

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

May 2020 Vol.19, Issue 4

## From the Rector



On Easter Sunday the Episcopal Church released a video of an amazing compilation of over 800 voices and instrumentalists, each voice and each instrument recorded at home by individuals, singing that lovely Easter hymn “The Strife is Over.” I’m sure you’ve heard it:

*The strife is o’er, the battle done, the victory of life is won.  
The song of triumph has begun. Alleluia!*

It is a lovely hymn with stirring words, but on this past Easter Sunday, isolated from friends and family, traditions set aside, and having just finished a nice, but strange Holy Week, the sound of those 800 voices and instruments singing as one, yet separated by tens... hundreds... thousands of miles, brought tears to my eyes. My computer screen lit up with hundreds of individual squares, each square occupied by a fellow Christian singing as one unified choir about the victory of life given to us by Christ. Who wouldn’t be moved to tears?

If you didn’t have the good fortune to see it, it’s available on the home page of the National Church website ([episcopalchurch.org](http://episcopalchurch.org)) – The Episcopal Church Virtual Choir. For me, that “virtual choir” performance is symbolic of our community. 800 separate voices, spread far and wide, singing as one. We are separated, yet united in our love for Christ and our desire to follow in the footsteps of Our Lord Jesus; and we are bound together in our love, care and compassion for each other and our community. What beautiful music we make!



*Fr. Jeff at the remotely broadcast April 12 Easter service.*

I am looking forward to that moment when our time apart has ended and we can safely (although, perhaps with certain precautions) come together as a family. In this Easter season, I see that coming day as a sort of resurrection for us and for our community and a reminder that God is ever faithful.

When the people of Israel were far from home, in exile, the prophet Isaiah assured them that God had not forgotten them, and promised them new life:

*Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.  
For I am about to do a new thing...I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. (Isaiah 43:1, 19)*

I was curious about how the Church has responded during other pandemics throughout history. One story that comes to mind is “Constance and her companions.” Constance, Thecla, Ruth and Frances – all Episcopal nuns – and two Episcopal priests, The Rev’s. Charles Parsons and Louis Schuyler, remained in Memphis in 1878 during a yellow fever epidemic which took 5,150 lives. The group tended the sick and the dying at the expense of their own health and lives. We pray this prayer on September 9<sup>th</sup>, the day we honor and commemorate their sacrifice:

*We give you thanks and praise, O God of compassion, for the heroic witness of the Martyrs of Memphis, who, in a time of plague and pestilence, were steadfast in their care for the sick and dying, and loved not their own lives, even unto death; Inspire in us a like love and commitment to those in need, following the example of our Savior Jesus Christ; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and for ever. Amen.*

Stay safe, wash your hands, be patient, hold each other up in prayer, trust in Jesus.

-Fr. Jeff

**Needing help or able to help? Please contact the church office at 703-256-2966**

## The Warden's Pen

Easter Greetings! I so missed being able to attend church on Easter Morning, but am loving what our clergy is creating online. I find there is much beauty in simple things and our Morning Prayer on Sundays is beautiful.

This will be my last Warden's Pen. After much consideration, I have decided to step down as Senior Warden for my last year on Vestry.

I am pleased and proud to announce that **Moira Skinner** has been voted your new Senior Warden for the next year. **Rick Weinberg** and **Margaret Pendley** have graciously agreed to continue as Junior Warden and Register, respectively.

Your Vestry continues their meetings via Zoom.

-Nancy Harrell



A big thanks to **Nancy Harrell** for her many years of service as our Senior Warden.



*Peter Larson captures a chance meeting in the Harris Teeter parking lot of Mary Trice, Jane Gilbert and Peter Larson; masks in hand.*

*Below, even the famous wood sculptures in Annandale are wearing masks!  
Fr. Paul waves a gloved hand as he prepares to conduct a remote church service.*



Publisher:  
The Rev. Jeff Shankles Managing Editor.  
Photo Editor, Design & Layout:  
Barbara Hallman  
Production and Distribution:  
Sharon Belanger; Doris Lewis;  
Tammy Thomas.

Contributors:  
The Rt. Rev Susan Goff;  
The Rev. Jeff Shankles;  
Betsy Anderson; Joyce Aument;  
Bill Calvert; Larry Civale;  
Linda Cummings; Nancy Harrell;  
April Kreller;  
The Rev. Theresa Lewallen;  
Moira Skinner.

Photographers:  
Betsy Anderson; Jane Bishop; Barbara Hallman; Elizabeth Howton; The Keipers;  
Peter Larson; Robyn Leersnyder;  
The Rev. Paul Moberly;  
The Pecks; The Rev. Jeff Shankles;  
Moira Skinner; Kate Wettstein.

Artwork: Elizabeth Cheek.

**Next Edition: June 2020**  
**Articles/photos welcome!**  
**Submit by May 15 to**  
**bhallman1@cox.net**

St. Alban's Episcopal Church  
6800 Columbia Pike,  
Annandale, VA 22003 703-256-2966  
www.stalbansva.org



## From the Deacon



*Deacon Theresa on Easter Sunday April 12*

### Offering Gratitude

Once a month during the school year, ushers or children bring a basket of food to the altar. This basket is a reminder that our worship and our work in the community are completely linked. Liturgy, the work of the people, is what we do inside and outside of church.

Over five years ago, the Outreach Committee tasked a group of concerned parishioners to explore ways for St. Alban's to work closely with the staff of Belvedere to support the students and staff. The parish's partnership began in 2015 and St. Alban's participation in the weekend meal program (aka "Backpack Program") has been in place since then, growing slightly over time.

The weekend meal program is an expression of our liturgical work. The program has been well organized, advertised and run by volunteers. **Kitty and Dave Wildes** have been responsible for the set up, the packaging and delivery of the bins of meals. They work closely with the school and other volunteers. **Kit Ryan** and **Cathy Casey** shop for the food and have been responsible for improving the nutritional value of what we provide. **Jane Cheek** also assists with the program. It is through this team that the program runs smoothly and in such an organized way.

With sadness and gratitude, we will soon be saying goodbye to Kitty and Dave as they leave for their new home in Delaware. They have been wonderful in their efforts to keep the program's schedule on track and to ensure that everything is taken care of, including organizing the basket of food brought forward to be blessed. As a community, we will miss Dave and Kitty. Personally, I will miss them as early encouragers of this ministry. I give thanks for all they have done and wish them well.

Kit, Cathy and Jane will continue to work with the weekend meal program when school begins again in August. Together, we are looking for volunteers who can commit to being part of the team, whether it is shopping, setting up or delivering food. Think about it, pray about it. Ask Kit and Cathy about their role. Drop Dave and Kitty a note to learn more about they do. Contact me and I'll be glad to talk with you. [Theresa.lewallen@verizon.net](mailto:Theresa.lewallen@verizon.net)

-Deacon Theresa

This beautiful prayer appears on page 134 of the Book of Common Prayer. Per Google, it is said to be a prayer by St. Augustine, the fifth century African bishop who included it in a sermon.

Isn't it amazing how well it speaks to us today?

*Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake. Amen. (page 134) BCP*



## May Birthdays



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

# Outreach



First, I hope you and your families are well and keeping safe. These are concerning times, and I know many of you are wondering what St. Alban's is able to do for outreach at this time. Quite a bit, as it turns out.

Even before the schools closed, **Deacon Theresa** reached out to the schools we sponsor – Poe Middle School and Belvedere Elementary – to discuss how we could assist. In addition to our Poe team captains, **Remy Jurenas** and **Camille Stern**, supporting our efforts, Remy also arranged to donate food prepared in anticipation of the next (and now cancelled) after-school feeding to the Bailey's Crossroads Homeless Shelter. In late March, Belvedere asked for our April food contribution as soon as possible, and Deacon Theresa and I packed the weekend bags for distribution (while maintaining safe distances and proper hygiene). Before the bags could be delivered, the schools closed.

After several discussions and the schools remaining closed, the decision was made to donate the bags of food to the Annandale United Methodist Church Mission Center for distribution to the needy. **Jane Cheek** and **April Kreller** kindly delivered the bags there. With the schools closed, the County has established a lunch grab-and-go program, which is providing breakfast and lunch at a significant number of schools. Parents can just drive up to the curb and tell them how many children they need lunch for, and in addition, can get lunch for adults for \$2. The locations and details are available on this Fairfax County Public Schools website: <https://www.fcps.edu/news/coronavirus-update-food-resources>.

In addition to the County setting up pick-up times and locations, the school counselors created a plan to provide food to the families whose children rely on the free or reduced fee meals at school (76 percent of the children are eligible). Our Poe After School Program Counselor, **Patrick Rosas**, created a plan for weekly distributions within several apartment complexes where a large number of Poe families live.

On April 2, I was able to join Patrick and some of the volunteers who lived in the complex we visited to help distribute food there. I was given a mask and gloves to wear (as well as were the other volunteers). Two vans delivered food: one van had food that had already been divided up into individual grocery bags; the other van had large sacks of potatoes and onions, boxes of Go-Gurt, applesauce, pasta, and mac-and-cheese packets. While the pre-packed bags were given out, I helped divide up the potatoes and onions into grocery bags (4 potatoes and 4 onions, each). Once the prepacked bags ran out, they provided the individual bags of potatoes and onions, as well as boxes of pasta, applesauce, etc. By the end, we only had onions left. Folks started lining up well before the announced distribution time. Everyone queued quietly and respectfully of each other, and everyone was grateful, even those who only got onions. And, we finished 10 minutes after we were supposed to start! Unfortunately, we had to turn some people away empty-handed. But Patrick let them know of other opportunities. His plan is to continue this food distribution every Thursday afternoon and perhaps add other sites. By the time you read this, April Kreller and her friend **Laura Parrish**, **Chris Peck** and **Nell Dillard** will have helped out too. If you are interested in helping (and are under 60 and not at-risk), please let Deacon Theresa and me know. The situation is fluid, including the County's plans for funding. Deacon Theresa continues to monitor the situation and will let us know if other needs arise.



*Volunteers from St. Alban's, Annandale United Methodist Church and the community with hot meals donated by World Central Kitchen (Chef José Andrés).*

After two weeks of distributing food to the Poe families, Patrick provided an update on the number of families that have been served during that time through the Tuesday and Thursday programs.

## Tuesdays - Emergency Food Distribution Program

	AUMC Mission Center	The Parliaments	Total
March 31st	35	14	49
April 7th	16	14	30

**Thursdays - Food Distribution Program** (For reference, before the COVID-19 pandemic, the AUMC Mission Center was serving approximately 65 families each Thursday)

	AUMC Mission Center	Fairmont Gardens	Total
April 2nd	125	170	295
April 9th	180	218	398

I also had the opportunity to volunteer for ACCA, delivering food from their food pantry to families designated by Fairfax County as needing assistance. My account of delivering to one family was in **Fr. Jeff's** April 7 email update. **Kate Wettstein** did an ACCA food delivery that week too. She said it was an eye-opening experience. Thank you, Kate, for continuing to volunteer. Thank you, **Gail Coleman**, for coordinating this effort. (In addition to being the ACCA Transportation Chair, Gail is a food captain and is on the board of the ACCA Child Development Center).

If you are able, please consider helping deliver food. Other ways you can help are by donating food to their food pantry or donating money directly to ACCA. St. Alban's continues to contribute to ACCA financially through the Outreach budget, and many St. Albanites are very involved, including **Debra Schrag**, who is the current ACCA President, and **Doug** and **Sue Mairena**, who are our ACCA representatives.

**Ivy Kilby** continues to volunteer with Samaritan Ministry of Greater Washington (SMGW). The Arlington office is now open once a week (Thursdays, 9:00 am-12 noon), only doing business on the front porch. Volunteers are wearing gloves and staying a safe distance from each other and the SMGW participants. Participants can collect their mail and check in with the case worker. They can also receive hygiene products and an assortment of food. Volunteers have also begun to pass out the umbrellas Saint Alban's has been collecting. Unfortunately, SMGW's Next Step Breakfast fundraiser had to be cancelled and that financial support is still greatly needed. If you would like to view Next Step program testimonials, make a pledge or donate to Samaritan Ministry to help them reach their goal of \$300,000, here is the link: <http://samaritanministry.org/program>

As you can see, St. Alban's continues to help in the community. Thank you for helping spread the love and support to those who have been hit so hard by this pandemic.

-Yours faithfully, Moira Skinner



*Ivy Kilby volunteering at the Arlington office of SMGW.*



*Photo: left: Masked and ready to pack and serve Poe Middle School families at Fairmont Gardens (Patrick Rosas is in the middle in blue),  
Photo above: Packing food to be delivered by Fastran buses into grocery bags*

## A Note from our Seminarian Larry Civale

Dear Parish of Saint Alban's,

Easter blessings to you! I have missed seeing you during this very strange and difficult time. My last semester at VTS and at St Alban's is certainly not what I expected. I not only want to say goodbye, but also share a little of what has been happening in my life.

I'm currently finishing up class work and will be leaving Alexandria in early May to live with some friends in southern Maine until I get a job. My ordination to the transitional diaconate is still scheduled for June 6<sup>th</sup> at St Paul's Cathedral in Boston. It will be private and it may have a zoom/online component. I'll send the link along for anyone who might want to watch.

As we are increasingly reminded of these days, the Church is so much bigger than a building. The Body of Christ is about people witnessing to the world and caring for and serving the Lord and each other. You are a parish with a big heart that so clearly loves their church and each other! I've learned much from you and I am very grateful for your friendships and opportunities this past year and a half. Thank you all for your guidance and kindness. I will miss you and will always hold you in my thoughts and prayers and I ask that you pray for me as well.

God bless you and stay well!

-Faithfully in Christ, Larry



## Kitchen Update

We have exciting news to share this month! Our building permits have been filed with the County! Timing of construction is dependent on Fairfax County's permitting process, but we are still hopeful we can move forward with construction this summer.

As we wait for the County to review the permits, removal of the existing acoustic tile above the kitchen wall in the parish hall will begin. When we had the hazardous material survey completed a few months ago, we learned these tiles contain asbestos. For everyone's safety, the Committee decided to replace these tiles. We will be living with an unfinished look for a while. In order to avoid damaging the new materials, we will wait to install the replacement acoustical materials at the end of the construction project.

Look for pictures along with updated FAQ's on the new Kitchen page on the Saint Alban's website. The Kitchen Committee continues to meet via Zoom and we look forward to sharing updates with you in SAM and in the WORD next month.

-April Kreller

## Capital Campaign News

The Capital Campaign redemption phase is well underway. All parishioners with an outstanding capital campaign pledge balance should have received a one-page quarterly update by now. Those parishioners who have completed their pledge commitment should have received a Pledge Fulfillment Letter signed by **Fr. Jeff**. Please let us know if we missed you.

As of this writing, we can report the following information:

Total Number of Pledges — 120

Fulfilled Pledges — 26

Total Amount Collected — \$648,100

Additional Amount Scheduled to be Collected in 2020 — \$78,000

Although a little bit hampered by COVID-19 right now, **Linda** and I are continuing to develop ways, both on-line and with tracking charts that we can eventually place around the church, to keep all parishioners up to date with the progress of pledge redemptions. We welcome all ideas.

Currently, redemptions can be made at any time via myEoffering or by mail to the church office (advise the office that your check is coming). Or place in the new St. Alban's locked mailbox—see article page 7. Please ensure that the memo line or cover letter for any check indicates that it is for the **Capital Campaign** so that the counters can record the information correctly.

For questions or to submit a new pledge, please do not hesitate to contact **Bill Calvert** ([hokiebc1988@gmail.com](mailto:hokiebc1988@gmail.com)) or Linda Cummings ([ldcummings@msn.com](mailto:ldcummings@msn.com)).

-Bill Calvert and Linda Cummings

## George Irish

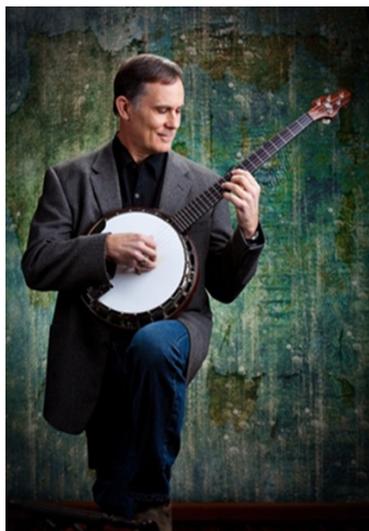
Long-time parishioner, **George Irish**, died on April 25.

Funeral arrangements are pending due to the temporary Stay-at-Home order.

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

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





John Bullock

## Muldoon Series Virtual Concert May 3 at 4:00 pm

Join us from the comfort of your home for the final concert in our season. This concert features **John Bullard - Bach, Banjos and the Hero's Journey**.

John uses the metaphor of the hero's own story and introduces a captivating program of classical music on the banjo. In this interactive program, John engages the audience and invites them to reflect on their own hero's journey in life and in music.

To enjoy the concert, starting at 4:00 pm on Sunday, May 3, a special streaming video link will be available. To access the link, go to: <https://WeAreStAlbans.org/muldoon>.

The recorded concert will be available online for 24 hours.

*This performance is partially supported by funding from the Virginia Commission for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts.*

### AN UNTITLED POEM by Hulda Muldoon



I met God in the morning  
When my day was at its best  
And his presence came as sunrise  
Like a glory in my breast.

All day long His Presence lingered  
All day long He stayed with me  
And we sailed in perfect calmness  
O'er very troubled sea.

Other ships were blown and battered  
Other ships were sore distressed  
But the winds that seemed to drive them  
Brought to us a peace and rest.

When I thought of other mornings  
With a keen remorse of mind  
When I too had loosed the mornings  
And His Presence left behind.

So I think I know the secret  
Learned from many a troubled way.  
You must seek God in the morning  
If you want him through the day.

A little background:  
Hulda Muldoon's husband Ken found a writing pad on Hulda's bedside table on which she had jotted down these thoughts. This poem was printed with permission in the church bulletin many years ago as a memorial to Hulda. The Muldoon Concert Series is a living memorial to Hulda.

Courtesy **Joyce Aument**

### St. Alban's Mail

We have been having problems with our mail delivery, and some checks sent to St. Alban's have been stolen and cashed. Mason District police have notified us that they believe residential and business mailboxes as well as the blue USPS collection boxes are being targeted for theft. We have opened a case with both Fairfax County police and USPS but apparently the problem has not been resolved.



*The new locked mailbox!*

If you are able to come by the church, you can drop your check off in our new locking mailbox in the parking lot (same location as our old mailbox). If you would rather not leave your home, please notify Tammy via email [info@stalbansva.org](mailto:info@stalbansva.org) and we will make arrangements with you to pick up your check.

If you are interested in setting up an e-giving account with myEoffering, but aren't sure where to start, parishioner **Charles Becker** is happy to work with you and help you out. Charles can be reached on email at [beckerc58703@yahoo.com](mailto:beckerc58703@yahoo.com)



*Fr. Jeff has found a serene and beautiful place to conduct a taped sermon as part of the Daily Service of Morning Prayer that aired on April 26. Did we see **Clark** meandering in the background?*

## Easter Sunday April 12



Despite social distancing, St. Alban's parishioners were treated to a glorious Easter Day service thanks to the wonders of the internet. Thanks to our clergy and technical and support staff for making our Palm Sunday, Holy Week and our Easter celebration special and moving, concluding on Easter Day with a magnificent presentation of photos from Palm Sunday and Easter 2018 and 2019.

*Photos: **Bill and Nancy Calvert** with furry Easter felines; **Betsy Anderson** in her Easter hat; a composite screen shot of our Zoom social hour following the Easter service. Check out the Easter hats!*



*Photos bottom Row: **Chris Peck and Robyn, Hillary and Angela Leersnyder** show off their Easter finery; **Ginger (the dog) Howton** watches (or ignores?) Easter services online.*

## Holy Week 2020



### Palm Sunday April 5—A service from a distance

*Photos: Edmund and Rosalind Keiper enjoying a beautiful Palm Sunday; Fr. Jeff during sermon; palms on the altar in the Memorial Grove.*



*Online church services frequently include a “Clark sighting.”*

### How to “church” during a pandemic

#### Apart but never alone....

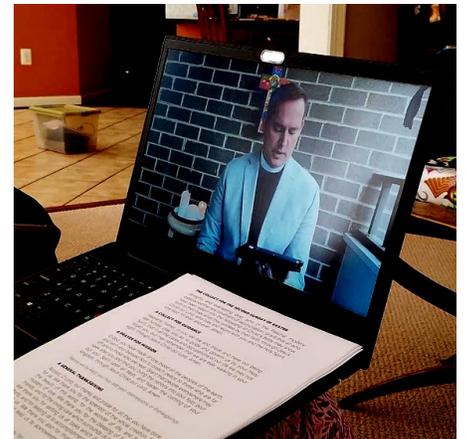
*Robby Larson-Ensinger serving as acolyte during Holy Week services with video equipment in the foreground to bring services to home computers.*

*Father Jeff conducting service to video equipment and empty church.*

*Clark Shankles steals the show by snuggling in Fr. Jeff’s robe during service.*

*Fr. Paul conducts online Palm Sunday services.*

*Fr. Paul appears on the Howton’s home laptop as he conducts services with cardinals chirping in the background. Easter Day was the last day of services filmed in the church. Starting April 13, services were filmed outside of the church facility.*



*Note: many photos in this edition are screen shots from an iphone.*



## A meditation for week 3 of Easter: Seeing God's treasures right before our eyes The Rt. Rev. Susan E. Goff

*"I will give you the treasures of darkness and riches hidden in secret places, so that you may know that it is I, the Lord, the God of Israel, who call you by your name." Isaiah 45:3*

There are moments that feel like bleak darkness in this time of pandemic. If I spend too much time reading the news, gloom threatens. When I hear of friends or cousins who have contracted COVID-19, murkiness increases. When I talk with health care professionals and see the stress on their faces or hear it in their voices, clouds gather. Circumstances nearly every day take me to the valley of shadows.

In that valley, in those times when shadows loom, God gives us the treasures of darkness and riches hidden in secret places. This time of sheltering at home can offer us a training ground for learning to see those treasures.

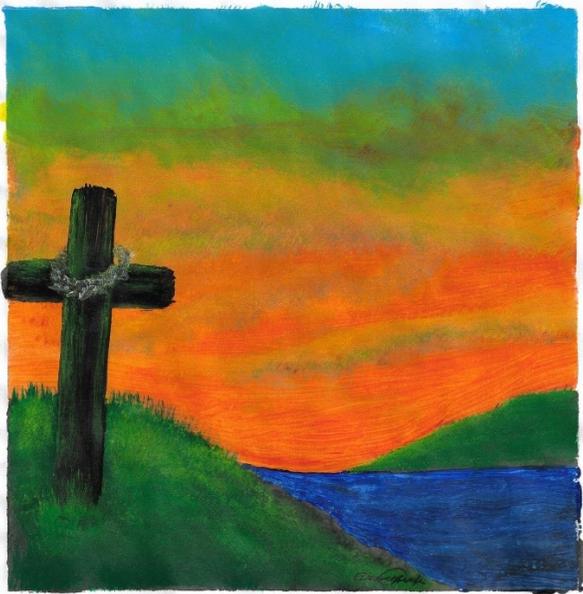


After six weeks at home, some of us are going a bit stir crazy. Some of us are longing for stimulation beyond the four walls of our houses. If your house is anything like mine, though, it is full of treasures. Some of them are literally in darkness, hidden away in closets and basements and attics. Some are hidden in plain view because, even though they are right there, we just don't notice them anymore. We can train ourselves to see God's treasures in darkness by seeing the treasures right before our eyes in our own homes.

A way to do it is to choose one item in your home before each meal. It might be something you haven't seen in a while, even if it's always visible. Or you might go to one of those dark corners and take out something that has been hidden away for some time. During the meal, tell the story of how it came to be in your home, of the people and places you remember when you see it, and of why you've kept it all these years. The real treasures are often not the things themselves, but the relationships and experiences that they help us recall.

By training our eyes and hearts and minds to notice the treasures in our homes, maybe we can begin to see the deeper wonders that God provides even in the shadows, even in the darkness. Because God is at work in the darkness showing us light, leading us to hope, and blessing us with unexpected wonders.

St. Alban's Episcopal Church  
6800 Columbia Pike  
Annandale, VA 22003



*Elizabeth Cheek's lovely artwork graced and enhanced our Holy Week worship.*

*All in-church services are cancelled during the pandemic. Please watch for emails from Fr. Jeff and Fr. Paul about online service schedules, confirmation classes and opportunities to use tele- and video-conferencing technology and pre-filmed videos to connect with our church family.*



*Joyous Easter Day sidewalk art by Betsy Anderson.*



Just a reminder that there will be no Vacation Bible School this year due to planned kitchen construction. (and lots of other reasons!)

**Needing Help or Able to Help? Please contact the church office at 703-256-2966**