

# St. Alban's Episcopal Church **The word**

October 2020 Vol.19, Issue 8

*We pray, Blessed Lord, that you will strengthen and embolden our faith,  
Inspiring us and encouraging us by your Holy Spirit,  
That we may run to wherever your work and mission call us.  
Guide us and inspire us to carry out the vision you have placed upon our hearts,  
That we may be Christ's hands and heart in our community,  
Feeding the hungry and caring for the poor and the oppressed.*

We are so excited to share that demolition on the new kitchen and bathrooms has begun! The Kitchen Committee, Capital Campaign Committee, Staff, Architects and Project Manager celebrated with an official groundbreaking photo on September 16<sup>th</sup>. Check out the photos below and on pages 7-9. And in case you are wondering, **Fr. Jeff** will NOT be participating in the construction, but he did like wearing his 'costume' for the photos.

The project has really accelerated in the last four weeks. Here is an update on the latest happenings. Construction officially began just after Labor Day with asbestos remediation in the parish hall. During an environmental inspection last September, asbestos was found in the old layers of the tile flooring in the both the kitchen and hallway where construction will be done. During the remediation, safety was the top priority and all precautions adhered to according to OSHA, the Commonwealth of Virginia and Fairfax County standards. The portion of the parish hall that was impacted by the abatement was completely sealed off and air movers were brought in to ensure the safety of the Village School, church staff and the construction team. We are happy to report the remediation was completed on September 15<sup>th</sup>. The construction crew was able to move forward with the demolition on September 21<sup>st</sup>. The crew started with the ceiling demo and will use a top-down approach until they work their way down to the floor. In taking down the ceiling, they discovered the possibility of asbestos on the insulation of the joints of some of the piping. We are having that tested and will likely need to abate it. We hope the abatement will not prevent the demo from being fully completed by October 8<sup>th</sup>. Safety fencing and corral were also installed in the parish hall on September 18<sup>th</sup> to cordon off the construction area. This fencing, and additional outdoor fencing, will remain until the project is complete.

As you may have seen either in-person at outside church or in photos on Facebook, there is a dumpster on-site to collect the construction waste. Visitors are asked to use the parking spaces along the neighborhood fencing to stay out of the way of work trucks coming and going. We are expecting work to begin on the new Sanitary Line in the next few weeks and will likely have already begun by the time this issue reaches you.

So how is daily life at Saint Alban's with all of the construction? While **Clark** has more rules and restrictions to the church grounds these days, everything else is running smoothly! The Village School is holding in-person classes (with COVID precautions in place), parish staff has building access and the parish hall will be open for in-person voting on November 3<sup>rd</sup>. Thank you as always for your prayers and continued support!  
-April Kreller, Kitchen Committee

## **Ceremonial Kitchen Groundbreaking on September 16**—More construction photos pages 7-9.



*Kitchen Committee: Fr. Jeff Shankles, Rick Weinberg, Fr. Paul Moberly, Bill Calvert, Amanda Mashiana, April Kreller, Bobby Celio, Sean Banks, Moira Skinner, Delores Baisden, Kate Wettstein with Clark, Linda Cummings, Nancy Harrell, Betsy Anderson, Carlos Guzman. Benny Robles and Mike Gutermuth not present.*

## From the Rector

There's no getting around it: the need in our community is greater now than ever, and St. Alban's has developed a reputation of giving, and being present to meet those needs. Our parishioners faithfully carry out Jesus' work of feeding the hungry, visiting the sick, spreading the Gospel message of hope; and we do these things not only because it is the right thing to do, but it is our joyful duty.

Our Catechism in The Book of Common Prayer asks the question, "What is the duty of every Christian?" The answer gives us a template for how we should live our lives:

*The duty of all Christians is to follow Christ;  
to come together week by week for corporate worship;  
and to work, pray, and give  
for the spread of the kingdom of God.*

Back in the old days (before March 2020), when we celebrated Eucharist on Tuesday mornings, in place of an offertory hymn the presiding priest would lift the chalice and paten (the cup of wine and the plate holding the bread) and pray, "All things come of thee, O Lord," and the people assembled would respond, "... and of thine own have we given thee." Those are powerful words that remind us that all that we have is a gracious gift from God. Our volunteer time and our charitable giving are part of that returning to God what God has given us, and that "giving back to God" goes hand-in-hand with everything Jesus told us to do.

Our church may be empty on Sunday mornings, but our engagement with the community, our ministries such as worship, pastoral care, education and outreach and many of our usual activities continue, just in different ways, and so our financial need continues as well.

In the coming weeks each of us will be asked to prayerfully commit to the financial support of St. Alban's for the coming year. I do not want you to make this commitment lightly. Thoughtful stewardship of our financial blessings is a fundamental duty and responsibility of every Christian.

Our ministries and our mission to be a Christ-centered community speak volumes about the values we hold dear – values like compassion, engagement with the community, justice, service and prayer. Those values are reflected in our vision for today and for the future – a future bright with hope and promise.

*Here are many of the faces of St. Alban's. Thanks to all who provided a photo.*



## From the Associate Rector

Fr Paul yields his space to **Bishop Jennifer Brooke-Davidson** this month.



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF VIRGINIA

### Thanksgiving Has Come Early This Year

Walking in the light of the first cool, crisp mornings of the fall, I find myself thankful -- not just Gratitude-Journal-thankful for hot coffee, or work that I love, or even for health (though grateful I am) -- but grateful for the frontline workers and first responders who are tending to the spiritual needs and feelings of anxiety or disappointment or fear or rage that flare up in unexpected hot spots in the uncontained fires of the multivalent mess that we can only call "2020."

I am grateful for our leaders in the Church -- all our leaders, lay and ordained. Today I am especially thinking of our ordained leaders -- pastors, preachers, priests. Men and women called by God and the Church, raised up in local congregations, trained and coached in the larger church, deployed into hundreds of unique settings in Virginia. They serve in cities, suburbs, the country. They and their families have given themselves to Christ and his bride, the Church. They have vowed to serve as shepherds, prayer leaders, prophets, and teachers, and serve they do. They are on call 24/7 for the emergencies of whole communities, and even when things are quiet, they routinely work far more hours than their agreements provide. They are present in crisis and in celebration; they work in the hospital and the study and the chancel.

And now this. Now, the scramble from the beauty and dignity of Holy Week and Easter to the sudden need to convey all of that on Zoom or Facebook. Now, the need to reinvent pastoral care by remote. Now, the weekly uncertainty of regathering precautions and the weight of worry about balancing the deep desire for tangible sacramental life with the profound worry about the health -- even the lives -- of their flocks. Now, the plunge of the nation into superheated discourse on race and justice, and supercharged emotions over politics. Now, the crazy mix of the cohesion of loving congregations, the opportunity to experiment with new modalities, the need to plan for an unforeseeable future with unpredictable challenges and resources, and the stress of responding in love to the most stressed and anxious among us. Every wedding, every burial and memorial, every deferred confirmation, weighs upon them. This I know, because they will not complain, especially to their flock, but they will call to share their grief and sorrow on behalf of their people. Of course, clergy are not the only bearers of the burdens of this difficult season, but their burden is heavy.

To the clergy reading this: We bishops see you. We pray for you. We are here to listen to you and support you. If it is in our power to help, then we will do it.

And to the laity of the Church, the flock of Christ: We see and pray for you, too. We know that you share the stresses of educational and economic upheaval and a million other worries. And we ask your help in this: help us to uphold and sustain your parish clergy who now enter another stretch of demanding spiritual leadership. That's not to say that problems or disagreements, if there are any, should be swept under the rug, but rather that the truth must be spoken in love, and the hearts of all should be guarded and protected. Let there be grace -- the grace of time and space, the grace of appreciation and honor, the grace of companionship and laughter. Pastoring is one of those occupations with high rates of depression and burnout and worse, especially in times of societal trauma. The antidote is grace, and appreciation, and love. The antidote is remembering that we are not defined by the boundaries of doctrine or politics, but by our orientation toward the cross of Christ. The antidote is humming to ourselves: We have decided to follow Jesus; no turning back. . . The cross before us; the world behind us; no turning back.

Thanksgiving has come early this year. Your three bishops are grateful to your congregational leaders, and we tell them so, but it means much more when they hear it from you. We pray that they are going deaf from hearing it from you. May your love, your patience, and the grace of your support in these challenging times sustain them as they sustain you through the months to come.

And may God bless us all, every one.

Bishop Jennifer Brooke-Davidson



*Fr. Paul gave a video tour of the kitchen construction in his homily of September 20.*

## The Warden's Pen

### St. Alban's First Outdoor Prayer Service September 6.



*Samara and Jonquil Traum*



*The Keipers: Adam, Caitrin, Edmund and Rosalind.*



Dear Friends. It was so nice to see some of you at St. Alban's first outdoor Evening Prayer gathering on September 6. It was lovely to worship together and to be together, and we were able to do so while maintaining safe distancing. We had beautiful weather, and most of the designated spaces on the lawn were filled with parishioners either on blankets or in lawn chairs. A few of us, including myself, were in our cars.

Many thanks to our ushers who shepherded us safely to our spots; to **Delores** and **Harry Baisden** for providing music; for Harry and **Fr. Jeff** for setting up the sound system, including the radio transmitter to allow those of us in our cars to hear the service; and our clergy for planning and organizing a spiritually fulfilling and safe event, including obtaining permission from **Bishop Goff** to hold the event.

I think it went really well, especially for doing it for the first time ever. Your clergy and Vestry are reviewing the feedback we received and will discuss any changes and the possibility of holding another event before it gets too cold. In the meantime, stay safe and wishing you many blessings. -Moira Skinner, Senior Warden

## From the Deacon

### Becoming Beloved Community

The phrase “becoming beloved community” is being used by many preachers, teachers and groups. Like all words and phrases, I find it extremely helpful to define what the term means, particularly within the Episcopal Church’s long-term commitment to racial healing, reconciliation and justice.

Although the phrase had earlier origins, The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King raised the visibility of the concept and used it as a framework for his work. As a religious leader, King believed that a community of love, justice and solidarity would eventually be actualized. That is why he worked unceasingly for the realization of his dream. Central to the thinking of Martin Luther King was the concept of the "Beloved Community." He taught that nonviolence was the means to attain this and used theological and philosophical foundations to underpin it (<https://thekingcenter.org/king-philosophy/>)

Other faith communities use their own theological foundations to focus their work toward Beloved Community. Within the Episcopal Church, we add the word “becoming” to indicate that this is not straightforward work and that it will last for generations.

Becoming Beloved Community represents a set of interrelated commitments that were introduced in 2017 and supported by the Episcopal Church’s General Convention. Using a labyrinth as the image, on the road toward reconciliation and healing, we move around corners and double back into quadrants we have visited before, each time discovering new revelation and challenge. The four quadrants include: Telling the Truth; Proclaiming the Dream; Repairing the Breach; and Practicing the Way of Love.

Becoming Beloved Community is rooted in our Baptismal Covenant and includes church-wide initiatives. These initiatives are dedicated to growing circles of engagement and prayer across the Church. We are all invited into a journey of transformation, justice, and healing.

There are documents, webinars, podcasts and prayers on the Episcopal Church’s Becoming Beloved Community webpage Feel free to talk with me, **Fr. Jeff** or **Fr. Paul** if you have questions or want to learn more about getting involved in this holy work.

-Deacon Theresa

### Our Little Roses News

**Fr. Paul** and **Deacon Theresa** provided money from their discretionary funds, and Outreach provided the balance of the St. Alban’s donation to help buy four laptops for girls at Our Little Roses. Below right is a picture of Daysy, Yasmin, Rosenda and Kenia with their new laptops.

A recollection from **Jo Hodgkin**:

*The Rose in the picture second to left is Yasmin, who was sponsored for a number of years by parishioner **Ginny Peters**. I think she has recently graduated from University and is beginning her teaching career. When she was about 11, she choreographed a group of dancing merceras (waiters) for the wine-to-water scene in our production of the wedding at Canna. **Mark Cummings** was the groom, and (full blushing disclosure), the bride processed to "If You Like it Then You Better Put a Ring on It".*

A Note from Isabella Bobadilla of Our Little Roses *September 23*

*I hope you and everyone at St. Alban's Episcopal Church are doing well. The girls at Our Little Roses are busy with their studies and thanks to your gracious donation, the team at Our Little Roses was able to purchase four new laptops for four girls! These new laptops will help them focus and excel in their studies and it is all thanks to your donation.*

*We appreciate you for being such a wonderful and supportive Sponsor to not just your sponsored girl but to all the girls at OLR!*

*Isabella Bobadilla*, Sponsorship Development Coordinator

## October Birthdays



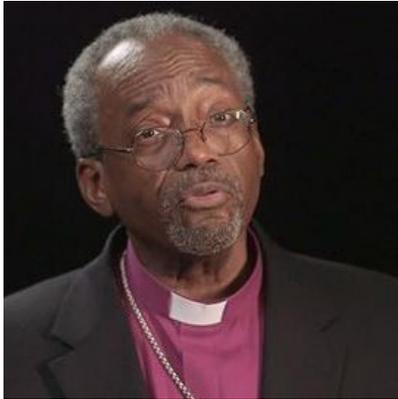
As you grow yet  
another year older on this day,  
may God’s blessings and teachings  
follow you wherever you go.

|                     |    |
|---------------------|----|
| Elizabeth Cheek     | 1  |
| Mark Russell        | 3  |
| Robert Fleming      | 4  |
| Scott Martin        | 4  |
| Hope Grauel         | 6  |
| Doris Lewis         | 10 |
| Kyle McKenzie       | 10 |
| Christopher Hite    | 13 |
| Howard Foard        | 14 |
| Ellen Gerdes        | 14 |
| Laura Jean Hyde     | 14 |
| Becky Lallande      | 14 |
| Jeff Allen          | 15 |
| Patricia Elder      | 15 |
| Gail Coleman        | 17 |
| Andrew Lieberthal   | 17 |
| Danielle Krafft     | 19 |
| Gabe Nassar         | 19 |
| Madeleine Clune     | 20 |
| Olivia Findorff     | 20 |
| Martha Kelley       | 21 |
| Catalina Cashdollar | 22 |
| Luanne Gutermuth    | 23 |
| Doug Mairena        | 25 |
| Gean Martin         | 26 |
| Ned Ryder           | 26 |
| Chris Peck          | 27 |
| Jack Harrell        | 29 |



*Daysy, Yasmin, Rosenda and Kenia with new laptops.*

## A Message from the Bishop: The importance of voting



**Presiding Bishop Michael Curry**

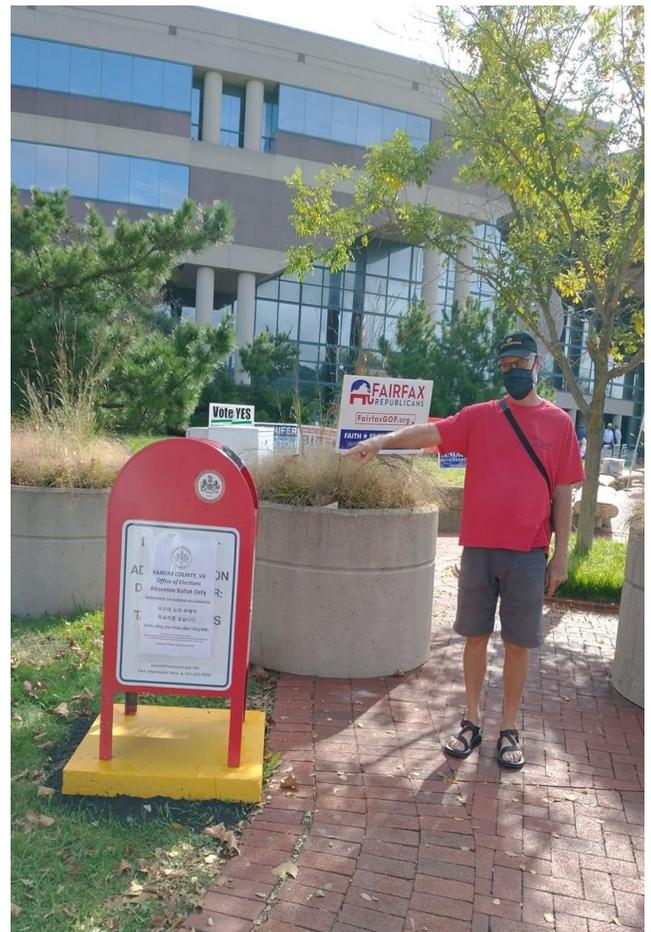
*“Voting and participation in our government is a way of participating in our common life,” Episcopal Church Presiding Bishop and Primate Michael Curry said in a video election message.*

“The vote is so sacred and important for all people, regardless of your religious tradition or your politics or your nationality,” Curry said in prerecorded remarks, delivered during a Zoom meeting. “The vote, as an act of moral humanity, is so important that people have given their lives for it.”

– David Paulsen is an editor and reporter for Episcopal News Service. He can be reached at [dpaulsen@episcopalchurch.org](mailto:dpaulsen@episcopalchurch.org).

Episcopal News Service  
September 6

**Presiding Bishop Michael Curry**, in an opening sermon for the Sept. 16 online meeting of the House of Bishops, urged Episcopalians to vote in the upcoming elections and to “encourage others to vote as their conscience leads them.” And he affirmed that The Episcopal Church’s positions on political issues, though nonpartisan, should not be confused with “moral neutrality.”



**Larry Hodgin**, the “Vanna White” of early voting.

*Even though you can hardly tell by the mask, this is Larry popping his CAREFULLY completed absentee ballot in this handy not easy-to-miss bright red ballot box at the Fairfax County Government Center.*

To register and for reliable information on voting, go to the Virginia State Department of Elections <https://www.elections.virginia.gov/>

| Vestry Representatives |                        |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| Parishioner Name       | Vestry Member          |
| A – Bo                 | Chris Martin           |
| Br – Cl                | Donna Archer           |
| Co – Ed                | Evangeline Clark-Wiles |
| El – Gr                | Jim Kilby              |
| Gu – Hyde (Marta)      | Ken Youngert           |
| Hyde (Martina) – Lal   | Kevin Holland          |
| Lar – McLa             | Margaret Pendley       |
| McLe – Pat             | Moira Skinner          |
| Pay – Sch              | Nancy Harrell          |
| Sco – Su               | Rick Weinberg          |
| Ta – Wh                | Sue Mairena            |
| Wi – Zu                | Jane Lesko             |

## GIVING

These are difficult times, filled with uncertainty, and we know that for some income has been reduced or cut. If you are able to give, please remember that the church needs your financial support more than ever. It is only out of your generosity that we can do the good work that we do.

Please don't forget about your annual pledge and your commitment to the Capital Campaign. If you normally place an offering in the plate, please consider using our electronic giving platform **myEoffering**





*Back Row: L to R: Carlos Guzman, Rick Weinberg, Bobby Celio (Architect), Amanda Mashiana (Associate Architect), Fr. Jeff Shankles, Bill Calvert (Capital Campaign Co-Chair), Sean Banks (Project Manager, Whitener and Jackson), Nancy Harrell, Moira Skinner*  
*Front Row: Fr. Paul Moberly, April Kreller, Betsy Anderson, Linda Cummings, Kate Wettstein with Clark, Delores Baisden Benny Robles and Mike Gutermuth, both members of the Kitchen Committee, were unable to attend the groundbreaking.*



## The Kitchen Committee would like you to “Meet the Architect – Amanda Mashiana”



*Amanda Mashiana*

### 1. Can you share a bit about yourself?

I grew up in Stafford, Virginia and went to North Stafford High School. I am the oldest of four girls in a blended family, who were very supportive of everything I did. From a young age I would help my dad build things like the deck in our backyard or different kinds of furniture, and my mom taught me all of the textile arts like sewing and knitting. I became very interested in the way things were built and how things go together, which lead me to architecture. I would build elaborate doll houses for my Barbies out of cardboard when I was very young, and once I got to high school I took an architectural drafting class and just knew it was something I was meant to do. I went to Philadelphia University, a small design school in Northern Philadelphia. I entered their five-year Bachelor of Architecture program where I was able to learn all aspects of the field and even study in Rome for a semester. I joined Lemay Erickson Willcox (LEW) when I graduated and am currently on the path to becoming a licensed architect.

### 2. How long have you been with LEW and how did you find yourself involved with the Saint Alban's project?

I started working with LEW right after I graduated college in 2015. I have loved the environment they have created to foster learning, even after school there is still so much to learn. I have greatly enjoyed being a part of our church sector because the church was a big part of my childhood. I was brought into this project from the beginning by Bobby, the Project Manager. I really enjoy working on the church projects because you can see how hard everyone works to make their building projects possible and the impact that even the smallest of projects makes on the whole congregation.

### 3. What has been your role in the project? What is your favorite part?

I was brought onto the project after the master planning phase and have continued to work on it through the construction drawings phase and am very excited it has started construction. I always enjoy working on the drawings and getting to build a set, but my favorite part is always getting to see the real thing get built and seeing all of your drawings come to life. It's very rewarding.

### 4. Any interesting experiences you have had working on projects?

I always think it's fun to work on projects that I am in some way connected to. I went on a walk through of a fire station project we had been working on, and the Battalion Chief at the station just happened to ask me my name and I learned he had grown up with my mom and had worked with my dad as a fire fighter. I love the little coincidences like that and seeing how everything is connected.

### 5. When you are not working (or under quarantine!), what do you like to do in your spare time?

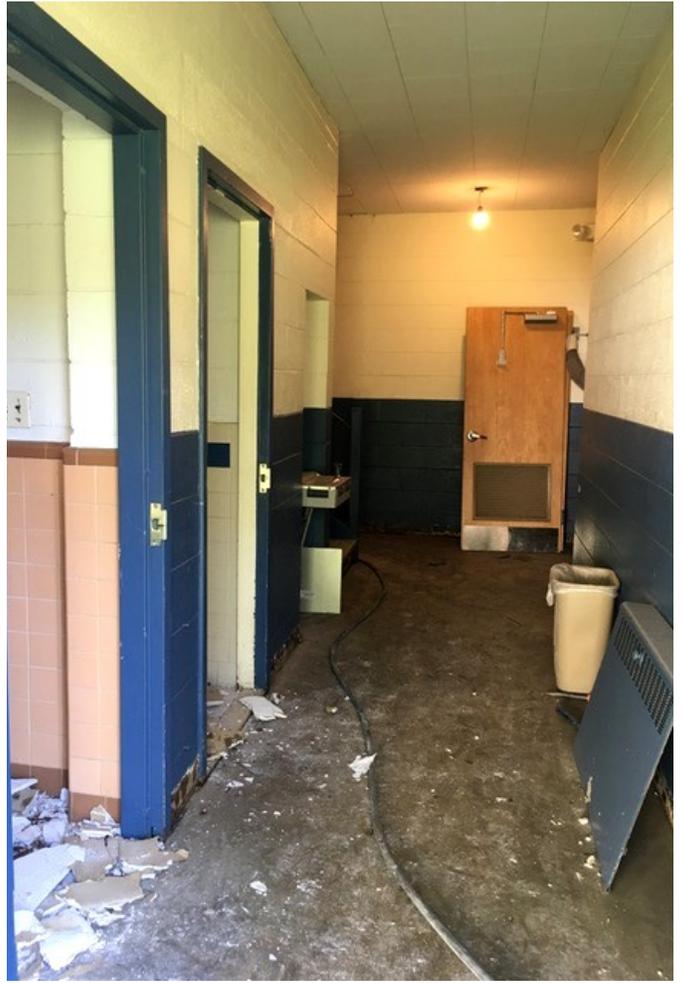
In my free time (which we have so much of these days!) I always seem to have some sort of art project going on. I like to paint and draw and since quarantine began I painted one watercolor a day to fill a sketchbook. Now that my sketchbook is filled I have gotten into embroidery. Apart from arts and crafts I like to go running and cycling and just being outside.

-Amanda Mashiana with April Kreller

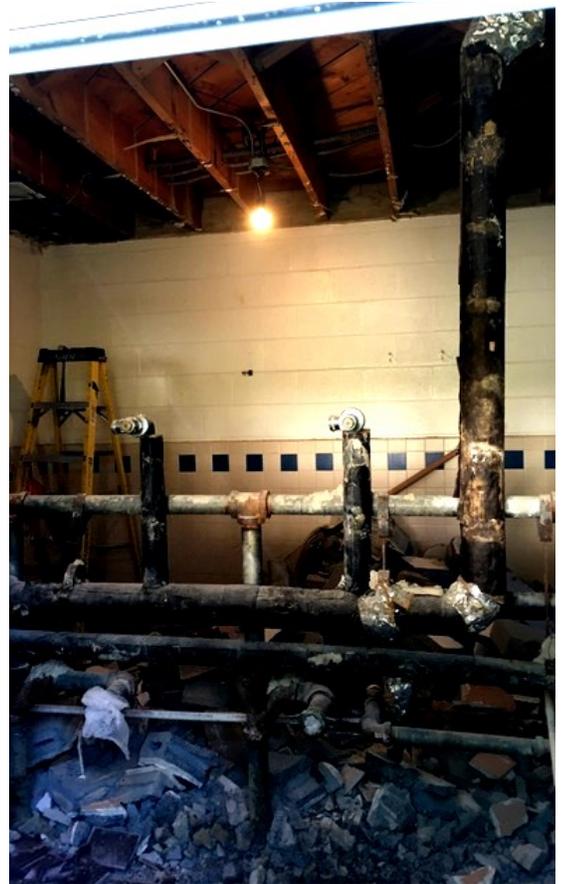


*Amanda with Fr. Jeff and April.*





**More Construction**

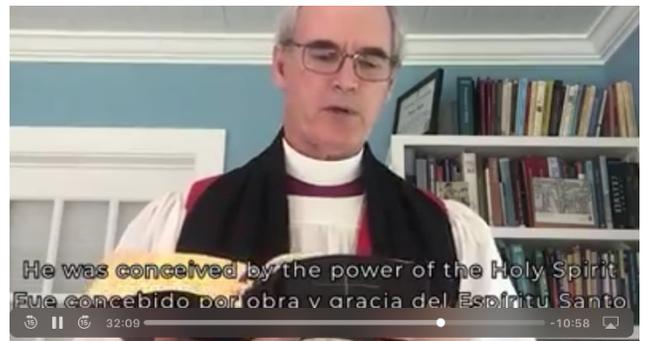




## Diocesan-Wide Sunday Service on Labor Day September 6

The 179 congregations of the Diocese of Virginia came together as one faith community for a diocesan-wide service led by your bishops.

This service in English and Spanish is on Facebook and YouTube. The video remained on YouTube and Facebook for viewing after the service.





*Blast from the past! The Alle Bell Ringers at one the many annual handbell festivals in Virginia Beach, circa late 1990's. Sheila Massey, Lynn McCaffree, Todd Fickley, unknown, Barbara Cook, Fran Walinsky, Annette Dagg, Dorothy Fones, Courtney Butler and Jenny Kelley. Not Shown are Barbara Hallman and Director Quincy Butler.*

### Old Celtic Blessing

O God, make clear to us each road,  
 Make safe for us each step,  
 When we stumble, hold us,  
 When we fall, lift us up,  
 When we are hard-pressed with evil, deliver us,  
 And at last bring us to Your glory!

Keep watch, dear Lord,  
 with those who work,  
 or watch, or weep this night,  
 and give your angels charge  
 over those who sleep.  
 Tend the sick, Lord Christ;  
 give rest to the weary,  
 bless the dying, soothe the suffering,  
 pity the afflicted,  
 shield the joyous;  
 and all for your love's sake.  
*Amen.*



Publisher: The Rev. Jeff Shankles  
 Managing Editor, Photo Editor, Design & Layout: Barbara Hallman  
 Production and Distribution:  
 Sharon Belanger; Doris Lewis; Tammy Thomas.

Contributors: The Rt. Rev. Susan E. Goff;  
 The Rt. Rev. Jennifer Brooke-Davidson  
 The Rev. Jeff Shankles; The Rev. Paul Moberly;  
 The Rev. Theresa Lewallen; Jo Hodgins, April Kreller; Moira Skinner.

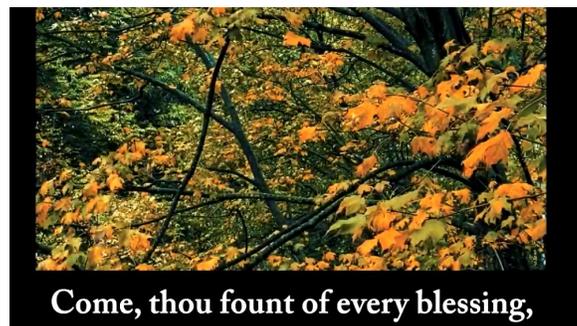
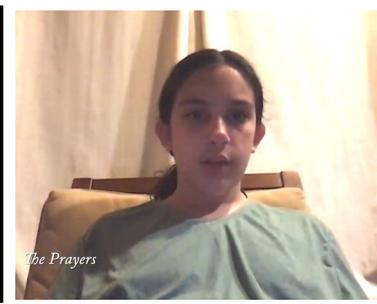
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 Joyce Aument; Barbara Hallman; Jo Hodgins;  
 The Rev. Paul Moberly; Debbie Rosse;  
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**Next Edition: November 2020**  
**Articles/photos welcome!**  
**Submit by October 15 to [bhallman1@cox.net](mailto:bhallman1@cox.net)**

St. Alban's Episcopal Church  
 6800 Columbia Pike, Annandale, VA 22003  
 703-256-2966 [www.stalbansva.org](http://www.stalbansva.org)



**Scenes from our September 27 Service**



**Make me an Instrument of Peace is a 5-week course designed to help us bridge the divides that keep us from moving forward.**

**The first session is Sunday, October 4th at 9:00 am, online.**

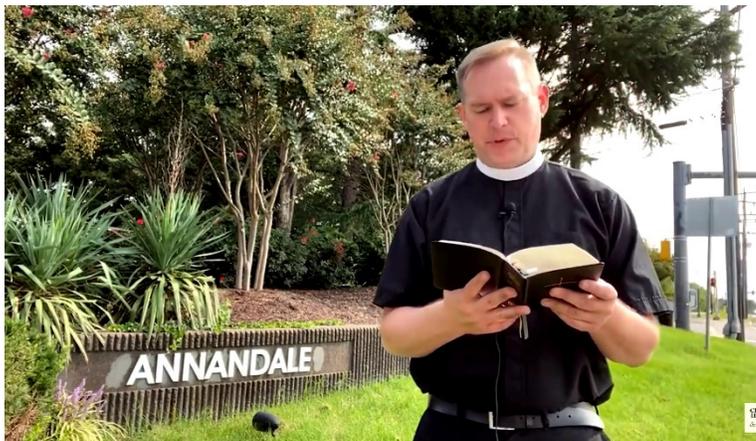
**See SAM or our website for more information or to register.**

Hymn Choir: Marc Cheek, Nancy Harrell, David Holland, Joan Jurenas, Kay Lusk, Chris Martin, Paul Moberly, Debbie Rosse, Fran Walinsky, Karen Weinberg, Cathy Williams, Clarence Zuvekas. Music and Organ: Dr. Jason Farris. Lectors: Elizabeth Howton and Felix Howton. Intercessor: Cecilia Howton. Altar Setup: Kate Wettstein. Acolyte: Gerardo Mazariegos. Gospeller and Preacher: Deacon Theresa Lewallen. Officiant at the Liturgy of the Word: Father Jeff. Celebrant: Father Paul.

## Scenes from our September 20 Service



Hymn Choir: Marc Cheek, David Holland, Joan Jurenas, Chris Martin, Duncan McBride, Paul Moberly, Fran Walinsky, Karen Weinberg, Cathy Williams, Clarence Zuvekas. Music: Dr. Jason Farris. Lectors: Ted Blanchard and Chuck Blanchard. Intercessor: Chuck Blanchard. Altar Setup: Kate Wettstein. Guest Vocalist: Katie Stansel. Preacher: Father Paul. Celebrant: Father Jeff.



*Fr. Paul conducting the evening service at our first in-person outdoor worship (with the help of Clark) on September 20.*



Come, labor on.



Claim the high calling angels cannot share—



Come, labor on.



redeem the time; its hours too swiftly fly.

## Scenes from our September 13 Service



Clark sightings!

Hymn Choir: Delores Baisden, Marc Cheek, Wendy Hamnett, David Holland, Joan Jurenas, Kay Lusk, Chris Martin, Paul Moberly, Fran Walinsky, Karen Weinberg, Clarence Zuvekas. Music: Dr. Jason Farris. Lectors: Gail Coleman and Michael Sinsabaugh. Intercessor: Cheryl Sinsabaugh. Altar Setup: Kate Wettstein. Gospeller: Deacon Theresa. Preacher: Father Jeff. Celebrant: Father Paul.

## Scenes from August 30 Service



Hymn Choir: Delores Baisden, Marc Cheek, Wendy Hamnett, Nancy Harrell, David Holland, Elizabeth Howton, Joan Jurenas, Kay Lusk, Chris Martin, Paul Moberly, Fran Walinsky, Karen Weinberg, Clarence Zuvekas. Music: Dr. Jason Farris. Lectors: Bob Ensinger and Kyle McKenzie. Intercessor: Delores Baisden. Altar Setup: Kate Wettstein. Gospeller: Deacon Theresa. Preacher: Father Jeff. Celebrant: Father Paul. Gerado Mazariegos Assisting



St. Alban's Episcopal Church  
6800 Columbia Pike  
Annandale, VA 22003

## Forward Day by Day

**Forward Day by Day** is a booklet of daily inspirational meditations reflecting on a specific Bible passage, chosen from the daily lectionary readings as listed in the Revised Common Lectionary or the Daily Office from the Episcopal Church's Book of Common Prayer. The meditations are rich in substance and offer a wide range of witness and experiences.

The November-January 2021 Day by Day booklets are now available in the narthex for pickup by parishioners. If you are not comfortable picking up a copy, please contact the parish office and we will be happy to bring one to you.



All in-church services are cancelled during the pandemic. Please watch for emails from **Fr. Jeff** and **Fr. Paul** about online service schedules, confirmation classes and opportunities to use tele- and video-conferencing technology and pre-filmed videos to connect with our church family.



Needing help or able to help? Please contact church office 703-256-2966