

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

December 2018 Volume 17, Issue 10

From the Rector

At our last Annual Meeting (and I believe the one before that, too), the question was asked, “When are we going to do something about the choir loft rail? I’m so afraid someone is going to fall!” Usually, that “someone” to whom they are referring is our Music Minister, **Fred Binkholder**. Somehow the choir loft was built with a rail that would easily allow for someone to plummet over the side. A “temporary” fix was installed many, many years ago by legendary parishioner **Len Wood** – you’ve probably seen it – a rather unattractive, but functional, assembly of three lengths of pipe bolted to the edge of the choir loft forming a waist-high backstop.

All that will be changing and soon our sanctuary will have a new look. The choir loft and altar rails will be changed out and will match, and the carpeted sanctuary will be replaced with vinyl wood flooring that will wear better and require far less maintenance than the carpet. Construction projects are notorious for running behind schedule, but our goal is to have the project complete by December 15 so that we can celebrate Eucharist, and hold our December 16 Service of Lessons and Carols, in the nave. To accommodate the workers, Sunday morning worship services for December 2 and December 9 will be held in the parish hall. Don’t think of it as an inconvenience – think of it as an exciting adventure!

This messy construction project hits at a busy time in our parish life so your patience is appreciated, and I believe the end result will be well worth the wait. The changes will make for a safer choir loft and enhance the beauty of our worship space. This project caps quite a list of repairs and improvements made to our campus over the past couple of years: a new air conditioner for the nave, new stairs leading to the bazaar storage attic, repairing water damage to the south wall of the nave, repainting the interior of the church, improved parish hall lighting, new parking lot lighting, a new parking lot and a security system for our administrative hallway – all paid for through our savings or through generous donations by parishioners.

We have managed to do much with your generous support, all while maintaining the many outreach programs that keep us busy. Not only do we always need to be busy doing God’s work, we must always be caring for our facility, repairing it and maintaining it. As we move through our annual giving campaign, look around at what we’ve done, what we’ve accomplished, and what we continue to do. These are exciting, grace-filled times at St. Alban’s and I hope that each of you know that you are an important part of all that we do.

-Fr. Jeff



*Some of the many, many volunteers who helped make our 2018 Bazaar a big success! Thanks to all these folks on the front line on the day of the bazaar, and to all of these folks and the many more who worked tirelessly behind the scenes for months to make it all happen. A special thank you to **Nancy Calvert** and **Sue Mairena**, bazaar co-chairs, and also to their husbands **Bill** and **Doug** who were there every step of the way. Nancy and Sue are the elves in the front row with the pointy green hats on! Thank you ladies!*

From the Assistant Rector

From guest writer Robyn Leersnyder



Last month, I opened *The Word*, and as always, enjoyed reading it from cover to cover. Being a Libra, I like to look at things from both sides and keep things balanced--and one article struck me as requiring a response. In his Assistant Rector article, **Fr. Paul** wrote, "Where is Everybody?" in reference to attendance at Sunday School.

Now I know as well as any that life gets in the way, and kids get busy, or parents just need that one day to sleep in! But, when you do get your family to church, you expect (and your kids hopefully enjoy) the teachers to be there, prepared with a lesson, and a welcoming smile.

Two years ago, I became a Sunday School teacher. This is a commitment I took on with **Betsy Anderson**, knowing that we would spend some time preparing, discussing and planning our lessons. (Often, however, there are many times we learn more from our kids than we teach them!)

That being said, we are always there on every scheduled Sunday School day. And yes, there are times I long for a sleep in. I love seeing "our regulars" and welcome "drop ins." But just give a moment of thought to the teachers who make it happen every week, even if your kids only make it "sometimes." There is a calendar and syllabus we follow (albeit loosely!) and I have it on good authority (my own kids) that even if your kids seem not so excited about class, they truly do pick up nuggets of knowledge when you least expect it!

Sunday School is a wonderful extension of church, but requires just a little effort on your part, just as the teachers put in the effort for your kids.

Here endeth the epistle!

-Robyn Leersnyder, Jr./Sr. High Sunday School teacher

The Warden's Pen

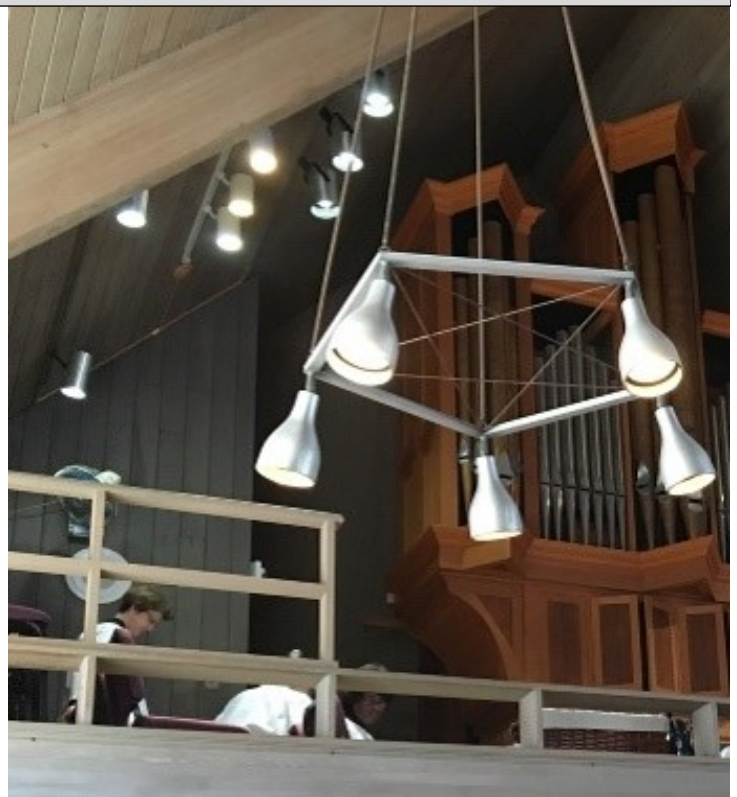
Advent Greetings! As we prepare for Christmas, I'd like to take a look back at all we've accomplished. These are things for which your Vestry approved the money and on which many, many volunteers on committees worked hard.

We have new lighting in Frizzell Hall. I personally think it made a huge difference, especially for the Bazaar. We have lighting in our parking lot. St. Alban's has never had good lighting in the parking lot and now I can't imagine it without these lights. We have our beautiful new parking lot. I've gushed over this before, but it was such a long time coming. We also have done a few things due to generous donors. We now have a locking door release system. This will keep our office and the Village School safer when there are not a lot of people at the church. As of this writing, the long-awaited new choir and altar rails are underway. This will also include new flooring and a slight increase in space for the altar area. I am glad that our choir will be safer when raising a joyful noise to the Lord.

All of this was due to YOUR generosity. We have an amazing congregation and I thank you for all you provide. I'd also like to thank the volunteers who worked on committees to figure out what we needed. It made it very easy for the Vestry to say, "Yes, let's do this."

The upcoming year will hopefully see St. Alban's tackling our sadly outdated kitchen. This is another project that is long overdue.

-Nancy Harrell



One last look at our old choir loft rail as we head into construction the last week in November. We hope to be able to resume normal activities in the church well before Christmas Day.



We're still in the final days of wrapping up this year's stewardship campaign, and to date members of this parish have responded as they always do whenever they are called upon to support our church...with an abundance of generosity. And so it goes.

As we close out this calendar year and look ahead to 2019, it's worth a moment to reflect on generosity as a hallmark of St. Alban's. We opened our doors to shelter the homeless during last winter's hypothermia initiative and will do so again this year. We sent our kids off to Hurley, West Virginia to help those who really need a helping hand. Kids at Poe Middle School and Belvedere Elementary School received a boost with important food and nutrition assistance. Seniors at Sleepy Hollow were ministered to.

We fed seniors at Lockwood House on Thanksgiving to give the residents a special meal on this special holiday. Our amazing Christmas Bazaar was a model of how we volunteer our time and talents to benefit our church and the larger Annandale community. Think of all the help we've given through outreach initiatives supported and funded by our Outreach Committee! And there's so much more we could highlight.

We are generous. Very generous indeed. Thanks to each and every one of you who makes this so. -Ron Vogel

WHAT WE DO WITH WHAT WE GIVE:

Children's Christian Education Program

The Children's Christian Education program at St. Alban's (aka Sunday School) is a wonderful initiation of Christian Formation to the youngest members of St. Alban's Episcopal Church. The dedicated teachers give of their time and talents to create an environment where the children can learn core principles of the Christian faith. Sunday School at St. Alban's is intended to compliment, not replace, the weekly church worship services and family devotions. Sunday School study is lectionary-based so the children are learning and following the Church calendar with readings, lessons and discussion.

Pre-K and Kindergarten-aged children are taught by **Jane Cheek** and **Elizabeth Cheek**.

They bring excitement to their young students with stories, songs, crafts and activities that truly emphasize God's love for us all.

First and second grade-aged children are in the Godly Play class led by **Anne Gates** and **Carleton Jillson**. Godly Play is a method of teaching the fundamentals of Christianity by using stories and props to introduce traditional Bible stories, the Sacraments, the parables and more. With each lesson, the children are invited to “wonder” about what they have heard and seen, giving them a chance to think about the lesson and how it relates to them individually.

The third through fifth grade-aged children are taught by **Mary Daymont, Trish Huheey** and **Debbie Haggard-Rosse**. The curriculum used is called WHIRL (**W**elcome, **H**ear, **R**espond, **L**aunch). This program is designed to make a connection between Sunday School and Church with the weekly lectionary-based lessons and supplemental activities.

The middle and high school-aged children are led by **Fr. Paul, Betsy Anderson** and **Robyn Leersnyder**. The “Re: Form” curriculum is used and it is designed to engage, interest, affirm and strengthen faith. (See Robyn’s article on opposite page).

The yearly expenses for Children's Christian Education are relatively low. Total cost for the curriculum materials depends mainly on the number of children participating, and ranges from about \$1,500 to \$1,800 dollars per year. Currently we have 50 children/youth on the active roster, but attendance varies significantly.

In addition to Sunday School, the children and youth of St. Alban's participate in the Epiphany pageant directed by **Elizabeth Howton**, and the Children's Ash Wednesday service led by **Fr. Jeff** and **Fr. Paul**. In 2019 the traditional Children's Maundy Thursday service will be replaced by The Children's service of the Lord's Supper, led by **Fr. Paul** and **Donna Archer**. All of these activities are designed to enrich the worship experience for the children of St. Alban's.

-Donna Archer





CHOIR NOTES



December 2. Michael Praetorius (1571-1621), the great German Renaissance composer, was the son and grandson of Lutheran theologians. Most of his output is sacred music in the Lutheran tradition. His one known secular composition, *Terpsichore*, is a tuneful and rhythmically captivating set of instrumental dances. Praetorius wrote or arranged the music for six hymns in our Hymnal, the most familiar of which is *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* (#81). Our anthem for the first Sunday in Advent will be an arrangement of this familiar work.

December 9. Thomas Tallis (c1505-1585) was the leading English composer of the 16th century. He witnessed much political and religious turmoil during his lifetime, 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 reflection of the times. We will be singing his anthem, *A New Commandment*.

December 16. Our anthem this Sunday, *Rejoice in the Lord Always*, was composed by our old friend, Anonymous. It appeared around 1560 in a collection of keyboard works edited by Thomas Mulliner, the organist of Corpus Christi College at Oxford University. The collection is known as the Mulliner Book (what else?). The text, from Philippians 4:4-7, was an Epistle reading for the fourth Sunday in Advent in the 1549 *Book of Common Prayer* and currently is one of the Epistle readings for today, the third Sunday in Advent.

December 23. *Gabriel's Message* is a traditional Basque carol that is based on the Medieval Latin carol, *Angelus ad Virginem*. The English text is a paraphrase by Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924), a Cambridge-educated Anglican clergyman probably best known for penning the words to *Onward Christian Soldiers*. We will be singing an arrangement of this carol by the late Sir David Willcocks (1919-2015), who served for a number of years as Director of King's College Choir, Cambridge.

December 24. For Christmas eve we will sing *What Sweeter Music*, by the prolific English composer of choral (and other) music, John Rutter (b. 1945). Rutter founded The Cambridge Singers in 1981 and continues to conduct this ensemble. In addition to his conducting and composing, Rutter has made significant contributions to music as an arranger and editor. The text for *What Sweeter Music* is by the poet and cleric Robert Herrick (1591-1633), whose most famous poem, perhaps, begins with the words, "Gather ye rosebuds. . . ." (From a cleric!)

December 30. The choir will take its traditional post-Christmas break.

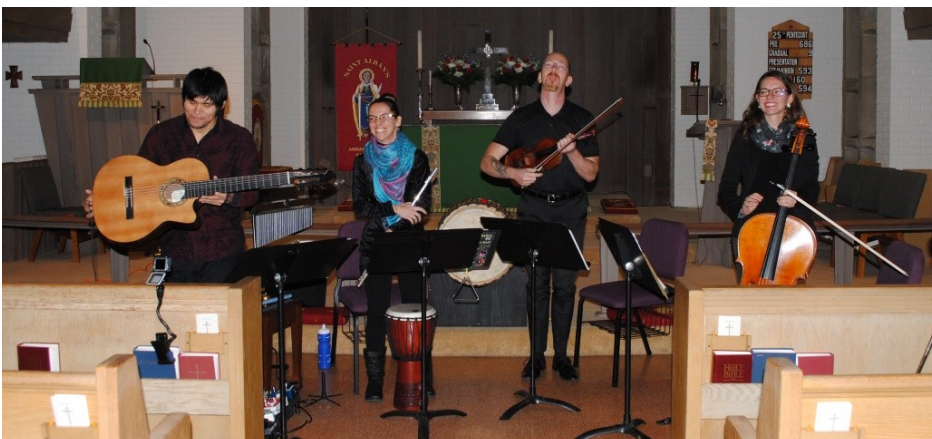
-Clarence Zuvekas

Muldoon Concert Series

The Cristian Perez Chamber Ensemble presented music of jazz and South America. The ensemble was Yana Nikol on flute, Aaron Malone on violin, Devree Lewis on cello and Cristian Perez on guitar. Arrangements and original compositions were full of creativity and musical color. El Condor Pasa, Moon River and Shenandoah were familiar to all, with the special touches of ensemble free form interpretation. Parishioner **Katy Oh** enjoyed hearing Han River, a work familiar to her as did **Fred Binkholder**, whose son is named **Han**.

Please mark your calendars for December 9 and come hear the Celebration Singers with our own **Karen Weinberg**.

-Larry Hodgins



St. Alban's Muldoon Concerts

Come join us for a delightful
afternoon of joyful music.



Reception following.
All concerts free. 4:00 pm

December 9
Celebration Singers
with parishioner
Karen Weinberg

March 24
Dr. Mickey Terry, Organ

From the Deacon

You are Invited

Recently, the Committee on Interfaith Dialogue held a panel discussion about how communities heal after violent events. Representatives from faith communities that experienced vandalism and threats spoke of their experiences. Expressions of support such as notes, attendance at services and contributions have made a great impact on those affected. We heard about the relationships that have developed as communities stood in solidarity together. Dinner discussions occur monthly. We are all welcome to participate in this ongoing work to learn more about each other.

The Good Neighbor Program and ACCA will begin providing support to refugee families already resettled through Lutheran Social Services. A Homework Club at Peace Lutheran Church two Saturdays per month will offer academic enrichment and structured play opportunities for children, while at the same time assisting parents with English language learning and other areas of need.

Share Christmas joy with the residents of Sleepy Hollow as we carol through the hallways on December 8 at 3:00 pm. It'll be our gift to the many residents who don't come to the Sunday service as well as for those who worship with us.

For the third year, we'll host the Christmas celebration for Samaritan Ministry's Northern Virginia participants. This year's celebration will take place at Samaritan Ministry's office on Columbia Pike on December 12 from 9:00 am-1:00 pm. It'll be an open house, with light refreshments, which will allow us time to meet and talk with the participants. Join me to co-host the celebration. A sign up board to help with food and service is in the narthex.

Along with other faith communities, St. Alban's will host the hypothermia shelter for the Bailey's Crossroads Shelter. **Delores Baisden** coordinates this important ministry. (See page 10).

Our actions in the community, small and large, shine the light of God's Incarnate Love into the darkness and bring hope and love to those around us.

-Deacon Theresa

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Next Edition

January/February 2018

Articles/photos welcome!

Submit by December 15

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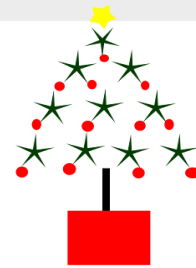
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Samaritan Ministry Christmas Open House December 12

9:00 am-1:00 pm

St. Alban's will host Samaritan Ministry's Christmas celebration at the Northern Virginia office, 2207 Columbia Pike. Sign up to co-host the celebration and to bring brunch and lunch foods on the sheet in the narthex or contact **Deacon Theresa**. Come share St. Alban's hospitality with our neighbors!



Our delegates to the 224th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia held on November 1-3 in Richmond:

Betsy Anderson, Fr. Jeff, Cathy Casey, Fay Froh, Fr. Paul and Deacon Theresa.

St. Alban's 2018 Christmas Bazaar

A big thank you to everyone who participated in the bazaar by planning, donating items, publicizing, inviting friends, shopping, cooking, decorating, setting up and cleaning up. Throughout the day, we heard so many of our visitors talking about how good the food was, how we have the best town crier in Northern Virginia, what a great time they had in our shops and how warm and inviting St. Alban's is. We'll never get tired of hearing visitors talk about how great our church is and hopefully, some of those will come back and visit us on Sunday mornings!

Because of all your efforts, we raised more than \$15,000 to contribute to our outreach support of 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. As **Fr. Jeff** mentioned on Sunday after the bazaar, we raised over \$15,000 this year for our Outreach Programs - a new record!

We know that many of you enjoy seeing the totals for each stand, so we wanted to share them with you:

Baked Goods/Candy - \$1,445.33 (with additional sales on Sunday of \$30); Books - \$504.70; Cafe - \$1,524.05; Children's Boutique - \$346.00; Christmas Decorations - \$740.81; Doll Clothes - \$687.45; Face Painting - \$87.02; Handmades - \$1,902.02 (with additional sales of \$418 made on Sunday); Household Boutique - \$1,302.07; Jewelry - \$1,880.01; Plants - \$236.95; Pressed Flowers - \$1,559.21 (with additional sales of \$106 made on Sunday); Raffle - \$1,646.75; Santa Pictures - \$30.00; Tools - \$302.10; Toys - \$1,013.28 and Moon bounce - \$61.17.

One thing we'd like to mention - face painting, photos with Santa and the moon bounce provide a wonderful outreach service to the children in our community (and their parents). We'd like to believe we made some great memories at this year's bazaar and, as we all know, you can't put a dollar amount on a great memory!

It's never too early to start planning for our 2019 bazaar. We will be meeting at the Rectory on Wednesday, December 5 at 6:30 pm to discuss how the bazaar went and ways to improve. If you're not able to attend on December 5, you can still participate. Just send us an email to with the following: What went right and your suggestions for improving next year's bazaar. Our email addresses are: billandnancycalvert@verizon.net and mairena75@verizon.net. We'll discuss all comments received during the meeting and **Sue** and I will send out minutes following the meeting, so please let us know if you want to be included on future meeting minutes. We look forward to hearing from you!

FYI - One of our raffle prizes, a Washington Capitals (2018-2019 Stanley Cup season winners!) Brett Connolly autographed hockey puck with certificate of authenticity, did not arrive prior to the bazaar. We have decided to have a special raffle drawing on Sunday, December 16 and donate the proceeds to support the youth's group mission trip to Hurley. Tickets will be on sale during the 8:15 am and the 10:15 am coffee hours on December 2, 9 and 16.

-Nancy Calvert and Sue Mairena

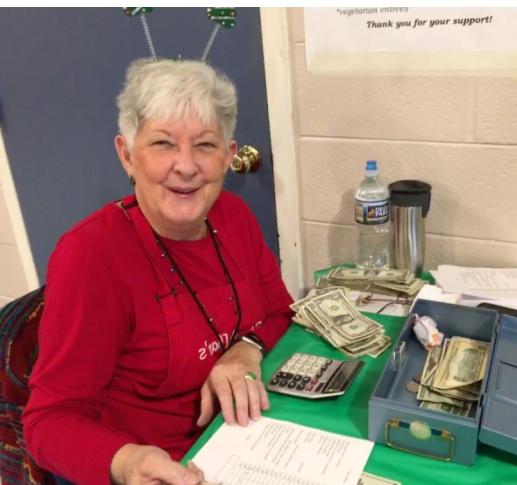
Raffle Drawing on December 16 to benefit Youth Group Mission Trip! Tickets for sale December 2, 9 and 16.



*Once again this year, **Bill** and co-chair **Nancy Calvert** and **Doug** and Co-chair **Sue Mairena** were the driving forces behind the bazaar. Big thanks to all!*



More bazaar photos page 8!





More Bazaar!



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



*Stewardship Committee members **Bill Calvert, Ron Vogel** and **Chris Peck** collecting pledges on November 25.*



***Benny Robles and Ronnie Hardcastle** catered our delicious brunch!*

Lockwood House Thanksgiving Dinner November 22

Thank you! Thank you! Once again the parishioners of St Alban's readily came forward and shopped, cooked, delivered and served a delicious Thanksgiving dinner for the residents of Lockwood House on Thanksgiving Day. Your generosity brought smiles to approximately 85 residents, and the ample leftovers were greatly appreciated by the clients of RPC Homeless Shelter on Columbia Pike in Arlington. Thank you!

-Linda Cummings



Thanks to **Linda Cummings** for her leadership on this longstanding St. Alban's tradition. A special thanks to Mike McGill of McGill's Restaurant, who once again, with his merry band of helpers, fried the turkeys.

Keeping our Neighbors Warm and Safe—Winter Seasonal 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

Can you help with St. Alban's service to the homeless December 23-29?

In winter when the Bailey's Crossroads Shelter sometimes doesn't have enough room for all who need a warm place to sleep, several churches and mosques in our area open their doors to the Shelter's overflow.

St. Alban's is hosting the homeless again in our parish hall during Christmas week, December 23-29. We plan to feed them a simple meal each night. We need cooks and servers and cleaner-uppers. This is a great opportunity for families or a group of friends to join together to do a meal one evening, or just sign up to help and we will find a job for you. If you can help, these homeless people and I will DEEPLY appreciate it.

Please sign up on the board in the back of the parish hall, call me , or email me at deloresab@verizon.net.
-Delores Baisden



Youth Group Gift Wrapping



Bring your gifts to be wrapped by our Youth Group and adult volunteers during services all Sundays in December until Christmas. Free will offerings accepted to support the youth group mission trip.

Advent Wreaths

The first Sunday of Advent is right round the corner on December 2. Candle sets and brass wreaths for your home are available in the narthex. A suggested contribution to cover costs of \$5 for candles and \$10 for wreaths is always appreciated.

First Friday Lunch Bunch

This month the first Friday luncheon will be at Clyde's Mark Center in Alexandria. If you can make it, please RSVP to **Sally** or **Ray Hanlein**.

Advent Quiet Morning The Way of Love Saturday December 8 8:30 am to 2:00 pm

Our Presiding Bishop, **The Most Rev. Michael Curry**, writes that, "Being a Christian is not essentially about joining a church or being a nice person, but about following in the footsteps of Jesus, taking his teachings seriously, letting his Spirit take the lead in our lives, and in so doing helping to change the world from our nightmare into God's dream."

Join us for a morning spent in contemplation, prayer and meditation about what it means to be a Christian, walking The Way of Love: Practices for Jesus-Centered Life. The morning will begin with a light breakfast together, followed by guided silent meditation through prayer, the arts, music and movement focused on "The Way of Love."



Youth Group Election Day Coffee and Donut Sale



Youth Group members Maddie Clune, Sarah Rutherford, MacGregor Bickel and Robby Larson-Ensinger with Harry Baisden selling coffee and donuts in a downpour of rain on November 6, Election Day.

December Birthdays

Darren Cummings	1
Bob Fones	1
Nana Howton	1
Elizabeth Maguzi	1
Margaret Pendley	1
Hugo Perina	1
Tom Tsui	2
Horacio Sobol	2
Tammy Thomas	2
Susan White	2
Lillian Mundy	3
Christina Russell	5
Wesley Smail	5
Jennifer Aument	6
Barbara Hallman	6
Edmund Keiper	6
Ingrid Schwartz	6
Zinnah Wiles	6
Ann Ryder	8
Nick Russell	11
Alicia Ryder	11
Cheryl Sinsabaugh	17
Jim Kilby	19
Salome Metzger	21
Jack Lesko	22
Michael Sinsabaugh	23
Mary Daymont	24
Hannah Hilke	24
Barbara Chatelain	26
Vicki Cox	28
Adriana Daggel	28
Sheila Massey	28
Grant Leersnyder	29
Dave Hamnett	30
Melinda Patterson	30
Ann Zuvekas	30
Mary Anne Daymont	31

Christmas Caroling at Sleepy Hollow Healthcare Center

Saturday, December 8 3:00 pm

We will be going door to door at the nursing home singing carols to the residents and staff. We will meet at the entrance to Sleepy Hollow, 6700 Columbia Pike, Annandale.

A sign-up sheet will be posted at the Church entrance for all are interested in joining us. For more information, please email or call **Kristi Potts**.



December Calendar Highlights



Epiphany Pageant January 6

We will celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany on Sunday, January 6 with a pageant featuring our parish children and youth during the 10:15 am service. The rehearsal will be Saturday, January 5 from 10:00-11:00 a.m.

Adult volunteers are needed;. If you can help out, please contact **Elizabeth Howton** at ehowton@stanfordalumni.org.

All children are welcome to participate! Just show up for the January 5 Saturday rehearsal, or come on January 6, Sunday at 9:45 a.m.

December 2 **Acolyte Training** 9:15 am

Interested adults and all middle and high school acolytes are requested to attend.

December 2 **Workshop for Lectors and Intercessors** 11:30 am.

Contact **Fr. Jeff, Deacon Theresa** or **Cheryl Sinsabaugh** for further information.

December 5 **Bazaar Discussion** 6:30 pm in the rectory

December 8 **Advent Quiet Morning** 8:30 to 2:00 pm in the church **Caroling** at Sleepy Hollow Healthcare Center 3:00 pm

December 9 **Youth Group Christmas party** at Rectory 4:00 pm (correction to online calendar)

December 9 **Muldoon Concert: Celebration Singers** 4:00 pm

December 16 **Lessons and Carols** 7:00 pm in the church

December 12 **Samaritan Ministry Christmas Open House Party** Samaritan Ministry's office on Columbia Pike 9:00 am-1:00 pm.

December 23-29 **St. Alban's hosts homeless** in parish hall

December 24 **Christmas Eve Holy Eucharist** at Sleepy Hollow Healthcare Center 10:15 am at St. Alban's 5:30 pm and 11:00 pm program of Christmas music at 5:00 pm & 10:30 pm

December 25 **Holy Eucharist** with prayers for healing 9:00 am

January 6 **Epiphany Pageant** 9:45 am

Youth Group gift wrapping during services all Sundays in December until Christmas.