

February 2015



ST. ALBAN'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

serving God by serving others

Dear People of St. Alban's,

In various conversations and in sermons over the past several weeks, you've been hearing about deepening our relationships with one another so that we may develop as a community of faith. Many folks are eager to bring new energy into their groups or committees and into our church. But they're puzzled. "We announce when we're meeting. Why don't more people come?" The concern is how we will maintain what we have: our building, our familiar activities, our habitual ways of worship. Have you heard comments like these? This focus reflects what might be called an "institutional culture." Institutions function to perpetuate themselves. Is this what it means to be the church? Is this what God wants for us?



An alternative is called "relational culture." Here the focus is on learning more and more about each other, with the belief that God provides for God's work through the interests and passions and capabilities of the people around us. What are the yearnings that we hear when we stop to talk with people and listen? What do they really care about? What do we discover that they love to do? In a relational culture, we are willing to let go of things that no longer meet needs in order to free up time and resources for what God is doing now.

Relational culture makes more sense as a way of being church than institutional culture does. Why? Our God—as Father, Son, and Spirit—is relational. We are created in the image of God, which means that we are created as relational beings, capable of being in relationship with God and with each other. God became incarnate in Jesus Christ to heal the broken relationship with humankind and bring us to fulfillment. It is through our relational capacities that we can share in divine life.

This is why we spend time as a church community learning to listen deeply. God works among us through our relationships with each other. Strengthening them brings new energy and capabilities. Ministries come to life as the deep passions God gives us can be directed toward the deep yearnings of people in our community and in the world.

Faithfully,
Paula+

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Social Ministries Update

This month, St. Alban's received a letter from the Department of Social Services thanking us for sponsoring 10 families under the Holiday Sharing Program (Angel Tree). This program was able to assist 1,964 families and seniors for Thanksgiving, and 3,147 families and seniors for Christmas. A total of 33 churches, schools and non-profit organizations in our county participated. We were glad to be given the opportunity to make a happier Christmas for these families.

Also, we received a thank you letter from the HOPE organization for the \$500 donation given by St. Alban's. We know they will use it well to transition families from homelessness to homes.

In addition to donating to HOPE last month, we donated \$500 to the Bishop's Appeal to provide a scholarship for a child to Camp Amazing Grace; and \$500 to NCEON to enable them to help families struggling to pay their heating bills or pay for prescriptions.

In gratitude for our many financial blessings, we felt we wanted to donate to a church less financially blessed than St. Alban's. From the Social Ministries endowment funds we received, we donated \$1000 to Resurrection Church to be used to establish a discretionary fund for Rev. Margarita Santana.

The Social Ministries Committee would like to thank JoAnn Cherrico's mother, Mrs. Florence Estes, for donating to our Prayer Shawl and Stitching Ministry. With her mother's generous donation, JoAnn will be able to make 5 baptismal shawls for the babies to be baptized at St. Alban's.

FEBRUARY OUTREACH

In February, the season of Lent begins. Look for the Lenten boxes to appear in church by Ash Wednesday, February 18th. The Social Ministries Committee would like to donate the Lenten box offerings to Episcopal Relief and Development's Basic's for Life Program to provide early childhood education and nutrition for children. For only \$15 per child, we can support pre-school programs to help kids develop their language, social, and motor skills and provide nutrition education and healthy snacks. However, we also would like to use the Lenten box offerings to buy books for the 25 children of our Glen Burnie Reading Camp to be held at St. Alban's this summer. Our discussion resulted in the decision to do both; to use half of the Lenten offerings to support pre-school programs through ERD, and half of the offerings to buy children's books for our reading camp.

During February, there will be a special Sunday coffee hour when the Prayer Shawl and Stitching Ministry, led by Barbara Phillips, will demonstrate how to make a neck scarf out of yarn without having to knit or crochet! If you are interested, please join us to learn this very clever way to make a scarf.

Paint Afternoon

Please join us for this fun St. Alban's fund raiser. For each ticket sold (\$35), St. Alban's receives \$10 (that's close to 29%) that will go towards paying off our loan from the Endowment Fund. Due to it being in the afternoon, instead of wine we'll be having snacks and desserts. What a great way to spend a cold Sunday afternoon...painting a warm beach scene! You can register on-line or contact me; I'll be at both services for the next 2 Sunday's. Feel free to contact me should you have any questions. We are limited to 40 people so register early and feel free to invite your friends! Thanks and happy painting!

Joan Rumenap

Sunday February 8th, 2pm -5pm
St Albans Episcopal Church Fund Raiser
105 First Avenue, SW
Glen Burnie, MD 21061



Sign-up: WINEANDCANVAS.com
click on Private Events & Feb. 8th

Show-up: DOORS OPEN AT 1:30 pm

Youth Group

As promised in the last newsletter the Youth Group got started on decorating the Youth Room. On January 3rd Amelia, Bryanne, Victoria, Bonnie and I applied black chalkboard paint to one of the walls of the Youth Room. And most of it even got on the right wall. We took a break to make a field trip to survey some potential purchases for the room and were able to come to a consensus on a sectional sofa and a table with eight chairs.

The next Sunday, the 4th, with a lot of hard work from Bob Hendrix and Kevin Gish we picked up the furniture. The following Friday, the 9th, Amelia, Xanthia and Bonnie (with a little help from Kevin Gish and Bill) unpacked and assembled the furniture. The 25th is the normal youth group meeting, but since it's the parish meeting we'll all be there.

We're looking forward to our trip to New York.

Claggett Camps

Claggett is AMAZING!!! Because of the quality of our diocesan camp experience, St. Alban's will help with scholarships to make it possible for any of our kids to go. Dates are:

High School Week	Grades 9-12	June 21-26
Youth I Camp	Grades 2-5	June 28-July 1
Youth 2 Camp	Grades 3-5	July 5-10
Middle School Week	Grades 6-8	July 12-17

Pancake Supper

Alice Cook has volunteered to coordinate our traditional Shrove Tuesday pancake supper on February 17 from 5-7pm. If you would like to help please contact her. Thank you Alice!

St. Alban's Guild

On Sunday February 8, we will honor the Women's Guild by commissioning the officers for 2015-16 and celebrating with a cake in the Fellowship Hour. Our Guild, founded on February 8, 1897, was the first women's organization in Glen Burnie. After 118 years, it continues to fulfill goals of ministering to the physical needs of the parish and extending fellowship to all. If you are female and a member of St. Alban's, you belong to the guild! Some come to the regular evening meetings on the 3rd Tuesday of every month, others help out with particular events like the Holiday Bazaar and Turkey Dinner. Currently active members are interested in learning from you about ways you would enjoy contributing to the group's goals. The officers are: President, Mary Moran; Vice-President, Judy Smith; Secretary, Betsy Kramer; Treasurer, Barbara Phillips.

Changing Our World



Changing our world happens through gifts from the discretionary fund, but also through the conversations and prayers that occur when people contact us. Here's an example of how listening to someone made an opening through which God worked.

One Friday last summer, I came back from getting the mail to a message on the answering machine from a man asking for a call back about the times for the AA meetings. We get lots of calls asking for information about these meetings and it was a busy Friday. Requests like this can easily fall to the bottom of the list when the day is short and the list is long of things to get done.

This request however, sounded different and I couldn't stop thinking about it. This person sounded worn and tired. I called him back and briefly spoke to this man. He was soft spoken and said he had been an alcoholic for 20+ years; he was tired of living this way and wanted to change his life. I gave him specific times of the Friday night meeting. Since I live in the neighborhood I know it is well attended, so I told him there would be lots of people there who understand what he is going through.

I spoke words of encouragement to him, letting him know God will help him make the changes he needs to in his life. I shared that God loves and cares about him very much, and offered to pray with him. He thanked me and we hung up.

Months later, this man came to the church and spoke to Rev. Paula. He explained that he was desperate that Friday when he called the office. He had actually been sitting in his car with a gun, planning to take his own life. He had called several churches and no one else called him back. After our conversation he felt like God had led him to call St. Alban's and that God cared about his life. He decided he could hang on at least until the AA meeting that night. He went to that AA meeting and has continued to stay alcohol free, praise God!

Obviously, I had no idea when I spoke to him of the severity of his situation, but God did. God used me, although I had no idea of the magnitude of my simple words at the time. This is how God works; He leads us within our normal day, doing our normal jobs, to have extraordinary affects on other people's lives. It's that soft gnawing on your heart, that "feeling" you can't shake. It's going out of your way to say kind/encouraging words to strangers God puts in your path. Often, we don't ever learn of the outcome of our actions or words to someone, but this time we did.

To God be the glory!!
Char

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

February 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:00 am Holy Communion 10:30 am Holy Communion	2	3	4 11:00 am Bible Study Noon Eucharist/Lunch 6:30 pm Bell Choir 7:30 pm Voice Choir	5	6	7
8 8:00 am Holy Communion 10:30 am Holy Communion 2:00 - 5:00 pm Paint Party	9	10	11 11:00 am Bible Study Noon Eucharist/Lunch 6:30 pm Bell Choir 7:30 pm Voice Choir	12	13	14
15 8:00 am Holy Communion 10:30 am Holy Communion	16 PRESIDENTS DAY Church Office Closed	17 SHROVE TUESDAY 5:00 pm Pancake Supper 6:00 pm Social Ministries 7:30 pm Ladies Guild	18 ASH WEDNESDAY 11:00 am Bible Study Noon Eucharist/Lunch 7:00 pm Ash Wed. Service	19 12:30 pm Lunch Bunch @ Olive Tree	20	21
22 8:00 am Holy Communion 10:30 am Holy Communion	23	24	25 11:00 am Bible Study Noon Eucharist/Lunch 6:00 pm Lenten Supper 6:30 Lenten Service 6:30 pm Bell Choir 7:30 pm Voice Choir	26 7:00 pm Vestry Meeting	27	28

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

Lent at St. Alban's

Do you know anyone who jumps up and down with excitement that Lent is beginning, like kids (and the kids in us) do for Easter? Yet the joy of arriving at Easter is directly related to how sincerely we observe Lent. If Easter is about the candy, then giving up chocolate for Lent makes sense. If Easter is about discovering Jesus alive where we thought he was dead and gone, then what might be a good practice to help you open to this possibility in your life?

Two suggestions. First, rather than “giving something up,” consider adding something into your life—something to open you in a new way to the presence of God. For example, you might choose to participate in one of the Lenten programs, make a commitment to come to church every Sunday, spend some time in prayer, get outside to walk in God’s creation every day, or take up again something that you used to love to do years ago. Second, make your Lenten commitment small enough that you easily can succeed in doing it. Grandiose plans crash with despair, whereas a commitment to spend just two minutes a day in prayer may begin a process by which you find you can’t stop till you’ve enjoyed five minutes, then ten.

Lent begins on **ASH WEDNESDAY**, February 18. Rev. Paula and Amy will be up early to bring “Ashes to Go” to people commuting in the morning rush from Glen Burnie’s Light Rail station. At 11 am, the Lenten series begins for the mid-day Bible Study, followed by Eucharist at noon and a light lunch at 12:30. Imposition of Ashes will be available for people unable to come to the evening service. At 7pm, the full Ash Wednesday liturgy--with ashes, Eucharist, and music—will take place.

Through the following **WEDNESDAYS OF LENT**, two opportunities for study, worship, and fellowship are offered. A Bible study led by Amy will meet from 11 till noon, with Eucharist and a light lunch afterward. In the evening, a potluck supper begins at 6, followed at 6:30 by a series led by Rev. Paula on “Becoming Peacemakers,” and concluding with Night Prayer. Please come for whatever portions of these programs work in your schedule.

Many people appreciate being able to make a **LENTEN THANK OFFERING**. Boxes from Episcopal Relief and Development will be available for you to take home. As you add coins day by day, giving thanks for God’s goodness, you will be creating a gift of hope through learning for children in Glen Burnie and around the world.

Lent will conclude with **HOLY WEEK**, beginning on March 29 with Palm Sunday. Plan to come to the other major services that week: Maundy Thursday and Good Friday on April 2 and 3 at 7pm. Then you will be ready for glorious Easter celebrations on Sunday, April 5!

Becoming Peacemakers

**Blessed are the
peacemakers: for they
shall be called the
children of God.**

—Matthew 5:9

Jesus longs to heal the hurt in our families, neighborhoods, and workplaces. How does our own behavior assist or resist his reconciling grace? During the five weeks of this Lenten series, we will learn spiritual practices and skills of conversation to help defuse arguments and strengthen compassionate connections among those with whom we live and work.

Come for dinner, and bring a dish to share, on one or all of these Wednesdays in Lent:

February 25 and March 4, 11, 18, 25. We'll begin

eating at 6pm, with the program at 6:30, and finish with Night Prayer from The New Zealand Prayer Book.

A Lenten Journey Home: From Eden to Emmaus

Each Wednesday in Lent we will look at different stories in Scripture that center on walking home. Where is home? What path(s) do we take to get there? What is the journey we are on now? Join Bible study for a lively discussion of stories stretching from the Garden to the disciples' encounter with Jesus on the road to Emmaus. Beginning Ash Wednesday, February 18 and continuing through Wednesday, April 8 at 11 AM. Bible study begins at 11 AM, Eucharist at noon, and a light lunch at 12:30. Drop in for any Wednesday, or come for all. Come for one part of the morning, or stay for all three.



New Vestry Members for 2015

Maija Denson. I first became a member of St Alban's when I was baptized here 34 years ago. I come from a family who has long been involved at St. Alban's, in fact my grandmother Lotta Lahdelma, was the first female member of the Vestry. I was married here in 2004 and my son Steven was baptized here in 2005. I have served on the Vestry before from 2011-2014 and I am currently the Vestry's registrar. I am a 5th grade teacher at a local elementary school and I have been teaching Sunday School for the past 17 years. For the past two years I have served as the Director of the Sunday School and will be the Director of the Summer Reading Camp that will take place this summer.



Daniel John Mizerak grew up in central New Jersey and attended St. Peters Episcopal Church in Perth Amboy NJ. Dan graduated from New Jersey institute of Technology in 2009 with a bachelors degree in computer science with a minor in management. Dan was a successful assistant restaurant manager before leaving the field to finish his college degree. In 2009 Dan moved to Glen Burnie md and was married to his wife Kirsten at St. Alban's in June of 2012. Dan now lives with his wife and 5 month old son Landon in Linthicum Heights in a house that they purchased in 2013, which use to serve as a grocery store to trains passing on the BWI train line. Dan and his family regularly attend the 10:30 Sunday service and are grateful to be part of the St. Albans family.



Bob Lumbert was born and raised in Massachusetts. He came to Maryland in 1975 to accept a job as a mathematician at a Defense Department Agency that will remain nameless. He retired from that position in 2011. He has attended St. Alban's since 1980. He served as Financial Secretary for five years and on the Vestry for a total of six to seven years, although he has never actually been elected to the position. He currently coordinates the Layreader-Chalicer ministry.





Rich Bumgarner grew up in a small farming community in the Pacific Northwest. My youthful awareness of the Episcopal faith was based entirely on three observations: seeing a large, mysterious, medieval-like church building in Spokane, Washington; knowledge that one of my uncles had strayed outside expected family traditions and norms when he married an “Episcopalian”; and lastly, vague thoughts that the church had some association with the Queen of England. That all changed after I met a young lady of St. Alban’s. Now, decades later, I want to help our church family and Rector guide St. Alban’s as we together build the next chapter in this church’s life and history. I would be honored to fill the remainder of Stan McFarland’s term on the Vestry.

A graphic featuring a line drawing of a trumpet on the left, with a large, stylized, 3D-effect word "TRUMPET CALL" in red and orange letters to its right. The word "TRUMPET" is larger than "CALL".

Are you receiving the weekly Trumpet Call emails? We send out a brief weekly update each Thursday to let you know what’s going on at St. Albans. If you are not currently on the email list please let us know so we can add you! You can do this two ways:

- Call the church office at 410-766-1455 and talk to Char, or leave a voicemail with your name and email address. Be sure to let us know in the voicemail that you wish to be added to the Trumpet Call emails.
- Fill out an updated contact information bring pink slip located in the back of the church. You can drop this in the offering plate or leave it on Char’s desk in the church office.



The Beacon of St. Alban's

St. Alban's Episcopal Church

105 1st Ave SW

Glen Burnie, MD 21061

Phone: 410-766-1455, Fax: 410-766-5432

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