

May 2015



ST. ALBAN'S  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

*servicing God by servicing others*



Dear people of St. Alban's,

This year, the month of May brings two great festivals of the church year. The Ascension of our Lord is celebrated on the fortieth day after Easter, which will be May 14. Pentecost comes as the conclusion of the Great Fifty Days of the Easter season, which will be May 24. Both are joyous occasions that also involve farewells.

When the resurrected Jesus departed from the earthly way of being in which he could be seen and touched, he met the disciples outside of Jerusalem. He blessed them and told them to wait for the promised Holy Spirit. Then he was gone, to a way of being beyond time and space. Imagine the disciples' wonder and grief, mixed together.

Ten days later, they were gathered again and the Holy Spirit arrived. Suddenly they were speaking many languages and realized they were being empowered to go forth to spread the gospel far and wide. Amazement again. And farewells.

So it will be for us at St. Alban's. On Thursday, May 14, at 7pm, we'll have a service to celebrate Ascension. Amy will preach. Then ten days later on Pentecost Sunday, we'll celebrate the arrival of the Holy Spirit, while also saying farewell to Amy. That will be her last day among us as our seminary intern.

We've seen Amy develop in new ways as she has lived into her vocation to be a priest. And she has seen us develop as we discover how we are being empowered to bear witness to the good news of God at work in Glen Burnie and beyond. We have been given to each other for a time, but soon we will continue on separate paths--carrying each other in our hearts with prayer. Joy, gratitude, and sorrow: stirred up by the Spirit.



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Dear friendly people of St. Alban's,

As many of you have heard, on Saturday the 11th, I ran from the back door of the church to make sure that the squirrel across the street did not invade our property. When dashing back across the street, I was attacked by a huge growling monster that my mom says is a pick-up truck. She took me to the emergency vet in Annapolis, where they helped me stay alive with a breathing tube and begin to heal. On Monday, I was able to come home—though I was very groggy from little pills that my mom kept putting in my treats. By the next Sunday, I was able to reassure everyone that I can still act like a puppy.



Because so many people prayed for me, I've come through this ordeal with no broken bones or lasting damage. My mom says it's miraculous. We both want to thank everyone for their prayers, the cozy prayer blanket, the treats, the get well card, so much compassion for my mom, and all of the nice pats for me. We also want to remind everyone not to go outside without a leash, even for a moment. All it takes is one mistake.

I knew St. Alban's was a special place when I came last October for the Blessing of the Animals Fair. That's where my mom found me and arranged to adopt me. I love living here and promise to continue doing my best to keep everyone safe.

Woof!

Henry



### **The dog who came to church on Easter!**

It was a beautiful Easter morning, and the church was packed. As the service concluded, another little visitor wandered in the back door. This visitor had furry paws and walked on all fours. He was friendly and seemed to have a mission. He was welcomed by several people and during coffee hour he got treats and water. Who was he? Where did he belong? He looked like Danielle's dog, Tigger, and sure enough, his ears perked up at that name. But she was away for the weekend, and no one was answering her door. Margie and Bill Bope ended up taking him home and spoiling him for the evening. Soon Danielle's son was heard desperately calling for Tigger in the neighborhood. He was hugely relieved to learn from Rev. Paula that Tigger was safe. He was reunited the next day with his family. Now we know that Tigger's mission was to find his mum. Danielle often tells him "I'm going up to church" when she leaves the house. So after escaping his yard and his dog watcher, he headed right to where he thought she would be! What a great example that everyone is welcome at St. Alban's. Serving God by serving others includes the furry ones!

## History of the Palm Fan

*By Linda Bumgarner*

From the time I was a little girl of about 8 to 10 years old, I would go to the parish house with my grandmother, Sarah Woodfall (Betty Dawson's Mom) the Saturday before Palm Sunday to watch her "tack" with a small-type blunt-end hammer each palm frond to a wooden board which was quite a bit smaller than the one we now have. She faithfully did that until the mid 1950's, when poor health made it no longer possible to continue. It was at that time that Henry Hein took up the project until he turned it over to my mom, Betty Dawson, sometime in the 1970's. The original boards,

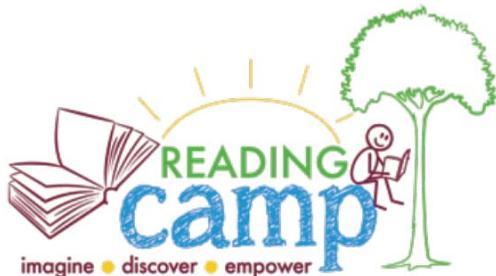


cut by Henry Hein, were natural plywood and my husband, Rich, convinced my Mom to let him spray paint the board a dark brown (similar to the altar color) so if there were gaps between the fronds on Palm Sunday morning it would not show so much. When my Mom could no longer handle it, Rich took over the job. By then, Doris Wenger was Director of the Guild and she always assisted Rich by selecting just the right colors and lengths and I would tag along to enjoy their company. The three of us had such a fun time kidding around and we all looked forward to those Saturday evenings each year. During 2 years in the mid 1990's, Harold Moors stepped in for Rich and helped create the palm fan during Rich's absence. After Doris' passing in 2007, her daughter, Brenda (Wenger) Gish became Altar Guild Director and accepted the challenge from Rich, who was headed to Oregon for 2 ½ years.

As you can see, there have been a number of very patient men and women who were able to offer their time and talents toward a tradition at our beloved St. Alban's.



Joyous sounds were heard in our fellowship hall as Canterbury Ringers performed on April 25. About 35 people enjoyed the concert. Thank you to Nancyjane Bailey for coordinating this event- - and to all who contributed to the refreshments.



We have received fabulous news! We are being given a grant of \$2500 from St. Margaret's Episcopal Church for our Glen Burnie Reading Camp! We are thrilled that they are so supportive of our reading camp that they will provide funding.

In addition, Maija Denson has organized a Quarter Auction on Monday, May 4<sup>th</sup> at the Moose Lodge on Crain Highway to benefit our Glen Burnie Reading Camp. Please join us for a fun night; doors

open at 6 pm and the auction begins at 7 pm.

Thanks to all who donated toward our St. Alban's baskets to be auctioned, all who donated or received gift certificates from local businesses, and all who made baked goods to be sold at the auction.

Thank you to Mary Moran who was instrumental in arranging a field trip for our campers to Ft. McHenry during reading camp week. We will be able to have a picnic on the grounds, and be given a personal tour by a Park Ranger that afternoon. We are looking for chaperones, if anyone is interested.

Also, we need chaperones for our field trips to the Aquatic Center and the Anne Arundel County Public Library. In addition, we are still looking for hero guest speakers, and volunteers to help with camp. Check out our Glen Burnie Reading Camp bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall for more information.

We are making great progress in collecting books for our campers. This past month, we received a wonderful donation of books from Barbara and Bob Phillips' grandchildren. Madeline, Mallory, and Ryan Conroy donated 73 books in pristine condition from their own personal libraries of books.

Also, Amy Slaughter Myers' daughters, Eleanor, Anna, and Julia, made a trip to the book store to pick out some of their favorite books for 3rd – 5<sup>th</sup> graders to give to our campers.

When you add all of these books to those already donated by Amelia Gish, we are building a wonderful collection of books for our 25 campers! This is great! Books have the power to change lives!

It is fabulous to see the enthusiasm of these youth for our reading camp. All of them love to read and know how important it is for our campers to improve their reading skills.

We are grateful that we continue to have more parishioners show an interest in helping with camp. In the past month, we have been blessed with Lilly Cook volunteering to be a youth counselor for our Glen Burnie Reading Camp. Thank you, Lilly!

If anyone has any questions about volunteering, or knows any heroes who might be guest speakers, please contact Maija Denson, Louise Izat, or Mary Wilcox. Glen Burnie Reading

**Please send your submissions for the May Beacon by May 20 to [cedarpup@cablespeed.com](mailto:cedarpup@cablespeed.com) or place them in the newsletter editor bin in the vestry room.**

## Social Ministries

At the April Social Ministries meeting, it was decided to:

- Count the Lenten box offerings on **Thursday, May 14<sup>th</sup>**, so please bring in your Lenten boxes. Offerings will go to buying books for our Glen Burnie Reading Camp, and to Episcopal Relief & Development to support pre-school programs in Ghana
- Sponsor 12 children at Oakwood Elementary School for the Back to School Program this summer
- Donate \$250 to the Smile Train, Pat Lerner's favorite charitable organization, in appreciation for her many years of service on our Social Ministries Committee
- Have an African Team Ministries sale on **Saturday, November 14<sup>th</sup>** to coincide with our annual Holiday Bazaar. Proceeds from the ATM sale will benefit African communities in a variety of ways from supporting children in orphanages to providing water pumps.
- Visit, Rev. Margarita Santana's church, Iglesia Episcopal de la Resurreccion (Resurrection Church) in Baltimore, to attend the 1:00 pm worship service on a date yet to be set. All will be invited and we will car pool.

Please join us for our next Social Ministries meeting on **Tuesday, May 19<sup>th</sup>** at 6:00 pm to hear Kim Cluney tell us about a possible environmental project proposed for St. Alban's.



## DISCOVER THE PSALMS

FIND LIGHT FOR YOUR PATH,  
WISDOM FOR YOUR WAY,  
AND INSPIRATION FOR YOUR  
DAYS.

**Wednesday Bible Study** will begin a new series on May 6. Psalms are a beloved book of the Bible, and every kind of worship experience offered in the Book of Common Prayer includes at least one Psalm.

See how deepening your understanding of the Psalms will deepen your life of faith.

Bible Study at 11am, Eucharist at noon, followed by a light lunch. You are welcome to come for any portion.

# May 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Alcoholics Anonymous</b> meets every Monday & Friday at 7:00 pm <b>Al-Anon</b> meets every Friday at 7:00 pm <b>Eternal Quilters</b> meets on the 2nd Thursday at 10:00 am <b>Food Addictions</b> meets every Monday at 7:00 pm			<b>Purple Heart</b> meets on the 3rd Thursday at 6:30 pm <b>Vintage Tin</b> meets on the 2nd & 4th Thursdays at 7:00 pm		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b> 8:00 am Holy Communion 10:30 am Holy Communion	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 11:00 am Bible Study Noon Eucharist 6:30 pm Bell Choir 7:30 pm Voice Choir	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> 8:00 am Holy Communion 10:30 am Holy Communion	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 11:00 am Bible Study Noon Eucharist 6:30 pm Bell Choir 7:30 pm Voice Choir	<b>14—ASCENSION DAY</b> 7:00 pm Holy Communion	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> 8:00 am Holy Communion 10:30 am Holy Communion	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 6:00 pm Social Ministries 7:30 pm Ladies Guild	<b>20</b> 11:00 am Bible Study Noon Eucharist 6:30 pm Bell Choir 7:30 pm Voice Choir	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24—PENTECOST</b> <b>Special Farewell to Amy</b> 8:00 am Holy Communion 10:30 am Holy Communion	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 11:00 am Bible Study Noon Eucharist 6:30 pm Bell Choir 7:30 pm Voice Choir	<b>28</b> 7:00 pm Vestry Meeting	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31—MEMORIAL DAY SERVICES</b> 8:00 am Holy Communion 10:30 am Holy Communion	<i>Office Closed Holiday</i>					

## Tea Party Fundraiser



Our Afternoon Tea on April 18<sup>th</sup> at St. Alban's was a lovely event for many reasons. We had pleasant weather, so no rain to mar the pretty outfits and hats worn by the ladies. The scones, shrimp pate, and tea sandwiches were wonderful. All the desserts were delicious and elegantly presented on pedestal plates. The tables were decorated beautifully with our Blue Willow china and all kinds of nice things from pretty teapots and depression glass dishes to tiny, antique silver spoons and sugar tongs. Every flower arrangement was absolutely gorgeous! The many door prizes were appreciated by our guests, especially the pretty tea cups filled with flowering plants.

We are blessed to have so many talented women at St. Alban's who meticulously planned and organized this entire tea, including making most of the door prizes and all of the food.

A unique aspect of our tea, not seen at any other church teas, was our two handsome gentlemen servers! Bill Carter and Bob Hendrix efficiently served the food and tea, while charming the ladies at the same time.

Most importantly, we wanted to be gracious hostesses so that our guests would have a nice time. All the guests did seem to enjoy themselves, and we certainly enjoyed meeting many new people. It was fantastic that we raised almost \$900 to pay down our endowment loan, in addition to the good food, fun, and fellowship we all shared. Truly, it was a wonderful afternoon at St. Alban's.

Thank you to all who attended and all who worked so tirelessly to make this Afternoon Tea such a successful event. Shall we do it again, same time next year?



## Changing Our World



Recently we received a call from a mom with two special needs children who desperately needed our help, and we felt compelled to do something. The mom had lost her job due to having to leave work because of her child's school calling her to come and deal with her child. Her oldest child was just recently diagnosed at Kennedy Krieger Institute with Autism and other learning issues, and her younger child has anxiety/depression issues. With a plan in place at the school, the children are in a more stable situation and mom is looking to go back to work as a caregiver for the elderly. Dad works full time, but without both incomes they quickly fell behind in their rent for the home they live in. They still owed some from last month and needed help toward this month's rent too. Speaking with the landlord, she had nothing but nice things to say about this family. She was working with them to work out a payment plan to get caught up because they had always been good tenants. We were only able to give a small amount towards what was needed. However, when the mom came to pick up the check, you would have thought we gave her a million dollars! She was so grateful, with tears running down her cheeks. She said she thanked God for blessing her with such a kind landlord and people like this church who would help a stranger. She was overwhelmed in gratitude.

Outreach work like this is supported from the Rector's Discretionary Fund, which is refreshed by the loose offering on the third Sunday of each month. Right now the balance is low, so we have had to tell several people that we could not help them. Your generous support through prayer and financial donations makes it possible for St. Alban's to care for those in our community who God brings to our steps. Thank you.

*'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink?'<sup>38</sup> And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you?'<sup>39</sup> And when did we see you*

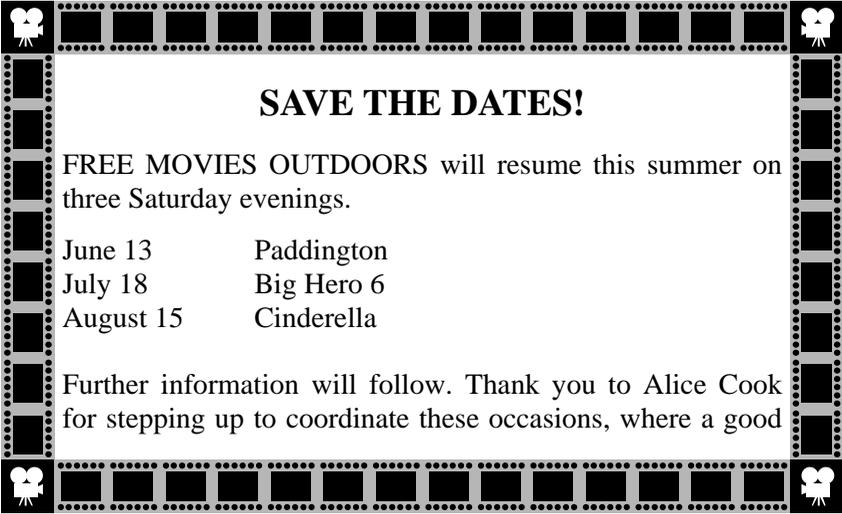


## Memorial Day Services

Since Pentecost occurs on Memorial Day weekend this year, we will honor our fallen warriors on Sunday, May 31, at both services.

## Senior Warden Report

For the past 5 month St. Alban's has been a very busy place. We have had a Celebration of Ministry making Paula our rector, established a long awaited Wednesday morning Bible Study, a Pancake Supper, Spaghetti Dinner, a Paint Class, Afternoon Tea, our Youth Group traveled to NYC for Nightwatch at the Cathedral of St John the Divine, had lots of preparation for our new Summer Reading Program, had a glorious Easter Celebration with 2 Baptisms, Canterbury Ringers and I am sure I have missed a couple of things. All of this is a little overwhelming for a small congregation and none of it would have happened without a group of dedicated volunteers that, when called upon, turn into high gear doing whatever is necessary to make each event the best it can be. Help is needed. Do any of these activities spark your interest? Maybe one of our upcoming activities - Blessing of the Animals, Flea Mart / Bake sale, Churchyard clean up, Church picnic, Movie Nights peaks your interest. Maybe you would be interested in lay reading, Sunday Greeter. We need your help. When looking at the list of volunteers for all of these functions many names are seen over and over again - is your name among those helping to make St Alban's all it can be? Please don't wait to be called, instead when you read of upcoming events choose one or two and ask what you can do to help.



**SAVE THE DATES!**

FREE MOVIES OUTDOORS will resume this summer on three Saturday evenings.

June 13	Paddington
July 18	Big Hero 6
August 15	Cinderella

Further information will follow. Thank you to Alice Cook for stepping up to coordinate these occasions, where a good

**The Beacon of St. Alban's**

St. Alban's Episcopal Church

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*RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED*



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**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**