

The Beacon of St. Alban's

“Illuminating the Word of God in the World”

Dear Friends in Christ,

The last two weeks have been extremely exhausting for me; therefore, I hope you will understand if I have Lynn reprint an article that I wrote for the newsletter a few years ago. Sometimes we can gain from reexamining something we have read previously.

Last week I asked my husband “what do you think All Saints’ Day, stewardship and Thanksgiving have in common?” He looked at me with this quizzical expression and said “They are all in the month of November of course.” My reply was “That is not exactly what I was going for.” So before you read any further take a moment to think about your answer to the question.

Of course when you try to think like your rector you’re in danger of never thinking normally again. What I was trying to elicit from my husband was that “the lives of the saints, living and dead, demonstrate that all that we are and all that we have come from God and that we are to return it to God in thanksgiving.”

I have to admit though that November was a simpler answer because it doesn’t require any thought or self examination. All Saints’ Day, stewardship and Thanksgiving all do fall within the month of November. But, if that is the only connection Eric or anyone else can make to these sacred ideas, than we are in trouble.

The Saints of God are those whose lives allow and have allowed God’s light to show through into this world. We think about Saint Francis’ who sold all that he had so that he could minister to the poor. We think of Teresa of Avila who became a disalced nun and travelled throughout Spain for 25 years. These saints of old have much in common with the more modern saints of Martin Luther King, Jr. and Mother Teresa of Calcutta.

Each lived their life dedicated completely to God’s calling and to God’s dream. Many of these saints gave up all of their possessions to help the people of God, and some gave their lives in service to the children of God. Like us, each of them wrestled with the meaning of their lives and with their God. In the end, each concluded that living a life fully dedicated to God in thanksgiving was the manner in which they could best be themselves.

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Gratefully we see that these heroic male and female witnesses live, by the grace of God,. Our fascination with saints, known and unknown should not be about the particular persons, but with how their lives reflect the love of Christ and give us an idea of how to respond to God’s call to live a sacrificial life. When we examine the lives of the saints, we find that when they chose to fully follow Christ, their lives changed dramatically . Prior to coming to Christ some saints may have



been greedy, but once touched by the love of God they lived sacrificially and were thankful when given used clothing or a simple cup of soup. You may think it's romantic, but it's not. It's the Gospel.

Today and every November we are given a wonderful opportunity to examine our own lives and to see how we stack up against those who lived sacrificially and thankfully in this and every age for the sake of the Gospel. Do we accept the premise that, "All things come of thee O Lord and of thine own have we given thee" or do we begrudge God even 10% of *our money*? Do we give thankfully from our abundance so that others may come to know the love of Christ or do we give out of guilt and duty and think of every excuse to say why "we can't afford to give any-more" or "I'm giving all that I can" when we know that only Christ gave everything.

When you sit around the Thanksgiving table this year, examine your life carefully. Do you truly live sacrificially? Do you give thanks daily and weigh your blessings against the needs of the poor? What portion of your regular Holiday Dinner did you sacrifice for the folks in Glen Burnie who have nothing to eat? When you turn on the heat will you remember those who have no home other than the street? Will you reflect on your blessings and think of how you made it all by yourself, or will you stop and thank God, the one from whom all blessings flow.

All Saints' Day, Stewardship and Thanksgiving all go hand in hand. They are inextricably linked and are reminders of how we are called to live. Is it a coincidence that they all fall in November? Or, is it that we are in so much need of reminding that God gives us three opportunities this month to make the dream of God a reality?

Wishing you a sacred month of sacrifice and Thanksgiving, I am... Your Servant and His,

Cindy ✝

Favorite Thanksgiving Hymn- "We Gather Together"

"We Gather Together" is a Christian hymn of Dutch origin written in 1597 by Adrianus Valerius as "Wilt heden nu treden" to celebrate the Dutch victory over Spanish forces in the Battle of Turnhout. It was originally set to a Dutch folk tune. According to the [Hymn Society in the United States and Canada](#), "We Gather Together's" first appearance in an American hymnal was in 1903. It had retained popularity among the Dutch, and when the Dutch Reformed Church in North America decided in 1937 to abandon the policy that they had brought with them to the New World in the 17th century of singing only psalms and add hymns to the church service, "We Gather Together" was chosen as the first hymn in the first hymnal.^[1] The hymn steadily gained popularity, especially in services of Thanksgiving on such occasions as town and college centennial celebrations. According to [Carl Daw](#), executive director of the Hymn Society, the "big break" came in 1935 when it was included in the national hymnal of the Methodist-Episcopal Church.^[1] According to Michael Hawn, professor of sacred music at Southern Methodist University's Perkins School of Theology, "by World War I, we started to see ourselves in this hymn," and the popularity increased during World War II, when "the wicked oppressing" were understood to include Nazi Germany and Imperial Japan.^[1]

Social Ministries

The Angel Tree is Coming!

The Social Ministries Angel Tree goes up right after Thanksgiving and there will be a lot of paper angels for St. Alban's angels to make some needy families' Christmas joyful this year. Grab an angel off the tree and use it for the tag on your gift which needs to be wrapped and delivered to church usually by the second Sunday in December, when we will get a caravan of cars together to deliver them to families in the vicinity of the church. We also need voices to sing carols when we deliver the gifts. It's a lot of fun and guaranteed to be the highlight of your Advent Season.

Why 70 Percent of Episcopalians Weren't Born That Way

From The Episcopal Handbook:

Yes, We're a church of refugees. It's no secret that the clear majority of those in Episcopal Church pews on Sunday mornings were not born Episcopalians. Most of us came from other Christian denominations or no church background at all. So, what's the draw?

Since many converts come as adults, chances are logic and reason play a role in a person's decision to become an Episcopalian. The Episcopal Church has been consistently labeled a "Middle Road"—a *via media*—between Roman Catholicism and Protestantism. We bring the reverences and rootedness of an ancient tradition alongside a clear devotion to the Bible and priesthood of all believers. In years past, in fact, some people suggested that were America to unite under one central religion, it just might be the Episcopal Church. It's worth noting that the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C., host to some of the nation's most important religious events, is an Episcopal Church.

National Cathedral Program

Monday, November 5, 2012 7:30 PM National Cathedral Washington, DC Tickets \$10-\$15

Reading the Bible as an Ecological Act presented by Dr. Richard Bauckham, Professor Emeritus, University of St. Andrews, Scotland.

The Bible and Christian tradition have, at best, offered a mixed response to ecological challenges. At worst, a complex, often one-sided reading of the Bible has left its voice silent. Aiming to bridge these gaps, Professor Bauckham will explore how the Bible contains an authentically Christian ecological vision for the wellbeing of all creation. Co-Sponsored by Virginia Theological Seminary, and Christ Church, Alexandria, Virginia.

St. Alban's Youth Group

St.. Alban's Youth Group will be participating in two activities in November:

Saturday, Nov 10th- 1-5pm- Harvest Bazaar and Turkey Dinner. The Youth Group will be serving the church dinner in the parish hall. Wear dress pants and dress shirts.

Saturday Nov 17th- 9:30am-12:30pm- Gift wrapping for Happy Helpers of the Homeless. We will meet at the church and carpool to the Happy Helpers Headquarters about 15 minutes away. Family members may join if they wish, the more the merrier. There are many many gifts to wrap! Contact Sandy Murphy at tscvmurphy@msn.com if you have any questions.

Harvest Bazaar and Turkey Dinner

Saturday November 10

Bazaar from 12-5, Dinner from 2-5

Adults \$12, Ages 4-12 \$8 for the dinner

Don't miss it! Pick up some Christmas decorations and gifts and join us for the feast! Be served by charming and efficient servers from the youth group!

For tickets call Judy Smith at 410-761-5206 or see her at coffee hour following the 10:30 service..



Bishop's Pastoral Letter-Political Voices and Gospel Values

The following pastoral letter to the clergy and laity of the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland addresses Bishop Sutton's views on three important issues on the November 6 ballot. In his view these issues demand our attention as Christian citizens, not just as voters. The following is a summary of Bishop Sutton's statement.

Expanded Gambling

In 2008 our Diocesan Convention overwhelmingly passed a [resolution opposing a gambling initiative in that election](#). Currently, television ads on the Question 7 referendum tell us that jobs and more money for public education will happen if you vote 'yes.' But I ask, at what cost? What will be the effect of more gambling on our poor and desperate brothers and sisters seeking to solve their financial problems by "hitting the jackpot?" And do we really want our children's educations to be funded by means that we know will cause so much hardship to so many families? The purported ends will not justify the costly means if this initiative is passed.

The Maryland Dream Act

Maryland's Dream Act is designed to level the playing field and broaden opportunities for children who are already contributing to our society. It has the strictest qualification standards in the country. Those who benefit must have completed three years in one of our high schools. They or their parents must have been paying taxes. They must first attend a community college before admittance into a state university, and such admittance will not count against the number reserved to all Maryland residents. Scholarship assistance is denied outright. There are also benefits that can come to us with a more highly educated work force. What would Jesus say to us about the children in our midst - especially those innocently brought here not of their own doing? Well, what did he do in the New Testament? He held a little child in his arms, and said, "*Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.*" (Mark 9:37)

Marriage Equality

Through the marriage equality legislation, our elected representatives seek to correct past injustices by extending the legal benefits of marriage to all citizens no matter their sexual orientation. This goes to the core of what it means to live in a democratic society, and it is an issue of basic fairness. There are theological and ethical differences about the mystery and gift of human sexuality, to be sure, but for me the bottom line is "*to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God.*" (Micah 6:8) Will we do what the Lord requires of us on behalf of our gay and lesbian brothers and sisters, sons and daughters, nieces and nephews, aunts and uncles, cousins and grandparents? The Episcopal Church has led the way to having a more compassionate, loving, graceful (and, we believe, "gospel-mandated") stance toward all people - including those who find that they are oriented to the same gender. The Diocese of Maryland believes that such a compassionate, socially responsible, and spiritually relevant Christianity is the way forward in a culture that is increasingly dismissive of organized religion...that may be one of the reasons that our diocese grew in membership last year.

November 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 All Saints Day 6:30 pm Bell Choir 7:30 pm Choir	2 7:30 pm Alcoholics Anonymous 7:30 pm Alanon 7:30 pm Alateen	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
8:00 am Holy Communion 10:30 am Morning Prayer	7:30 pm Alcoholics Anonymous	1:00 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 7:30 pm Food Addiction Anonymous		6:30 pm Bell Choir 7:30 pm Choir	7:30 pm Alcoholics Anonymous 7:30 pm Alanon 7:30 pm Alateen	12-5 pm Harvest Bazaar 2-5 pm Turkey Dinner
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
8:00 am Morning Prayer 10:30 am Holy Communion	7:30 pm Alcoholics Anonymous	6:30 pm Social Ministries 7:30 pm Ladies Guild 7:30 pm Food Addiction Anonymous	7:00 pm Vestry Meeting	6:30 pm Bell Choir 7:30 pm Choir	7:30 pm Alcoholics Anonymous 7:30 pm Alanon 7:30 pm Alateen	9:30 am-12:30 pm Youth group at Happy Helpers
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
8:00 am Holy Communion 10:30 am Morning Prayer	7:30 pm Alcoholics Anonymous	7:30 pm Food Addiction Anonymous	7:00 pm Thanksgiving Eve Service	Happy Thanksgiving!	7:30 pm Alcoholics Anonymous 7:30 pm Alanon 7:30 pm Alateen	
25	26	27	28	29	30	
No 8 AM Service 10:30 am Holy Communion	7:30 pm Alcoholics Anonymous	7:30 pm Food Addiction Anonymous		6:30 pm Bell Choir 7:30 pm Choir	Feast of St. Andrew the Apostle 7:30 pm Alcoholics Anonymous 7:30 pm Alanon 7:30 pm Alateen	



News & Happenings



November Birthdays

Tyler Moore.....	11/4
Betsy Kramer.....	11/5
Nikole Fortner.....	11/6
Abigail Hunt	11/6
Annette Moneski	11/7
Harold Moors.....	11/7
F. William Kuethe, Jr.	11/7
Dorothy Moors.....	11/9
Tyler Johns.....	11/9
Ruth Myers.....	11/11
Harry Greenwell.....	11/15
Kosta Matsis.....	11/15
Stan McFarland.....	11/17
Dee Smith.....	11/17
Jennifer Hunt.....	11/19
Walter Morrison, Jr.	11/20
Jeanne Rezac.....	11/22
Richard Marshall.....	11/27
Louise Izat.....	11/30

Want to give thanks for something? Ask for prayers for someone? Celebrate your children or grandchildren's accomplishments? Send the information to lynnmcfarland@gmail.com and it will get published on these pages!

Parishioner of the Month: Brenda Gish

I've been at St. Alban's since my baptism, through confirmation, getting married and then having my daughter baptised in 2001.

For those of you who knew Doris Wenger, it would seem as though our family has been at St. Alban's for generations. That's not actually the case. Mom was baptised Methodist, not Episcopalian. Technically, the Wenger family started at St. Alban's on March 10, 1940, the day my dad, William Wenger, was confirmed by C. Gilbert Hill, Jr., Sadly he didn't attend service on a regular basis. It wasn't until my parents married that Mom decided St. Alban's would be her parish -- and I was about 7 years old when Mom was confirmed Episcopal. My memories of St. Alban's are many: Shawn Hill dressed up like Frankenstein for a church Halloween party, the first children's service in the newly built Sunday School chapel, getting 10 gold stars from my third grade Sunday School teacher, Katherine Gardner (later Gordon) for learning all 10 commandments.

Why do I stay here? I'm very blessed to have St. Alban's in my life and my goal is to pay it forward to all new members by making them feel as loved as I do by my church family. My mom was my best church mentor and I hope to be that for my daughter.

Deadline for the December issue of the Beacon is November 17th. Send your submissions to lynnmcfarland@gmail.com, or place them in the church office.

St. Alban's handbell choir and voice choir need your time and talent! Please contact Michael Arrington or come to the basement choir room on Thursday nights at 6:30 for handbells or 7:30 to sing!

Thanks to all who brought animals and joined in the Blessing of the Animals service. It was the first time we've held it in the parish hall and it was a great success!

We still need help with painting and other work in the basement chapel. Contact Peg Davidson at 410-360-6216 if you can help.

More acolytes are needed-Adults and youth can serve! Contact Brenda Gish at cedar-pup@cablespeed.net

The Altar Guild can always use extra helping hands around the holidays and throughout the year. Contact Brenda Gish at cedar-pup@cablespeed.net

The Beacon's email address:
lynnmcfarland@gmail.com

Anniversaries



November 16

James & Regina Daubert
27 Years

November 17

George & Betty Smith

November 30

*F. William &
Beverly Kuethe*

Congratulations and may you
have many more blessed
years together!

Diocesan Veterans Day Service

Nov. 11

3 pm, Cathedral of the Incarnation, Baltimore

The Diocese of Maryland is offering a service of commemoration for members of the military who have died in service since 9/11/01, and prayer for those currently serving in the Armed Forces. We invite anyone in the diocese with family members in the military and those who are serving, or who have served, to join us for Evensong and prayers. We encourage service members to wear their uniforms. Bishop Sutton will preside over the service, and the Rev. Tom Carter, rector of the Church of the Holy Nativity, Baltimore, will preach.

Stewardship Hand



RELATIONSHIP *Leviticus* 26:12

God desires a close relationship with us. He loved us before we loved Him. Our relationship with God is not one of equals since He is the Owner and we are the stewards of His possessions.

OWNERSHIP *Psalms* 24:1

God is the owner of everything and He has transferred dominion over His creation to us (Genesis 1:26). As faithful stewards, we understand that we have been assigned the management or stewardship of God's possession. We are responsible to the Owner for the manner in which we conduct our stewardship responsibilities.

POSSESSIONS *Proverbs* 3:9-10

Because God loves us He has blessed us with many possessions, such as time, talent, and treasure. The way we use our possessions demonstrates our love to Him. As faithful stewards, we must use our possessions for His glory, to benefit others, and not for personal gain.

SACRIFICE *Romans* 12:1

The Hebrew word used in the Old Testament for sacrifice is "korban", and it means to come close to God. Sin separated us from God, but Christ's death on the cross, as the sacrifice for our sins, provided a way for us to come close to Him. As a Christian, living for Christ is our sacrifice to Him. When we use our possessions (time, talents, and treasures) to His glory and to benefit others, we signal to God, and to the world, our desire to have a close relationship with Him.

LOVE *John* 15:9

God is love. Stewardship that is based on God's love allows us to look beyond the faults of others while using our possessions to supply their needs (John 13:34,35). The thumb is the only finger that can touch all of the other fingers, so our love for God and for our fellowmen must permeate all aspects of our stewardship experience. Stewardship is God's love in action.

Bishop Claggett Center Activities

The Bishop Claggett Center is the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland Retreat Center located at 3035 Buckeystown Pike, Buckeystown MD.

The Heavens Declare the Glory of God

Friday Dec 14 5 PM-Sat Dec 15 5 PM

Cost: \$120

Come see the stars and watch the Geminid meteor shower! Engage in discussion on nature and how it can help us understand scriptures. The speaker is Dr. Alex Storrs, a professor of astrophysics at Towson University, and parishioner at St. Bartholomew's - Ten Hills who will bring a large telescope for star gazing as weather permits. The Rev Anjel Scarborough, Grace Church Brunswick will be the chaplain.

Women's Weekend

Jan 25-27, 2013

Cost: \$185

I Can Do All Things Through Christ Who Strengthens Me

An invitation to explore personal empowerment through Christ's strength. Women are invited to come together to worship and celebrate faith in prayer, song and meditation; hear inspiring speaker the Rev. Canon Angela Shepherd; be refreshed by workshops and activities; renew friendships and make new friends. The Eucharist will be celebrated on Sunday morning.

Preparing the bulletin for All Saints' Day



The Beacon of St. Alban's

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Sunday Worship Services

8:00 am - Holy Communion, Rite I on 2nd and 4th Sundays (no music); Others Morning Prayer
10:30 am - Holy Communion, Rite II (with music) on 1st and Third Sundays, Others Morning Prayer

The Reverend Cindy Tipton-Zile, Rector

Church Office Hours Tuesday-Thursday 9-1

Rector's email address: tipmain@verizon.net