Fr. Jeff baptized Soren Farley on September 1, with assistance of Deacon Theresa and acolyte Emma Cheek. Soren’s parents are Stephanie and Ryan Farley and her sister is Brynn (not pictured). Also in picture above are Godparents Leslie and Sean Icenhour.

Fr. Jeff and Deacon Theresa blessed the students, teachers and backpacks on September 8. May students and teachers have a very successful school year!

Doesn’t it drive you up the wall when stores don’t put prices on their merchandise? In my mind, if there is no price… IT’S FREE! But every time I’ve explained that to the police as they escort me out of the store, they just shake their heads.

But seriously, Stewardship season is fast approaching, and each of us will be asked to prayerfully consider how we will financially support St. Alban’s for the coming year, 2020. Your stewardship pledge is not a commitment to make lightly – thoughtful stewardship of our financial blessings is a fundamental responsibility of each and every Christian.

Just like the unmarked merchandise at your local store, there typically isn’t a price tag on the ministries and activities at St. Alban’s – but what we do comes with a price. The real cost of our ministries is difficult to pin down, but our Stewardship Committee works hard to accurately reflect the cost, and value, of what we do together at St. Alban’s. Like last year, soon you will be receiving a “narrative budget” – a graphical representation of how St. Alban’s stewards the money you give. I hope you’ll take a moment to look over all that we do at St. Alban’s – ministry to the community through our outreach activities, ministry support to the greater Church through our monetary pledge to the Diocese, and ministry to ourselves – through pastoral care, education, care for our buildings and grounds, worship and fellowship. Like a three-legged stool, St. Alban’s would be incomplete if we eliminate any of these ministries.

Our Prayer Book catechism reminds us that “the duty of all Christians is to follow Christ; to come together week by week for corporate worship; and to work, pray, and give for the spread of the kingdom of God.” What we do with our time and our money speaks volumes about what we believe. As we enter the season of Stewardship, please prayerfully consider how you will support the work and ministry of our parish family. Ultimately, though, stewardship isn’t about meeting church needs. Stewardship is about how and what we give as a measure of trust and sacrifice and a response to God’s love.

I wish I could claim that last sentence as my own, but it was written by The Rev. Loren Mead, who specialized in church growth and church administration, and Mead goes on to say that stewardship really is a byproduct of discipleship. Mead says that discipleship is about people growing in faith as Christians, and it is the duty of all Christians to “work, pray and give for the spread of the kingdom of God.”

We’ve come full circle. What we do with our time and our money speaks volumes about what we believe. I pray that we will continue to grow in faith and belief and trust, as we grow in our discipleship.

Almighty and everliving God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear our prayers for this parish family. Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent. Grant us all things necessary for our common life, and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

-Fr. Jeff
Come, labor on: Who dares stand idle?

At St. Alban’s, there is rarely a dull moment. The summer, which at many Episcopal parishes is lazy and quiet, seems every bit as active as the “program year.” We are a people, together and individually, who don’t stand still for long. Autumn is finally here, and we are in the thick of activity already. Great things are happening!

**Sunday School.** Responding to feedback from parents and teachers we received in the spring, we are reducing the number of “off” days – making it easier for families to keep track of the schedule. Sunday School classes will now begin at **9:15 am sharp, every week.** Calendars are available in the narthex.

**Children’s Music.** Parents and teachers also expressed an interest in incorporating more music into our Sunday School program and, as the search for long-term music staff continues, the goal of a Youth Choir/chorister program is a major priority. This year, we will have five **“Singing Days”** during Sunday School hour, in the parish hall, to provide an opportunity for children to make music together.

**Youth Ministry.** This year, a **Youth Advisory Committee**, made up of both youth group members and leaders, has been formed. My hope is that the youth will take greater ownership in their own programming, developing skills for leadership, planning and budget stewardship. This fall, the youth groups are focusing on meeting regularly, forming a strong and supportive group dynamic and having more robust discussions about faith in daily life.

As we move into a new season of ministry, there will be new challenges. Change is never easy. Now, more than ever, we need to be gracious with one another. The opportunities before us will stretch us in uncomfortable ways; but if we are bold and faithful, our work will bear much good fruit.

I’m grateful, especially in these times, for godly and humble leadership. God has given **Fr. Jeff** a passion for mission, a direction for our future, and a vision for expansive ministry to our community. We are blessed to have thorough and skillful lay leadership in the Senior Warden, **Nancy Harrell**, the Junior Warden, **Rick Weinberg** and the Members of the Vestry. They are people of prayer and humility who love this parish church – and take seriously their responsibility to lead this church into the future.

God has been faithful to us in the past, and we know he will be so in the future. He has given us a mission to carry out, and God WILL provide what we need – the right tools to get the job done!

**People of Saint Alban’s:** Take courage. Be bold! I want to be a part of it! Don’t you?  

> *May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.*  
> *(1 Thessalonians 5:23-24)*

> *Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. Amen.*  
> *(Ephesians 3:20, 21)*

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**Sunday School First Sunday "Singing Days"**

On the first of Sunday of most months, our Sunday School hour will be devoted to music -- all classes combined, gathered in the parish hall, making a joyful noise unto the Lord!

Look for “Singing Days” October 6, November 3, December 8, March 8 and May 3.

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**The Warden’s Pen**

As you read this, I will have just gotten back from another amazing weekend at Shrine Mont. It is a beautiful place that we are lucky to experience. If you were not able to come with us, please put it on your calendar for next year. Everyone should come to the parish weekend at Shrine Mont.

Our kitchen committee and the capital campaign committee are doing their work. Please read more about the kitchen update on page 3. **Betsy Anderson** can say it much better than I. The Bazaar and the Parish Life Committees are hard at work for Octoberfest and our annual Bazaar on November 23.

We’ve lost another air conditioner; room 14 this time. We will be replacing since that room is used by The Village School.  

> *-Nancy L. Harrell*
Stewardship

Each year the Diocese of Virginia establishes a theme, or catch phrase, for member parishes’ annual stewardship campaigns. Resource materials are also provided. While member parishes are under no obligation to use these materials, the basic idea is that as a Diocese we all focus on a theme that reinforces a message of commitment and purpose.

Recently the Diocese has focused on phrases from prayers that are a part of our major sacramental observances. Last year, for example, the “Now into the world” theme was adopted from our post communion prayer (BCP, p.365). This year, the Diocese has chosen a phrase from our post baptismal prayer: “Give him/her an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works (BCP, p. 308).

Your stewardship committee must confess that we were initially underwhelmed by a “wonder in all” theme for a stewardship campaign. Might be okay for a stewardship of the Creation initiative, but not so much for focusing on inspiring the financial commitments needed to support the programs and operations of St. Alban’s.

Well, we had a change of heart. Why? Because we are, in fact, amazed and do wonder in all that we as a parish have accomplished and wonder in all the possibilities that lie ahead of us as we seek to do the work we believe we’ve been called to do. And we wonder at how we have embraced the entire community of believers here at St. Alban’s so that we can proudly and publicly confess that, “We are St. Alban’s; Anglican and Episcopal; Catholic and Protestant; traditional and inclusive…seeking to follow Jesus!” Wonder in all, indeed.

- Ron Vogel

From the Deacon

A few years ago, the leadership team at Sleepy Hollow Nursing Home held a dinner meeting at St. Alban’s with the volunteers who lead Sunday worship. They outlined the timeline for upgrades that will allow the facility to meet the changing long-term care needs of our community. The promised upgrades are behind schedule. The residents, staff, visitors and volunteers continue to experience upheaval as things change slowly.

In the chaos, St. Alban’s Sunday worship services at Sleepy Hollow offer respite, spiritual connection and fellowship. Every time I lead a service there, I am aware of God’s presence. St. Alban’s volunteers have stories of being touched deeply by a word of wisdom coming from someone unexpected, or the gratitude expressed by the residents or staff.

Everyone isn’t called to every ministry and the Sunday worship services at Sleepy Hollow are no exception. I remember how hesitant I was when Fr. Jeff sent me to lead a service and how surprised I was that it drew me in. We would love to add new volunteers. Talk to anyone who serves there about moments that have touched them and have shown them God more fully. Then, come talk to me about how to join the wonderful group of faithful ministers

- Deacon Theresa

Kitchen Corner

Thanks to everyone at Ministry Sunday who completed the Kitchen Quiz! The average score was 95 percent, so we learned that most parishioners are very familiar with the problems in the kitchen and the need for a renovated facility.

The next stage of the project will be Detailed Design, followed by Construction. The Kitchen Committee is working with the Capital Campaign Committee and the Finance Committee to develop a timeline so we can start the detailed design phase as early as possible in 2020.

We ordered a professional survey for asbestos and lead and found a bit of both in areas slated for demolition. But don’t worry! These materials are not hazardous until we drill into them, and all necessary abatement will be handled through our construction firm. Our new materials will be free of hazardous substances.

The construction phase will take 3–4 months, during which time we can use the parish hall but not the kitchen and adjacent bathrooms. We will need to enter the parish hall through the breezeway, courtyard or door from the parking lot. Although the timeline is still under development, we are hoping that the construction phase will start in summer 2020. We are in discussions with our architect about making a few changes to the design, including the possibility of adding windows and a wider door.

The Kitchen Committee (Betsy Anderson, Delores Baisden, Linda Cummings, Nancy Harrell, April Kreller, Benny Robles, Rick Weinberg, Kate Wettstein, Fr. Jeff Shankles and Fr. Paul Moberly) is excited about the next steps in our project!

- Betsy Anderson
The choir is off to a good start under our interim music minister, **Patrick Summers**. Patrick has identified a number of anthems for the coming weeks, including works by Mozart, Parry and Virgil Thomson.

Patrick has suggested that this month’s Choir Notes provide some background on the English Choral Tradition. Winchester Cathedral’s website tells us that this tradition was begun by monks who chanted eight daily offices (in Latin), sometimes accompanied by boy novices and lay singers. The first report of this grouping, in the 11th century, shows that traditional plainchant singers were accompanied by others providing harmony. Later, polyphonic singing (different parts—and sometimes different words—sung simultaneously) was introduced.

After Henry VIII broke with Rome and the Church of England emerged, choral singing entered a period of turmoil. The 50 or so monasteries and abbeys with choirs were dissolved in the 1530s. Nevertheless, outstanding English Renaissance composers, including William Byrd, Orlando Gibbons and Thomas Tallis produced a distinctive body of choral work, most of it set to English texts. In the mid-1600s, the English Civil War led to a brief period of puritanical suppression of the use of music in church services. But after Charles II was restored to the English throne in 1660, cathedral choirs were reestablished, only to slump again in the 18th century before being revived in the mid-19th century.

The daily Morning and Evening Prayer services (Matins and Evensong), dating from the mid-16th century, are a distinctive aspect of Anglican worship. In most English cathedrals today, these services, and Sunday eucharists, are sung by full-time choirs, many of which now include girl choristers. Some Oxford and Cambridge colleges also have choirs. The Tradition also includes amateur singing groups and orchestra choruses. Many of us listen to the annual broadcast Service of Nine Lessons and Carols sung by the choir of King’s College, Cambridge. If you travel to England, be sure to attend Matins or Evensong. It will be a great experience, even at the lesser-known cathedrals. And come to our own Evensong service on November 3.

While we at St. Alban’s sing a lot of music by English composers, or English transplants to Canada and the United States, we will continue to provide a diverse musical offering, including spirituals, other American anthems, European Renaissance compositions and Classical and post-Classical pieces from various countries. Over the years—and following the English Choral Tradition—we have sung works not only in English and Latin, but also in French, German, Italian, Spanish, Russian, Hebrew and perhaps other languages. Since our numbers have been reduced in the last few months by moves and retirements, we would welcome new voices—we have six seats to fill! We hear some fine singers in the congregation as we process and recess, and we hope some of you will join us. - Clarence Zuvekas

Longtime parishioner **Col. Fred Holmes** died on September 7.

Fred is survived by daughter Susan, her husband Matt Heller, daughter-in-law Kathy Holmes and three grandchildren.

Fred was active in the life of St. Alban’s. For many years, he served as treasurer and represented St. Alban’s on Annandale Christian Community for Action (ACCA), which is an ecumenical organization serving low income people in Annandale with food assistance, day care, rides to medical appointments and furniture deliveries. Fred took photographs for The Word for many years. After the death of his wife **Robin** in 2015, Fred moved to assisted living. Even there he kept up with St. Alban’s activities and continued to be a master at Bible trivia. A funeral liturgy was held at St. Alban’s on September 26.

**Hardy Lott** died on Tuesday, September 10. Services celebrating Hardy’s life were held in Greenwood, Mississippi on September 13.

The **Rev. Alison Cheek**, who battled canon law and centuries-old traditions to become one of the first female priests in the Episcopal Church and in 1974 was the first woman to administer the sacrament of Communion in an Episcopal parish, died September 1 in North Carolina. She was 92.

Rev. Cheek moved with her husband to Northern Virginia in 1957 and began attending St. Alban’s Episcopal Church in Annandale. St. Alban’s parish priest **John R. Frizzell Jr.** encouraged Alison Cheek’s budding interest in theology.

In the years since Rev. Cheek first stood before a congregation in Washington, women have entered the Episcopal priesthood in increasing numbers and now make up close to half of the church’s clergy.

Please keep the families of Fred, Hardy and Alison in your prayers.

"Receive, O Lord, your servants Fred, Hardy and Alison into the arms of your mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in light."
Ministry Sunday September 8
Thanks to Karen and Rick Weinberg (photo right) for once again organizing our 2019 Ministry Sunday. This annual event highlights the many ministries of St. Alban’s and seeks volunteers for activities of interest.

Bishop Susan Goff Announces Appointment of the Rt. Rev. Jennifer Brooke-Davidson as Assistant Bishop of Virginia
(Excerpted from Episcopal Diocese of Virginia)


Bishop Robert W. Ihloff will continue as part-time Bishop Associate for some time longer, and will maintain a primary office in northern Virginia at The Falls Church Episcopal.

Bishop Brooke-Davidson will begin her ministry in this Diocese on November 4. Please join Bishop Goff in welcoming her to the Diocese of Virginia.

Youth Group Kick Off Party
Youth group members had a blast in the king sized bounce house on September 22 at their September kick off party.
**Christmas Bazaar News**

*St. Alban’s Christmas Bazaar is right around the corner on Saturday, November 23!*

Why do parishioners at St. Alban’s attend our annual bazaar, continuously volunteer and keep coming back?

Sausage rolls! Julian Devereux

I am especially interested in the book room. I was in charge of it one year, and helped organize it for many years. I also enjoy the social aspect and checking out the house plants and baked goods (and bringing in a pie or two.) Barbara Chatelain

Jim Kilby said it perfectly last year! “I like participating in the Bazaar because I can work with our church family and reach out to the community at the same time. I also enjoy being around all the positive people.” Joyce Aument

I participate in the Christmas Bazaar to get closer to all those St. Albanites I don't see that often. The best way to get to know people is to work together. Ann Gates

I like participating in the St. Alban's Bazaar because of the sense of community I feel while I am there. Not only from our St. Albanites - but also from the neighbors and friends that participate! Camille Stern

I was new at St. Alban’s when I first volunteered at the Bazaar. It was such a great way to get to know people that I did not hesitate when I was asked to be a co-chair a couple of years later. Working with so many fellow parishioners on the wide range of bazaar activities showed me how much everyone does to make St. Alban’s the friendly, welcoming and supportive place that it is. Betsy Anderson

I love working with our church family at the Bazaar! It is so much fun to see everyone put their best efforts in for the community of people who come to shop, eat and take in the day with us. Working at this event is a fantastic way to get to know my fellow churchmates. Ivy Kilby

I enjoy helping out at the Bazaar because I like getting to interact with all the community members that come through. They are always so happy to be there and are glad to stop and chat about previous Bazaars, their bargains of the day and other positive things about our church. Stephanie Lightner

I'm so proud of our Bazaar! Everything is either handmade or donated by our members -- no outside vendors. Delores Baisden

I love the way our congregation comes together so joyfully each year! Not to mention, it’s a great way for the local community to see how welcoming and inclusive St. Alban’s is. It’s a true blessing! Nancy Calvert

The sights, smells, tastes and happy “elves” kick off my holiday season, all for a great cause! And, I always seem to score a bargain or two. Bill Calvert

Belevedere Weekend Food Program

Kitty and David Wildes lead the first Belevedere Elementary School weekend meals packing effort of the school year on September 1. St. Alban’s regularly provides staple foods to low income students to take home over the weekend .Can you help? Contact Deacon Theresa or the Wildes for further information.

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*October Birthdays*

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*Sue Mairena promoting the bazaar at Ministry Sunday.*
Baptism of Soren Orla Farley
September 1

Soren Farley, daughter of Stephanie and Ryan Farley and little sister of Brynn, was baptized by Fr. Jeff on September 1, with Deacon Theresa assisting. Soren’s Godparents are Leslie and Sean Icenhour.

Bless our newest little Christian Soren!

Ice Cream Social September 1

Sunday School Picnic Sept. 15
Thanksgiving at Lockwood House

November 28 Save the Date!

When you see Groucho Turkey, it’s time to start thinking about Thanksgiving for Lockwood House residents!

By early November we’ll post a sign-up for thawed and uncooked turkeys with all the fixings and for volunteers to set up and serve on Thanksgiving Day, November 28 from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm.

We look forward to having you join us. The residents appreciate our efforts so much! -Linda Cummings

October Calendar Highlights

October 4 First Friday Lunch Bunch Bamian 11:30 am
Contact Cheryl Sinsabaugh for reservations.

October 6 and November 3 “Singing Day” Sunday School students

October 6 Blessing of the Animals, at end of both services

October 12 Acolyte Festival National Cathedral 9:00 am–4:00 pm
Questions? Please contact Fr. Paul, Jane Lesko or Adam Huston.

October 13 Muldoon concert: ragtime trio 4:00 pm in parish hall.

October 24 Oktoberfest Parish Hall

November 3 All Soul’s Evensong 7:00 pm

November 14-16 Diocesan Convention, Crystal City

November 23 Christmas Bazaar

MULDOON CONCERT SERIES
October 13 4:00 pm Parish Hall Ragtime Trio

Now is a good time to support this music program that brings together our church family and the community purely for entertainment at no charge to all attendees. We will have donor forms available on the table in the narthex. You may fill out the form and enclose your check within it, and put it in the collection plate. Or you may mail your donation. Please make the check out to St. Alban's with "Muldoon Concert Fund" in the memo line.