

# St. Alban's Episcopal Church

# the word

May 2018 Volume 17, Issue 4

## From the Assistant Rector

The Baptismal Covenant is the list of five promises we all make before God and each other at our baptism or are made on our behalf by our parents or guardians if we are too young to understand them ourselves. These vows we undertake suggest the various responsibilities we “take on” when we make a commitment to follow Jesus. We “renew” these promises at various points throughout the year: every time someone is baptized, we renew our vows. At the Easter Vigil, we renew our vows. And coming up on the Feast of Pentecost, May 20, we will once again renew these five promises made at our baptism.

Each promise is affirmed by the People as we say, “I will, with God’s help.” The “with God’s help” part suggests that the Church well understands how difficult these promises are to follow at times – each one is a complex matter on its own. We know we will not always follow these promises perfectly – indeed, part of our nature as human beings is that we will fail at times. That’s why we need “God’s help” if we are indeed to live up to the responsibilities – joyful obligations – as people who proclaim Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior.

Perhaps the hardest of the promises in the Baptismal Covenant is the last one: “Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?” In our contemporary world, there is so much that divides us. Perhaps especially, at the present moment, we are divided most starkly along ideological and political lines. Social media allows us to self-select the information we receive, and the viewpoints we consider. The temptation is, then, to hear only those voices that affirm our preconceived ideas.

As members of the Body of Christ, we are called to work toward reconciliation, and I think that is what’s at the heart of this final of the five baptismal promises. We are to look at those we encounter as having the image of God imprinted upon their minds and hearts. It’s hard work. But that is part of why being part of the Church is so important – we get to practice the work of reconciliation, across all sorts and manners of divides, right here.

St. Alban’s is a parish clearly energized by fellowship and by outreach. We love to be together, especially when there’s food involved! Our outreach efforts, including the backpack ministry at Belvedere Elementary and the dinner program for students at Poe Middle School (not to mention the well-beloved summer youth mission trip to Hurley, Virginia), are all part of what animates this parish, and gives it life. Our worship together, and our vital music program, help us to enter into God’s presence in a spirit of beauty and truth, on Sundays and other various occasions.

But we have another opportunity here at St. Alban’s that I think might be under-appreciated: that we work towards reconciliation across political and ideological lines through our Sunday morning adult forum and the current Thursday evening discussion program.

You might not even know we have a Christian education program for adults, but we do--Sunday School hour is not only for children! Sunday mornings, The Wired Word discussion group meets in the library during the Christian Education hour. Each week, The Wired Word engages a topic ripped straight from the headlines – literally – and then has a conversation about how our faith speaks to that issue. The participants each Sunday represent, quite often, a variety of political perspectives – and it makes for a lively discussion! Look for the link to the coming Sunday’s topic in each week’s St Albans Message (SAM). Grab a cup of coffee and head to the library around 9:15 am on Sunday morning and engage in the conversation!

On Thursday evenings for the next few weeks, **Deacon Theresa** is facilitating a discussion around faith and race – how we engage across difference in today’s world. As a springboard, they are using writings of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and James Baldwin – and so far, it’s been a respectful and productive conversation. Come by this Thursday at 7:00 pm and join in this important conversation. (*please see page 3 for more information*).

We can live out our baptismal promises here at St. Alban’s in a new way, striving for justice and peace (and reconciliation) across differences – another way we can uniquely witness to the world the love and goodness of God. Join in one of these important conversations going on at St. Alban’s RIGHT NOW – whether Sunday mornings at 9:15 am or Thursday evenings at 7:00 pm. I think you’ll be glad you did!

-Fr. Paul



## The Warden's Pen



I have wonderful news! A new parking lot has been approved! **Kit Ryan** and several members of the parking lot committee gave an excellent presentation to the Vestry. He explained all the work the committee has done in researching what we needed, what was required and what would be the best value for St. Alban's. The finance committee and our Treasurer did some great work and the Vestry was able to approve the funds. We'll begin work this summer and keep you updated on when this will happen. I, for one, am very excited about finally having a lot without patches, patches and more patches.

I am continuing to settle into being Senior Warden during **Fr. Jeff's** sabbatical. It has been interesting and at times a challenge. Just being aware of what happens on a daily basis has been a bit of an eye opener for me.

This month, you will be contacted by your Vestry representative. It may be a phone call, email, or a card in the mail. Your Vestry rep is available for any questions or comments you may have about your church home.

Did you know that we have a place where parishioners can find information concerning the Vestry? In the parish hall next to the kitchen is the Vestry bulletin board. A copy of the approved 2018 budget, monthly financials and approved Vestry minutes as well as pictures of your Vestry are posted on this board. Stop by and take a look at what we're doing.  
-Nancy L. Harrell. Senior Warden

## Stewardship

### How the Concept of Annual Stewardship is Changing *(From Envelopes to Online to Donor Advised Fund—DAF)*

When the **Clune** family joined St. Alban's in 2000, we became one family of a very long line of traditional annual pledgers. We wrote a check on a weekly basis; placed the check into our pledge envelope and, week after week; year after year, placed that envelope into the plate.

Then in 2015, we started to give online. How high tech! Now, whether we made it to church or not, our check did. Knowing the payment was being made to St. Alban's weekly was very important to us because in the past, we might miss 3-4 weeks of payments to the church due to vacations or illnesses or forgetfulness and then have to make one large payment to catch up. Giving online ensured regular payments to St. Alban's and better budgeting for us.

Fast forward to 2017. Being very concerned about building St. Alban's Endowment Fund, I have done research into alternative ways of giving to St. Alban's. One option I found that fits for our style of pledging is called a Donor Advised Fund (DAF). This option allows us to create a fund by contributing cash, stocks or securities to it. We chose to set our fund up through the Episcopal Church Foundation in NYC. In turn, they use a professional securities firm to manage the fund.

As the "owner" of the fund, we are allowed to direct grants from the fund. These grants must be made to a qualified 501 (c)3 organization. In layman's speak this means an organization that is exempt from federal income tax--like St. Alban's. For parents who are also making contributions to their children's school clubs or teams, most of these qualify as 501(c)3 organizations too. That's right, you can use this fund for more than just giving to St. Alban's.

The Episcopal Church Foundation only requires that 51 percent of your directed grants go to Episcopal charities. The reason this appeals to us is we're also faced with making contributions to **Maddie's** High School Choir, the WT Woodson Crew Team and **Henry's** college Sailing Team--all 501(c)3 organizations.

One very nice feature of the DAF is you can contribute stocks that have appreciated over time and not pay any taxes on the capital gains of those stocks. In most cases, an individual will be able to claim the entire contribution to their DAF (to include the capital gains) as a tax deduction. We set up our DAF in late 2017 and made our first "directed grant" to St. Alban's in January 2018.

Our intent is to continue to make contributions to our fund that will in turn allow us to make annual grants to St. Alban's. If this sounds like an option that you might be interested in, stop me and ask me about it or go straight to the source, Jim Murphy, Managing Program Director of Financial Services for the Episcopal Church Foundation, phone (212) 870-2844.  
-Shawn Clune

## From the Deacon

### Sharing the Love of God

During Eastertide our first readings on Sunday are from Acts. My Deacons' School text book describes the contents of Acts: "The book of Acts has everything but dinosaurs.... [It] tells the story of the early Christian church with all the flair of an exciting adventure novel." We'll only read snippets of the book at the Sunday services, so you may miss the earthquake, angels, magician, political intrigue and humor unless you read Acts at home.

I find both interesting and comforting the disagreements between the followers of Jesus from the very start of the church. After the resurrection, people were trying to sort out what it means to lead a life in Christ. What should the community agree to, share, and be open to? In Acts, we see the shift from the disciples rather closed understanding of who could be "in" and who was "out" when it came to being part of the Christian community. The power of the Holy Spirit, witnessed throughout Acts, propels and strengthens them to take new steps, to enter new territory, and to consider new ways of being a community that reflects God's love to the world.

I recently attended an Annandale Christian Community for Action (ACCA) board meeting at which the board approved funding to support a refugee family who would be settled in Northern Virginia through Lutheran Social Services. Three churches are leading this effort, called by God and strengthened by the Holy Spirit to be open to a family displaced by war and at grave risk of persecution in their home country. If the early church is our example, this experience could bring about a new understanding of ACCA's work in our community and involve new volunteers sharing skills and companionship with the family being welcomed into the community.

As I re-read Acts, I recognize that we continue the journey begun by the early Christian community. We continue to seek ways to reflect the story of Jesus and love of God to the world and community around us. As the Holy Spirit propels us as individuals, as a parish, and as a community, let us pray together to learn what God has in store for us. What will our part be in the new chapter of the history of the Christian community and the new chapter of our own journey with Christ?

*Our clergy on March 31 at the Great Easter Vigil:  
Seminarian Adam, Fr. Jeff, Fr. Paul and Deacon Theresa*



### Discussion Series: Race and Our Response as Christians

Using a combination of video, readings and discussion, **Deacon Theresa** will lead a five-week series focused race and our response as Christians. The series will be held on Thursdays, April 26 through May 24, 7:00-8:30 pm. Come for one or all sessions.

Questions? Contact **Deacon Theresa**.

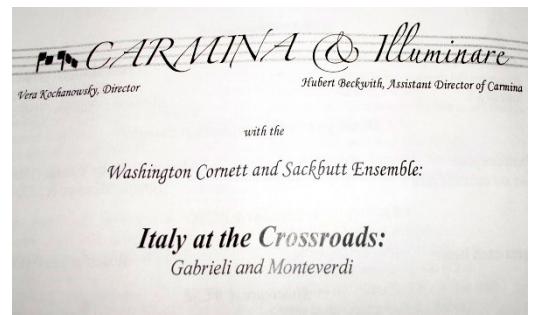
April 26, May 3 and May 10--Epistles and Prophets: Three Epistles on Race--series presented at Trinity Church, Wall Street. Readings are Letter from Birmingham Jail (Martin Luther King, Jr); Letter from a Region in My Mind (James Baldwin); Letters to a White Liberal (Thomas Merton).

May 17 and May 24--Waking Up White, and Finding Myself in the Story of Race (Debby Irving)





## Muldoon Concert Series April 8 Carmina & Illuminare, Early Music Vocal Ensembles



Carmina & Illuminare, accompanied by The Washington Cornett and Sackbutt Ensemble, presented the final Muldoon concert of this season. Vocal tremelos and brass vibratos mixed well as the ensembles articulated Monteverdi, Gabrieli, Marini, Mazzocci, Lasso, Giramo and more. Vera Kochanowsky, the director, balanced the ensembles to the delight of our overflowing audience. Truly a magnificent finale to our Muldoon Concert Series.

-Larry Hodgin

### May Birthdays

Carlos Guzman	1	Brenda Nakato	12	Scott Stern	21
Erica Payne	1	Queenie Foard	13	Audrey Beccles	22
Mel Daymont	3	Luke Nassar	13	Bobby Brinkema	22
Audrey Spencer	3	Ginny Peters	13	Mary Lou Cooper	23
Sam Jillson	4	Molly Andrews	14	Joann Phillips	23
Ethan Krafft	4	Joyce Aument	14	Steve Peck	25
Karen Smith	4	Ben Hite	15	Rich Rosse	25
Abby Cook	5	Ben Rosse	15	Joseph Cook	27
Joan Jurenas	5	Larry Hodgin	16	Finley Devereux	27
Mariana Hershner	6	Edward Watson	16	Phil Huheey	27
David Spencer	6	Jessica Payne	17	Carolyn Krafft	27
Julian Devereux	7	Angela Leersnyder	18	Fritz Gilbert	28
Richard Weinberg	7	Nathan Albergottie	19	Rose Broberg	30
William Peck	9	Martina Hyde	20	Jordan Gilmore	30
Bryan Campbell	10	Matt Dillard	21	George Irish	30
Alec Albergottie	11	Jane Edwards	21	Virginia Shea	30
David Conrod	11	Will Shankles	21	Jane Howard	31
Emma Cheek	12				



**Ginny Peters** at June 2017 picnic.

Longtime parishioner and very special lady **Ginny Peters** celebrates a big birthday May 13. Ginny recently has had health issues so we pray for her health. Happy Birthday and well wishes dear Ginny!



## CHOIR NOTES



**May 6.** Alexander Grechaninov (1864-1956) was a major composer of Russian religious music. His secular output—including five symphonies, songs, and chamber music—has attracted less attention. (How can *Two Drinking Songs after Poems by Pushkin* not attract attention)? Grechaninov's conservatory studies focused on piano and composition. His noted teachers for the latter included Taneyev and Arensky at the Moscow Conservatory and Rimsky-Korsakov at the St. Petersburg Conservatory. After the 1917 Revolution, Grechaninov lost his annual government stipend for religious compositions, and in 1925 he emigrated to Paris. In 1939 Grechaninov relocated again, this time to the United States, where he became a citizen ten years later. We will sing his (Latin) setting of Psalm 95, *Cantate Domino*, one of six motets published in 1937.

**May 13.** A few months after his naturalization as a British citizen, George Frideric Handel (1685-1759) wrote four anthems for the coronation of King George II in 1727. A new organ was built especially for the occasion. Despite the raggedness of the performance, the new king was pleased with the music. We have sung portions of some of these anthems on several occasions. This Sunday's selection will be *Glory and Worship*, the third section of the anthem, *The King Shall Rejoice*. (We'd love to sing the entire anthem; but since it lasts 11+ minutes, we would try the congregation's patience).

**May 20.** This Sunday we return once more to Tomás Luis de Victoria (1548-1611), Spain's great Renaissance composer, whose music we last presented two months ago. Victoria spent more than 20 years in Italy, perhaps studied with Palestrina, and was ordained a priest in 1574. In addition to his compositions (virtually all sacred choral works, including about 20 settings of the Mass), Victoria was a gifted organist and singer. He returned to Spain in 1587 to become chaplain to Philip II's sister, the Dowager Empress María.

**May 27.** Franz Peter Schubert (1797-1828) was driven to spend most of his short life composing music. He devoted little time to preparing for teaching duties at his father's school, a task he much disliked. Poor students; but lucky music lovers. Schubert's songs alone would have established him as one of the musical greats; ditto for his piano works, chamber music, and symphonies. When he turned to sacred music, he produced such gems as the well-known *Ave Maria* and the *Deutsche Messe* (German Mass) (see S-96, S-130, and S-164 in our Hymnal). This Sunday's gem is *Where Thou Reignest*, the English-language version of *Des Tages Weihe*. The English text is by the Anglican clergyman Benjamin Webb (1819-1885), as adapted by F.A.W. Docker, about whom I could find no information other than his authorship of *A Short History of Church Music* in 1890.

*Alexander Grechaninov*

-Clarence Zuvekas



*Thanks to the St. Alban's Bell Choir, led by music director Fred Binkholder, for playing a delightful prelude at the March 11 service.*

## From the Seminarian

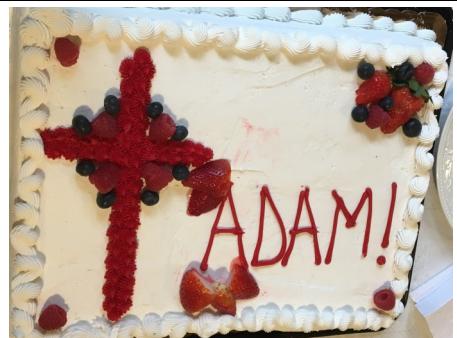
I am excited to share with you all that I have been called to St. Paul's in Wilmington, N.C. in my home diocese of East Carolina. I will be the Assistant to the Rector beginning in June. **Laurie** and I are thrilled to be going back to Wilmington and I am very excited to see what God has in store for me at St. Paul's. But this also means a transition and I just wanted to say thank you.

It truly has been a joy to serve at St. Alban's these past two years. From the very beginning my family and I were welcomed in. It all felt very seamless to me. I remember my first day was the visitation from **Bishop Goff** which included a baptism. I was thrown right in and knew in that moment that St. Alban's would be a place where I would get hands on learning (whether I was ready to or not)! I have grown in my liturgical leadership, in my preaching and teaching abilities and in my identity as a pastor through my time with you all.

I particularly want to thank those on my Lay Committee, **Fay Froh**, **Bill Calvert**, **Stephanie Lightner** and **Margaret Pendley** for walking with me these last two years. Your knowledge and love of St. Alban's afforded me the ability to learn more of the parish's identity and passions. I also want to thank **Fr. Jeff** for all his wisdom and patience as a supervisor. I am especially grateful for his humility in allowing me to take an active role in leadership; that has been one of the greatest gifts. I've said it before, but St. Alban's is a great place to learn because the parish has accepted its call to form future leaders both lay and ordained. The people of St. Alban's will remain in my prayers and I will always carry with me the skills and wisdom I have learned from my time with you.

In Christ, Adam

*The parishioners of St. Alban's wish **Adam**, **Laurie** and the girls much luck and best wishes on their new life venture! Their last day with us was April 29. Our thoughts and prayers are with this family as they find new blessings and continue to be a blessing to the parishioners and community of St. Paul's, Wilmington, N.C.*



*One of two cakes for Adam's farewell. Thanks to Tammy and Emma Conkle, Ann Gates and Fay Froh for the last minute raspberry repair!*



*Adam's Lay Committee members: Deacon Theresa, Stephanie Lightner, Fay Froh, Margaret Pendley, Bill Calvert, Fr. Jeff and Fr. Paul.*



*Adam's last day at St. Alban's was April 29. Adam cuts the goodbye cake while Aleea, Hazel and Laurie look on during coffee hour after the 10:15 am service..*

## The 2018 Youth Group Mission Trip to Hurley, VA July 8 - 13, 2018

All 6th through 12th grade youth are encouraged to join us. We also welcome adult mentors and helpers. If you plan to join this year, please RSVP by Sunday, April 22. (A deposit of \$75 is due by April 30 - please use myEoffering and choose the youth mission trip option.)

For more information, please talk to **Fr. Paul** or email him at [pmoberly@stalbansva.org](mailto:pmoberly@stalbansva.org).

The annual mission trip is a great way to serve people in need, make new friends, and have a ton of fun in the process. It's shaping up to be another great group -- consider being a part of it!



## Sunday School Class Tries “Shepherding”

The 3rd, 4th and 5th grade Sunday School class celebrated the arrival of spring weather while learning about the Good Shepherd. Students were given balloon sheep to shepherd from one point to another. Then they searched for “lost sheep” hidden in the courtyard. We learned shepherding was hard work!

Alleluia for sunny days!

-Mary Daymont



## Sleepy Hollow Road Adopt a Highway Clean Up Event Saturday May 26 at 3:00 pm.

Volunteers wishing to help clean up our adopted one-mile stretch of Sleepy Hollow Road should gather in the church parking lot at 3:00 pm to get assignments, orange safety vests and trash bags.

Please bring gloves and trash grabbers if you have them. It only takes an hour out of your day and you will get instant gratification and community pride when you fill up your bag!



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### Next Edition June 2018

**Articles/photos welcome!**

Submit by May 15 to  
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# LUNCH BUNCH

## First Friday Lunch Bunch

**May 4 City Diner**  
5616 Leesburg Pike,  
Bailey's Crossroads.

If you'd like to attend,  
please contact **Clarence Zuvekas**

## Christmas Bazaar Brainstorming Meeting

Wednesday, May 9 at 6:30 pm in the parish hall

We'll discuss the comments received following the 2017 bazaar  
and ways to improve this year's bazaar.

**Sue Mairena and Nancy Calvert** will once again be the points  
of contact for the 2018 Bazaar.

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## May Calendar Highlights

May 4 **First Friday Lunch Bunch**  
City Diner, Bailey's Crossroads, 11:30 am

May 9 **Bazaar Brainstorming Meeting** 6:30 pm, parish hall

Thursdays, April 26 - May 24, 7:00-8:30 pm **Discussion Series on Race**

May 26 **St. Alban's Adopt a Highway clean up event**  
3:00 pm; meet in church parking lot



## Save the Dates



### Parish Picnic June 24

**Bishop Shannon** will be with us on that day and will confirm candidates.

**The 2018 Youth Group Mission Trip Hurley, VA**  
July 8 - 13, 2018

**Vacation Bible School**  
August 6 – 10

**Annual Parish Weekend**  
September 28-30 Shrine Mont