

The Beacon of St. Alban's

“Illuminating the Word of God in the World”

Praise God, the flowers are beginning to bloom and the worst of a mild winter is past. I think we are all singing praises of joy for the lack of snow and shoveling.

These past few months have been incredibly challenging for us and you have all stepped up to the plate to support each other. The lay readers have done an amazing job with officiating Morning Prayer on the 1st and 3rd Sunday's of the month. Our Supply Priest Janet Johnson, has worked her schedule so that we have been able to maintain consistency she and extended her stay longer than anticipated. The choir has worked extra hard in the absence of a Music Director. The transition to our new schedule has appeared to be very smooth due to the hard work of all those behind the scenes.

**A Message from
St. Alban's
Sr. Warden**

Work continues in the basement. The waterproofing is complete but much remains to be done. Judy Smith has been trying to schedule workdays so if you have a few spare hours please check with her.

Many have asked about the break-in last January. A suspect has been arrested, we'll let you know the results of the trial once we know. Bob Laning has been doing most of the repairs by himself and I know would appreciate a helping hand with what's left. We have not heard from our insurance company regarding our claim. Anyone who made a donation via check and it has not cleared your bank, we ask that you replace it. Many checks were taken but it appears the thief only wanted the cash and tossed the checks. A few checks were left on the office floor and they have been deposited into the St. Alban's account.

I would like to thank Joe Rumenap for his many years of collecting aluminum products for recycling and donating the proceeds to St Alban's Youth Group, Operating Funds and Roof Fund. Joe is retiring from this project and would like to see someone from St. Albans take over.

Please keep you prayers coming for Cindy and Eric. We all miss her and look forward to the day when she is back with us.

Peg Davidson

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Diocesan Convention May 4th & 5th

The Diocese of Maryland Convention will be held again this year at the Marriott Hunt Valley on May 4th & 5th. Participating in the process of the convention is a rewarding experience that everyone should experience at least once. I attended last year and was so happy to see one of our own teen, Becca Glantz, working as a volunteer. We are

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blessed that Melinda McDaniel has agreed to attend this year. Registered attendees receive packets of information, including the Pre-Convention Journal and meals during the two-day meeting. Any member of the congregation may be a delegate, we hope you will consider volunteering. This year it is especially important that we have representation since our Rector will not be attending. However, Eric Zile will be there and is looking forward to joining Melinda.

Youth Group News

By Sandy Murphy

The Youth Group would like to thank everyone for attending the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. We are using some of the funds we raised to send Rebecca Glantz and Matthew Lloyd to the Diocese sponsored youth trip to New York City in April. They will ride a bus to NYC and spend two nights at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine. The trip will be filled with prayer and fellowship with other youth from the Baltimore area. This year the trip has been expanded to two days giving the kids and opportunity to see the sights of New York City. In May, we are proud to send Rebecca to the Convention of the Diocese of Maryland. The Youth Group meets on the last Sunday of each month during the 10:30am service. Upcoming events include the Memorial Day Parade and an end of the year gathering.

Annual Spring Flea Market

The Ladies Guild will be hosting their Annual Spring Flea Market on May 15th.

Don't be left out, reserve your space today!

For more information on how to reserve a space, or a table and space please contact the Church Secretary or Judy Carter.



Social Ministries

Helping Hungry Children—What is a Buddy Bag?

The Social Ministries Committee first learned of the term Buddy Bag from the HOPE organization which was considering starting a program to give a bag of food every Friday to children who go hungry during the weekend. Many children get breakfast and lunch at school on Monday through Friday, then some go hungry on Saturday and Sunday. With the cost of a simple thing like a jar of peanut butter increasing tremendously in price, it is not surprising that struggling moms are having trouble providing enough food for their children.

We were shocked to learn that many children in our affluent Anne Arundel County go hungry at times. As we learned more about this, the Social Ministries Committee consulted two of our parishioners, Mary Wilcox, recently retired teacher from Belle Grove Elementary School, and Maija Denson, who teaches at Oakwood Elementary School. Both verified the need for this program and thought the Buddy Bag program would be a great idea for St. Alban's as a new outreach project.

When Maija shared with us that she knew there were children going hungry at her school, that teachers were trying to help on their own, we decided St. Alban's could help by giving these children food for the weekend as soon as possible. Instead of waiting for the HOPE organization to set up a program, we feel called to do something right now. Our church cannot learn of children needing help and not do something about it. We know our generous, compassionate parishioners would want to help these hungry children.

We will begin collecting food immediately for the children. Here is a Wish List of food:

- Jars of peanut butter
- Jars of jelly
- Boxes of crackers
- Juice boxes
- Cans of tuna or chicken
- Boxes of macaroni and cheese
- Pop Tarts
- Granola bars or breakfast bars
- Boxes of cheese and peanut butter crackers
- Boxes of raisins
- Individual containers of pudding or jello (non-refrigerated kind)
- Individual containers of fruit

Williamsburg Raffle

By Peg Davidson

Need a vacation?

How about a week in Williamsburg VA at the beautiful Wyndham Kingsgate located near downtown Williamsburg and outlet shops? It could be yours by purchasing a raffle ticket for only \$5 each.

When: August 3-10th 2012

2 bedroom, kitchen, living room and lanai. Just bring your clothes and food and prepare to relax and have a great time. There is 1 indoor & 1 outdoor pool, tennis courts and bike paths.

Check out the website at: www.wyndhamkingsgate.com

See Bonnie Taylor for your tickets and pick up some to sell at work or to your neighbors.

Drawing will be held on Saturday, May 12th following the Guild's Bazaar.

Cathedral Tour

By Peg Davidson

Wednesday, **May 30th** we are planning a bus trip into the Washington National Cathedral.

The bus will leave St. Albans at 11:15 a.m. and return at 5:15 p.m. Bring a bag lunch to eat on the bus so you'll be ready to enjoy a truly wonderful day. At 12:30 there is an organ demonstration, the Tour/Tea is from 1:30 – 3:30 (cost \$25), or you can go on the short ½ hr. tour and visit the gardens and beautiful grounds. Of course the Cathedral Gift Shop offers many beautiful items. The cost of the bus will be determined by the amount of people riding. A full bus of 55 will cost \$14 ea. With 42 people \$18.25 and so on. We will be inviting St. Andrews and St. Christopher's to join us. Beginning Sunday, April 1st there will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board and a deposit of \$39 for the bus plus Tour/Tea or \$14.00 if you just want to ride the bus and "do your own thing" is due when signing up made payable to: Margaret Davidson If the bus is not full we will be assessed the difference on the day of the trip.

This is not a fundraiser just a day to enjoy each others company and the magnificent Cathedral.

Reverend Cindy attended the Healing Service at St. Alban's on the evening of March 26. The Rev. Canon Slater presided over the service.

Photos of the service can be found through the newsletter. For those who were unable to attend we hope you enjoy the pictures. For those in attendance we hope they bring warm memories.



April

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1—Palm Sunday	2	3	4	5—Maundy Thursday 7:00 pm—Service	6—Good Friday 7:00 pm—Service 7:30 pm—Alcoholics Anonymous 7:30 pm—Alanon 7:30 pm—Alateen	7
8—Easter 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	12	13 7:30 pm—Alcoholics Anonymous 7:30 pm—Alanon 7:30 pm—Alateen	14
15 8:00 am—Morning Prayer 10:30 am—Morning Prayer	16 7:30 pm—Alcoholics Anonymous	17 6:30 pm—Social Ministries 7:30 pm—Ladies Guild 7:30 pm—Food Addiction Anonymous	18 7:00 pm—Vestry Mtg	19	20 7:30 pm—Alcoholics Anonymous 7:30 pm—Alanon 7:30 pm—Alateen	21 9:30 am—Spring Clean-up
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	26	27 7:30 pm—Alcoholics Anonymous 7:30 pm—Alanon 7:30 pm—Alateen	28
29 8:00 am—Morning Prayer 10:30 am—Morning Prayer	30 7:30 pm—Alcoholics Anonymous	Upcoming events April 21—Spring Clean-up May 15—Spring Flea Market June 3—Congregational Picnic at Lake Waterford Park				



News & Happenings



This space for rent! Want to alert the congregation to an outside activity they may enjoy? Any one you would like to recognize for an achievement or send out a thanks to? Send your note to TheBeacon@broadstripe.net and best of all...the rent is free!

March

Sylvia Day	4/3
Betty Smith	4/9
Aaron Hunt	4/9
Dana Matsis	4/11
Barbara Phillips	4/11
Jim Koblinsky	4/19
Jordan Moneski	4/27
Nicholas Lloyd	4/28
Steven Denson	4/28

The Church Office is updating the list of wedding anniversaries for parishioners. **Please email the church secretary at stal-bans.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 April issue of the Beacon is April 22nd. Send your submissions to TheBeacon@broadstripe.net, place them in the church office.

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.

A special thank you to Joe Biddle, Nancy-jane Bailey and Brenda Gish. These three individuals have continued to lead the music program while we continue the search for a new music director. With Easter performances complete both choirs will be taking an extended break.

WANTED: St. Alban's is looking for a new editor for the Beacon. If you are interested in working on the newsletter please contact Lynne at the church office. If you are unsure and want to know more about what it takes to put together the newsletter please contact Kevin Gish at 410-969-2756.



Anniversaries



April 17

Candy and Walter Morrison
30 Years

April 21

Michael and Jennifer Hunt
11 Years

April 22

TJ and Mandy Barranger
6 Years

April 23

Bill and Peg Davidson
46 Years

April 27

Rich and Linda Bumgarner
49 Years

April 28

Bob and Barbara Phillips
50 Years

The Beacon's email address:
TheBeacon@broadstripe.net

We're Making Pet Prayer Blankets

By Louise Izat

The next meeting of the Prayer Shawl Ministry will be Tuesday, April 17th at 1:00 p.m. in the vestry room. We will be led by Peg Davidson in making fleece pet prayer blankets. In addition, we will have kits made up if you want to sew one at home.

The world seems to be divided into pet people and non-pet people. If you are not a pet person, you might want to skip this article because you will probably think the Prayer Shawl Ministry is a bit goofy.

Here is how making the pet prayer blankets came about. I know a 170 pound 4 year old Great Dane named Moby who has lymphoma. Moby looks like the black and white spotted Great Dane on the Pergo floor advertisements. He is huge and loving and gorgeous. He loves to bury his nose in soft fabric so a fleece blanket is perfect for him.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry was willing to include pets in our ministry, Rev. Cindy was willing to bless the blankets, and Peg Davidson offered to make a few. She made a very large blanket for Moby.

We attached a card to the blanket saying it was handmade for Moby. The card offered blessings for the pet and comforting words for the pet owners. We included pictures from past Blessing of the Animals Services. Rev. Cindy, Alice Cook, and her dog, Derby, are on the front. Pat Lerner's dear departed dog, Mitzi, is on the back, along with Nancyjane Bailey's parrot, Hal, and Barbara Phillips' grandson, Craig, with his leopard gecko, JoJo. Also, there is a picture of a fluffy cat and a couple of goats. We are a very diversified pet parish.

So, as crazy as a pet prayer blanket sounds to some people, it works for this Prayer Shawl Ministry. The owners of Moby are un-churched. They were extremely touched by the gesture. Through this pet blanket, I hope they felt the loving hand of God during a very stressful time in their lives.

Please come help the Prayer Shawl Ministry make some pet prayer blankets on Tuesday, April 17th. As a group effort, it should be fun and easy. No real sewing experience is needed.

If no one else embraces the pet prayer blankets, we will sell the remaining blankets at the Blessing of the Animal Service in October and donate the proceeds to a charity to help other animals.

For the humans:

Please remember we make prayer shawls and lap robes
to be blessed and given to anyone needing comfort. If you know someone
who is sick or undergoing treatments, who is frightened or depressed or anxious,
who is grieving over losing a loved one, who is suffering from a painful divorce,
who has lost a job, or who is having a rough time in any way
anyone needing comfort can benefit from a prayer shawl or lap robe.

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: _____



The Beacon of St. Alban's

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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:

Photos from the Healing Service for Rev. Cindy!