

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

**May the new year bring you
peace, joy, and happiness.**

WE WISH YOU A HAPPY

new year

2025

"THEREFORE, IF ANYONE IS IN CHRIST, HE
IS A NEW CREATION. THE OLD HAS PASSED
AWAY; BEHOLD, THE NEW HAS COME"
— 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17



302 St. Alban's Drive
Salisbury, MD 21804

Effectively immediately, St. Alban's will be canceling its P.O. Box and go back to using the mailbox at: 302 St. Alban's Drive, Salisbury, MD 21804. Please send all your correspondence to that address.

Office Hours: Monday -Thursday
8:00 am - 12 Noon

stalbanssalisbury@gmail.com

www.stalbanssalisbury.com

facebook.com/stalbanssalisbury

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

Worship



WATCH ONLINE EVERY SUNDAY

**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**

**Wednesdays Midday Service
12:00 Noon**

ALL ARE WELCOME!

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.



A Message from **Rev. Margaret +**

Remembering As We Enter the New Year!

As a parish family, here at St. Alban's we are entering this New Year of 2025. We anticipate a year where our dreams will be realized, projects will begin, continue or be completed; we pray that our troubles will subside and hope that there will be opportunities to reach out to even more people in our surrounding community!

As 2024 was ending, we as members were able to remember and take note of those who have been important in our lives. On November, 1st & 3rd we celebrated All Saints & All Souls with a Labyrinth Walk incorporating mementos of those in our lives that have gone before us, a Celebration of the Eucharist and a sharing of photos that helped tell the story of our lives. On December 21st we gathered with other churches for a Blue Christmas Service which allowed us to acknowledge how those we have lost and other issues have been affecting our lives. All of these events were helping us to prepare for the beginning of this New Year.

Today is the beginning of that New Year! Let us go forth from this day with our faith as our guide. Let our belief in Christ and the Scriptures, which tells the story of God's love to be the foundation that we build upon and rest on throughout the year. This is my prayer for all those at St. Alban's:

*I pray that as this New Year begins you will feel God's love and presence
and that this sign of a sure faith will surround you always!*

I also would like to give you this personal prayer to recite:

**"God of all time, help us enter
the New Year quietly, thoughtfully,
mindful that our steps make an impact
and our words carry power".**

May you all have a Blessed 2025!!



Senior Warden's Place

Senior Warden Report Dee Rinehart



Isaiah 42:10 *New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition*
A Hymn of Praise

¹⁰ Sing to the LORD a new song,
his praise from the end of the earth!
Let the sea roar^[a] and all that fills it,
the coastlands and their inhabitants.

Merry Christmas, everyone! I hope you enjoy the continued blessings of this season. As you read this, a new year is upon us, and our new vestry will be commissioned soon. Here is some vestry news:

- The annual December dinner/meeting was held on December 17.
- New vestry members: Jeremy Cox, Chuck Porter, and Walt West attended.
- New vestry member orientation was held December 19.
- The January vestry retreat is scheduled for January 11, 9-noon.
- The 65th Anniversary Committee will meet January 26.
- The regular monthly vestry meeting is January 28.
- Vestry officers for 2025 are: Senior Warden – Dee Rinehart, Junior Warden – Arlene White, Treasurer – Greg Glass, Parish Registrar – Judy Gracey, and Vestry Recording Secretaries – Jim Cockey and Sharon Walsh.

Happy new year! In this new year, let us all “Sing to the LORD a new song.” May our everyday lives reflect our identities as people who are *Christ Centered – Radically Embracing People and Creation*.

Dee Rinehart

65th Anniversary Planning Committee

The next meeting of the planning committee will be held on January 26 after the 10A.M. service. We will choose a theme for our celebration. You are welcome to join in the planning of our June 22 celebration.

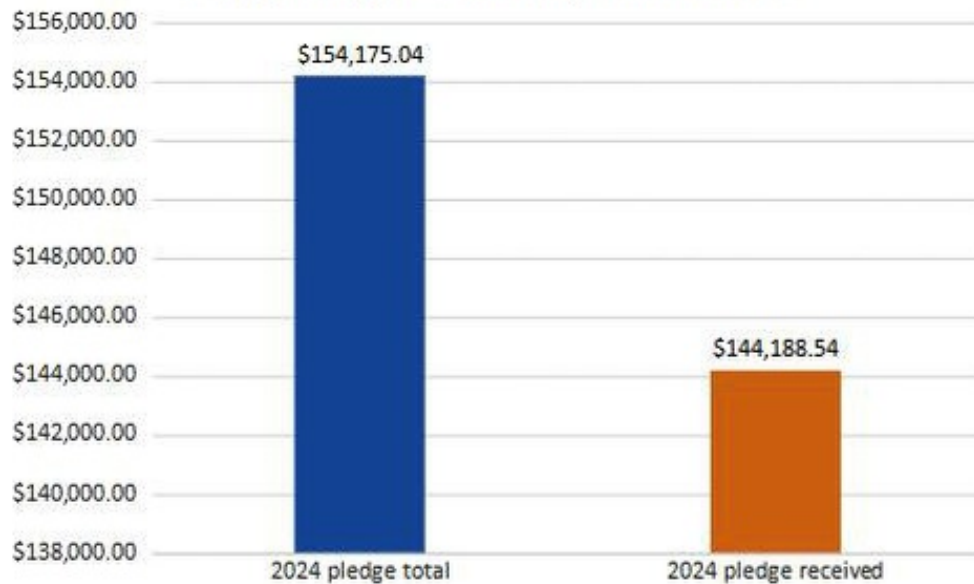
Dee Rinehart

MONTHLY FINANCIAL UPDATE

By: Jenny Buchanan, Pledge Secretary



Pledge Progress: January 1 to June 30



%94 of pledges received. 90% of the way through the year.



Society of St. Andrew
GLEANNING AMERICA'S FIELDS
FEEDING AMERICA'S HUNGRY



From Society of St Andrew:

Without pollinators, there would be no fresh fruits and vegetables for us to share! Thanks to Delmarva Native Plants for sharing 89 (!!) beautiful switchgrass and bee balm plants that will provide lots of good food and shelter for pollinators next summer! Our wonderful volunteer Howard from St. Alban's Episcopal Church, Salisbury, MD drove to Hurlock to pick them up, and three churches/community gardens will be able to expand their native plantings because of this donation! Win-win-win!

MUNCH AND WRAP

By: Shelly Madsen

Thank you to everyone who donated gifts for the MAC's adopt a grandparent program. On December 15th, the gifts were taken to Faith Lutheran Church and wrapped.

Greg delivered the gifts to MAC on the 16th.

While at Faith Lutheran Church, we enjoyed cocoa with candy canes used to stir the cocoa and delicious cookies.

Faith wrapped the gifts they had collected for students at their partner school as well as for a family they were connected with through Social Services.



What can I do? HELPING HANDS

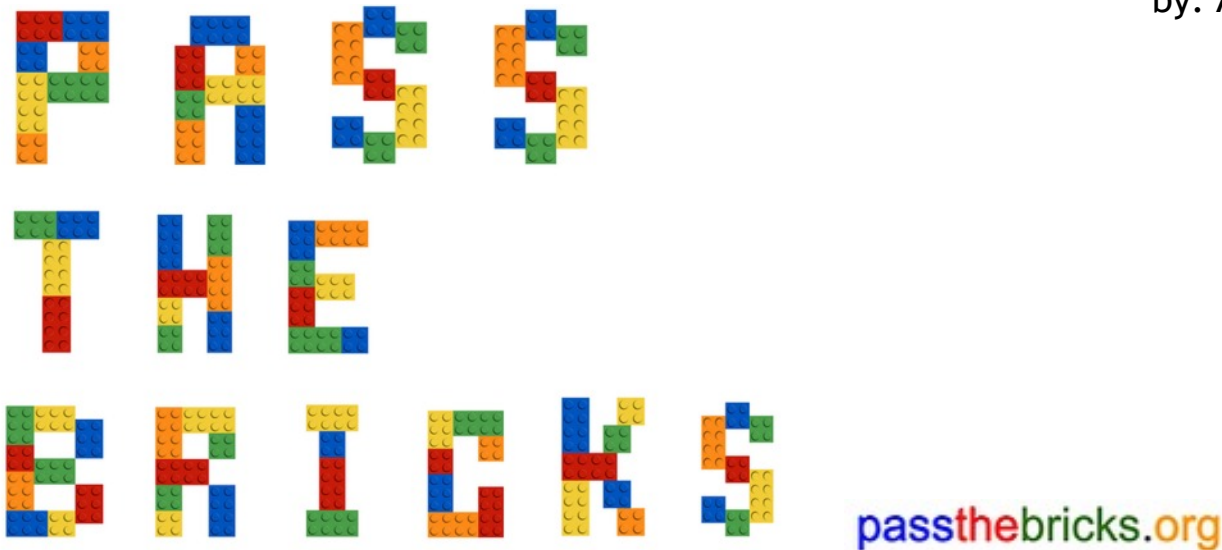
We will start a new series for the 2025 Herald entitled - **What Can I do? HELPING HANDS.**

These will be short articles about how one individual had an idea, acted upon it and what a difference it made.

We at St. Alban's have a long history of helping others - our church family, our neighbors, our community, our world. We sometimes bravely take on an additional interest or responsibility and have an unexpected impact.

Please feel free to send me your ideas!

by: Arlene White



As many of his generation, Charlie Jeffries fell in love with LEGOS at an early age. It was not until he was in high school and realized the academic, creative, and problem-solving effects LEGOS had had on him. He had outgrown them by then and was also thinking about the environmental issues involved, wanting to avoid filling landfills with old blocks. In 2020, **Pass the Bricks** was born when Charlie started asking his friends and neighbors for their old LEGOS. He cleaned, sanitized, and sorted them. Then he created brand new sets from the pieces he had, including directions and images. He delivered them to kids in marginalized communities - much to their joy and delight! Soon other friends and families - even non-profits - joined in the effort.

Would you like to be a part of “the biggest LEGO rebuild ever”? You can become a Pass the Brick ambassador simply by going to the above website for information. Groups are set up all over the U.S. and world. There are 5 chapters in Maryland but none on the Eastern Shore. Groups have already recycled 20,202 lbs. / 98,000 bricks.

A great auction party hosted by the Peskett's.

**Good food, good
friends, fire and the
Christmas Boat Parade.**

Photos by: Kim O'Grady





Diocese of Easton to consider partnering with another diocese after bishop's retirement

Posted Dec 20, 2024

[Episcopal News Service] The Diocese of Easton Standing Committee released a statement Dec. 19 saying it will create a discernment committee to “determine whether our participation in God’s mission could be strengthened by collaborating or partnering with another nearby diocese.”

The announcement comes as several dioceses across The Episcopal Church have agreed to or are considering whether to merge in recent years, and it follows Easton Bishop Santosh Marray’s November announcement that he intends to retire in 2026.

Easton is one of three Episcopal dioceses with congregations in Maryland. Most of the Diocese of Easton spans a region of the state known as the Eastern Shore, part of a peninsula that extends south along the Chesapeake Bay and is bordered to the east by Delaware and the Atlantic Ocean.

The diocese separated from the Baltimore-based Diocese of Maryland in 1868. Today, the Diocese of Maryland, at 26,000 members, is nearly four times larger than the Diocese of Easton, with fewer than 7,000. The Diocese of Washington, with about 31,000 members, also includes some congregations in Maryland just north and south of the U.S. capital.

The Diocese of Easton engaged in a previous period of discernment a decade ago. At that time, it considered partnering with another diocese but decided to remain independent. It elected Marray as its bishop in 2016.

“With thanks for Bishop Marray’s ministry, the Standing Committee of the Diocese of Easton, understanding that the search and installation of a diocesan bishop will likely cost the diocese around \$200,000, believes it is prudent and good stewardship to first enter into another diocesan-wide discernment process to determine the diocese’s vision for its ministry in the coming decades after Bishop Marray’s resignation,” the Standing Committee said in a page on its website about the transition.

Those interested in serving on the Easton discernment committee are invited to apply for nominations now. The committee is expected to be finalized by February.

Salisbury Middle School's Holiday Shop 2024

Dear St. Alban's Family,

Salisbury Middle School's annual Holiday Shop, in which students shop for gifts for family members using their Eagle "Bucks", was held December 19 and 20. This year's shop would not have been successful or possible without the generous donations from the St. Alban's congregation. With 850+ students, there was quite an array of gifts for students to select, from hand-carved Christmas trees, purses, puzzles, mugs, ornaments, candles, toys and jewelry. Students delight in finding the perfect gift for a mother, father, grandparent or sibling. Thanks to everyone who donated gifts and wrapping supplies to give our students and their families a happy holiday. Your generosity is greatly appreciated by the Salisbury Middle staff.



Many thanks to our wrapping angels! It's a long day on your feet wrapping gifts for 850 students, and the St. Alban's crew did it with grace and good cheer. A huge shout-out to Audrey, Arlene, Alex, Carrie, Howard, Kathy, Sona, and Pat and her grandchildren, Annabel and Colin. Your wrapping made the students so happy to have a beautifully packaged gift to give a family member.

With gratitude and love to everyone at St. Alban's for supporting Salisbury Middle year after year -

Katherine

From Antoinette Purnell, SMS Holiday Shop Coordinator

Lastly, a heartfelt thank you to Katherine West and her church group for lending a hand in helping our students wrap their gifts. Your kindness and generosity made such a difference. 🎁🙏

Wishing everyone a peaceful, joyful holiday season! ❄️🍷

Warmly,
Amy & Antoinette





ST. ALBAN'S WRAPPING ANGELS



PARK CLEANUP BRINGS OUT BEST IN COMMUNITY

By Jeremy Cox

A few dozen volunteers converged on Ben's Red Swings in Salisbury's City Park on Saturday, Nov. 30, to refresh the beloved playground, named in honor of Ben Layton, who was baptized at St. Alban's.

Congregants Rod and Pat Layton, along with a phalanx of fellow Laytons, lead the cleanup every year on the first Saturday after Thanksgiving. Despite temperatures in the 30s this time, workers toiled for three hours, raking up pine needles, spreading fresh mulch, replacing swing chains, shoveling sand and refreshing hardware.

Technically, the city of Salisbury owns the facility. But the greater St. Alban's community takes care of it as if it were their own, said Cale Layton, Ben's uncle.

"You have big number of kids that come out to this playground every single day, It's astonishing how much abuse happens over the course of a year. So I know that the city workers are coming through it sometimes [for its upkeep], but they're not paying the attention to exactly the same stuff that we are," he said.

Ben Layton passed away in 2004 from a rare form of leukemia. He was 4 years old. He made known before he died that when he became an angel in heaven, he wanted to have "red wings." Two years later, his parents, Chris and Hendrika, led a community effort to construct the playground that now bears his name.

Twenty years have passed since then, and the playground remains as vibrant as ever, thanks in no small part to the hands-on efforts of the Layton family and the volunteers they inspire.







St. Alban's and Community News



Congratulations Maarten Pereboom

Dr. Maarten Pereboom commented his participation in Leadership Maryland:

Great celebration earlier this week as Leadership Maryland graduated its 2024 executive leadership class, boldly claimed to be, and affectionately known as, the Worst Class Ever. Thanks for the memories, insights gained and friendships formed! Grateful also to Salisbury University for its support.



Submitted by: Arlene White

Congratulations Katherine West

The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards offers an optional National Board certification for K-12 teachers. Both nationally and in Wicomico County, only about 3% of teachers have attained certification, a process which requires videotaping lessons, multiple written responses, and



a 3 hour exam. National Board Certification recognizes teachers who demonstrate mastery in four components: Content Knowledge, Differentiation in Instruction, Teaching Practice & Learning Environment, and Effective & Reflective Practitioner. There is a decade of research that supports the impact that Board-certified teachers have on students, showing that students of Board-certified teachers learn more than their peers without Board-certified teachers. Studies have also found that the positive impact of having a Board-certified teacher is even greater for BiPOC and low-income students. St. Alban's member and Salisbury Middle Reading Coach Katherine West spent much of the last academic year developing her certification portfolio and preparing for the exam, and learned in early December that she is one of this year's new National Board Certified Teachers!





St. Alban's and Community News



Congratulations Charlie & Widmy

Charlie got her varsity letter in cross country tonight and got to put her name up on the all-time leaderboard at school as the sixth fastest female runner in the school history! So proud of this amazing kid!



Congratulations to Widmy Joseph on graduating from college (in Florida) majoring in finance. Future plans are getting a job, or continuing school or both. He says hi to all his St Alban's family!!



Submitted by: Arlene White

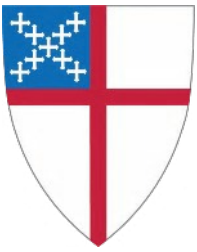
Congratulations Kim O'Grady



Lower Shore Enterprises Caring Award

Congratulations to this year's Caring Award recipient - Kim O'Grady! The Caring Award is a nomination from co-workers to the person they feel excels in teamwork, commitment and caring. Kim is a caring, compassionate and trusted co-worker and support person. Her commitment to LSE and the people we serve shines through. She is open to trying anything and always jumps in to help where needed – well deserved!





St. Alban's
Episcopal Church

Herald Newsletter
302 St. Alban's Drive
Salisbury, MD 21804



St. Alban's
Episcopal Church



IMPORTANT UPDATE:

The Vestry of St. Alban's Episcopal Church has agreed to no longer use a PO Box to receive mail.

**Please update all your mail to be delivered to our physical address:
302 St. Alban's Drive
Salisbury, Maryland 21804
Thank you!**