full-time, eventually earning her bachelor's in Management Studies and then her master's in Technology Management. David at age 15 was no fan of formal education and left school after completing his O-levels, the UK equivalent of high school graduation at the time. He received his AA degree in Accounting at Pati's urging while living in Bermuda after they were married. Like Pati, he continued with his education attending what is now the University of Maryland Global Campus. Seeing how that degree helped him in his profession, he continued his studies with the University of Maryland, obtaining an MBA degree.

They retired in 2020 after wonderful, interesting careers. Pati's first job in the aerospace field took her to Ascension Island and then to Bermuda where she worked at NASA's tracking station for the space shuttle and other NASA flights. When that station closed, she returned to the States



and worked at Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, MD. She was assigned "temporarily" to NASA Wallops where she stayed for 20 years until retiring from her role as Engineering Manager for Peraton, a NASA contractor. Her niece, mentioned earlier, has electrical an engineering degree, and works at Goddard as a NASA contractor. She also lives just a stone's throw from where Pati lived when she worked at Goddard. David's first job in England was as a salesperson in the large retail company that his father managed. eventually moved management and then

designing retail store layouts for the member-owned Co-Operative Group. In Bermuda, he worked with the Navy Exchange team, buying a huge variety of items for the U.S. Naval Air Station and its personnel and their families. When he became an Eastern Shore resident, David joined Cambridge Wire Cloth "temporarily" and, like his wife's experience at Wallops, stayed 20 years. He traveled widely while with that business to places like India, Korea, and Australia in various roles including International Sales Manager.

The Pesketts stay busy in retirement! Pati, like several other women at St. Alban's, is an active member of PEO Sisterhood, an organization that provides educational scholarships for women. David is a DIY guy and consequently spends lots of his time at Lowes. He also collects diecast scale model cars and antique toys. They are members of the Eastern Shore Corvette Club which has grown from approximately 40 to 140 members since they joined. They enjoy the social aspect of the group, but are especially proud of the fundraising they do for four charities. For example, the club raised \$8000 this year for Operation We Care, which sends care packages to our active duty troops. At the recent St. Alban's auction, they offered a party to watch the boat parade on the Saturday after Thanksgiving, and 40 people signed up! Obviously, they enjoy entertaining.

Pati met Rev. Margaret through her PEO sisters and came to some St. Alban's activities at their invitation. She has discovered nothing that she does not like since first attending. She joined the Bible study and for the first time in 30 years, she finds herself picking up her Bible and wanting to read it. She feels "cocooned spiritually, and empowered to be myself as a Christian as opposed to the one I felt I should have been as a Methodist." appreciates not feeling judged, but warmly accepted, and is excited by the ability to explore her spirituality at St. Alban's. David probably will not regularly participate in worship services, but we will likely see him at other church gatherings. St. Alban's is definitely enriched by the presence, personality and talents of the Pesketts.

Covenant Council Munch and Wrap

By: Shelly Madsen

4pm, Sunday, December 15 - Faith Lutheran

As part of our joint Covenant Council Faith Lutheran again joined us for the annual picnic in June. On December 15, Faith Lutheran will be hosting the first Munch and Wrap. These are two activities that the Covenant Council coordinates.

1. Cookie exchange: please bring a plate of cookies. For every cookie you bring, you can eat or take a cookie home. For example, if you bring ten cookies and eat two, then you can take any eight cookies home with you. Cocoa will be provided.



2. Now through December 15, we are collecting gifts for MAC's Adopt a Grandparent program (Medicade Alternative Care). Please put your donations in the marked bin located under the breezeway table. While at Faith, we will wrap the collected gifts and they will be delivered to MAC for distribution to those who may not otherwise receive any gifts on Christmas.





Suggested gifts include: household items – towels, kitchen towels etc, non-perishable food/snack items, personal care items – chapstick, shampoo, conditioner, hand lotion, toothpaste, and toothbrush, gift cards – grocery store, restaurant, pharmacy, treats like Mc Donalds, Dunkin Donuts, Dairy Queen, hobbies – puzzles, wordsearch, music cd's, adult coloring, magazines, christmas decorations – table top trees, poinsettias, etc., 2025 calendar, gloves, scarves and toboggans, or stationery and stamps.

Celebration 65 Committee to Meet December 8

The story of St. Alban's began when a plan to improve Route 50 through downtown Salisbury posed the possibility that St. Peter's Episcopal Church might need a new location. When a move to a new site became unnecessary, the St. Peter's Vestry was inspired to establish a mission on the East side of Salisbury, in the spot that is now St. Alban's Episcopal Church. St. Alban's opened its doors for worship in 1960. Our parish history is the story of many voices joined in prayer, faithful leadership, and generous gifts of time and treasure. June 22, 2025, the Feast of St. Alban, is set to give thanks for and celebrate these 65 years. On December 8, during the Advent Soup Lunch, the Celebration 65 Committee will meet in the Faith Room. Let's eat lunch together as we begin to plan this event. Dee Rinehart



Blue Christmas Holy Eucharist & Healing Service

December 21, 2024 at 3:00pm

St. Philip's Episcopal Church, 6457 Quantico Road, Quantico, MD

The Christmas Season can be a very difficult time for those who have lost a loved one over this past year or have lost a significant relationship or a job/career or quality of health or simply a way of life.

The Blue Christmas Holy Eucharist & Healing Service is a time to remember those we have lost, a time to reflect upon the changes that have impacted our lives, and a time to share with one another our hope and assurance of Christ's presence in our darkest hours.

Light Dinner Immediately Following

The gentlemen of St. Philip's will be hosting a light dinner immediately following the service the service in the Parish Hall.



Need a Ride?

Let us know if you would like to a ride to the service and home again. We can assist in making travel arrangements for your safe arrival and return.

Let Us Know if You Will Join Us!

Please RSVP by December 19th to **Rev. Elizabeth Phillips at 336-816-5055** or **revenphillips@icloud.com.** Please indicate if you will be joining us for dinner and if you would like transportation.





Valet Parking Available

Valet parking will be available. You will have the option to drop your car off at the front of the church and allow one of our trusty parishioners to park your car for you and assist you into the building.

Someone will be present to manage the traffic on Quantico Road for your safety.

St. Philip's Episcopal Church in Quantico will be joined by St. Peter's Episcopal Church and St. Alban's Episcopal Church of Salisbury, St. Mary's Episcopal Church of Tyaskin and All Hallows Episcopal Church of Snow Hill to celebrate the gift of hope and Christ's loving presence with us on this winter solstice, the longest night of the year.

St. Alban's and Community News





Submitted by: Deb Rossi

This year's St. Albans Simply Fun auction and dinner was truly a wonderful evening. I must admit that I participated this time with the hope that H.O.P.E. Inc. would benefit from the generosity of our church family, and the evening exceeded my expectations. Please note that I am writing this before the final

decision on the distribution of funds has been made.

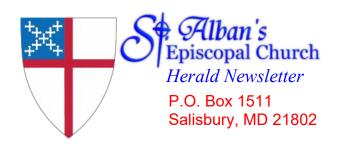
While typically I would say my favorite thing was the cupcake room, this year I experienced some "miracle moments" and I wanted to share one with you. A miracle moment for me is when I show up, meet someone and something truly unexpected happens. Early in the evening I met Jen from Wi Hi and enjoyed chatting with her about her parents and such. Later, after we had all given our little talks about our agencies, she came to me and said "I think one of the students here could use your help. Will you talk to them?" I said yes, of course if they are comfortable with that. Serving you that evening was a delightful young student, a talented and studious member of the National Honor Society. Their story would break your heart. These stories don't break my heart any longer, they motivate me. Also no one wants or needs my pity-they need me to get to work, tell the truth and make a difference where I can. Please say a prayer for the children that are months away from becoming adults who don't yet have access to their records, benefits or resources. The minute they turn 18, they will be expected to navigate a system they don't understand. I hope now that we've connected, they remember what I said, "I am going to try to help you now, but in a few months, you need to come see me because you are going to need help then and there are resources available to you that I want you to get." I told them I was grateful they came to speak to me and that the hardest thing is asking for help, and they had already learned how to do that. Their response was "Can I give you a hug?"

That response is the reason I work at HOPE. The most amazing, wonderful, heartbreaking people hug me. How lucky am I. Thank you for being a part of the miracle!

Hands and Hearts Ending Homelessness

Hands and Hearts Ending Homelessness, (the men's cold weather shelter) will be opened on Saturday Nov. 15th thru April. The men arrive after 4pm, enjoy snacks, a hot meal and desserts. They then watch tv, read, play cards/games/puzzles or just turn in to a warm bed. The next morning they get breakfast, a bagged lunch and taken to downtown Salisbury by 7 am. This is rain or shine. On the 2nd Wednesday of the month, St. Alban's will provide chicken soup, salad, rolls

and dessert. We will be asking for the congregation to donate parts of the meal. If you would like to donate a meal or snacks, you can contact me or go on their Facebook page for the link. Some other items the shelter can always use are articles of clothing, mainly sweat shirts/pants, underwear, socks, and toiletries. They usually sizes Ig-xxlg. If they have any other request, I will pass it along. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me. Kim O'Grady: pkogrady3@yahoo.com



All Saints Rabyrinth Walk of Remembrance

Photos by: Rev. Margaret Brack





