

St. Alban's Episcopal Church

The word

November 2018 Volume 17, Issue 9

From the Rector



Fr. Jeff blessing the Cashdollar's dog.

On the last Sunday in October (10/28), I made a couple of announcements for those who were attending services, and the information is such that I think really needs to be passed on to the whole congregation, so this article is more “newsy” than it is an epistle with spiritual depth.

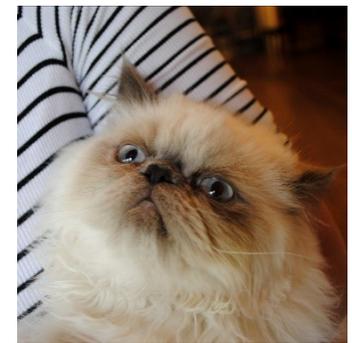
Last month the Vestry approved the purchase and installation of a door security system for the parish administration office hallway and for our tenant school. The security system will be very similar to what is already in place in many

churches and businesses – it will include a camera and video display terminal with a remote door release button in the parish admin office. This project has been in the works for some time, mostly investigating potential systems and their costs with the hope of including the cost in 2019 budgeting. Recently, however, a concerned parishioner made a generous donation to fund the purchase of the system and installation. As of this writing, work on the door security system is scheduled to begin in the next week or so (if it has not already happened). Please know that the system does not affect the narthex, sacristy, choir loft or church proper – those areas will still be easily accessible, and our church will be available for drop-in prayer and meditation. While we are still considering how to implement the new system, our current plan is for all other entrances into the church (parish hall and breezeway entrances) to be locked from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm to provide security for our tenant and staff.

As of October 15, we are \$24,000 behind in pledge income. This is unusual for us, as we normally run a small deficit in the summer but rebound in the fall. Pledge statements were mailed out on Monday, October 29. I encourage you to review your statement soon to ensure you are current with your pledge. As a reminder, if you give electronically, you should have been contacted over the summer about a problem with the electronic giving system that requires your attention for your automatic pledge payments to resume.

Your pledge enables us to do so much good in our community and beyond through our ministry and mission work. Because of what you give, our own youth have a safe, supportive community that meets with caring, compassionate adult mentors. We are able to help Annandale Christian Community for Action (ACCA) support those in financial need in our community; we serve as a hypothermia shelter for the homeless in our community during the cold days of Christmas week; and we just packed 10,000 meals that will soon be shipped off, possibly to a distant part of the globe, to provide meals to hungry children or to help a community afflicted by a natural disaster. And this is just a small sampling of the ministry and mission work we do – and it is only possible because of you. -Fr. Jeff

*Blessing of Animals
More photos page 6*



**In-Gathering Sunday is November 18. Please give generously!
Join us in a Celebration Brunch after each service!**

From the Assistant Rector

A few years ago, the IFC television sketch comedy program “Portlandia” aired a sketch that’s stuck with me – Ed Begley, Jr. plays a parish priest, Father Timothy, appearing in what’s supposed to be an eye-catching, quick-cut, high tech TV ad. “When looking for peace and tranquility, always remember...” the text graphic reads. Then it cuts to Fr. Timothy: “Church is an option!” Then he shrugs his shoulders. Throughout the two-minute sketch, Fr. Timothy offers a bunch of ideas to make church appealing to modern-day consumers. “Organized religion is stuffy and dogmatic,” he admits. “What do you want? Disorganized religion? We can do that!” In the background, the show’s star, Fred Armisen, in a cassock and surplice, struggles with a stubborn roll of scotch tape. “Nobody wants to pray anymore? Okay!” he says resignedly. “We can do vision boards!”

You can find the clip on YouTube if you’re interested in seeing it. It’s not one of Portlandia’s funnier sketches, necessarily, but I keep thinking about it. Poor Fr. Timothy seems desperate, and he’s willing to do almost anything to get folks to want to come to church. He’s trying, even wearing himself out, to figure out how to make church relevant to people’s lives, so that they’ll start coming.

Part of what I love about being at St. Alban’s is the people – there is such a wonderful spirit about this church that is so unique. We are truly better when we are together. I know **Fr. Jeff** feels the same. I know, too, that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow – and Jesus is ALWAYS relevant. My dream, my intention, is to become a more and more faithful disciple of my Lord and Savior – and my job, as a priest, is to help others become faithful disciples of Jesus too; to understand the importance of discipleship, and perhaps even discover a hunger for it.

As I walked down the hallway this past Sunday, between services, I noticed that there were very few of the usual children in Sunday School – and, it’s still early in the program year, when traditionally Sunday school attendance is at its year’s best. Fr. Jeff noticed the same thing. Similar trends have been seen in recent years in the Family ministry, and the Youth Group, and other ministries in the church that minister particularly to families and young people especially. I’ve seen events that were planned because a significant number of folks expressed a desire for the event to happen... only for very few folks to actually sign up or show up when it came right down to it.

Sometimes your clergy wonder: Where is everybody?

Everyone is so busy these days, and I know that’s a big part of it. There are so many things that demand our individual attention; church is always happy to see you when you can make it, but it often gets shifted to a priority level beneath many other things because it doesn’t require you to be there. Sometimes I think that people want to know that church events and programs are on a menu of options – but that doesn’t always translate into a decision for folks to actually attend them.

Anyone who has attended St. Alban’s at Easter or Christmas, or the parish picnic, or services with confirmations or baptisms can well see what a vibrant and life-filled place this is – and how full of joy and energy this church can be when the People of St. Alban’s show up. It is truly a joy for me to be here when our people gather. Indeed, it is a special joy to see everyone together on these big, festive occasions. And it’s always nice to see someone who hasn’t been here in a while.

In the old days, churches would sometimes send attendance cards by mail. “We missed you at mass this past Sunday!” was one particular old card I saw recently. It felt a little manipulative, actually. Don’t get me wrong, I’m not arguing for a return to that practice.

That being said: your church family is more complete, more joyful, when you are here! It’s easy to feel like, *meh, I’ll sleep in this week – I’m sure no one will miss me.* But I promise you: when you aren’t here, you ARE missed. **Your church isn’t complete without you.** What are your plans next Sunday? I hope being with your St. Alban’s family is first on your list.

-Fr Paul



Senior Warden **Nancy Harrell** working a puzzle with **Sheila Massey** at Shrine Mont.

The Warden’s Pen

Greetings! November is the month for our annual Bazaar. I am always excited for this event. If you can volunteer, even just a few hours, I’m sure it would be appreciated. If you can’t, please consider attending. It’s a wonderful day with lots of things going on and delicious food.

The Choir rail and Altar rail projects are moving forward. Be prepared to have one service in Frizzell Hall once work begins., a small price to pay for the safety a new railing will provide.

Your Vestry has also been working on making our building more secure. We will be installing a door buzzer at the entrance to the office wing. This will be used during business hours and will allow **Tammy** some security while working alone.

Both the rails and the buzzer projects would not be done if not for the generosity of two of our parishioners. Bless you both!

-Nancy Harrell

Stewardship

When I was a kid attending church with my parents, November was one of my favorite church seasons. Thanksgiving. I loved Thanksgiving. And I especially loved all the hymns that attended to this wonderful time of the year. But there was a refrain in one hymn in particular that puzzled me... I could never understand why anyone would come “rejoicing bringing the sheeps.” No matter. I chalked it up to some quaint tradition from the old days and kept on bellowing out “bringing the sheeps” well into my Sunday school years.

Of course, the word is “sheaves” and refers to the way in which stalks of grain were cut and bundled at harvest time. And thankful Israelites presumably would present these sheaves of grain as part of traditional in-gathering celebrations and as thank offerings. And arguably they could have used just about any potential food product in such celebrations including “sheeps.”

More to the point, in this day and age of more modern economies, we’ve replaced the sheep, sheaves and jugs of olive oil with financial gifts. Nevertheless, we should still come rejoicing as we present our gifts to God in thankfulness for all that with which he has blessed us. Good stewardship begins with rejoicing for whatever abundance we have received.

Rejoice once again with your pledges and financial gifts on **Sunday, November 18, this year’s In-Gathering Sunday**. Then continue your rejoicing in food and fellowship at our celebratory brunch following each service. Thank you for your generosity. -Ron Vogel



WHAT WE DO WITH WHAT WE GIVE: Upkeep and Maintenance of our Church Home



Saint Alban’s is our church home and like any other home, Saint Alban’s requires constant upkeep and maintenance. Not only is this aesthetically important, it is also important to our growth and vitality as a parish. We are a far more inviting church for those new to the area (or those looking for a new church home) if the physical plant is in good repair and the grounds and landscaping are well cared for. Similarly, if we want to attract tenants to lease our facilities for events, classes or private day school options, our prospects are certainly enhanced by a pleasing outward appearance and tidiness.

Your gifts of time and money contribute to this important function in three very important ways. First, your financial gifts help fund our capital reserve—the financial resource we typically turn to for major projects and improvements. The most obvious and recent example of this fund at work is the makeover of our parking lot, associated lighting improvements, and expanded parking opportunities for those with physical disabilities. Up next, our kitchen facilities!

Second, we employ a full-time sexton—a fancy title for someone who literally makes our church run. Our sexton, **Carlos Guzman**, is simply amazing. If you’ve been around our church at almost any time of the day, you’ve certainly run into Carlos doing all the many of chores necessary to keep our facilities clean, tidy, and fully operational. And somehow, he does all this with a smile all the time!

Third, the Building and Grounds Committee and the Memorial Grove Committee, respectively chaired by **John Clements** and **Ralph Hassig**, coordinate a tough bunch of volunteers to keep our grounds well-groomed throughout the year.

The 2018 budget has earmarked \$15,300 for the capital reserve. Another \$94,497 covers our sexton’s wage and benefits as well as the funding of activities of the Building and Grounds and Memorial Grove Committees. Upkeep of our Memorial Grove and general landscaping involves literally hundreds of hours of volunteer effort annually. -Ron Vogel

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CHOIR NOTES



November 4. *In paradisum* is traditionally the concluding section of the requiem mass. Our musical setting of the text is based on the original plainchant (plainsong) version. Specifically the tune comes from the Gregorian chant collection, the most well-known of the chant traditions. It was named for Pope Gregory I (the Great), under whose auspices (perhaps) a grouping of chants was compiled around the year 600 A.D. Plainchant is characterized by unison singing, no accompaniment, and free rhythm, in the sense that singers focus on the flow of the words rather than a regular beat. We will be singing the original Latin text. The English translation is: “May the angels receive thee in Paradise. At thy coming may the martyrs receive thee and bring thee into the holy city, Jerusalem. There may the chorus of angels receive thee, and with Lazurus, once a beggar, may thou have eternal rest.”

November 11. Gustav Holst (1874-1934), born in Cheltenham, England, is best known for his orchestral suite, *The Planets*. But he also composed two wonderful suites for band, orchestral and chamber music, a comic opera entitled *The Perfect Fool*, and sacred and secular choral works. We will be singing his hymn, *I Vow to Thee, My Country*, set to the text of a poem by the British diplomat (and Ambassador to the United States during the Woodrow Wilson administration) Cecil Spring Rice (1859-1918). The poem stresses a Christian’s dual duty to God and country. Holst’s tune is adapted from the Jupiter section of *The Planets* and has been arranged by the English musician and choral director Philip Le Bas (b. 1958). The hymn was sung at the funerals of Princess Diana, Margaret Thatcher and Sen. John McCain, among others.

November 1. Maurice Duruflé (1902-1986) was one of the 20th century’s greatest organists and composers for organ. He was also professor of harmony at the Paris Conservatory. His compositional output is small—only 14 opus numbers—but of high quality. Half of Duruflé’s numbered works are organ compositions, and in addition to choral works (including the well-known *Requiem*, which we sang twice in commemoration of the events of 9/11), he wrote a few chamber and orchestral pieces. The choir will be singing (in Latin) Duruflé’s motet, *Tantum ergo Sacramentum* (Hence so great a Sacrament), the last of his *Four Motets on Gregorian Themes*. The text, by St. Thomas Aquinas, comprises the last two stanzas of the *Pange Lingua* (Tell, my tongue), a hymn written for the Feast of Corpus Christi.

November 25. *At the Name of Jesus* is familiar to us as #435 in our Hymnal. The text, by Caroline Maria Noel (1817-1877), was set to music in 1925 by the English composer Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958). While Hymn #435 is a unison setting, the original score was for four-part choir, brass quintet and optional timpani and organ. I suspect we will be dispensing with the brass quintet and timpani. RVW was born in the Cotswolds village of Down Ampney, where his father was the vicar, and where he claimed to hear a lot of “languishing and sentimental hymn-tunes which so often disfigure our services.” RVW fortunately left us a large number of hymns with more substantial musical settings. As for Ms. Noel, she was a vicar’s daughter whose most productive writing came late in life when she was in poor health. - Clarence Zuvekas

Hub New Music is a group of passionate educators whose approach to teaching places contemporary music within the context of a centuries old yet rapidly evolving musical tradition.

Comprised of violin, cello, clarinet and flute, these performers presented a master-class performance of emotionally charged musicianship. The exceptional clarity and expertise of each musician exposed our audience to some new and wonderful music by Philip Glass, Yevgeniy Sharlat and Robert Honstein.

Please mark your calendars for our next Muldoon Concert Series performance on November 11 at 4:00 pm: Cristian Perez on guitar. - Larry Hodgin

HUB New Music Muldoon Concert October 7



From the Deacon

Being Church

October was a travel month. A work trip to Cuba was followed by a work trip to New Orleans and a few days with my son and daughter-in-law in Tampa.

By the time you read this, perhaps I will have processed more thoroughly what I've learned about myself and others through the time away. I know that I was keenly aware of you and the work you were doing during that time. Hearing stories in Cuba about how people look after each other reminded me of my experience in church communities. As I learned about a youth development program in New Orleans, I understood the rationale for bringing youth together with caring adults, in large part because of my parish experience.

There are a lot of good programs and social actions being done by committed, loving people. What makes those programs different when a faith community like St. Alban's is involved? I believe that a large part of that difference comes from our understanding of the Incarnation, the visible sign of God's commitment to be with us. In *A Nazareth Manifesto: Being with God*, Samuel Wells says that the grace of the incarnation is at the heart of God's identity.¹ Through the incarnation, God restored our ability to be with each other and with ourselves. "Church is being with God, one another, and ourselves," and embodying the restoration of the world that God created.

As I pray about my annual pledge, I give thanks to God for the wondrous gift of being with you, for the ways St. Alban's reaches into the community to be with our neighbors, and for the ways we are with each other and with God.

-Deacon Theresa

¹Wells, S. (2015). *A Nazareth Manifesto: Being with God*. Wiley Blackwell: West Sussex, UK. (p. 9).



Bill Calvert with Sam and Gwen Jillson upon completion of packaging 10,000 meals in our Rise Against Hunger event on October 28. Sam and Gwen, along with Felix and Cecilia Howton and Will Peck served as runners, responsible for moving bags of food to the measuring and sealing tables and for shuttling the sealed bags to the boxing station. These and other kids were a huge help!



St. Alban's parishioners and friends joined with Rise Against Hunger (formerly Stop Hunger Now) on October 28 in the parish hall to package 10,000 meals for the world's most vulnerable people. **Deacon Theresa** was the St. Alban's project leader. More pictures page 10.

Muldoon Concert Series Cristian Perez November 11 at 4:00 pm

Spend a late afternoon with the calming sounds of this quartet's unusual instrumentation: guitar, cello, violin, and flute, plus complementary percussion instruments (such as dun dun drum, windchimes, wood-blocks, shakers, rainstick).

From the familiar "Moon River" and "Shenandoah" to the unfamiliar but equally evocative "Han River" (by Perez), their music conjures up familiar places and reflective mood. The ensemble not only combines musicians of different backgrounds (classical, Bulgarian folk, Jazz, Tango, Bluegrass, Latin-American), but also attempts to send a message of unity despite all our differences.

Light refreshments and conversation following.

St. Alban's Muldoon Concerts



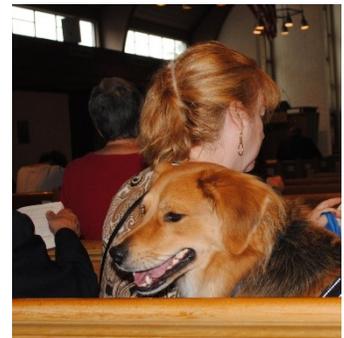
Come join us for a delightful afternoon of joyful music. Reception following.
All concerts free. 4:00 pm

November 11 Cristian Perez Quartet

December 9 Celebration Singers

March 24 Dr. Mickey Terry, Organ

**Blessing of the Animals
Both Services, October 7**



Shrine Mont 2018 September 28-30



Christmas Bazaar News

It is hard to believe – but the St. Alban's Christmas Bazaar is right around the corner!

Saturday, November 17 9:00 am—2:00 pm

The bazaar is an excellent place to meet new friends and reconnect with neighbors and friends you haven't seen in a while. In addition, the more people who attend the Bazaar, the more support we can provide to ACCA, Poe Middle School, Bethany House, Lockwood House, Bailey's Crossroads Community Shelter, Our Little Roses School in Honduras, Holy Trinity Church in Haiti and other community organizations serving those in need! Last year we raised \$14,000 for our outreach programs.



Nancy & Sue at Ministry Sunday promoting bazaar.

Last month we printed some comments from our parishioners about the bazaar, and here are a few more:

To me, the Bazaar means "community." Community outreach, community gathering, community spirit. And let's face it - the food is FANTASTIC!!! Camille Stern

I work in the cafe year after year because I think it is important to provide a great lunch at a great price to everyone who comes to our Bazaar. This is a good way to make our community feel welcomed and wanted. Debbie Rosse

The parish hall closet is open for your donations. Please place items in boxes or sturdy bags marked with what's inside. As you are choosing items to donate, please consider what you or others would like to buy. All items should be clean and in good condition. Please make sure any battery-operated items have a battery so the customer can see that they work. Baked Goods, Homemade Candy, Household Boutique, Jewelry, Books, Raffle, Pressed Flower Art, Plants, Toys, Tools and Handmade Items will once again be a big part of the Bazaar. In addition, we've added Doll Clothing this year. The St. Alban's Café will be open for coffee and lunch, and there will be Face Painting, a Moon Bounce (weather permitting) and pictures with Santa for the kids along with a Special Boutique where children can buy a gift for a parent that will truly be a surprise!

We hope that everyone will attend the bazaar and join in the fun! If you able to volunteer – even for an hour - to help set up, tear down or work at one of our many booths, please contact **Nancy Calvert** billandnancycalvert@verizon.net or **Sue Mairena** at mairena75@verizon.net to volunteer!
-Sue Mairena

St. Alban's Christmas Bazaar

Saturday November 17 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Candy, baked goods, crafts, handmades, books, household goods, jewelry, Christmas décor, art, plants, tools and pressed flower wares, a café for hungry shoppers and a raffle!

Our raffle items include tickets to Miss Saigon, sporting events, car care and more.

For the kids, Santa, face painting, Moon Bounce and a secret shop.

Your purchases make possible St. Alban's support to ACCA, Poe Middle School, Bethany House, Belvedere Elementary, Lockwood House, Bailey's Crossroads Shelter and other community organizations serving those in need.

We also support Our Little Roses School in Honduras and Holy Trinity Church and School in Haiti. Questions? Call the church at 703-256-2966.



Please spread the word of our bazaar. Post the enclosed bazaar poster at location of your choice.

Oktoberfest October 13





Rise[®]
AGAINST HUNGER
 food • community • sustainability
October 28 10,000
meals in two hours!



Photos clockwise: Maddie and Gina Clune and Sue Mareina at a food bagging station; Robin Barbee and Chris Peck at a weighing station; Felix Howton helps the project manager sound the gong for another 1,000 meals packaged; Gwen Jillson celebrates a milestone; Will Peck at the boxing station; Sam Jillson as a runner; Overall scenes from our event.



Lockwood House Thanksgiving Dinner November 22

It's Fall and Thanksgiving will soon be here! I love the holiday's traditions, gathering with loved ones for a celebratory meal full of dishes loved from year to year. For our family and many others at St Alban's, another important tradition is participation in St Alban's annual Thanksgiving Dinner for the elderly residents of Lockwood House in Arlington.

There are different ways to be a part of this event that brings so much pleasure to about 100 people. Please review the list below and the sign-up board in the narthex and the flyer in SAM. We need defrosted turkeys, gravy, stuffing – you know, all the traditional dishes. We also need a driver to deliver ready-to-serve food dropped off at St Alban's by 11:00 am. on Thanksgiving and a driver to take leftovers to a Columbia Pike shelter about 1:30 pm. when we're done. We need servers to arrive at Lockwood House by 11:30 am to make sure all is ready for the meal at noon.

Speaking of those turkeys. We need 10-12 defrosted turkeys, each about 10-12 pounds, delivered to our St Alban's kitchen no later than Wednesday, November 21 at 7:00 p.m. so we can clean and deliver them to Mike Magill of Magill's Pizza and Buffet that night. Mike's been cooking our turkeys for many, many years. As he said, it's become a part of his Thanksgiving traditions!

So...if helping out with the Lockwood dinner is part of your holiday tradition, we welcome you back. If not, we invite you to join us. Just sign up in the narthex, and email **Linda Cummings** at LDCummings@msn.com or call. Thank you!

-Linda Cummings

Items Needed: (sign up sheets in narthex)

- 10 defrosted turkeys, approximately 10-12 lbs. each
- 4 pans of mashed potatoes, each ready to serve 20 people
- 4 pans of stuffing/dressing, each ready to serve 20 people
- 4 pans of sweet potatoes, each ready to serve 20 people
- 4 pans of green beans, each ready to serve 20 people
- 12 dozen rolls, ready to serve
- 8 quarts of gravy, ready to serve
- 8-10 pies, pumpkin pie, cherry pie, etc.
- 10 cans of cranberry sauce, whole or jellied
- 4 pounds butter or margarine



November Birthdays



Moe Fraunfelder	2
Ava Campbell	3
Nancy Harrell	4
Evangeline Clarke-Wiles	5
Patricia Smith	5
Vivian Byrley	7
Courtney Ebersohl	7
Nancy McSlarrow	7
Maggie Rutherford	8
Ann Gates	9
Evelyne Willis	9
Jeff Shankles	10
Mark Slacin	10
Marc Cheek	11
Mark Deal	12
Debbie Haggard-Rosse	13
Sophia DePasquale	15
Anne Walker	15
Nancy Calvert	16
Emily Gamber	19
Jessica Trollinger	19
Diana Albergottie	20
Heath Larson-Ensinger	23
Eli McCoy	23
Carleton Jillson	24
Lauren Savoy	24
Gail Allison	26
John Clements	26
Olivia Devereux	26
Samantha Schrecker	26
Nathaniel Krafft	27
David Mundy	27
Connor Delaney	28
Linda Fleming	28
Jackson Cherry	30
Daniel Grady	30



Rick Weinberg, Elizabeth Howton, Delores Baisden, Ron Vogel, Jim Cannon and Barbara Hallman (not shown) helped clean up our one mile adopted stretch of Sleepy Hollow Road on October 20.



At Shrine Mont: **Sam and Finley** on piano; **Allison and James Perina** enjoying the fresh air.

Keeping our Neighbors Warm and Safe Winter Hypothermia Program

The Fairfax Hypothermia Prevention Program is an integral part of Fairfax County's programs to prevent and end homelessness,

Each year, Fairfax County emergency shelters that serve single adults activate a "no-turn-away" policy from **December 1-March 31**, known as the Winter Seasonal program. It functions in coordination with the regular emergency shelter programs and in partnership with nonprofit agencies, faith communities, and various community groups and individuals. St. Alban's serves as one of the seasonal sites.

Stay tuned for further information about how you can help during St. Alban's service to this program. And for further information about the program, please see flyers posted in the narthex and in the parish hall.

November Calendar Highlights

- November 2 **Lunch Bunch** see SAM for details
- November 4 **All Souls' Evensong** 7:00 pm in the church
Commemoration of all faithfully departed.
- November 6 **Youth Group Election Day Donut Sale**
- November 11 **Muldoon Concert Cristian Perez Quartet**
- November 17 **Christmas Bazaar** 9:00 am-2:00 pm
- November 18 **Annual Giving In-Gathering Sunday
and Celebration Brunch after each service!**
- November 22 **Thanksgiving Dinner at Lockwood House**
- November 27 to December 1 **Parish Photos** for Directory;
See SAM for further information



November 18 is In-Gathering Sunday! Every gift matters!