



## *Psalm 51*

1. Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving-kindness; in your great compassion blot out my offenses.
  2. Wash me through and through from my wickedness and cleanse me from my sin.
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### **Small Steps Matter: A Reflection by the Rev. Sheila McJilton**

“Quilters understand something I’m still trying to fully live into that meaningful work is made slowly, deliberately, and with trust that the pieces will come together when they’re ready.”  
Michael McCormick

On Feb. 8, a sizeable number of parishioners gathered to share your thoughts on “Thorns (Challenges), Buds (Hopes and Dreams), Roses (Celebrations).” First, if you attended and participated in this forum, thank you. Your very presence counts. It makes a difference, even if you don’t think so. Showing up counts. Second, if you weren’t able to participate, there will be other chances to pool your resources and wisdom in the year to come.

Third, I am guessing that some of you feel overwhelmed. The parish has gone through 4-5 challenging years. It may feel like you will never be the St. Alban’s you used to be. The truth is that you will never be the same—nor will any other church. A pandemic changed all of us, personally and corporately. The world has grown very polarized. Increasing numbers of people distrust any institution, including church.

Yet every week, faithful people gather to pray, to sing, to hear holy scripture, to ask ourselves where today’s readings might apply to our own lives. Further, the “meaningful work” that Michael McCormick refers to above is done in small pieces, small acts. The faithful people at St. Alban’s minister to each other in wonderful ways.

You are enough, you personally and you corporately. So, while I am not with you, I encourage you to think of some small things that your embodied quilt piece represents. For example, think about the fact that when a stranger walks through the front door for worship, your reaching out, is a quilt piece all its own. It takes a lot of courage for most folks to walk through a set of church doors for the first time. Many people have been harmed by institutional religion. Others come because of a crisis in their lives: someone they love has died, or they have separated from a spouse and going through a stormy time, or they’ve lost a job, or they deal with much stress as they care for a parent or child or grandparent who has chronic health issues. Or they are lonely

and are seeking a safe place to belong and to connect with other human beings on a spiritual journey.

Regardless of WHY someone comes to St. Alban's, they do show up. When they do, how will you react? Will you notice new faces when they come? (One evangelical minister said on his podcast, "Expect visitors, then be ready to welcome them.") The business world would say "You only get one chance for a good first impression. While that sounds like pretty high stakes, it's true.

Think about a time in your life when you were in a new place for the very first time. What did that feel like? Look like? Did you feel welcome? If you didn't, why? In parishes I have known and ministered with, it was too easy for people to gather at tables at coffee hour with their friends, ignoring the newcomers wandering around, newcomers looking at the bulletin boards, taking time to get a snack while quietly watching a group of strangers to see if they even notice a new person among them. Or maybe perhaps they are trying to find the restrooms or changing table for a baby.

So, begin, or begin again, your quilt piece that we will call PAYING ATTENTION. Pay attention to see if someone is new and engage them in some small way. "Good morning. I don't believe I know you. I'm [insert your name]. Then after a short introduction, you could ask, "Is this your first time with us?" If the answer is "yes," just say, "We're really glad to have you here today. Why don't you bring your coffee over here, and I can introduce you to a few folks." In other words, simplicity works. Hospitality is greeting someone with a smile, asking about the other person, then connecting them with one or two other parish members.

The work ahead of us will be slow and deliberate. Yes, a Search Committee will be formed in good time. But before that, we will work together to look at parish history, leadership, and other interim tasks. I encourage you not to be overwhelmed or to start making detailed lists of "things to do" or "things to avoid doing." It is Lent—a time when we can slow down a bit, immerse ourselves in Lenten disciplines, or to rest when we need to rest. Trust God that all our pieces that represent God's beloved children will come together at just the right time, in the right way. Meanwhile, you can begin by inviting a neighbor or friends to come with you to church—or to the Lenten Lunch on Sunday, or to the newly formed LUNCH BUNCH. Keep smiling and welcoming the strangers who enter St. Alban's doors. Start simply and take one step at a time. Small steps matter—to God who is with us in each small step we take together. Blessings,  
Sheila+

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## Doughnuts with the Vestry – February 8, 2026

by Arlene White

At the Vestry's 1<sup>st</sup> quarterly meeting of the year, the members of the Vestry and congregation talked about thorns (challenges), roses (blessings), and buds (possibilities) as St. Alban's moves forward. The Vestry plans to initially focus on the "thorns" and buds" and would like to identify the top 3 items in each category. If you have any preferences, please let any Vestry member know by March 15, 2026, so that we may consider them at our next meeting.

### THORNS

- > Signage – inside and outside building
- > Gap between 8am & 10am services – No one stays for coffee. [*coffee sign up for 8am has been created*]
- > Parish hall not welcoming re how it is set up – general environment / need round tables?
- > How to be more welcoming in general – newcomers; greeter at 8am service
- > Aging congregation
- > Aging building
- > How to clarify our goals, make them actionable, evaluate them?
- > Need more publicity about who we are and what we do (TV / brochures / flyers / website / Facebook)
- > How to involve children in Christian Education

### ROSES

- > Vestry leadership & transparency
- > Communication via E-Pistle, Bulletin, Herald
- > Adult Christian Ed class
- > Vestry Person of the Day (VPOD)
- > Congregation involved in the life of the church
- > Congregation involved in the life of the community – outreach

### BUDS

- > Possibility of Inquirers class for new members
  - > How can we make the parish hall more inviting?
  - > How can we reach out to college students (at SU & WorWic)?
  - > Return to coffee hour at 8am
  - > Greeter at 8am
  - > Reach out to Parkside Apartments residents re our community garden
  - > Women's Bible Study
  - > Add more acolytes, lay eucharistic ministers, and tech team members + training
  - > How to increase lay participation / Succession - develop leadership for Vestry
  - > Repurpose space (nursery / prayer room)
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## March Worship and Events

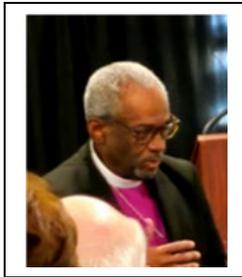
### Sunday Morning Holy Eucharist Services:

- 8:00: Rite I – Spoken
- 10:00: Rite II
- 9:00: Lenten Education – All ages – Faith Room

To view, Sunday morning services click the following link: St. Alban's Church Salisbury  
<https://www.youtube.com/@stalbanschurhsalisbury9651/streams>

- **March 8: Lenten Soup Lunch (Donations benefit Joseph House)**
- **Monday, March 9, at 5:30 P.M. Prayers for Our Nation followed by a soup supper**
- **March 8 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME – Remember to turn your clocks ahead before bed on March 7.**
- **March 22: Lenten Soup Lunch**

Bishop Curry spoke to the Diocesan Convention on Friday night and gave the sermon on Saturday.



## Lenten Soup Lunches



Each year, during Lent, we have soup, bread, and dessert lunches following the 10:00 A.M. service. Donations are given to the Joseph House Ministries. This year's dates are March 8 and 22. Sign-up sheets will be in the breezeway.

## St. Alban's is the Recipient of a Generous Gift!

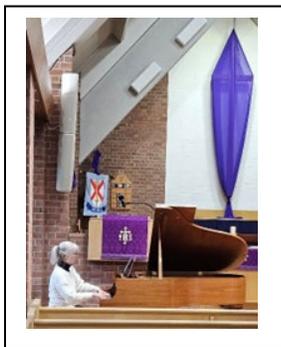
by Veronica Tomanek

St. Alban's is the fortunate recipient of a baby grand piano from Ronya Driscoll of Easton, Maryland. She is a lifelong pianist who played for many decades and retired to Oxford in the late 1990s and eventually to Cooke's Hope in Easton. She was an active board member at the Talbot County Arts Council. She competed at the Peabody Institute and has maintained a deep love of music throughout her life.



Due to her recent move to Bayleigh Chase (retirement community), she is no longer able to keep her cherished piano. Ronya and her family were seeking a new home for it where it could

continue to bring joy and inspiration to the next generation of pianists. This 5'8" Yamaha G2 Baby grand was offered first to Salisbury University, but there was not room for another donated piano there. Given St. Alban's and Vox Concordia's good working relationships with the university, I learned of the availability of the instrument, contacted the owner, and voilà – we have a grand piano! After two weeks of back-and-forth communication and several attempts to find prompt movers, we finally arranged everything, and the piano arrived safely at St. Alban's on Sunday, February 16. An anonymous donor paid the moving costs. It will need tuning, but it is a fine instrument.



This piano is quite a step up from the other pianos in the church and will be a much better match for our notable music program. We hope having this grand piano will encourage the presence of more guest musicians to enhance our church services as well as more public concerts in our wonderful space!

## Welcoming Joan and Chip Welsh

by Sharon Walsh

Choosing Salisbury as their new home was a little bit of an accident for Joan and Chip Welsh. They had been living in Danbury, CT for many years but wanted to escape the high taxes and be closer to their children. They were looking at real estate in Dover, DE with an agent who lived in Salisbury, and on his recommendation, decided to look at property here.



Lucky for us, they liked what they saw of the city and found a home close to the university that suited them with a big garage, which won Chip over. Now that they've had a year and a half to settle in, they are very happy with their decision to move here.

Joan and Chip were both raised as Catholics. Joan's dad was a Navy pilot, so she moved often, going to 10 schools by the time she was in junior high. By her junior year of high school, her family had moved from Tarrytown to Armonk, NY, where she met Chip's sister at school. They became close friends, but Joan didn't know Chip at the time. His family lived in a nearby town, Pleasantville.

Chip was drafted into the Army in November 1968 during the Vietnam War. By that time, he and Joan had been dating and had become engaged just the day before he got his draft notice. Some months later when she came to visit him in San Antonio where he was stationed, they decided to elope.

The first few months were difficult since they had not arranged for military housing before eloping. Eventually, they found a nice place to live, and Joan was sad to leave San Antonio when Chip's two-year enlistment ended. During his time in the Army, Chip never had to go to Viet Nam. He had some experience as an artist when he was drafted, and he became an Army Illustrator. He designed brochures and signs for the Army and even worked on the Texas Independence Day Parade in San Antonio.

His military work experience served him well when he returned to civilian life. He started his own sign painting business which he ran for over 50 years. Joan worked first as a teaching

assistant in Chappaqua, NY and then took a job as an administrative assistant in Hartsdale, NY, before becoming secretary to the principal of the high school. Later, she served as secretary to the board of education, responsible for a good deal of public relations work. When she retired in 2008, she was the administrative assistant for five school administrators.

St. Alban's has George Demko to thank for bringing the Welshes to our congregation. George and Chip would often see each other when walking in their neighborhood and began to chat. When Chip mentioned that they hadn't been able to find a church where they felt at home, George encouraged Chip to try St. Alban's. They did and right away were impressed by the welcoming atmosphere. They noticed that everyone seems ready to help, and they sense that our members live their Christian values. Chip especially appreciates the spirituality of the people he has met. They attend the 8 o'clock service and then stay for the Christian Education class led by Sandy Grim and Chuck Porter which they find to be excellent and even fun.

Joan and Chip have three very accomplished children and 6 grandchildren. Their older daughter, Amy, owns a horse farm in Morristown, Florida (near Ocala) called "Alfalfa and Omega." She rescues thoroughbred horses and retrains them for competitive riding events. Amy's two daughters are involved in riding; one competes at high levels, and the other is a judge for riding competitions. Joan and Chip's other daughter, Molly, has a Ph.D. in educational psychology and teaches in the special education field. She has three sons, and one of them has just been offered a full scholarship based on both his swimming ability and high GPA. The Welshes' son, Matthew, is employed by the city of New York Task Force as an analyst. Like Chip,

Matthew loved baseball and belonged to a summer team that went to the Stan Musial World Series. Matthew has one son, age 9. Joan and Chip are rightfully proud of the accomplishments of their three children as well as their six talented grandchildren who range in age from 22 to 9.

Chip's interests are varied and plentiful—thus the need for the large garage. He still does some painting and volunteers with people recovering from drug and alcohol addiction. He coached baseball for 20 years and in younger days, he enjoyed participating in Demolition Derbys. He's always been athletic, including playing high school football and running. He still bikes regularly. When her children were young, Joan was regularly active in PTA and Girl Scouts. She also

enjoyed needlepoint. She loves gardening and has a flair for decorating. She currently volunteers one day a week in the church office and helps print the Sunday bulletin. All of us at St. Alban's are thrilled that Joan and Chip have made us their church home and have already contributed so much to our community.

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## **Announcement from the Worship Committee**

On Sundays in Lent, there will be a silent procession into the church. After the prelude, Veronica will ring the singing bowl, the congregation will stand in silence for the processional.

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## **From the Vestry**



### **Senior Warden's Report**

Dee Rinehart

1. The Rev. Sheila McJilton came through her surgery successfully and is now recovering at home. She is walking outside and resting when her body calls for it. Prayers continue for her continued progress in recovery.
2. The Parochial Report was reviewed by the Vestry and approved, with amendments, for submission. Thank you to Muffet Reath, our Treasurer, for her extensive work on our financial portion of the report.
3. St. Alban's will register with an application provided from the National Episcopal Church, Parish Register. We will be able to enter the Sunday and weekday services data, demographic data, Registrar's data, etc. These data will be migrated to the Parochial Report, eliminating the need for manual entry.
4. Acknowledgement has been sent for the donation of the Yamaha Grand Piano.
5. Books have been ordered for the Inquirer's Class, (*The Episcopal Handbook*) in preparation for Confirmation, Reception, or renewal when Bishop Shand visits on April 19. The Rev. Dorsey will lead the class.

- The Rector's laptop has been allocated to the Treasurer to keep parish financial information on a separate computer.
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## COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

Arlene White, Liaison, Junior Warden

afwhite@salisbury.edu / 410-251-0584

2026 St. Alban's Directory Update – As of our soft deadline of February 8 to receive forms and pictures, we are about halfway there (we have received 39 of possibly 80 replies). We have started contacting people to remind them of the deadline and to provide extra forms. March 8 is our drop-dead deadline – anything not received at that point will not be in the directory. We hope to have the directory available at the end of March or the beginning of April. Copies will be available electronically or on paper.

Blowing St. Alban's Horn – During our most recent Doughnuts with the Vestry, comments were made about better publicizing St. Alban's and its outreach more. How can we use TV with programs like Delmarva Now, or create and post flyers somewhere or update our website or put more posts on our Facebook page? If you're interested in exploring those possibilities, please let me know.

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## CARE OF NEIGHBOR REPORT

Paulette Primus, Liaison

- RECTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND (RDF) ACCOUNT:** Signatory authority at PNC Bank was successfully transferred from Shelly Madsen to me.
- WI HI/FAITH PARTNERSHIP:** Requested St. Alban's assistance in providing breakfast for their staff. Informed them that time constraints negated our participation. We need at least four weeks of lead time for preparation.

- **LITTLE LIBRARY:** Confirmed the Library is well-stocked when I volunteer on Mondays.
  - **SOCIETY OF SAINT ANDREW (S.O.S.A.):** Received request for St. Alban's participation in monthly bag tying events. In discussion.
  - **CHESAPEAKE HOUSING MISSION:** Project dates are 6/6/26 and 9/12/26. Details to be provided in advance of each project.
  - Reaching out to volunteers in all groups of the portfolio, listed above and below, to get a better understanding of each group's mission, contact personnel, and any imminent initiatives:
    - Hearts and Hands Ending Homelessness (H.H.E.H.)
    - H.O.P.E.
    - Joseph House
    - Salisbury Middle School
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## External Property Report

Walt West. Liaison

- **Solar Lighting for Church Signs:** Ready to order and install, upon approval.
- **Snow and Ice Removal/Mitigation:** Pintail Property Services continues to provide timely and effective snow removal service.
- **Community Garden:** A plenary meeting was held February 15<sup>th</sup>. The next meeting (virtual) will occur at 5:00 pm on Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup>. An organizational on-site meeting has been scheduled for Saturday April 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am.
- **Stormwater Runoff Project:** We await word from EA Engineering that our micro bio-retention facility plan has been approved by the City of Salisbury.
- **Fence Screening Material:** Although initially (the first 12 to 15 months), the fence fabric held up well and served its intended purpose. Persistent prevailing winds have taken their

toll. The remaining attached fabric has been removed, and alternate solutions to the view issue will be researched.

- **Pride Flag: Our** Pride flag (displayed on our Mt. Herman Road sign) had been damaged by weather (those pesky winds again) and needed to be repaired. The flag itself was in decent shape, but one of the collars on the pole, to which the flag attaches, was damaged. We will order another pole to replace this damaged one. In addition, replacement flags are ordered.
  - **Labyrinth: Good** Friday is on April 3. Our labyrinth has visitors often during this time. Maintenance and upkeep on the labyrinth and its surrounding environment will occur in late March to ensure it looks its best.
  - **Proposed Spring Clean-Up Dates: Possible** Saturday dates for our spring clean-up include May 9, May 16, and May 23, May 9. Walt West will be unavailable May 16. Memorial Day weekend is May 22 – 25.
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## Fellowship

Germaine Marshall, Liaison

The Fellowship Committee met February 15th after the 8:00 am service. Many activities are planned, but we are open to new activities as well. Mardi Gras cupcakes were served on Feb. 15th with Toby Porter becoming the King and Linda Torbert the Queen. Also, the 8:00 AM service will now have a coffee hour following the service. Sunday, Feb. 22 was the first Lenten Luncheon also.

### Upcoming events:

- Upcoming Lenten Lunches: March 3rd and March 22nd
  - March 29th: Palm Sunday Brunch
  - April 19th: Bishop's Brunch
  - February 18- April 26: collecting coins. Nickels and Nachos culminating activity
  - May 10: Mother's Day Chocolates
  - June 21: Father's Day Cookies and Dad Jokes
  - July 11: Dinner
  - August 5th: Red Roost
  - September 15th: Picnic with Faith Lutheran
  - October 10th: Pride Parade
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**Worship Report**

Sandy Grim, Liaison

There were two services for Ash Wednesday, noon (28 people attended.) 7 PM (17 people attended.) Thank you to the Rev. Laura Dorsey for taking ashes to the cars of families who could not come into the service at noon.

At the 10 AM service, during Lent, following the prelude, a singing bowl will be used, signaling preparation for worship. A silent procession will follow.

Christian Ed continues – discussion of the Sunday readings after Christmas; Current - Living Well Through Lent. Attendance has been between 15 – 22 people

**Upcoming**

- Individual Stations of the Cross will be available for parishioners
- Palm Sunday – red hangings
  - Start procession with palms at the labyrinth (weather dependent)
  - Storytelling of the passion – Amy Isaacs
- Maundy Thursday (4/2) – burgundy plain hangings
  - Agape meal at 6 PM in the parish hall
  - Foot washing
  - Stripping of the altar
- Good Friday (4/3)
  - Noon service – communion from the reserved sacraments
  - Stations of the Cross (5:30 PM)
- Easter Sunday (4/5) – white hangings
  - No sunrise service
  - Blessing of the bread – Mike Mathers
  - We will use the New Zealand prayer book through Pentecost
- Pentecost (5/24)
  - Will do the different languages – Gospel (get Arlene printed copies)

Next meeting – April 23 at 5:30 PM in the Faith Room

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## Life at St. Alban's

### Grant Award

St. Alban's is one of 8 parishes in the Diocese of Easton to receive a Children's Homes Foundation Grant for 2026. Jim Cockey applied for a grant of \$3,000 to be used to enhance our Community Garden. More news will be coming on this Outreach Project. Thank you, Jim!

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### Enhanced Audio System

by Katherine West

Great news! St. Alban's has just purchased a new audio receiver system that will allow those who are hard of hearing to be able to listen to the service. There are four ways to tune in to the new system:

1. If you have a smartphone, download the WaveCAST app onto your phone. (<https://williamsav.com/product/wavecast-app/>). When you are at church, connect to the guest Wi-Fi network **Assisted Listening**, log into the app, and you can listen to the service through your personal headphones.
2. If you have hearing aids with Bluetooth, you can use the WaveCAST app (<https://williamsav.com/product/wavecast-app/>) to connect your hearing aids. When you are at church, connect to the guest Wi-Fi network **Assisted Listening**, log into the app, and you can listen to the service through your hearing aids.
3. You can check out a receiver and headphones from the tech team if you don't have a phone.
4. If you have T-Coil hearing aids, you can check out a receiver and a neck coil to connect your hearing aids to the audio system.

If you have any difficulty with connecting, someone at the tech desk will be able to assist. Many thanks to Brian Raygor for researching this technology and bringing it to St. Alban's.

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## February 8, Mardi Gras Cupcakes



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### Paddling Club

by Muffet Reath

As we cast our eyes toward the spring (especially with this last snow behind us), visions of getting out on the water fill our hearts with joy. If you are one of those souls, even if you don't have a kayak or canoe, join our Paddling Club and we will find a boat for you to enjoy a day on the water! Sign up in the breezeway if you are interested in finding out more information, or email Muffet at [muffetreath@gmail.com](mailto:muffetreath@gmail.com) or Jeremy at [jcoxreporter@yahoo.com](mailto:jcoxreporter@yahoo.com)

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### A Prayer in Our Time of Transition

O God our Comforter, who guides us in the ways of justice and truth and holds us close in times of uncertainty: Inspire us with your grace and wisdom, that we might do everything according to your will and ground ourselves in your love. Give us a sense of openness about the future ministries and mission of the Diocese of Easton. Help us remember that we do not hold all of the answers, nor do we need to. Encourage us when we are anxious about change, reminding us that all things are in your hands: through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit forever and ever. *Amen.*

**Source: Diocese of Easton; News and Events**

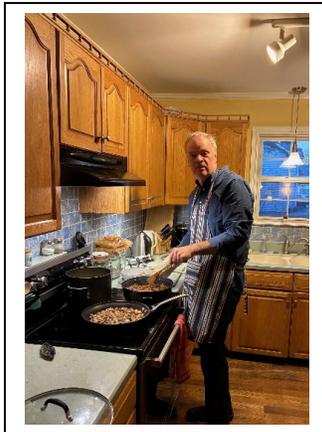
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## Auction Parties

The Parties photographed below were offered for bids at our Fall auction. A variety of parties were offered throughout 2026. Parties are just one of revenue generating activities and services, and all proceeds are donated to local charities and the Rector's Discretionary Fund. This year, we raised over \$13,000.

### *Vive la France!*

**Hosted by Maarten and Ruth Pereboom, Arlene White, and  
Veronica Tomanek, Saturday, February 7**



**Jim Cockey's Breadmaking Party,  
Saturday, February 21**

By Jim Cockey



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**Around-the-World Dinner**

by Shelly Madsen

Shelly and Greg hosted Amy and Jim Isaacs, Sandy and Don Grim, and Stephanie and David Schulz for our first supper group gathering on February 1st. Inspiration came from a discussion with Atreyru during the Greening of the Church and Ryder shortly after Christmas, we had an

Around-the-World dinner. This is something that Leighann's family has been doing on Christmas Day for many years - everyone picks a continent and a course from a hat and accordingly makes a dish. Our menu included:

- Beverage (South America): Chilean wines
- Appetiser (South America): Empanadas
- Amuse-bouche (Antartica): Mango sorbet
- Soup (Asia): Chinese Mushroom and vegetable soup
- Vegetable (Africa): Chakalaka (mixed veggies with baked beans)
- Starch (Europe): Russian seasoned bulgar
- Main (Australia): Kangaroo and vegetarian sausage rolls
- Dessert (North America): Bionico (Mexican fruit salad)



We are looking forward to our next gathering in April.

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The Lunch Bunch met at Green Hill Country Club in February. March 12 is the next get-together, once again at Green Hill. RSVP to Muffet Reath or Sharon Walsh by Monday, March 9. Everyone is welcome!



# HOST A SPANISH STUDENT!

**spaininsalisbury@gmail.com**

<p><b>1</b> </p> <h3>Family Commitments</h3> <p>Families are responsible for providing essential support, including local transportation, meals, sleeping arrangements, communication, and companionship!</p>	<p><b>2</b> </p> <h3>Dates</h3> <p>Students are scheduled to arrive on the evening of Monday, June 29th, and will depart on the afternoon of Monday, July 27th. A variety of activities are planned, and an agenda will be provided.</p>
<p><b>3</b> </p> <h3>Language/Culture Classes</h3> <p>Students will participate in classes three days a week, from 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM, at a location that is easily accessible.</p>	<p><b>4</b> </p> <h3>Excursions</h3> <p>Exciting trips are in store to Washington, D.C., Philadelphia, New York, local beaches, and beyond! Families are welcome to join us, though participation is not mandatory.</p>
<p><b>5</b> </p> <h3>Family Time</h3> <p>A typical week will allow for family time from Friday- Sunday. Your student may participate in a planned vacation once communicated to the program coordinators!</p>	<p><b>6</b> </p> <h3>FAQs</h3> <p>Yes! Students come with medical insurance! No! Families do not need to speak Spanish. Yes! Students come with spending money! Students range in age from 14-17.</p>

**Contact: Cindy Malone and April Todd, Program Coordinators,**  
**Global Friendships** [spaininsalisbury@gmail.com](mailto:spaininsalisbury@gmail.com)

## The Eastern Shore Ballet Theater

by Leslie Belloso

After bringing the Nutcracker to our community for 35 years, the Eastern Shore Ballet Theatre, Salisbury's preprofessional ballet company has established its first brick and mortar base of operations, the ESBT Rehearsal and Production Space, at 301 Tilghman Road. This milestone was celebrated on February 5 with a ribbon cutting ceremony with the Chamber of Commerce. The space will serve as a year-round hub for auditions, rehearsals, artistic development, and preparations for the company's full length ballet productions. Along with the board of directors, the company's 99-year-old founder, Betty Webster, was in attendance with her family, as was Mayor Randy Taylor. Secretary Jake Day presented citations on behalf of the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development and Governor Wes Moore, recognizing ESBT's impact on arts and culture in our region.

"The world needs beauty...ESBT brings together young talented dancers and their families to make something beautiful here, for our community" said Board of Director Leslie Belloso. "It's not only about teaching dance, but also about teaching discipline, collaboration, cooperation and tolerance...the sum is greater than the parts...and we are excited to imagine the art that will be created in this space." The company is presenting a brand-new ballet, The Little Mermaid, on May 8, 9 & 10 at the WIHI Auditorium. Information and tickets are available at ESBT.org.



Photo features Jake Day, Secretary of Housing and Community Development for the State of Maryland, and Leslie Belloso, ESBT Board of Directors

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## Help and Outreach Point of Entry

by Debra Messick Rossi

He's very soft-spoken at times but has a wonderful laugh. He's stable, now, only recently released. He puts his pill packets on the desk (4 of them). 1 has only a day's pills left in it. We spend the next hour in a crisis center trying to get a refill.

There is one bed at the emergency shelter; the pharmacy doesn't have the prescription ready. I picked up a pill case to organize the morning and night medications. I'll go back the next day and pick up the prescription, take it to the shelter.

There is a program a couple of hours away that offers more mental health resources and housing options; he's eligible. Will there be space this week? The window of stabilization is closing. What if tomorrow he forgets to take the meds? We have appointments scheduled. Will he remember? Can I find him to remind him?

There is nothing left for him here in the place he's called home. I see how people love him and are happy to see him. I hate that help is so far away. How can mental health patients be denied treatment because they can't "comply"?

When I meet them and they are stable in the "lows" of their illness, they are kind, respectful, sweet, and vulnerable. They can accept and are grateful for love and compassion. I know what the other side looks like...the mania, the voices too loud. They are fearful, agitated, loud, and difficult.

Who will love the unlovable? Is there such a thing?



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## The Society of St. Andrew



Thank you to farmer Jake Lovett who donated truckloads of Potatoes to be donated to the food insecure in our area. This week alone, we were able to send 15,000 pounds of potatoes to three different feeding agencies across Maryland. Thank you, Jake Lovett. Your potatoes are making a difference in the homes of our food insecure neighbors.

We thank Mary and Howard Doak and Julie and Steve Crabill for helping to do the gleaning work.

***Christ-Centered, Radically Embracing People and Creation***

With these words, we articulate our parish identity. We strive to follow Christ in welcoming all people. We offer baptism and Eucharist to all, as well as the pastoral offices of reconciliation, ministry to the sick, and Christian burial to those who ask. We do not discriminate regarding gender, ethnicity, or sexual orientation, identity, or mental capacity. Couples requesting marriage are asked to meet with the rector and meet the civil and Episcopal Church requirements. While we do not discriminate based on gender, the clergy may decline to officiate for other reasons.

  
**ST. ALBAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH****302 St. Alban's Dr.  
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