

St. Alban's Episcopal Church The word

December 2019 Volume 18, Issue 10

From the Rector

For the past several weeks, emblazoned across the top of our website is a green bar that says, "The Campaign for St. Alban's." If you have clicked on it in recent weeks, you would have seen that, in your overwhelming generosity, we have reached what we believe to be our minimum goal needed to renovate our kitchen and restrooms. I am excited about the possibilities for our future ministries, and so very grateful for your hearts open to God's mission for us.

Our initial goal of \$1.1M is the minimum we believe we'll need to complete the project God has called us to, but until the actual work is begun and the old kitchen floor is jackhammered up, we may not know exactly what kind of work we are faced with and the cost could be higher than we estimate. And, because I have absolutely no desire to run a Capital campaign again in my career here with the saints of St. Alban's, this is our one chance to raise the funds that will be needed to take care of some physical plant issues and potential problems looming ahead of us.

The entire exterior of our building, including the rectory, desperately needs to be scraped, cleaned and repainted. Ironically, our smooth, new parking lot now makes our building look ill-cared for. I have recently learned that the mini-split air-conditioning units in the parish hall are operating with a coolant that will be banned in the next couple of years, meaning that sooner or later, those systems will have to be replaced as they won't be maintainable.

Did you know that your volunteer mowing teams literally mow the hill on the north side of Columbia Pike with one foot on the curb, and one foot on the extremely busy asphalt surface of Columbia Pike? I wouldn't ask anyone to do put their lives in danger like that, but yet, our mowers do that weekly. That hillside needs to be cleaned up and replanted with low- or no-maintenance plantings so that our fellow parishioners don't needlessly put their lives at risk to maintain the beauty of our campus.

These are just a few of the reasons (you can read about the many other reasons on page 9 in this edition of The Word) we need to continue forging ahead with our Capital Campaign. In the season of Stewardship, we must be mindful not only of the financial needs of our parish community, but also of the need to maintain and improve our lovely home here at St. Alban's.

Our Capital Campaign is entering into its final weeks. If you haven't been approached to give yet, I pray that you respond to the call with generosity. If you've already given, thank you! If you are not in a position to financially support this important project, I hope that you will support us with prayer and share the excitement about the possibilities of new ministries and programming.

The work we do today will ensure that there is a St. Alban's in Annandale tomorrow – a place where Jesus is known and where his love shines brightly.

-Fr. Jeff



A big round of applause for our two bazaar chairs, Nancy Calvert and Sue Mairena. And to their husbands Bill and Doug.

From the Associate Rector

Advent: What are you waiting for?

Every year, the season of Advent catches me off guard. Thanksgiving is now ended. The last of the turkey leftovers are being dutifully consumed; families begin hauling home evergreen trees to set up in the living room; television ads and stores have gone full-on Christmas, and December has just begun!

And yet the readings for the first Sunday of Advent are dramatic and foreboding: Christians are called to "wake from sleep" as "the day is near" (Rom 13:11-12). In his warning to the disciples, Jesus speaks of the "coming of the Son of Man" -- cautioning them to "keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming" (Matt 24:36, 41).

Already, it feels like our Advent journey goes against the grain of the world around us. We begin our season of preparation for Christmas, the feast celebrating the first coming of Jesus Christ, by looking ahead to the final judgment. We begin, in a sense, at the end.

The first Sunday of Advent is the start of the new Church year. It is our own "liturgical time" -- the annual cycle of feasts and observances that provide a trajectory for our worship together.

In its concept of time, the Church year is actually circular, rather than linear. We end the year and the season after Pentecost with the Reign of Christ, or "Christ the King" Sunday -- the recognition of Jesus Christ as Lord of all creation, and his supreme reign in eternity.

And so the church year begins essentially where it left off: ending with Christ on the throne, and beginning with Jesus' warnings to "keep awake" and vigilant for his return.

The word "Advent" means "coming" -- and Advent invites us to consider both "comings" of Jesus, the first and second. We start with prophecies about the second coming, and then work backwards to the FIRST coming in Bethlehem; and even further than that, hearing from Hebrew prophets and their foretelling of a Messiah, and John the Baptist's fiery call to repentance as the herald of Christ's arrival.

Advent is, like Lent, a penitential season; but unlike Lent, it is not entirely penitential. We look to the end of all things, in which Jesus Christ is King of kings and Lord of Lords, and we are invited to place Him on the throne of our heart. We are called by the prophets to get ready, to stay awake, to remain vigilant. We are challenged to repentance: to turn from evil, and love what is good. It is a journey of penitence and of preparation.

The Church calls us to wait and sets aside a twelve day celebration, Christmastide, which extends from the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ (or, Christmas, December 25) to the Feast of the Epiphany (January 6). It's important enough not only to wait for but also to prepare for. That's what the Advent journey is all about. -Fr. Paul



Go Deeper..... in 2020

Fr. Paul is exploring the possibility of convening a new group dedicated to intentional spiritual growth: integrating daily life with Christian faith, wrestling with tough questions, and digging deeper into the riches of our theological tradition. If you are interested in spiritual support and accountability, and would be willing to consider a commitment to a weekly meeting (for a limited time period), please talk to or email Fr. Paul.

The Warden's Pen

Advent greetings! I hope you are preparing for Advent, Christmas and Epiphany. Our Capital Campaign and Kitchen project are continuing as is all other normal business of the church.

I was privileged to represent St. Alban's at our Diocesan Annual Convention. If you have never been to Annual Convention, please consider putting your name in for next year. The delegates vote on resolutions, elect members to the Standing Committee and otherwise attend to the business of the Diocese. It is always interesting.

I want to wish each of you a sense of wonder in Advent, a blessed Christmas and a joyous new year! I look forward to the new decade and to see what God has in store for us
.-Nancy L. Harrell

Stewardship

With Thanksgiving in the rear view, we're full speed ahead to the year's biggest and generally most highly anticipated holiday, Christmas. And notwithstanding the significance of the Christmas holidays to the worldwide Christian community, Christmas has become, particularly in the United States, an over-the-top excuse for a gift-giving potlach. It has been argued by some that the practice of Christmas gifting is a critical element of our nation's overall economic well-being.



Wonderful. And how exactly did this gift-giving tradition become associated with the Christmas season? There is a varied and extensive history to explore here, and I don't pretend to do it all justice. Suffice it to say that at some point the Christmas gift-giving tradition was attributed to the gift-giving Magi who came to worship our Lord shortly after his birth in Bethlehem. Interestingly enough, prior to the turn of the first millennium, Christmas gift-giving frequently entailed the practice of rulers and nobles extracting "gifts" from their subjects—after all, the Magi brought gifts to their new-born King, didn't they? Everyday nobility deserved nothing less. As you could imagine, this was not a very popular Christmas tradition, and eventually Christmas gifts started flowing the other way—an occasion for the privileged to take care of the less fortunate and so on. Finally, leading up to some of today's traditions, at least in the United States, exchanging gifts with family members on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day began, in part, as a way for parents to keep their children off the streets during the Christmas season to avoid throngs of alcohol-fueled young men roaming the streets "a-wassailing" away looking for anyone from whom they could extract handouts.

There. Courtesy of Wikipedia, two thousand years of holiday gift-giving history in a highly superficial overview and I didn't even get to dwell on Good Saint Nicholas or our present-day Santa Claus and his magic reindeer.

What's all this have to do with stewardship, you're asking? Nothing, really. Just some light reading, and a chance for those of us on the Stewardship Committee to say "Thank You" for your amazing generosity to Saint Alban's all year long. Merry Christmas to you and all those you love.

-Ron Vogel



Stewardship Sunday & Brunch November 24



On November 24, after both services, parishioners enjoyed a delicious brunch prepared by **Ben Robles** and **Ron Hardcastle**. (photo below). Thanks to Ronnie, Bennie and all the many volunteers who brought this wonderful celebration of fellowship to us.



St. Alban's 2019 Christmas Bazaar November 23



*The "face" of the bazaar. Thank you volunteers and our ever efficient leaders **Nancy** and **Sue** (in hats) and their hard working husbands **Bill** and **Doug**. For every wonderful volunteer here on the day of the bazaar, there are several more behind the scenes working way before and after the event, putting lights up, cooking soup, making sausage rolls, hauling wares from the attic, baking cakes and making candy, knitting hats, pressing flowers, repairing jewelry; collecting raffle items, cleaning the hall, putting the school rooms back together, making name tags, posters and signs; directing traffic, buying balloons, shopping for the café, placing publicity; ordering bounce houses and so much more! Thanks also to **Carlos** and **Tammy**. Article page 10.*





Lockwood House Thanksgiving Dinner November 28

A heartfelt THANK YOU to the 50+ parishioners who once again shopped, cooked, transported and served a wonderful Thanksgiving dinner to approximately 80 residents of Lockwood House. We received many smiles, “thank you’s,” and bows from our very appreciative guests. You all are the best!

-Linda Cummings

Thanks to Linda for organizing this event again this year!



From the Deacon

The season of Advent invites us to reflect on, prepare for, and respond to the reality of the Incarnation—God with us. We begin a new church year with Advent, reminding us that our journey as Christians is a series of turning and returning to our relationship with God. We hear the proclamation of God’s intense desire to be among us and we immerse ourselves in the biblical stories of response as we ourselves respond to the glorious gift of Love and Life.

Many in our community find this time of year especially difficult. As a parish, we share God’s gift of Love and Life with our neighbors in many ways, including the following:

Bethany House, an emergency shelter for families dealing with domestic violence, is seeking Christmas gifts and gift cards. The gift collection will continue through December 8.

The ACCA Winter Clothing Drive will be held in two phases—December 1 through 8 and January 5 through 12. ACCA distributes donated warm winter jackets, hooded sweatshirts, gloves, scarfs and wool hats to men, women, and children in Annandale. Clothing can be brought to St. Alban’s during those weeks.

The Samaritan Ministry Christmas party will be December 20 from 10:30-12:30 at the Columbia Pike office. Food and beverage donations and volunteers for the party will remind participants that we care about them and support their efforts to take the next steps in their journey to self-sufficiency.

The Winter Hypothermia Shelter will be at St. Alban’s December 22 through December 28. Volunteers are needed to provide and host dinner.

Details about each of these opportunities will be available in the weekly St. Alban’s Message (blue SAM) and reminders will be shared through announcements in church.

May you have a reflective Advent and a blessed and joyful Christmas.

-Deacon Theresa



Deacon Theresa Lewallen and Jim and Ivy Kilby attended the 2019 Samaritan Ministry of Greater Washington’s Gala on November 9 at the Duke Ellington School of Art in Georgetown. This year’s theme was “The Art of Change.” Also in attendance was another St. Alban’s member, Chris Martin,



Choir Notes



December 1. Our anthem this Sunday is an arrangement of the African-American spiritual, *Keep Your Lamps!*, by Wichita native André Thomas (b. 1952), a leading authority on this music genre. The text is based on Matthew 25: 1-13, Jesus's parable of the wise and foolish virgins. Thomas received his doctorate from the University of Illinois and is a Professor of Music and Director of Choral Activities at Florida State University. He also serves as artistic director of the Tallahassee Community Chorus. Much in demand as a choral conductor and adjudicator, Thomas currently serves as vice-president of the American Choral Directors Association.

December 8. The original German text of *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* dates from the 15th century. The tune is from the *Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesang* (1599), and the familiar harmonization, which appears in our Hymnal as #81, is by the great Renaissance composer, Michael Praetorius (1571-1621). The vast majority of Praetorius's musical output is sacred music in the Lutheran tradition. His one surviving secular composition – a set of instrumental dances, *Terpsichore* – is tuneful and rhythmically captivating.

December 15. English organist, composer and educator Herbert Howells (1892-1983) was Professor of Music at the Royal College of Music and the University of London. Although he wrote a large number of orchestral, chamber and organ works, he is best known for his choral music, including the *Hymnus paradisi*, a response to the death of his 9-year-old son in 1938, and *Take Him, Earth, for Cherishing*, commissioned in 1963 for the memorial service for President John F. Kennedy. We will be singing Howells's anthem, *My Eyes for Beauty Pine*, set to a text by the English poet laureate Robert Bridges (1844-1930).

December 15 (Evening). A favorite Christmas tradition is the Service of Lessons and Carols, which dates from 1880 and was devised by Edward Benson, Bishop of Truro (in Cornwall) and later Archbishop of Canterbury. The most famous of these services, long presented in annual radio broadcasts, is the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols initiated by King's College, Cambridge in 1918. Two years ago we settled on seven carols; what will it be this year?

December 22. Our anthem this Sunday is *E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come*, by Paul O. Manz (1919-2009). The text was adapted from Revelation 22 by Paul's wife, Ruth. This oft-performed work was a prayer to God to save the couple's critically ill 3-year-old son. Their prayers were answered. Manz was a celebrated organist as well as a composer, and has been referred to as the dean of Lutheran church musicians.

December 24 (Evening). Our Christmas Eve anthem is an arrangement by Sir David Willcocks (1919-2015) of the traditional carol, *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*. Willcocks was for many years the Director of King's College Choir, Cambridge

December 29. The choir takes a traditional post-Christmas break. -Clarence Zuvekas

Deacon Theresa at November 2019 Diocesan Convention in Crystal City, VA. Here, Deacon Theresa assists **Bishop Jennifer Brooke-Davidson** (left) as **Bishop Susan Goff** (right) presents the crozier, symbolizing Bishop Jennifer's new ministry in the Diocese of Virginia. (Also in the photo, Deacon David Curtis, assisting Bishop Susan).



December Birthdays



| | |
|--------------------|----|
| Darren Cummings | 1 |
| Bob Fones | 1 |
| Nana Howton | 1 |
| Elizabeth Maguzi | 1 |
| Margaret Pendley | 1 |
| Hugo Perina | 1 |
| Tom Tsui | 1 |
| 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 |
| Cathy Knowles | 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 |
| Barbara Chatelain | 26 |
| Vicki Cox | 28 |
| Adriana Daggie | 28 |
| Sheila Massey | 28 |
| Grant Leersnyder | 29 |
| Dave Hamnett | 30 |

Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteering can improve your well-being! Fairfax County's Volunteer Solutions can connect you with a wide variety of meaningful opportunities to improve the lives of older adults and adults with disabilities such as Meals on Wheels driving and/or coordination, grocery shopping, social visiting, driving others to medical appointments, errands and more. Or you can assist in a myriad of ways at senior centers or adult day healthcare centers. Go to bit.ly/volunteersolutions for more information and to sign up. Or Email VolunteerSolutions@FairfaxCounty.gov or call the intake line at 703-324-5406 with questions.

-Tanya Erway, M.S.W. Volunteer Solutions Recruitment Manager, Fairfax County Division of Adult and Aging

Rise Against Hunger November 10. About 80 parishioners and friends spent just over one hour measuring, sealing and packaging 10,000 meals to combat international hunger. Following was a delicious lunch salad of beans, rice and veggies prepared by **Gerardo Mazariegos, Fr. Paul, Fr. Jeff, Kate Wettstein, Olivia Devereaux** and others. And a birthday cake for Fr. Jeff!



Capital Campaign Update—It's Time to Stretch Our Goals!

As you know, the Capital Campaign Committee plans to meet with **every family in our parish** to discuss the campaign and to hear firsthand everyone's thoughts and hopes for the future of St. Alban's. We are thrilled at the response so far, and the generosity of our fellow parishioners. As of this writing, we've met with about half of all the families, and we have documented pledges for the campaign totaling nearly **\$1.2 million**. Your level of commitment is putting us on a path to improved infrastructure that will benefit our ministries for decades to come!

Our minimum financial goal, to complete the renovated kitchen and adjacent facilities, was \$1.1 million. Having exceeded that minimum, we can now focus on revitalizing our capital reserve fund. This will enable us to complete long-overdue and necessary projects like:

- Fresh repainting of the entire exterior of the church & rectory
- Improving the lighting and cooling in the choir loft
- Upgrading the speakers in the nave so that all can hear
- Replacing the boiler, long past its lifespan
- Clearing the overgrowth along Columbia Pike and replanting the hillside with low-maintenance plantings to ensure the safety of our volunteer mowing team



What is the Capital Reserve Fund and why does it matter? The Capital Reserve has been used to fund several important (and expensive!) projects that otherwise might have required capital campaigns of their own. These included such projects as the resurfacing and relighting of our parking lot, structural repairs to the sacristy and the replacement of the HVAC system.

By replenishing the Capital Reserve and refurbishing our aging structures, we also contribute to the long-term financial stability of the parish. **Did you know that 80 percent of our annual income comes from parishioner pledges?** While your annual pledge generosity is needed and appreciated, it will be easier for your vestry to plan from year to year if we add more revenue from other sources, such as facility rentals. All of this improved infrastructure will make that possible!

We are only halfway toward our goal of meeting with everyone, and we hope to achieve parish-wide participation in the campaign. If that happens, your vestry will be able to consider even more improvements that have long been

requested by our fellow members, such as:

- Upgrading the electrical throughout the facility, including charging stations in all rooms
- Upgrading the parish office air conditioners
- Replacing signs on Gallows Road and Sleepy Hollow Road
- Eventual need for asbestos removal from classrooms and sacristy
- Redesigning Room 1, including removing closets, repainting, and appropriate furnishings

It's been a blessing for those of us on the committee to meet with so many parishioners and hear of how much you love St. Alban's and what its ministries mean to you. Every single one of you is a vital part of this parish, and we can't wait to meet individually with each of you. **Please, when you are contacted by a member of the committee about meeting, say yes!** And if you have any questions in the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact either of us, or anyone on the committee. There are also a complete set of Q&As, and regularly updated information, on our website at <https://wearestalbans.org/campaign/>. Thank you!

-Bill Calvert and Linda Cummings

Remembering Judy Snyder

The free Nova Community College Alexandria campus lending library that was created in memory of late parishioner **Judy Snyder**, wife of **Joe Snyder**, now contains an Episcopal Book of Common Prayer! Judy was a teacher of ESL at Nova.

The free library allows readers to take a book and enjoy. Sometimes the book is not returned, but no one is looking! Recently, Judy's friends at St. Alban's donated the book in Judy's memory and **Fr. Paul** delivered the book in hopes that someone might find it helpful.

*The **Judy Snyder** Memorial free library is housed on the Nova Alexandria campus. Judy died in 2015 but her memory lives on in many ways.*



Youth Group Donut Sale Raised \$600+!



Macgregor, Robby, Fr. Paul, Sophia and Olivia



Fr. Paul, Harry and Victor selling lots of donuts on a cold blustery election day.



Victor, Macgregor, Harry, Robby, James

Saint Alban's Youth held a donut and coffee sale fundraiser on November 5, Election Day, for our upcoming summer mission to Hurley, VA. With receipts of just over \$855, and costs of approximately \$250, *we raised more than \$600* toward our Youth Mission budget! Thanks to **Robby Larson-Ensinger, James Perina, Sophia DePasquale, Olivia DePasquale, Macgregor Bickel** and **Victor Zorin** for showing up bright and early and for showing our local voters some amazing Saint Alban's spirit! Thanks, too, to **Harry and Delores Baisden**, for arriving well before dawn to get the coffee started and the tables set up, while **Fr. Paul** picked up the delicious sugar bombs.

A Big Bazaar Success—We Raised Almost \$16,000!

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, 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 wonderful our church is and hopefully, some of those will come back and visit us on Sunday mornings!

Because of all your efforts, we raised \$15,929 at the Bazaar (+ additional sales from Handmades booth and Pressed flowers on Sunday following the bazaar) to contribute to our outreach support of community organizations serving those in need. 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 - \$1414 Books - \$550; Cafe - \$1327; Children's Boutique - \$350; Christmas Decorations - \$1162; Face Painting - \$51. Handmades - \$2262* Household Boutique - \$1,635; Jewelry - \$2106; Pressed Flowers - \$1166* Raffle - \$2309; Tools - \$679; Toys - \$890; and Moon bounce - \$22.

* additional sales after the bazaar,

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! I heard several people talking about how much fun the kids had at the moon bounce, having their faces painted and visiting "Santa." **Harris** and **Larry** were a great team! (See their photo with **Jo** right).

It's never too early to start planning for our 2020 bazaar! Please send us an email and let us know your thoughts on how the bazaar went and ways to improve. We'll discuss all comments received during the first planning meeting next year. Also, please let us know if you want to be included on future emails/meeting minutes. We look forward to hearing from you!

Note: One of our raffle prizes, a T. J. Oshie autographed 8 X 10 player photo from the Washington Capitals, has not arrived yet. We plan to have a special raffle drawing after it arrives and donate the proceeds to support the youth's group mission trip to Hurley. Stay tuned for additional details!

-Nancy Calvert and Sue Mairena



Harris Andrews with Jo & Larry Hodgkin at the Bazaar in their toy workshop.

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A Fond Farewell to Ed and Ginger Caress

We wish **Ed** and **Ginger Caress** a fond farewell as they depart in early December for River Landing, a retirement community near their son Jim and family in High Point, North Carolina. Ed and Ginger will be very much missed by their many friends and for their many contributions to St. Alban's over their 50 years here.

Ginger grew up in Towson, Maryland and attended an Episcopal boarding school in Peekskill, New York. She graduated from Bryn Mawr College and went on to earn a Ph. D. in nuclear chemistry at the University of Rochester. Ed grew up in Rochester and graduated from Dartmouth College. He met Ginger at the University of Rochester while pursuing his doctorate in organic chemistry. The "chemistry" was just right; Ed and Ginger married in 1961.



Ginger and Ed Caress

They moved to northern Virginia in 1965 when Ed joined the faculty of Columbian College (the undergraduate school of George Washington University) as Assistant Professor of Chemistry. Ed rose through the ranks to full Professor and eventually entered university administration. He served in many capacities in the Columbian College Dean's office, including two years as Interim Dean. He retired in 2004 after 39 years. Ginger was initially a stay-at-home mom with their three young children before putting her doctorate to work for 20 years, first at the U. S. Patent and Trademark Office and then the Department of Energy, where she worked with inventors to file technical patent applications, retiring in 2002.

The Caress family found St. Alban's around 1967 and their children Jim, Becky and Peter were confirmed at St. Alban's. Peter was also baptized at St. Alban's and both he and Jim served as acolytes. Jim carries on the Caress tradition of academia as a Professor of Neurology at Wake Forest Baptist Medical School. He and his wife, Leanne, also a neurologist, have two children: Andy and Beth. Becky married Troy Carter at St. Alban's in 1997 and they have two sons: Mac and Alex. Becky teaches physics in a private high school in Los Angeles and Troy is a physics professor at UCLA. The youngest Caress child, Peter, is a computer engineer at a Gaithersburg, Maryland telecom company. His wife, Sunitha, is a pediatrician. They are recently married and live in Elkridge, Maryland.

Ed and Ginger served St. Alban's long and quite well over their 50 years, both as senior and junior wardens. Ginger was one of the first, if not the first, woman to serve as senior warden in the Diocese. They have served on various ad hoc and standing committees, including chairing search committees. Ed was on the Vestry when it made history by voting to approve Alison Cheek for ordination as the first female Episcopal priest. Ginger has been a food captain for the Annandale Christian Community for Action (ACCA) and is active in local politics.

Ed and Ginger are songbirds! They have been members of the St. Alban's choir since their early days at St. Alban's. They were members of the Alban Chorale under the leadership of the beloved **Quincy Butler**. Their love of singing led them to join the NOVA Alexandria Chorus which offers concerts to the community.

Ed and Ginger also greatly enjoy traveling and have visited every continent except for Antarctica. Travel highlights include Tanzania, China and Tibet, Israel, Egypt, Australia/New Zealand, and Cambodia. More recently, they have spent time in South America, most of the European and Scandinavian countries, as well as in the U.S. and Canada.

As Ed and Ginger depart in early December for their new home in North Carolina with some nostalgia, a little excitement and many mixed emotions, they express these sentiments: *"St. Alban's has been enormously supportive to us. It's been a real pleasure to be a part of it all for over 50 years and we are immensely grateful for all St. Alban's has done for us over these many years. We will continue to cherish our longstanding and rich friendships and will very much miss our old friends at St. Alban's."* Godspeed Ed and Ginger!
-Barbara Hallman

Richard Craig

Long time parishioner, **Dick Craig**, husband of **Linda**, died on November 8. Dick was active in the life of St. Alban's as Pledge Secretary, on the vestry and other missions. Many parishioners will fondly remember Dick as the "knife sharpening" guru at our bazaar for many years, readying countless carving knives for Thanksgiving turkeys all over Annandale and Falls Church.

Funeral services will be held for Dick at St. Alban's on December 10 at 11:00 am.

Please keep Linda and Dick's loved ones in your thoughts and prayers.

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





Youth Group Gift Wrap

Bring your gifts to be wrapped to Room 11 during both services on Sundays up until Christmas. The gift wrapping is free, but we hope you'll leave a generous donation to support the Youth Group's summer 2019 mission trip.

Hypothermia Shelter

St. Alban's will once again host a shelter for homeless people the week of Christmas. We traditionally provide a hot evening meal and then provide our parish hall as a warm shelter for the night. Please see sign up sheets in the narthex.



Christmas Poinsettias

Altar flower dedication forms are in the narthex and may be dropped off in the parish office by Tuesday December 17 or sent via email. Thank you!

BETHANY HOUSE COLLECTION

Donations for Bethany House Christmas gifts may be placed in the narthex until Sunday December 8. See SAM for gift ideas. Donations should be new and unwrapped. If you are donating gift cards, please bring them to the office. Please contact **Molly Chilton** if you have any questions:



December Calendar Highlights

December 6 **First Friday Lunch Bunch**

Bonefish Grill, Kingstown 11:30 am
To RSVP, contact **Mary Trice** or **Bliss Miga**

December 7 **Advent Quiet Morning** in narthex 8:30 am to 1:30 pm

December 8 **Feast of St. Nicholas**

Children's Sermon and Youth Bishop, both services.
Children, leave your shoes in the narthex!

December 10 **Funeral services for Dick Craig** 11:00 am

December 15 **Advent Lessons and Carols** 7:00 pm

December 22 **Greening of the Church** after 10:15 am service

December 22– 28 **Hypothermia Shelter** Sign up sheets in narthex

Advent Quiet Morning December 7 Theme: Trust

Looking for some peace and quiet this busy holiday season? Looking for an inner compass to help you navigate unsettling times? Join us in the narthex from 8:30 am to 1:30 pm as we experience peace through movement, art, music, journaling. Questions? Contact **Kay Lusk**.