



Representatives Speak for H.O.P.E., A.L.I.C.E., and Lower Shore Enterprises

ST. ALBAN'S ANNUAL
FALL Auction

SALE
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7
5 P.M. TO 7 P.M.

AUCTION SCHEDULE

5:00- 6:00 – Silent Auction
6:00 – 6:45- Dinner
6:45- The ESBT Ballet “The Nutcracker” Special Presentation
7:05 – Dessert
7:15 – Check Out

ARTISAN MARKET/SILENT AUCTION

Donations accepted 9/27 - 10/18
Please complete a donation sheet (in breezeway) for each item donated

DINNER:
RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

RSVP: 9/27 – 10/18
Cost: \$25, kids under 12 free
Menu:
Chicken Tetrizzini*
Green Beans
Salad
Bread
Gourmet Cupcake
*Vegetarian, Gluten- and Dairy-Free options available
Beer and Wine: \$5
Soft Drinks: Free

CHEFS NEEDED!
Cooking at church on 11/7
Volunteer sign up sheet in the breezeway by Oct. 18

PARTY SIGN-UPS
SEPT. 27- OCT. 18

Sign up for parties when you submit your dinner reservation. This is how it will work:

- Between **Sept. 27 – Oct. 18**- Dinner RSVP and Party Request Ranking Forms will be available in the breezeway.
- Turn in your dinner reservation and your ranked party request form by **Oct. 18**.
- Party applications will be placed in numerical order. The party committee will draw a random number and the corresponding application will receive its first party choice. The application will move to the bottom of the stack.
- On the night of the auction (**Nov. 7**), you will see which parties you have won and pay for them when you check out.

Questions? Ask Party Chair, Arlene White: afwhite@salisbury.edu

QUESTIONS? NEED HELP WITH THE AUCTION PROCESS?

Look for auction helpers at coffee hour by the “Auction Help” sign, or contact auction chair, **Cristina Machin** – cmachin@matice.com

See Rector’ Discretionary Fund article on page 7.



ALL ABOUT Auction Proceeds

2026 AUCTION BENEFICIARIES

- The **Rector's Discretionary Fund at St. Alban's** helps individuals and families in the Salisbury area with rent or utility payments, grocery purchases and other pressing needs.
- **Help and Outreach Point of Entry, Inc. (H.O.P.E.)**, a Salisbury non-profit, helps those who live on our streets by providing immediate critical resources, advocacy, and support through a day shelter, outreach programs and pathways to stability.
- **Lower Shore Enterprises (LSE) - Raised Garden Project**: Their mission is to foster opportunities for competitive employment, community engagement and meaningful days for people with disabilities through encouragement of individual choice and discovery of personal interests. The raised garden beds will give those who did not get to go out in the community for the day an opportunity to participate in something meaningful.
- **ALICE**: On the Eastern Shore of Maryland, 47% of households are Asset Limited, Income Constrained Employed (ALICE). These are families who have employment, but their earnings are not enough to support the high cost of living and to afford basic necessities. They are just one emergency (a car repair, emergency room visit, or broken appliance) away from financial ruin. Learn more about ALICE and the United Way's support of these families here:
<https://www.uwles.org/ALICE>

Message from Mother Sheila -



BLENDED SERVICE REMINDER:

Please mark your calendars:

October 4 will be a busy day at St. Alban's.

1. That will be our first BLENDED SERVICE, at 9:00 a.m., followed by a parish brunch. Our plan is to use Rite I in October, then Rite II in November, then alternate liturgies through next May. This gives folks who are not familiar with more traditional language to experience that. Also, our service music will align with Rite II.

2. At that brunch, I will lead an exercise/teaching that focuses on INTERIM work of the parish.

2. October 4 is also BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS Sunday, so you can bring pictures of your pets to be blessed. NOTE: We will also offer an afternoon BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS out on the labyrinth at 2:00 p.m. with kitty & doggy treats. Please remember that all animals must be on leashes or in carriers, and the Interim Rector is not a fan of snakes, so she will bless any you have, but she will not touch them. Sheila+

October Worship and Events

Worship Schedule:

October 4: Blended Service, at 9:00 a.m., followed by a brunch and parish meeting
October 11, 18, 25

- **8:00 A.M.: Rite I – Spoken**
- **10:00 A.M.: Rite II**

To view, Sunday morning services click the following link: St. Alban's Church Salisbury
<https://www.youtube.com/@stalbanschurcheSalisbury9651/streams>

- **October 4: Blessing of the Animals:**
 - **9:00 a.m. Photos, during service**
 - **2:00p.m. Bring your animals to the Labyrinth**
- **October 12 – Indig3nous Peoples' Day – Office closed.**
Prayers for our Nation, 5:30p.m. with supper to follow
- **October 24- Fall Clean-up, 8:00a.m.**
- **October 27 – Vestry Meeting, 7:00p.m. - This is an open meeting. All are welcome.**

Diocesan Discernment Education Day and Information Gathering

September 13 saw the congregation gather to view the video presentation from the Diocesan Discernment Committee. Following the video, small groups gathered to address the questions posed. Our

collated data reported to the Committee. Diocesan-wide summarized data will be shared. This marks the beginning of information gathering/listening phase.

Below are themes that emerged from our small group discussions. As we are in an interim period, between rectors, some comments may apply to St. Alban's as well as the diocese.



1. Has anything surprised you about what you have seen?

- Participants did not expect so many participants.
- As a culture, we are less interested in traditional church.
 - New churches emerging that appeal to younger generations.
- We need YOUNG people, only 12 pledging households have people under 60.

2. What concerns do you have about the current state of the Diocese of Easton (DOE)?

- We are thankful for the support we received from the Supply Clergy Pool.
- The parish received little or no support from the Diocese of Easton in recent years with issues brought to the diocese.
- Is the Bishop pool (for assignment/selection) as small as the clergy pool?
- The diocesan staff is small, with too many duties.
- How can parishes work together rather than alone?
- We are a small diocese.
- There is concern that differences in compensation packages in other dioceses put the Diocese of Easton at a disadvantage in attracting priests and a new bishop.
- Will the DOE remain independent, or will it merge with another Diocese?
- Communication needs improvement.
 - The diocese and parishes need to address the needs of the people in our pews.
 - We need to attract people from various stages of life.

3. What opportunities do you see?

- Congregational development needs to be a priority.
- Team building, getting out of our silos.
- Need leadership to “get the ball rolling.”
- Geographical separation
- Diocese should step up to pull small congregations together
- Pull in more diverse groups like LGBTQ.
- The DOE Audit Committee recommends creating and filling new positions at the diocesan level.
 - What is the compensation?
 - Fill positions based on need: Should we share positions with another diocese in the geographic region?
- Consider the church's mission as compared with other dioceses for sharing

4. What information is missing that you would like to know or share with the Diocese?

- The diocese needs to find a way to support and pull together the churches
- Address immigrants' rights
- Youth development
- Contemporary service
- Need activities/programs for kids
- Youth development
- Paid nursery
- Coffee House Ministry
- What is the timeline in phases, e.g., Phase I, Phase II, etc.?
- What is the sustainability of the financing models?
 - What are the alternatives for market fluctuations?
- What is our synergy – outward (secular) vs inward (laity) in serving?
- What is our plan for attracting new members?
 - Update our website
 - Community outreach

5. Any other thoughts? None recorded

*“There are people whose brilliance continues to light
the world even though they are no longer among the living....”*
Hannah Senesh

From our friends at Wor-Wic



A Legacy Built on Curiosity and Care

Dr. Beth Jones gave more than two decades to Wor-Wic Community College, first as an English professor and head of the Arts and Humanities department and then as Director of Institutional Assessment and Effectiveness. Along the way, she became known simply for her heart, for her belief that data and reports were never just numbers, but stories about real students, faculty, and staff.

Beth faced the last chapter of her life with the same courage, humor, and grace she brought to everything she did. Her colleagues remember her as a mentor who believed in others before they believed in themselves, a quick wit who could brighten even the most difficult moments, and a leader whose curiosity and compassion left a lasting impact on the college.

About the Scholarship

In her honor, we have established the Dr. Beth Jones Heart and Community Scholarship to carry forward what she cared about most: student success. This scholarship will support Wor-Wic students who embody the same curiosity, resilience, and commitment to excellence that defined Beth's career.

Donate in Memory of Dr. Beth Jones

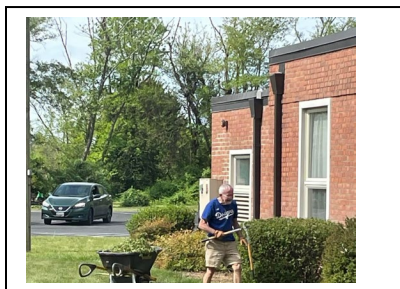
Thank you for helping us honor Dr. Beth Jones, a woman whose brilliance, kindness, and belief in others will live on through every student this scholarship helps.

Lunch Bunch



Another great Lunch Bunch with David and Pati Peskett, Sharon Walsh, Paulette Primus, Muffet Reath, Cheryl Hoke, Donna Parks, Chip and Joan Welsh. Thank you, Green Hill Country Club!

The next "Lunch Bunch" will happen in November. Watch for news of the date.



Remember: Fall Clean-up Day

October 24, starting at 8:00 a.m.

Bring yard maintenance tools and gloves.

The Rector's Discretionary Fund – Radically Giving in a Responsible Manner

By Paulette S. Primus/Vestry – Care of Neighbor

Need has no face. Any preconceptions I envisioned of what comprises need or who qualifies for assistance, were completely eradicated because of my oversight of the **Rector's Discretionary Fund (RDF)**. I've talked with individuals ranging from the college degree to those just existing – one paycheck away (government provided or private industry) from economic catastrophe. All it takes is a glitch in their matrix for consequences to present themselves in a life altering manner.

The **Rector's Discretionary Fund** functions under the auspices of the St. Alban's Vestry's **Care of Neighbor** portfolio. It provides financial assistance for those who have fallen short of meeting their payment obligations for their utilities (electric, gas, water) and rent. Funding is derived from those monies not specifically obligated to St. Alban's during the offertory and/or those monies specifically solicited and given for the **RDF**.

Just imagine my trepidation when I received my first call. My questions to the caller included:

- What brought you to this point?
- What type of assistance do you need — rent, electric, gas, or water?
- How much do you owe and when is payment due?
- Have you contacted the utility company or landlord to discuss your situation?
- Are you expecting income, benefits, or other assistance?
- Have you sought help from other agencies or organizations?
- What would happen if this obligation remained unpaid?

These questions were not intended to judge or to interrogate. They helped me to understand the circumstances, determine how the **RDF** could respond, and identify whether additional resources might be available. In many cases, the need was not the result of irresponsibility. It was the consequence of illness, reduced hours, delayed benefits, an unexpected expense, or a family emergency.

Over time, I learned that the most meaningful assistance was not simply the amount written on a check. It was the willingness to listen, to acknowledge someone's dignity, and to help create a path through an immediate crisis. Sometimes the **RDF** resolved the entire need and sometimes it provided only part of what was required. Either way, the message was significant — you are seen, your situation matters, and you do not have to face this moment alone.

The **RDF** taught me that need truly has no face. It can belong to a person with a college degree, a steady job, or a long history of self-sufficiency. It can appear suddenly in the life of anyone who experiences one disruption too many. What separates stability from crisis is often not character or effort, but timing, circumstance, and whether help is available when needed.

Overseeing the **RDF** changed not only how I view assistance, but also how I understand community. Care of Neighbor is more than an abstract concept — it is a practical ministry grounded in listening,

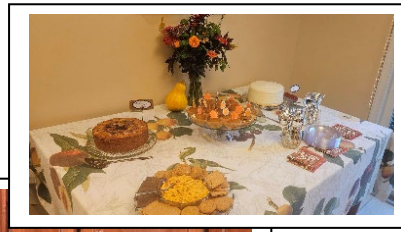
discernment, generosity, accountability, and action. Through the **Rector's Discretionary Fund**, St. Alban's makes that ministry tangible — one household, one bill, and one person at a time. Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

Parties Offered in the November 2025 Auction

Party options are offered throughout the year. There are 20 of them offered this year. We are assigned numbers and are able to reserve a spot in an open party when our number allows. As our 2025 party year winds down, be sure to contact Cristina Machin for supper reservations on November 7 and registration for a bidding number.

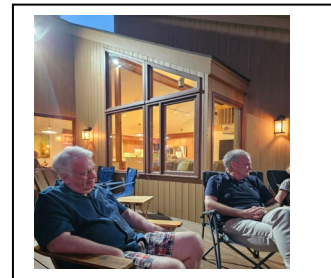
Chili Night by Cheryl and Harry Hoke and Jim and Jani Gottschalk

A crowd gathered to enjoy a variety of chilis with toppings galore, beverages, dessert, games, and good fellowship.



Brit Bites, Hosted by Pati and David Peskett

Tattis, neaps, and haggis; Jamaican curry pastries: meat pies; cheeses and veggies; Scotch eggs; trifle; British beers; ginger beer; and more tempted the palates. Guests enjoyed the view from the deck and windows on the Wicomico River.



Worship and Picnic with Faith Lutheran

The weather was threatening. So, after the second service, the picnic moved inside. The food and the fellowship were grand. We were happy to welcome four of our friends from Faith Lutheran





CHESAPEAKE HOUSING MISSION

RAMP BUILD SEPTEMBER 12



On Saturday, Sept. 12, members of St. Alban's partnered with Chesapeake Housing Mission to build a ramp for James Mansfield and his wife who live near the Chesapeake Bay. Mr. Mansfield has limited vision, and his wife is undergoing cancer treatments. The ramp will provide them both with a safe and accessible entrance to their home. Thanks to Jim Isaacs, Liam Hogan, Gerard Hogan, Ken Flood, Harry Rinehart, Jonathan West, Katherine West, and George Demko.



Vestry Updates



Senior Warden, Dee Rinehart

1. Thank you to everyone for the planning and effort you provided for Beth Jone's Celebration of Life.
2. Nominations for Vestry:
 - Arlene White (Second Term)
 - James Gottschalk
 - Sharon Walsh
3. Nominations for **Alternate Delegates** to the Diocesan Convention, February 26 and 27, at the Hyatt in Cambridge: (They will serve as Delegates in 2028.)
 - Jenny Buchanan
 - Nancy Linck – Available Saturday only
 - Kim O'Grady
 - Maggie O'Grady

(Delegates to 2026 Convention are Megan Pomeroy and James Cockey)

4. Search Consultant

We are in discussion with a consultant who will work with Mother Sheila and the vestry in discernment of our future as a parish and offer consultation to a Search Committee, which we hope to have active after the first of the year.

5. From Wardens' Round Table: Positions to be Elected/ Ratified by the Diocesan Convention

Elected positions open in 2027:

- 1 layperson and 1 clergyperson to be elected at large for 3-year terms on Standing Committee
- 1 layperson and 1 clergyperson to be elected at large for 3-year terms on Diocesan Council
- Northern Convocation will elect 1 lay person for a 3-year term on Council
- Middle Convocation will elect 1 clergyperson for a 3-year term on Council
- Southern Convocation will elect 1 lay person for a 3-year term on Council
- The Board of Managers of Easton Episcopal Funds will nominate lay people for 3-year terms

Every Committee in the diocese will have vacancies to be filled. I have attached the document, on page 16, from the Standing Committee published with email addresses of the liaison to the committee. Please consider serving our diocese in one of these functions



Junior Warden/ Communication Liaison, Arlene White

– Arlene White – afwhite@salisbury.edu / 410-251-0584

> Website update – Mary Doak and I interviewed 3 candidates. We felt that Vic King, from Strong Sites, had done the homework, asked good questions, and fully answered our questions. He has been in business for 15 years and came recommended to us via Jeremy Heslop who manages our current website domain. Thus, we feel he has the expertise to achieve the goals that we discussed – having a website that would truly present our congregation to whomever would visit our site, particularly new members, and prospective priests.

His proposal is attached as a separate document in the September Google folder. He sent us 2 sample sites listed below which you can also explore.

Regarding price – Mary and I were guided by “you get what you pay for” premise. The candidate with the lowest bid was also the least experienced. The candidate in the middle was working with \$4000, but we felt paying Vic the fee he requested would give us a better product.

Note: The vestry approved finalizing a contract with Strong Sites at its September meeting

Projected timeline Twelve weeks from deposit, paced for volunteers. Starting in October puts launch comfortably ahead of the priest search.

01 Weeks 1 to 4 / Content and photos I audit, map, and draft the copy. You schedule the photo day and gather images from the short list.

02 Weeks 5 to 6 / Review and sign-off You and the committee wordsmith the draft. We lock the content.

03 Weeks 7 to 9 / Build All me. You get back to everything else you do.

04 Weeks 10 to 11 / Refine You leave comments right on the site. I revise.

05 Week 12 / Launch and training We go live, and I walk you through managing it



Care of Neighbor Liaison, Paulette Primus

- **H.H.E.H. (Heart and Hands Ending Homelessness):**
 - Operations ceased until fall
 - October/November are earliest dates to restart services
 - Usually receive notifications when significant drop in temperature occurs
 - **H.O.P.E. (Help and Outreach Point of Entry):**
 - Deb Rossi accepted Auction Beneficiary Gift on behalf of H.O.P.E.
 - Needs volunteers – shifts available Mon-Thu 9:00 a.m. – 2: 00 p.m.
 - Needs gently used towels
 - Preparing for winter and need blankets and coats
 - **THE JOSEPH HOUSE**
 - No Change – Provides lunch once/month
 - **LITTLE LIBRARY:**
 - Confirm Library is well-stocked when I volunteer on Mondays
 - **PENNIES FOR PIZZA:**
 - No Report
 - **PRIDE PARADE:**
 - Collaborating with **Nancy Linck**
 - Coincides with Gay Pride Parade
 - Now scheduled October 2027
 - **RECTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND (RDF) ACCOUNT:**
 - See article on page 7.
 - **S.O.S.A. (SOCIETY OF SAINT ANDREW):**
 - Gleaning Opportunities:
 - **Salisbury Farmers' Market:** Every Saturday from 8/29 – 11/14/26, 11:30 a.m. – Noon
Sign up at <https://www.mobilize.us/mobilize/event/961308/>
 - **Corn** near Seaford, DE: Every Thursday from 9/3 – 9/24/26, 8A – 10A:
Sign up at <https://www.mobilize.us/mobilize/event/771556/>
 - **WI HI/FAITH PARTNERSHIP:**
 - Delivered back to school supplies and food items to Wi Hi
-

**Fellowship Liaison, Germaine Marshall**

Fellowship Committee Report – September 2026

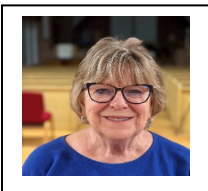
The Fellowship Committee is looking ahead to October's activity. The Dogs and S'mores fellowship gathering has been scheduled and reserved for October 25th, from 4-7 p.m. at the Deer Harbor Pavilion. We'd love to see a great turn-out. It should be a nice afternoon/evening for Fellowship and casual fare.

October 11th, the Fellowship Committee will meet in the back of Nave to discuss upcoming events, such as joint service luncheons.

The Fellowship Committee would like to request photos from any very recent events to share on the bulletin board. I will work on revamping the bulletin for PAST EVENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS.

Also, if anyone is "crafty" and interested in doing "Make and Takes," please contact Germaine. She is looking for ideas for Fun Fellowship Activities for small group/casual get togethers for fun and fellowship.

Finally, the Fall Auction is approaching fast. The plans are in the works and any help from the Vestry with set-up, during, and after (clean up) the event would be appreciated. It is scheduled for November 7 with set-up on November 6.

**Worship Liaison, Sandy Grim**

The first Sunday of the month, beginning October 4, continuing through May, there will be one service at 9 AM followed by brunch in the parish hall. The service will alternate between Rite I and Rite II. (October 4, November 1, December 6, January 3, February 7, March 7, April 4, and May 2).

Upcoming Events

- October 4 Feast of St. Francis of Assisi – Blessing of the animals which will also be a joint service followed by brunch.
- November 1 All Saints' All Souls' Day – Sheila+ and Mike
- October 25 Reformation Sunday – joint celebration with Faith Lutheran at Faith, followed by a fellowship meal.
- November 29 First Sunday of Advent



The next worship meeting will be held in October to discuss Advent, Christmas, Epiphany

Muffet Reath, Parish Treasurer

				Aug 26	Budget	Jan - Aug 26	YTD Budget	Annual Budget
	Ordinary Income/Expense							
		Income						
			Pledges	8,958.64	13,926.00	122,908.29	111,412.00	167,120.00
			Plate Offering.	923.00	1,000.00	14,087.78	8,000.00	12,000.00
			Other Income	879.84	1,182.00	11,578.42	9,456.00	14,925.00
		Total Income		10,761.48	16,108.00	148,574.49	128,868.00	194,045.00
	Gross Profit			10,761.48	16,108.00	148,574.49	128,868.00	194,045.00
		Expense						
			Salary and Salary-Dependent Exp	6,196.87	6,781.46	37,782.07	39,226.14	63,235.00
			Apportionment Diocese of Easton	1,772.58	1,772.58	14,180.64	14,180.64	21,271.00
			General and Administrative	1,199.10	1,577.67	8,212.63	11,829.32	17,350.00
			Property	3,114.70	3,925.01	38,448.94	34,449.99	51,250.00
		Total Expense		12,283.25	14,056.72	98,624.28	99,686.09	153,106.00
	Net Ordinary Income			-1,521.77	2,051.28	49,950.21	29,181.91	40,939.00
	Other Income/Expense							
		Other Income						
			Grant Income	0.00		7,227.00		
			Other Interest	0.93		26.70		
			Clearing Transfers In - Income	738.78		-76,653.41		
		Total Other Income		739.71		-69,399.71		
		Other Expense						
		Net change in Endowment Value		-3,081.30		-14,471.20		
		Total Other Expense		-3,081.30		-14,471.20		
	Net Other Income			3,821.01		-54,928.51		
Net Income				2,299.24	2,051.28	-4,978.30	29,181.91	40,939.00

Standing Committee (Ecclesiastical Authority) Liaisons to Diocesan Committees – 2026-27

Committees where Bishop is chair * or ex officio member:

- ☐ *Diocesan Council – D. Williams
- ☐ *Department of Missions – G. Powell & C. Meyer
- ☐ *Board of Managers – D. Williams & D. Dragone**
- ☐ *Bishop's Committee SPEC – L. Hurley
- ☐ Bishop's Institute Advisory Board – not currently active – on hiatus until next bishop
- ☐ Committee on Agape Ministry – not currently active
- ☐ Disciplinary Board – bishop nominates court; Convention elects – Bishop Shand with SC

Diocesan Committees where Bishop appoints members:

- ☐ Camp Wright Board -bishop is a member per canon 507 – D. Williams, G. Blades
- ☐ Cathedral Chapter – bishop is a member per canon 602 – Bishop Shand; G. Powell**
- ☐ Diocesan Property Committee – bishop is a member per canon 510 – G. Blades
- ☐ Commission on Ministry – appoints members and chair – D. Williams, G. Powell
- ☐ Committee on Listening -- appoints members – Standing Committee
- ☐ Committee on Resolutions with Debate – D. Dragone**; D. Williams**
- ☐ Constitution and Canons – appoints members – G. Blades
- ☐ Green Hill Committee – appoints members – L. Hurley
- ☐ Department of Finance – appoints members recommended by committee – D. Williams; D. Dragone
- ☐ Personnel and Compensation – D. Dragone

Other Committees

- ☐ Creation Care – on hiatus
- ☐ Discernment – L. Hurley, Granville Blades**
- ☐ ERD Coordinator – L. Hurley**
- ☐ Rising Generations – G. Powell
- ☐ UTO Coordinator – C. Meyer**
- ☐ Church Initiatives -- C. Meyer**
- ☐ Steering – C. Meyer** -- work completed at present

** currently serves as a member of the committee

Standing Committee Members 2026-2027:

- The Rev. Dr. Darcy Williams (SC President, 2027): drdarcy.williams@gmail.com

- Ms. Debra Dragone (2028) (SC Secretary), dragoned@udel.edu
- Ms. Linda Hurley (2027): linda.hurley@comcast.net
- The Very Rev. Gregory Powell (2028): gregory.powell@icloud.com
- Mr. Granville Blades, Esq. (2029) gblades1234@gmail.com
- The Rev. Charlotte Meyer (2029): charlottedmeyer@gmail.com

A Prayer for our Parish in the Time of Transition

Heavenly Father, we thank you for St. Alban's Episcopal Church, our community of faith. Grant us deliberate patience, that we may seek and follow your guidance in all that we undertake as a congregation. Help us listen and work together with hearts united in our care for all people and your creation. Guide us in discerning a future for our parish and send us a priest who will shepherd this parish and share with us in spreading Jesus' radical love in the world. We pray all this in the name of your blessed Son, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

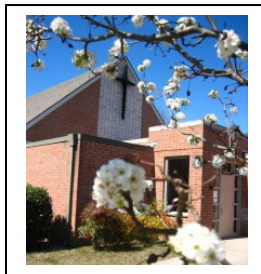


Thank you for your articles and photos of events: worship, outreach and fellowship. They help us tell the story of St. Alban's.

Please keep submitting stories and photos during the third week of each month.

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.
Salisbury, MD 21804**