

St. Alban's Episcopal Church The word

From the Rector

Ministry Sunday is behind us; all the chaos and noise and excitement of the Ministry Fair is just a memory. Our annual Ministry Fair is the best way we've found to showcase the many ways individuals can be involved in ministries and activities at St. Alban's, but it's not the only way! For instance, look around on a typical Sunday morning and you'll see that morning worship is a beehive of activity. Each of the volunteers who helps out with morning worship would be delighted to share with you how their ministry helps shape our worship time together and, hopefully, you might receive an invitation to join in the ministry.

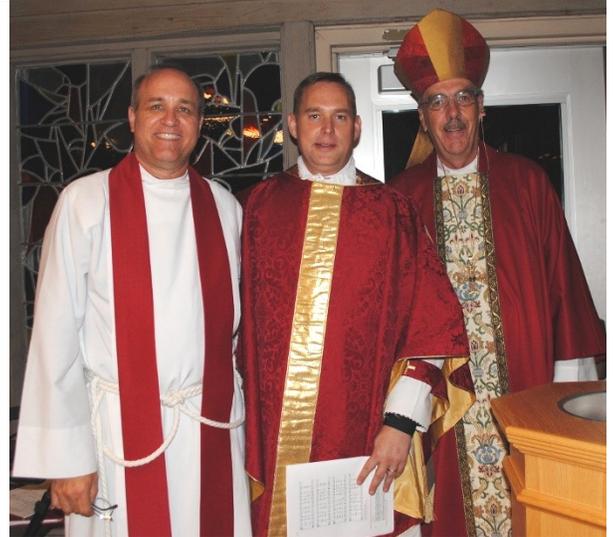
Did you know that a typical 8:15 am Sunday morning Eucharist needs at least 14 lay people involved in a variety of ministries to make the service happen? That includes ushers, Altar Guild support, lectors, intercessors, acolytes, Lay Eucharistic Ministers and coffee hour hosts (yes, coffee hour is, quite honestly, some of the most important Sunday morning time – not just because the refreshments are delicious, but because of the opportunities coffee hour provides for fellowship). At our 10:15 am service, at least 18 lay people are involved in making the service happen, and when we add in the 10:15 am choir, we have approximately 38 people actively involved in Sunday morning worship, and that doesn't include our Sunday school teachers and Adult Forum leaders, our Sleepy Hollow Ministry volunteers or our collection counters. And we haven't even addressed the mowing teams, office volunteers, security teams, buildings and grounds and the various committee activities that happen throughout the week.

There are so many ways to be connected in the service at St. Alban's, and quite honestly, some of our ministries are woefully understaffed. Due to lack of volunteers and volunteers unable to serve on a given Sunday, at least three 8:15 am volunteers are scheduled to serve in some capacity more than 10 times each in the October to December timeframe. The 8:15 am service is understaffed in almost every area, but especially Lay Eucharistic Ministers, Acolytes and Ushers. The 10:15 am service also has a shortage of Acolytes and Lay Eucharistic Ministers. There is a saying I've seen floating around the Diocese lately:

"...are you going to Church, or are you the Church?"

That statement is thought-provoking. Church isn't a place – it's people, gathered together as the Body of Christ. It's faithful people worshipping together, praying together and praying for each other and the world. We are the Church. The cold statistics, numbers and figures I provided above are just one reality of being the Church – a community of faithful people. Church needs each of us gathered on Sunday morning – otherwise we are less than what we could be and the Body of Christ is not the same. In our busy lives I understand all too well the temptation of sleeping in or, "let's skip...just this once." But Church isn't about *us* – it's about the Good News of God in Christ, bringing hope and healing to a hurting world. We are the carriers of that message, and ministry is *our* response to that Good News.

Come to Church. Look around. Become involved! Perhaps you've never asked yourself the question, "how can I be involved?" We know that with God all things are possible, and we are the hands that get things done. –Fr. Jeff



Fr. Jeff with newly ordained Fr. Paul and The Right Reverend Thomas Ely, the Tenth Bishop of Vermont.



The Warden's Pen



Senior Warden **Linda Cummings**
with **Karen and Rick Weinberg**,
who were in charge of Ministry Sunday.
Thanks Weinbergs!

Fall is here! There's a crispness to the air, and leaves are beginning to turn. And here at St Alban's our many programs are up and running. Sunday School and Adult Forum are back in session on Sunday mornings, and Parish Life and Family Ministries Committees have a schedule of events that offer fellowship, relaxation and food. The Bazaar Committee is preparing for the November 18 extravaganza. And soon you'll see the "Groucho" turkey asking for your help at Lockwood House on Thanksgiving.

Sunday services at St Alban's nourish our souls for many reasons. But we all need to be fed throughout the week too. If you haven't found your niche at St Alban's, consider coming to an event and joining a committee. If you missed the September 17 Ministry Fair, look for a copy of the Information Booklet on the shelves in the Narthex. Newcomers are welcome at any time! Questions? Feel free to contact me (ldcummings@msn.com or at 10:15 am coffee hour) or the chair of a program that interests you.

All the best, Linda

Lighting Project Update: The parking lot lights are in! And the Frizzell Hall lights will be installed in October. Thanks to **Kit Ryan** and the Parking Lot Committee for all the hard work of comparing light types, communicating with the contractor, and thinking long term on this project. Stay tuned. God willing, the Frizzell Hall lights will be installed in October.

-Betsy Anderson

Stewardship

The Call Narrative

I was enormously proud of our church and St. Alban's community during the recent Ordination of Father Paul Moberly. The joy, acceptance, love and welcoming spirit that I have come to rely on since my arrival at our church was on full display on that wonderful night, Wednesday, September 6. During the service, we were privileged to hear the Homily from Dr. Hannah Matis, Assistant Professor of Church History at Virginia Theological Seminary (VTS). She spoke of the Call Narrative which the seminarians at VTS use to guide their studies. She mentioned how often they refer to it throughout their journey – perhaps to the point of overkill from the perspective of the seminarians!

As I listened, I began to reflect on my own Call Narrative. As I did so, the lyrics of one of my favorite hymns written by David Haas (a fellow Minnesotan!), began running through my mind. In "We Are Called," the refrain goes as follows:

*We are called to act with justice.
We are called to love tenderly.
We are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God.*

As I think about my own Call Narrative and the words of Dr. Matis and David Haas, I realize that my personal Call Narrative brought me to St. Alban's (with a little help from **Mr. Peck**)! It has since encouraged me to serve as an Acolyte, Lector, Stewardship Committee Member, Missioner, Raffle Prize Rangler and Sunday School Teacher. My wonderful spouse uses his own Call Narrative to guide him as a member of the Vestry and the famous Mowing Ministry. Each of us has our own Call Narrative. At times, it may feel scary to listen. And that's okay because God does not give up on any of us. God calls to us again and again throughout our lives. Each of us becomes ready to hear in our own timeframe. And as we are called, each in our own way, we are also called to support the ongoing work of our church throughout the world. Our calling is fulfilled as we participate physically and spiritually in the activities of our church and also as we commit financially to support these efforts and our wonderful clergy and staff.

I remain forever grateful that my own Call Narrative led me to St. Alban's, and I look forward to hearing God's continued call as I worship, serve, laugh, love and pray here.

- Christine Murphy Peck



Allison Blanchard, Stewardship Chair,
promoting stewardship on
Ministry Sunday, September 17.

From the Assistant Rector

As I write this, nearly a month has passed since we celebrated my ordination to the priesthood here at St. Alban's. It's hard to believe it's been that long. I am still glowing from the warmth, joy and intensity of that evening. I want to express, once more, my thanks to the people of this parish and my gratitude for being welcomed so completely into this community.

My heart is truly full. The kindness, humor, generosity and faithfulness of this church have been such blessings to me – and the ordination celebration was truly a gift. I know I will never forget that night.

I am especially grateful to **Kate Wettstein** for the joyous reception, and to all of the people who provided treats and tittle for the occasion. My deep thanks to the Altar Guild for their work in preparation, and for making our sanctuary so beautiful, for God's glory. Thank you, too, to my St. Alban's presenters, **Delores Baisden** and **Robby Larson-Ensinger**; to the very able ushers, acolytes, chalcists, and one stylish book bearer (**Ted Blanchard**.) I am also deeply grateful to **Fred Binkholder** and the Choir of St. Alban's for coming back early from summer break (and scheduling extra rehearsals!) to ensure the music was top-notch. I am particularly grateful for the guidance, leadership, and humor of my mentor and friend, **Fr. Jeff** – I couldn't ask for a better boss, truly.

A couple of Tuesdays ago, I attended the new clergy orientation day at the diocesan offices down in Richmond – **Bishop Shannon Johnston** spent some time with us, reflecting on our ministries and spiritual practices. When it came around to my turn to speak, all I could say was: "I can't believe I get to do this for a living!"

Truly, every day at this amazing place presents new challenges and opportunities, and every day, I get to know the people of St. Alban's just a little bit better. I am hoping to have a chance to spend time with each of you. For me, this year one of my top priorities is building relationships here at St. Alban's. I am excited to see what amazing things God will do here this year!

I really can't believe I get to do this for a living. *Dios es bueno todo el tiempo!*

- Fr. Paul

The Ordination of Fr. Paul Moberly at St. Alban's on September 6 More pictures page 8.





CHOIR NOTES



Choir members hard at work promoting the Choir ministry on Ministry Sunday.

*Top: **Benny Robles** drums up interest in the bell choir while enticing people with delectable pasties.*

*Middle: **Robin Barbee** tries out a handbell.*

*Bottom: **Fred Binkholder**, Music Director, with **Ronnie Hardcastle**, promotes choir membership.*

October 1. Giuseppe Pitoni (1657-1742) composed an estimated 3,500 or so works of sacred music, including 278 masses—or perhaps 325, or perhaps some other number—a massive output indeed. (It’s OK to groan; I did, too). His compositions were greatly influenced by the great Italian Renaissance master, Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (1525-1594). Pitoni was the longtime music director (1677-1743) of San Marco’s Church in Rome, and from 1719 onwards he also served as choirmaster of St. Peter’s. We will be singing his anthem *Cantate Domino* (O Sing Ye to the Lord).

October 8. George Frideric Handel (1685-1759), was born in Halle, Germany. He first came to London in 1710 and settled there permanently in 1726, becoming a British citizen in that year. We always enjoy singing the many memorable choruses from *Messiah*. This Sunday’s selection will be Version I (actually the third one to be composed) of *Their Sound Is Gone Out*, the text of which is from Romans 10:18: “Their sound has gone out into all lands, and their words unto the ends of the world.” No, this is not a 15-second anthem; Handel stretches it out to 37 measures.

October 15. Sir Edward Bairstow (1897-1946) was a distinguished organist and composer of choral, organ and chamber works. He served from 1913 to 1946 as organist at York Minster (York Cathedral). Not known for his tact or decorum, Bairstow once stated that Sir Arthur Sullivan “never wrote any [church music] worth a cuss.” This gruffness of manner stands in stark contrast with the quiet beauty of Bairstow’s anthem, *I Sat Down under His Shadow*. The text is from the Song of Solomon 2:3-4.

October 22. Handel’s contributions to choral music extend far beyond *Messiah* and include operas and oratorios that are still performed today, as well as shorter pieces, such as today’s anthem. *Let Justice and Judgment* is the middle section of *Let Thy Hand Be Strengthened*, one of four anthems written for the coronation of King George II at Westminster Abbey on October 11, 1727. Handel wrote this music in only four weeks, hoping to gain the favor of the new monarch. Up to that time their relationship had been rather strained, in contrast to the good relationship Handel had enjoyed with George I. Despite the sloppiness of the under-rehearsed performances, the new king was pleased with the anthems, much to Handel’s relief.

October 29. Our anthem this Sunday is *If You Love Me*, by Thomas Tallis (c1505-1585), the premier English composer of the 16th century. The text is from John 14:15-17. During his lifetime Tallis witnessed much political and religious turmoil, including Henry VIII’s break with Rome, the revival of Catholicism under Mary Tudor, and the resurgence of Anglicanism under Elizabeth I. Tallis served all these monarchs as a Gentleman of the Chapel Royal, writing music to both English and Latin texts, in accordance with the preferences of the reigning monarch.

-Clarence Zuvekas



St. Alban's Bazaar!
November 18, 2017 9:00 am to 2:00 pm



For the many parishioners who have attended and/or volunteered at one of the bazaars over the past years (St. Alban's has had over 60 years of bazaars!), we truly thank you for your spirit, your fellowship and your talents. We couldn't do it without you!

If you're hearing about the Bazaar for the first time or haven't been able to attend in the past, please consider dropping by to get in the Christmas spirit! The bazaar has something for everyone! We sell books, gently used household goods, handmade arts and crafts, candy, baked goods, holiday decorations, toys, jewelry, tools, and many other items. There's face painting, breakfast and light lunch items in the café, a moon bounce (weather permitting) and of course, Santa!

At last year's bazaar more than 50 volunteers came together to welcome approximately 2,000 visitors from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. During those five hours, we raised almost \$14,000 which helps to support several community organizations including: ACCA, Poe Middle School, Belvedere School, Bethany House (emergency shelter for victims of domestic violence), Lockwood House (low cost housing for elderly) and Bailey's Crossroads Community Shelter. Internationally, we supported Our Little Roses School for abandoned and abused girls in Honduras and Holy Trinity Church in Haiti.

If your time permits, we invite you to join our enthusiastic volunteers and help prepare and carry out our annual St. Alban's Christmas Bazaar! If you're unable to help on the day of the bazaar, consider helping with preparations such as hanging decorations, setting up and taking down the sales rooms, making chili and chowder for sale in the cafe, and many other tasks.

We need raffle prizes that will attract ticket buyers of all ages. You could donate sporting event, theater or concert tickets, an offer of professional services such as decorating a special cake or raking leaves or detailing a car, or even gift cards! Please contact **Chris Peck** about your donation: mpeck02@verizon.net.

Want to learn more? Please email bazaar co-chairs **Sue Mairena** at mairena75@verizon.net or **Nancy Calvert** at billandnancycalvert@verizon.net to add your name to our email list of volunteers.

We're really looking forward to another fun, exciting year at the bazaar.
 -Nancy and Sue



Margaret Pendley reprised her role as the walking bazaar billboard sandwich lady on Ministry Sunday. With Stephanie Lightner.



Bill Calvert and Betsy Anderson festively promoted bazaar participation on Ministry Sunday, September 17.

How you can help today!

Enclosed is a bazaar flyer to promote our bazaar. Please take it with you when you visit a local business, church, school or other establishment and ask to post it on their bulletin board.

From the Deacon



Deacon Theresa visiting with *Gail Coleman* and *Dotty Ninde* who are promoting the Altar Guild at Ministry Sunday on September 17.

For I was hungry and you gave me food. *Matthew 25:35*

Each month, St. Alban's feeds hungry children and youth in our community. The two schools we work closely with have reported increases in the number of low income students eligible for free or reduced-price meals.

Hungry children are less likely to reach their full learning potential, primarily because they are unable to concentrate. Inadequate nutrition and food insecurity also increase the likelihood that they will not fully develop physically. As the school year began, our relationships with Poe Middle School and Belvedere Elementary School got underway.

Last year, over 95 percent of students attending the after-school meal program at Poe Middle School qualified for free or reduced-price meals. This year, St. Alban's will continue to provide two meals a month for the program. Volunteers cook, deliver food, and serve the middle schoolers.

This is the third year we are participating in the weekend food backpack program at Belvedere. We've increased the number of children we provide food to from ten to twelve and are providing fresh fruit for the students. Our participation in these programs is only possible through financial support from the parish and the work of many volunteers.

To volunteer in these ministries, please contact me at theresa.lewallen@verizon.net.

-Deacon Theresa

From the Seminarian

As many of you know, this summer I completed Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) in Pensacola, Florida. This education is a requirement for ordination in the Episcopal Church. The education is hands on. I worked in a hospital as a chaplain which meant most days I was going to my assigned floor and visiting with patients.

I learned quickly for most people that their time in the hospital was a time to reflect on their lives, loved ones, broken relationships, missed opportunities and very often, to wonder what life would look like now. It was a privilege to sit with people at these moments, to be invited in to their stories and to be with them in their fear, anxiety, joy or grief.

I had no expectations for the summer. I went into the program willing to accept it for what it was going to be, not what I wanted it to be. In other words, I went into it feeling indifferent, with a shrug of my shoulders saying "meh." But to my surprise I quickly found myself enjoying the work, being energized by it.

I can only say that this was God, shaping me, pushing me, showing me how I in my life and ministry can be a reflection of God in the world.

-Adam Pierce



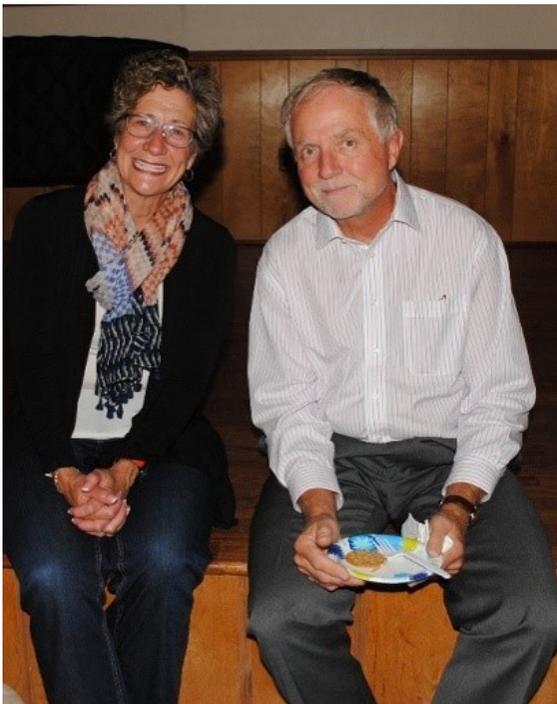
Seminarian Adam chatting with *Walt* and *Robin Barbee* at *Fr. Paul's* ordination on September 6.



Ministry Sunday
September 17
Learning about our ministries



More Scenes from Fr. Paul's Ordination



Wedding Bells for Tammy Gaines and Cedric Thomas!

Best wishes are in order for Tammy, our Administrative manager. **Tammy** wed her longtime beau **Cedric** on September 18. They were married by **Fr. Jeff** in the presence of both their families at Fairlington Village Community Center in Arlington. Congratulations and best wishes for a very happy marriage, Tammy and Cedric! Picture to right, Cedric and Tammy are with Tammy's daughter **Toni Ford**.



September Family Dinner

Families came out for fun and fellowship at the September Family Dinner featuring everyone's favorite: Tacos! Come join the fun. Family dinners take place about once a month. Contact **April Kreller** for more information.



Passages

Parishioner **Dirck Harris**, husband of **Jane Edwards**, died Thursday, August 31. A funeral service was held on September 23 at St. Alban's. Please keep Dirck's wife Jane and his loved ones in your thoughts and prayers.

*"Receive, O Lord, your servant, Dirck, into the arms of your mercy,
into the blessed rest of everlasting peace,
and into the glorious company of the saints in light."*

October Birthdays

Elizabeth Cheek	1
Mark Russell	3
Robert Fleming	4
Scott Martin	4
Hope Grauel	6
Drew Schrecker	7
Christopher Hite	13
Kathryn Cook	14
Howard Foard	14
Ellen Gerdes	14
Laura Jean Hyde	14
Patricia Elder	15
Joseph Kim	15
Gail Coleman	17
Jessy Jackson	17
Andrew Lieberthal	17
Danielle Krafft	19
Gabe Nassar	19
Jinsun Cho	20
Madeleine Clune	20
Olivia Findorff	20
Martha Kelley	21
Catalina Cashdollar	22
Luanne Gutermuth	23
Catherine McCoy	24
Jack Gelman	25
Douglas Mairena	25
Gean Martin	26
Chris Peck	27
Jack Harrell	29
Lynne Schrag	30

Birthday Prayer

*Oh God,
our times are in your hand:
Look with favor, we pray,
on your servants
as they begin another year.
Grant that they may grow
in wisdom an grace, and
strengthen their trust
in your goodness
all the days of their lives;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.*





Ice Cream Social

September 3

Saying "goodbye, summer"
and "hello fall!"

Thanks Parish Life Committee!





2nd Annual Trip to The National Cathedral

Debbie Rosse set up a field trip to the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. on September 10, “Virginia Day.” Parishioners had a great tour of the Cathedral and enjoyed their visit. Attending were (photo above right): **Robby Larson-Ensinger; Rich Rosse, Ted Blanchard, Barbara Cook, Izanne Zorin, Mikyoung Cho, Debbie Rosse, Delores Baisden, Han Binkholder and Mary Daymont.**



The Rev. Dr. Rosemary Beales offered a workshop on September 16 on “Godly Play,” the Montessori-based exploration of Bible stories that tell us about our relationship with God. This is the Sunday School curriculum we use for our first and second grade students.

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October Calendar Highlights

Book Discussion Group 8:30-9:30 am Room 11
held on 2nd Sunday of the month;

For information, please contact: **Kristi Potts**, email: pottsk123@gmail.com

October 6 **First Friday of the Month Lunch Bunch**; 11:30 am Lucky's Franconia
Contact the **Chatelains** to reserve

October 8 **Blessing of the Animals**, both services
Flu Shot Clinic

October 14 **Oktoberfest**; 6:00 pm, parish hall

November 2 **All Soul's Day Holy Eucharist**; 7:00 pm

November 18 **Christmas Bazaar**; 9:00 am to 2:00 pm

November 19 **Annual Giving In-Gathering**