

The Beacon of St. Alban's

“Illuminating the Word of God in the World”

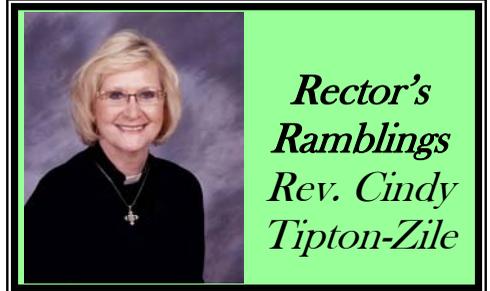
Dear Parishioners—the below letter was read to the congregations during the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services. It is being reprinted here for those who were unable to attend the Christmas services or wish to have additional information on Rev. Cindy's condition.

I am so saddened that I will not be able to be with you to celebrate the nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ this year. I had promised myself and told you that I would be with you at St. Alban's through the holidays, and I had thought that I would be able to keep that promise. One of the things I have become awfully aware of during this illness is that, ever so often, no matter how greatly we want something to happen it is not to be. This is the first year since 1994 that I have not been on the altar of a church at the Christmas services, either as a Deacon or a Priest; and my heart breaks that I will not be there with you this year.

I can only imagine how beautiful St. Alban's is again this year for this wonderful celebration; and I know that Bishop Sutton and Canon Webster will lead you in inspiring worship. I also know that the children will be superb in their live nativity, and that the bell choir and the voice choir will stir you with their brilliant music. Just remember that my heart and soul are with you and if there is anywhere in the world I could be this holiday it would be right there at St. Alban's. I love you and think of you all the time.

My Love and God's Peace,

Cindy ✠



A Message from St. Alban's Sr. Warden

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As most of you know Cindy will be on Disability Leave for a minimum of 2 months and we want life at St. Albans to continue on a normal routine during her absence. The schedule, until she returns, will be Morning Prayer on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month and Holy Eucharist on the 2nd and 4th Sundays. If the month has 5 Sundays, the 5th will be Morning Prayer. Rev. Janet Johnson has committed to fill in during this time and will preside on the 2nd & 4th Sundays while our Layreaders will lead us in Morning Prayer the remaining Sundays. We will continue to have Sunday School as usual, Vestry

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will meet on the 18th of Jan. and our Annual Mtg will be on the 29th of Jan. I hope all of you will continue to attend church on a regular basis and show Janet your support during Cindy's absence.

Cindy remains in touch with Lynne and me. She will be selecting our hymns and supporting our ministry at St Albans as she is able through phone conversations. She may not be here physically but I guarantee you she is spiritually. Please continue to keep her in your thoughts and prayers.

Those scheduled as ushers and layreaders, please remember if you are unable to serve on your scheduled day you are responsible for finding your replacement. If by chance you are at a service and no usher appears to collect the alms, please step up and do so. No training is needed for this and it will help keep the flow of the service normal.

With regards to our Annual Meeting on the 29th. We will have one service at 10:30 - Morning Prayer followed by the annual meeting. All reports are due to Lynne by Sunday, Jan. 15th in order to give her time to put our packets together. Please check the bulletins for additional information as there may be changes in our Annual Meeting refreshments.

There will be a brief planning meeting on Sunday, Jan. 15th following the 10:30 service to review arrangements for the Annual Meeting, Pancake Supper, Sunday School, Ash Wednesday and Lent. I would ask that a representative from each church group attend. Your input and support are very important in order to keep everything flowing smoothly.

Any questions or concerns please contact either Lynne or me (410-360-6216).

*God bless,
Peg Davidson*

St. Alban's Annual Meeting

The Church will hold its annual meeting after the 10:30 am service on January 29th. At this meeting, the Sr. Warden will be reporting on the welfare of St. Albans, each group will deliver their year end report and the congregation will be voting for three new Vestry members. We look forward to your participation at this very important meeting.

If you are the head of a group at the Church please provide your end of year report to our Church Secretary, Lynne Thompson by Sunday, January 15th.

Social Ministries

OUTREACH HAPPENING IN DECEMBER AT ST. ALBAN'S

H.O.P.E: Thank you for your generosity. With your offerings in the December outreach envelopes, **St. Alban's was able to donate \$431 to the H.O.P.E. organization in December.**

NCEON: **Our church continued to support NCEON by donating \$1300** so it can provide for those in our community needing help with rent, medication, and utilities. Thank you for faithfully bringing in food for NCEON all year long.

YARN: Social Ministries was able to provide yarn for our new Prayer Shawl Ministry. To date, we have spent \$194.05 on yarn for shawls and lap robes.

ANGEL TREE: **St. Alban's gave each of our ten Angel Tree moms \$150 Giant gift cards** to provide both the Thanksgiving and Christmas meals for their families.

EMMAUS CENTER: **For Christmas Eve, we provided hams and salads** for the meal for the Emmaus Center instead of collecting fruit in December.

Future Outreach

EMMAUS CENTER: On **Sunday, January 15th, Fresh Fruit Sunday for the Emmaus Center, we will be collecting tangerines and oranges.** We know they are more expensive this year, so don't feel you have to buy an entire bag; just bring in a couple pieces of fruit, and together we will have enough.

WINTER RELIEF: Again this year, **we will provide a dinner at St. Christopher's for the Winter Relief Shelter. The dinner will be the week of March 5th.** More details later. If you would like to help, please contact Mary Moran or Susan Payne.

A Happy and Healthy New Year
from the Social Ministries Committee.

Happy New Year!

The Angel Tree and St. Alban's Flash Mob

By Louise Izat

This year, the Angel Tree project seemed about more than the Christmas gifts. I think Kevin Gish had a terrific idea when he suggested the choir sing Christmas carols while delivering the gifts. Last year, the choir did that in the pouring rain, and said they enjoyed it, in spite of the weather.



Organizing the gifts for the Angel Tree Families.

Again this year, the choir asked everyone to join them for the caroling and delivering of gifts. A dozen of us made a caravan of four vans and SUVs, filled with Christmas gifts, to travel to the homes of the Angel Tree families. We located the apartments or houses, delivered the gifts, and sang a couple of Christmas carols at each place. Our four youth members added much to the group by helping carry the gifts, ringing the buzzers or knocking on doors, singing, and accompanying us with jingle bells.

Our group was very well received by the Angel Tree moms. I must admit they were surprised when they first opened the door to find twelve people standing there! Lynn McFarland said we were like a St. Alban's flash mob gathered outside the homes. However, the moms seemed very grateful for all the gifts. There were thank yous, God Bless yous, a few thank you cards, some candy canes, many hugs, and even tears. The moms seemed to be so touched by the Christmas carols. I think the singing made a real difference. It seemed that we made a connection with those moms, grandmothers, and children. Maybe it was that we made them feel special, that a dozen people on a very busy Sunday before Christmas, would take the time to sing them some Christmas carols while delivering the gifts. It gave them joy and it gave us joy.

I've delivered many Angel Tree gifts over the years, but this year was special. It was about so much more than delivering Christmas gifts. It was about connecting with strangers at Christmas time. It was the Holy Spirit in the form of the Christmas Spirit.

Thank you to all who brought the many gifts for the 10 moms and 17 children. Thank you to all who participated in the deliveries and caroling. It was a wonderful experience. We hope you might consider joining us next year.



St. Alban's Carolers at one family's house.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

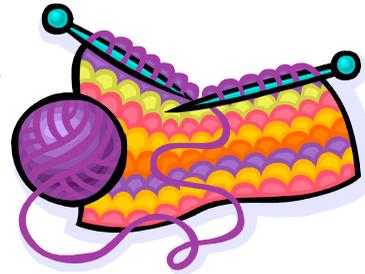
By Louise Izat

The next meeting of the Prayer Shawl Ministry will be Tuesday afternoon, January 10th from 1:00 until 3:00. We are trying different meeting times to determine which is the best fit. Anyone who cannot attend a day time meeting and would prefer evenings, please let us know. We would like to schedule meetings that work for all members.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry thanks all our members who have contributed their time to make items. Also, we would like to thank all who contributed their own yarn or donated to this ministry.

This ministry is considered an outreach project as well as pastoral care for our parishioners. Because it is an outreach project, the Social Ministries budget has bought yarn for the ministry so members do not have to continue to use their own. Eventually, we hope to make some items for raffle as a fundraiser, but right now we are concentrating on making prayer shawls.

For any questions about this ministry, please contact Barbara Phillips, Louise Izat, or Melinda McDaniel. If you know someone who might need the comfort of a prayer shawl or lap robe, please complete the Prayer Shawl Ministry Request Form in the back of this newsletter and also located at the back of the church and leave it in the church office.



Some “Other” Anniversaries Coming up in 2012

Every year we celebrate anniversaries at St. Alban’s and throughout the community. Below are just a few of the significant anniversaries that are coming up in 2012 —

250 years ago: New York City held its first St. Patrick’s Day parade.

200 years ago: The War of 1812 begins and the poem that becomes our national anthem is written (in 1814).

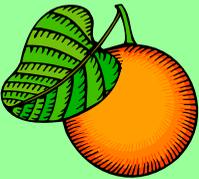
150 years ago: The first national paper money was issued in the USA. Known as United States Notes, they replaced the earlier Demand Notes that could be exchanged for coins at Treasury offices

100 years ago: The first Girl Guides (now Girl Scouts) troop in the USA was founded in Savannah, Georgia by Juliette Gordon Low

60 Years ago: While aboard Friendship 7, John Glenn becomes the first American to orbit the Earth, three times in 4 hours, 55 minutes.

20 years ago: The people of South Africa voted in a referendum to back political reform and end apartheid

January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:00 am—Morning Prayer 10:30 am—Morning Prayer	2 7:30 pm—Alcoholics Anonymous	3 7:30 pm—Food Addiction Anonymous	4 6:30 pm—Bell Choir 7:30 pm—Voice Choir	5	6	7
8 8:00 am—Holy Eucharist 10:30 am—Holy Eucharist	9 7:30 pm—Alcoholics Anonymous	10 10:00 am—Prayer Shawl Ministry 7:30 pm—Food Addiction Anonymous	11 6:30 pm—Bell Choir 7:30 pm—Voice Choir	12	13 7:30 pm—Alcoholics Anonymous 7:30 pm—Alanon 7:30 pm—Alateen	14
15—Fresh Fruit Sunday 8:00 am—Morning Prayer 10:30 am—Morning Prayer 12:00 pm—Planning Meeting End of Year Reports Due	16 7:30 pm—Alcoholics Anonymous	17 6:00 pm—Winter Relief Planning Mtg 7:30 pm—Ladies Guild 7:30 pm—Food Addiction Anonymous	18 6:30 pm—Voice Choir 7:00 pm—Vestry Mtg 7:30 pm—Bell Choir	19	20 7:30 pm—Alcoholics Anonymous 7:30 pm—Alanon 7:30 pm—Alateen	21
22 8:00 am—Holy Eucharist 10:30 am—Holy Eucharist	23 7:30 pm—Alcoholics Anonymous	24 7:30 pm—Food Addiction Anonymous	25 6:30 pm—Bell Choir 7:30 pm—Voice Choir	26	27 7:30 pm—Alcoholics Anonymous 7:30 pm—Alanon 7:30 pm—Alateen	28
29 NO EARLY SERVICE 10:30 am—Morning Prayer followed by the Annual Meeting	30 7:30 pm—Alcoholics Anonymous	31 7:30 pm—Food Addiction Anonymous		<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <p>January 15th is Fresh Fruit Sunday Please bring fresh Oranges and Tangerines for the Emmaus Center to the Sunday Service.</p> </div>		



News & Happenings



January

Lilliana Henry.....	1/2
Douglas Moore.....	1/6
Gilbert Smith.....	1/9
Mary Wilcox.....	1/12
Octavia Carter.....	1/14
Tom Lloyd.....	1/16
Regina Daubert.....	1/17
Dorothy Massey.....	1/17
Christopher Henry.....	1/18
Michelle Kramer-Bardakh.....	1/18
J. Michael Hunt.....	1/22
Regina DeOrazaio.....	1/25

St. Alban's will have **one service at 7:00 pm on Ash Wednesday**, which falls on February 22 this year.

The Sr. Warden requests that the **lead of each church group or a representative please attend the January 15th planning meeting** following the 10:30 am service. We hope to plan for the upcoming church events through Easter and into the spring.

St. Alban's Annual Meeting will be held after service on Sunday, January 29th. **Annual and financial reports are due from church organizations no later than Sunday, January 15th.** Please send them into the church office as soon as possible. Thank you!

The Church Office is updating the list of wedding anniversaries for parishioners. **Please email the church secretary at stalbens.church@verizon.net with your anniversary month and day and the number of years you have been married for the year 2012.** Please also update your birthday as well if you would like. You may also write it down and leave it in the church office.

Deadline for February issue of the Beacon is January 22nd. Send your submissions to **TheBeacon@broadstripe.net**, place them in the church office.

Anniversaries

St. Alban's continues to search for a music director. If you know of anyone who may be interested in a part time musical position, please have the individual contact the Church for more information about this great opportunity.



St. Alban's is truly blessed with musical talents. Many thanks to the members of our congregation who continue to give St. Alban's the gift of music as we begin our second year without a music director. Thanks to all the members of the Bell and Voice Choirs for their determination and dedication. **Thanks to NancyJane Bailey and Joe Biddle** for leading the practices for the Bell and Voice Choirs. A special thanks to **Nikki Fortner, Amelia Gish, Tyler Johns and Victoria Murphy.** Without their participation, the Bell Choir would not have been able to keep performing throughout the year. Finally, thanks to **Stan McFarland** for playing the guitar and leading the music for the contemporary services.



January 10

*Cindy & Eric Zile
4 years*

January 14

*Jim & Diane Koblinsky
51 years*

SNOW POLICY: In case of inclement weather, there will be decision made by 7:00 am about church services. The church answering machine will reflect that decision. *Please note the church office follows the Anne Arundel County Public School system to determine closure during the week.*

The Beacon has a new email address:
TheBeacon@broadstripe.net

**Commemorate an Anniversary, Birthday or
Memorialize a Loved One**

The 2012 Altar Flower form has been posted on the bulletin board in the Vestry room. If you wish to celebrate an anniversary or birthday, or wish to commemorate a loved one during a Sunday service, please fill out the card below and drop it in the offering plate during any Sunday Service. In addition to filling out this form, it is important to also remember to fill out the sign up sheet in the Vestry room. If you have any questions please contact Brenda Gish, the Altar Guild Director or Lynne Thompson, the Church Secretary.



**One arrangement
\$20.00**

ALTAR FLOWERS

**One arrangement
\$20.00**

Please list name and Sunday for flowers on the Altar Chart, return card and check to the Church office.

IN MEMORY

Altar flowers are given by: _____

In Memory of: _____

Sunday Bulletin date preferred: _____

Please indicate relationship (father, mother, husband, wife, son, daughter, etc.)

SPECIAL OCCASIONS

Altar flowers are given by: _____

Birthday name(s): _____ **Birthday date:** _____

Birthday name(s): _____ **Birthday date:** _____

Sunday bulletin date preferred: _____

Anniversary Names: _____ **Date:** _____

Years married: _____

Sunday bulletin date preferred: _____

Prayer Shawl Ministry Request Card

Name of recipient: _____

Name of person making request: _____

telephone number or email address: _____

Why would you like this person to receive a shawl? _____

Does this person have fiber or pet fur allergies? Yes _____ No _____

Color suggestions? _____

Any additional information: _____

**GET
WELL!**

A Special Prayer and Get Well wishes
from the St. Alban's congregation to
Rev. Cindy as she rests and recuperates
from her treatments.



The Beacon of St. Alban's

St. Alban's Episcopal Church

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Glen Burnie, MD 21061

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Email: stalbans.church@verizon.net

TheBeacon@broadstripe.net

www.st-albans.ang-md.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Sunday Worship Services

8:00 am - Holy Communion, Rite I (no music)

10:30 am - Holy Communion, Rite II (with music)

10:30 am - Sunday School, K-12 and Nursery

Inside:

- Rector's Ramblings
- Social Ministries
- Angel Tree and St. Alban's Flash Mob