

January 2015



ST. ALBAN'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

servicing God by servicing others

Dear people of St. Alban's,

On the evening of December 23, I stood in the back of the church as Bishop Heather Cook spoke to me about the responsibility of becoming Rector among you:

“Having committed yourself to this work, do not forget the trust of those who have chosen you. Care alike for young and old, strong and weak, rich and poor. By words, and in your life, proclaim the Gospel. Love and serve Christ's people. Nourish them, and strengthen them to glorify God in this life and in the life to come.”

That was the moment when the ceremony for which we had been preparing suddenly became real. The Spirit's presence was palpable, emotions kicked in, every fiber of my being was focused. What had been imaginings and plans became present truth.

Though we have been working together for almost two years, now we begin from a new place. We have a history together. The delicate process of developing trust has taken hold. Building trust is more like tending a fire than constructing a wall. A wall, once established, can be left to the elements while attention is diverted elsewhere. A fire requires watching, with the right kinds of wood added as needed and the coals stirred up from time to time so that the light and warmth continue. A wall may be taken for granted and still remain serviceable; a fire must be tended.

Much has been accomplished during our time together, and for that we are grateful to God. As always happens among finite human beings, some things have not been done that should have been: for that we ask forgiveness from God and one another, and we try again in a new way. Honest conversation, in a spirit of charity and compassion, is how the fire of trust is kept glowing. Vindictive gossip is like exploding wood, sending sparks flying that can ignite destruction. Resentful silence is deadening. One of the things I love about the St. Alban's is how much healthy communication happens. Each of us has a role in tending the trust that is the life of our community.

The charge that the bishop gave to me, I now extend to you. “Having committed yourself to this work, do not forget the trust” of those who are counting on you. We rely on each other to care, to love and serve, to nourish and strengthen one another so that together we glorify God. This is how we proclaim the Gospel in our mutual ministry. We have recommitted ourselves to ministry together. Let us recommit to tending our trust.

Faithfully,
Paula+



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A December Thank You from the Social Ministries Committee

1. Thanks to **Joan Rumenap** for writing our grant proposal to St. Margaret's Episcopal Church for funds for the Summer Reading Camp
2. Thanks to **Barbara and Bob Phillips** for delivering the food to NCEON each week
3. Thanks to **Joann and John Cherrico** for taking the buddy bag food to Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church and delivering the buddy bags of food to Richard Henry Lee elementary school every Friday
4. Thanks to **Victoria Murphy and her team of helpers** for organizing, preparing, and serving the Winter Relief Dinner at St. Christopher's
5. Thanks to **Charleen** for facilitating the phone calls to Angel Tree Moms and taking the time to verify the addresses, toys on the wish lists, and sizes of clothing
6. Thanks **to all** who brought in the 69 gifts for children of the Angel Tree families and the 10 gifts for the Moms, as well as all who helped organize the gifts for delivery
7. Thanks to Joan Rumenap's friend **Linda** who donated all the bags of tiny gifts to the children and kitchen gifts for the Moms
8. Thanks to the **15 carolers** who delivered the all the gifts and sang Christmas carols at the houses of the Angel Tree families (we promise next year we'll feed you lunch first!)

St. Alban's has been referred to as the "little church that could" with regard to our finances this year. We could be called the same with regard to our parishioners' response to our outreach ministries. Look at how much has been done in just this one month! We are blessed to be part of such a "giving" church.



Giving to Others at Christmas

Two parishioners have shared with Social Ministries some nice holiday practices in their families about Christmas giving. Both examples show the true spirit of Christmas:

One parishioner asks each family member and friend to bring some canned goods to their Christmas dinner every year to share with those less fortunate. After the holidays, they deliver a large number of bags of canned goods to NCEON. In gratitude for their blessings, they are pleased to share with others.

Another parishioner spoke of her daughter's small office at work deciding to adopt an

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Angel Tree family from Department of Social Services. Every year the 7 co-workers would exchange Christmas gifts with one another. This year, they decided to do something different. They felt blessed that they were fortunate to have good jobs and wanted to do something nice for someone less fortunate. Instead of buying gifts for each other, they adopted a single Dad and his daughter and son. Each co-worker contributed \$50. They bought \$100 worth of gifts for each family member and gave them a grocery store gift card with what was leftover. The generosity of that small office of co-workers was truly heartwarming.

The Social Ministries Committee hopes everyone had a Merry Christmas and wishes you a Happy New Year. We look forward to the wonderful things we can do together in 2015 as we continue serving God by serving others.

Study Group and Eucharist Resume January 7



Continuing the pattern that was so well received in December, we will gather for a study session at 11 am followed by an informal Eucharist at noon and light lunch at 12:30. Please feel free to come for any or all of these components as your schedule permits.

On January 7, we will observe the Feast of Epiphany (transferred from its actual date on January 6) to mark the conclusion of Christmastide. In our study sessions for the next six weeks, we will explore some teachings about Christian faith and life that the church historically has approved in contrast to those declared to be heresies. Why does it matter what Christians believe? How might clarification of your beliefs make your experience of being a Christian more fulfilling?

REMINDER:

St. Alban's Annual Meeting is Sunday, January 25th

Youth Group Notes



It's been a very exciting December for St. Alban's Youth Group. Tuesday Night, December 9th the group was represented at the Winter Relief program by Victoria Murphy, Xanthia Strohl and Bill and Bonnie. Victoria took the responsibility of organizing our participation. She did a great job and even brought along Grace, one of her friends from the volleyball team. A lot of people helped make this meaningful event a success. Thanks to all.

The following Friday night Victoria, Xanthia, Nic Lloyd, Bill and Bonnie joined 18 other youth and the Diocesan Youth Staff on a trip to St. Luke's Philadelphia for Nightwatch Philadelphia. The main focus of the program was a Friday Night Eucharist with a unique liturgy of the word. I'd encourage you to ask one of the young people what it was like. The trip also included a trip to the Philadelphia Christmas Village with Brats and Philly Cheese steaks. On Sunday the 28th we'll have our after Christmas Party with gift exchange. The youth are also very excited to get the newly renovated Youth Room furnished and decorated. Very excited. That will be a main focus in January or there may be a mutiny. Thanks for all the support visible and invisible from everyone in the parish.



Changing Our World



It was Wednesday of the week before Christmas, and she had nowhere to spend the night with her two small children. She explained over the phone that she had used what money she had to travel from Texas with hope for a job that had not yet materialized. A friend let her stay in her apartment, but the landlord now insisted that this was not allowed. Her parents could send her money once they were paid on Friday. Might our church help? After further conversation with her, I said yes. We would supply a motel room for 2 nights to house her family till Friday. She phoned me again after arriving at the motel so that we could pray together. The image of Mary and Joseph struggling to find a place to stay was vivid for me in this experience, and I included it in my prayer. She then told me that she had been a Prayer Warrior in her own church and would continue to pray for St. Alban's. Thus we are blessed by extending our blessings to others.

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Thanks to Nadine Fafard (See Luke 2:1-16)

12-24-2001

THAT'S THE BEST ONE-STAR HOTEL THAT I'VE
EVER SEEN

January 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Alcoholics Anonymous meets every Monday & Friday at 7:00 pm Al-Anon meets every Friday at 7:00 pm Eternal Quilters meets on the 2nd Thursday at 10:00 am Food Addictions meets every Monday at 7:00 pm Purple Heart meets on the 3rd Thursday at 6:30 pm Vintage Tin meets on the 2nd & 4th Thursdays at 7:00 pm				1 New Years Day	2	3
4 8:00 am Holy Communion 10:30 am Holy Communion	5	6	7 Submission deadline for Annual Meeting 11:00 am Study Group	8	9	10
11 8:00 am Holy Communion 10:30 am Holy Communion	12	13	14 11:00 am Study Group 6:30 pm Bell Choir 7:30 pm Voice Choir	15	16	17
18 8:00 am Holy Communion 10:30 am Holy Communion	19	20 12:30 pm Lunch Bunch 6:00 pm Social Ministries 7:30 pm Ladies Guild	21 11:00 am Study Group 6:30 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Vestry Meeting 7:30 pm Voice Choir	22	23	24
25 Annual Meeting 8:00 am Holy Communion 10:30 am Holy Communion 10:30 am Youth Group	26	27	28 11:00 am Study Group 6:30 pm Bell Choir 7:30 pm Voice Choir	29	30	31

Sunday School C



Christmas Party





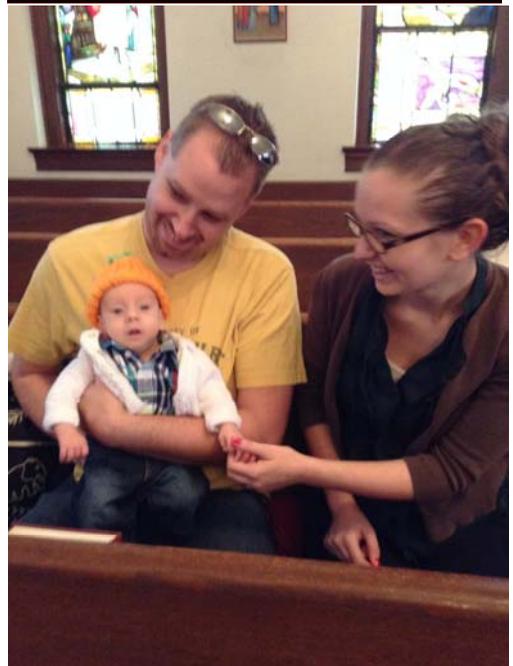
News & Happenings



**Joe & Nora Biddle's
Newest Grandbaby!**



**The Newest Addition to the
Mizerak Family**



Ladies Guild Christmas Party



Please send your submissions for the January Beacon by January 20 to cedarpup@cablespeed.com or place them in the newsletter editor bin in the vestry room.

Congratulations!

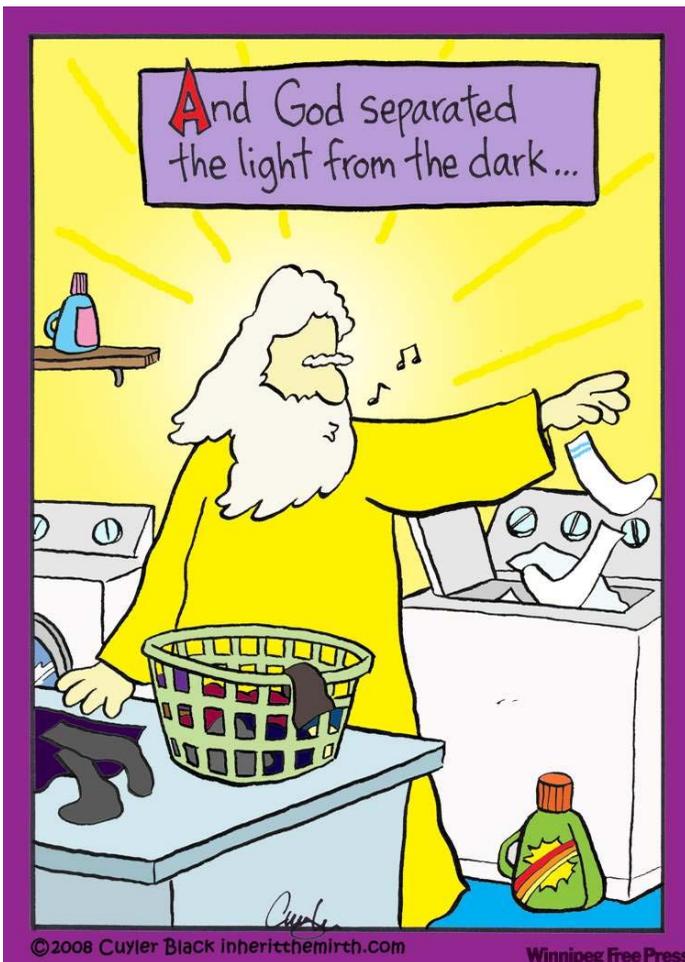
The coverlet raffled off by the Guild was won by Mary Moran's daughter, Sarah Warfield. The Guild made \$476 on the raffle thanks to all who sold tickets, and to Irene Lipin and Irene Ross who made the coverlet

St. Alban's Lunch Bunch

The next date for our Lunch Bunch will be Tues. Jan. 20th at 12:30. Our destination has yet to be chosen but will be announced in plenty of time. Please come and join our happy and hungry group. We'd love to see you.

Annual Meeting

Ministry Leaders: your annual reports are due by January 7th. Please email them to the office at stalbans.church@verizon.net. If you cannot email, please leave a typed copy to be re-typed into an electronic file, or call Char to discuss how we can do this.



Caring Ministries

As members of St. Alban's we do amazing things through our Social Ministries programs for people in our community and beyond. What we often forget about are members within our own church family. Occasionally a member of our congregation is in need of a little TLC due to an illness, surgery, maybe a crisis in the family. Often just a phone call, a note or dropping a meal by to someone who is sick is all that is needed to help a that person through a rough time. Would you be interested in being involved in this ministry? It takes just a little bit of your time but the effort is so worth it. If you are interested in being part of our Caring Ministries please contact Peg Davidson at 410-360-6216.

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

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)

Sunday School, K-8 and Nursery

Church Office Hours Monday-Friday 9am-12 pm

Rector Rev. Dr. Paula Datsko Barker