

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

April 2021 Vol.19, Issue 3

## Kitchen Construction News

*We pray, Blessed Lord, that you will strengthen and embolden our faith,  
Inspiring us and encouraging us by your Holy Spirit,  
That we may run to wherever your work and mission call us.  
Guide us and inspire us to carry out the vision you have placed upon our hearts,  
That we may be Christ's hands and heart in our community,  
Feeding the hungry and caring for the poor and the oppressed.*

Dust off your glasses, break out the bubbly, and raise a glass! The new kitchen and bathrooms are here! The last few weeks have been very busy as the final work on the renovation project is underway. We are anticipating an official turn-over date in the next few weeks, once the final inspections take place.

Since our last update, the appliances were installed and finishing touches were completed in the bathrooms, laundry and shower rooms. The installation of the acoustical tile in the parish hall was complete as was the installation of the new outside door. If you were driving on Columbia Pike in front of the church in the last few weeks, you may have noticed the left lane closures in the stretch in front of St. Alban's. This was done for the installation of the new gas line that will support the new appliances.

With all of the major work finished, the kitchen committee walked the property and developed a punch list for the small items that need to be completed. The work will continue on these items until the official turnover date in the next few weeks.

While we would love to formally open and bless the new space, we will have to wait a little longer. In the meantime, please check out the photos on pages 7 and 8 of this edition of The Word and a virtual tour video, starring your kitchen committee! Please use this link <https://youtu.be/efhIITd09Xk> to see the video. A special thank you to **Cole Lieberthal** for putting this together and kitchen committee members **Betsy Anderson, Linda Cummings, Nancy Harrell, Delores Baisden** and **Fr. Jeff** for taking us on this tour.

There is so much to be grateful for with the completion of this space from start to finish: Thinking back to the survey **Mike Sinsabaugh** put together in 2015 that first brought attention to this project, the multiple terms of Vestry members under the leadership of **Senior Wardens Linda Cummings, Nancy Harrell** and **Moirra Skinner** that provided wisdom and guidance, the Capital Campaign Committee led by **Linda Cummings** and **Bill Calvert**, the finance committee with **Rick Weinberg** and **Sue Mariena** leading the charge, the tireless efforts of **Betsy** and **Fr. Jeff** and the **entire kitchen committee** who have been involved with this project for nearly five years, AND the entire St. Alban's family for your financial contributions, endless prayers, and support. My glass is raised to all! -April Kreller, Kitchen Committee



*We've com a long way! A big thanks to the Kitchen Committee, here at the outset of the construction. Current photos pgs.6 & 7..*

## From the Rector

The end of March and beginning of April have been gloriously chaotic. We kept up a brisk pace of producing Sunday worship videos, only to have to double our pace as we added the extra services of Holy Week. Everyone involved in the production of our videos, from the lectors and intercessors, choir, organist, our temporary Altar Guild of one, and certainly clergy, are chomping at the bit to be back in our old routine of live, Sunday morning services. As more people are being vaccinated, the Altar Guild has stepped up and have begun to resume their duties of caring for the altar and preparing the sanctuary for worship. It seems that, as we approach the Great Festival of Easter, signs of our common life together are showing up in and around St. Alban's.



*Just wait til you see our glistening brand new appliances in our brand new kitchen! Bring your sunglasses!*

*For a preview, go to <https://youtu.be/efhIITd09Xk>*

Adding to the chaos has been, of course, the final stages of our kitchen and restroom renovation. I must admit that no one I saw at the church was safe from being dragged down to the parish hall for a guided tour. It is so exciting and gratifying to see the hard work and generosity of this community come to fruition, and to contemplate how we can reach out to our neighbors as the hands and heart of Jesus.

Mixed in with all that busy-ness was a contact by a seminarian who was interested in joining our parish family for the next year as our seminarian intern. I am very pleased to announce that **Luis Hernández Rivas** will be joining us, following a long tradition of St. Alban's parish working with seminarians to help shape and form them into leaders of the Church.

Many of you have asked the question, "when will we be back together in church?" I'm afraid I've always responded with a shrug of my shoulders and

an incoherent, "*I dunno....*" Of course, that question will be ultimately answered by our Bishop, taking into consideration our region's infection rates, vaccination rates and current trends in both areas. I encourage you to check out the section of the diocesan website devoted to our response to COVID-19 [www.thediocese.net](http://www.thediocese.net). Once there, click on the box labeled, "Church Life and Worship in the time of COVID-19."

Finally, in this Easter season, I wish you and your friends, family and loved ones a most joyous Feast of the Resurrection. Never forget that as Christians we are an incarnational people – seeing Christ in everyone, and we are a resurrection people – always living with hope, looking to the future and the promises the future brings. As resurrection people we know that God's love brings light to every dark place and carries us as we share the Good News of God in Christ.

-Fr. Jeff

## Warden's Pen

When I started to write this month's article, I wasn't sure what to write about. As I asked myself what I should write about, I opened my email to see **Bishop Porter Taylor's** Lenten meditation. His quote from Rowan Williams' book, *Being Disciples: Essentials of the Christian Life* really struck me. [When you ask, God provides.]

Being disciples means being called to see others, and especially others in profound need, from the perspective of an eternal and unflinching, unalterable love. For the Christian disciple, human dignity depends upon the recognition that every person is related to God before they are related to anything or anyone else.

"Every person is related to God." We remember that, we act that out, when we help our neighbors, particularly through our feeding programs where we serve those in need regardless of their skin color, appearance, ethnicity, national origin or immigration status. We remember that, we act that out, when we share our support for those who are being targeted by, and speak out against, discrimination, hate and violence. God so loves us. Let's share that love.

Peace and blessings to all.

-Moira Skinner

Fill The World



With Christ's Love



## From the Deacon

### Food for Poe Middle School Families

The pandemic has caused economic and food security issues for many Poe Middle School students and their families. Some students' family members work in jobs that were eliminated, experienced reduced hours, or put them at high risk for COVID-19.

St. Alban's has been a very active participant in community food distributions offered through collaborations developed in March 2020 by Poe's after-school coordinator when school buildings closed. Although the school system has provided breakfast and lunch for students during the pandemic, their families had few options for food support. To address that need, the community food distributions take place in apartment complexes where Poe students live. They do not require referral from a County agency and provide food to many immigrant families. St. Alban's volunteers have participated in the distributions since March 2020. We also provided food for 21 Poe families several times using funds from the Outreach budget and clergy discretionary funds. Until last fall, the distributions occurred weekly. Since then, distributions are scheduled for the first three weeks of the month.



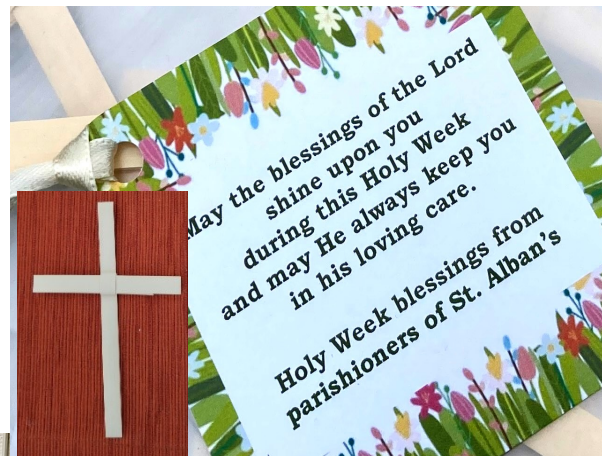
To address the issue, St. Alban's has partnered with Poe Middle School to fill the gap created with the change in distribution schedule. In March, we began a new project. Food for Poe Middle School Families is an extension and expansion of St. Alban's relationship with the school. We will assist 25 families identified by the school counselors as most in need of food during the fourth week of each month when the community food distributions do not take place. The identified families are unable to access food through community programs that require County referrals either because of their immigration status or concerns that asking for referrals will negatively impact their ability to stay in this country.

Coordinated by **Nell Dillard** and **Remy Jurenas** with assistance from **Moira Skinner**, volunteers will shop and bag the groceries. On the fourth Thursday of each month, volunteers will transport the groceries to the distribution site and work with the counselor to give the groceries to the families.

Your pledges and financial contributions make it possible for us to do this important work through Outreach funds. Please contact Nell or Deacon Theresa if you are able to assist with the food distribution. -Deacon Theresa

### Holy Week and Easter Gifts for Annandale Health Care Residents

**Deacon Theresa** came up with a thoughtful idea to brighten the days of the residents with a little gift of palm crosses and a card wishing the residents Holy Week blessings—just to let them know we continue to hold them in our prayers, even as we are not able to minister to them in person. The packages were assembled on March 17 in the courtyard and delivered to the home before Palm Sunday by Deacon Theresa. She also arranged for parishioners to provide Easter cards. Shown are Deacon Theresa, **Debbie Rosse**, **Olivia Devereux** and **Barbara Hallman**.





## Capital Campaign Update

With the Kitchen Restoration Project nearing completion, the Capital Campaign is also nearing a big milestone. This summer, we expect to surpass \$1 million dollars remitted! Just three years ago, when St. Alban's started down the path towards the restoration of our church building, anxiety persisted as to whether our little congregation of dedicated and forward-looking parishioners could meet these goals. Well, with generous pledges from our parishioners, we are almost there and we'll collect much more than \$1 million dollars as the campaign continues.

**Linda** and I were also happy to see a number of parishioners and friends of St. Alban's who made a financial gift after the formal campaign ended and construction began. Not only do these gifts help pay down the debt, they also help the Vestry plan a number of follow-on projects, including exterior painting, boiler replacement and landscaping of the Columbia Pike hill, without impacting the capital reserve fund.

We are grateful to all who have contributed to the capital campaign. Payments and gifts may be made at any time, via myEoffering or by mail to the church office (advise the office that your check is coming). Please indicate that the check is for the "Capital Campaign" so the counters record the payment correctly.

For questions, please 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



These are difficult times, filled with uncertainty. We know that for some, income has been reduced or cut.

If you are able to give, please remember that the church needs your financial support more than ever. It is only out of your generosity that we can do the good work that we do.

If you normally place an offering in the plate, please consider using our electronic giving platform:

**myEoffering**

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

## Making Lemonade from Lemons

**Margaret Pendley** was recently challenged to make lemonade from a lemon. In January, she broke her right foot in NINE PLACES, and is in a series of casts for 8 weeks (the lemon). She decided to sell advertising space on these casts to raise funds for the St. Alban's Clergy Discretionary Funds (the lemonade).

**Fr. Jeff, Fr. Paul and Deacon Theresa** receive a *small* stipend each year in the budget to use at their discretion to answer the needs of God's children, both inside and outside of our church. These stipends are usually supplemented over the year by donations that they receive for officiating at weddings, funerals, and other religious services, but COVID has put a serious dent into this ministry for them.

Although the minimum requested donation is \$1, the generosity of St. Alban's parishioners and friends has been overwhelming! To date, we have collected over \$1,000, and there is still one more cast to sign through Easter! To arrange for your signature on a cast, please contact Margaret at [stonepony@cox.net](mailto:stonepony@cox.net)

-Margaret Pendley





## Handmades and Pressed Flower Art Sales Support St. Alban's



**Barbara Cook's** granddaughter **Judy** snuggles with her fluffy new bunny made by **Martha Kelley** for the Handmades sale.



**Robyn Leersnyder** modeling the criss-cross apron



Bucket hats, rebranded as **Pandemic Easter Bonnets**, were big sellers.

The spring edition of the Handmades catalogue, available though Easter, featured new and crafty items including aprons, wind chimes and more. The Handmades spring sale was another big success. Look for us next fall, hopefully in person at the bazaar!

A spring pressed flower art sale is in the works! Lots of newly created items like suncatchers and eco-print cards that make great Easter, Earth Day and Mother's Day gifts. Prices include local socially distanced delivery to your home. The sale will run through Mother's Day.

Please contact **Barbara Hallman** by email if you'd like a catalog at: [Bhallman1@cox.net](mailto:Bhallman1@cox.net)



### April Birthdays

Jordan Allison-Espinoza	1	Harrison Gerdes	14
Jake Rosse	1	Jane Gilbert	14
Kate Wettstein	2	Bari St. Cyr	14
Winthrop Cashdollar	3	Elayne O'Loughlin	15
Christine Sobol	3	DJ Albergottie	17
Allison Blanchard	4	Cathy Williams	17
Jody Gamber	4	Karl Gerdes	18
William Van Balen	5	Annabeth Howton	24
Marie Sobol	7	Felix Howton	25
Betsy Murray	8	Gwen Jillson	25
Dede Lallande	10	Sarah Traum	25
Juliana Jurenas	11	Jerry Sare	26
Ethan Sobol	11	Mickey Singer	26
PJ Sottile	12	Cecilia Howton	27
Gabriel Albergottie	13	Cameron Chilton	29
Chuck Blanchard	14	Jessica Mairena	30

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**



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Duncan Mc Bride; Debbie Rosse;  
Kate Wettstein; various videographers.

**Next Edition: May 2021**  
**Articles/photos welcome!**  
**Submit by April 15 to [bhallman1@cox.net](mailto:bhallman1@cox.net)**

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## Construction Progress—Almost Ready

Our gleaming shiny new kitchen...  
get your sunglasses out!



*Convection oven*



*Betsy Anderson showing our generous storage space*



*Oven and kitchen window*



*Our old refrigerator, cleaned and renovated*



*Handwashing station,*



*Dishwasher*



*Sink and ice maker*



*Nancy Harrell at new sink*



*Kitchen panorama from entry door. Note handwashing station right at entry.*



## More Kitchen photos



*Sleek new sink and workspace*



*Betsy and Nancy in common workspace*



*Dedicated electrical panel*



*Betsy and Nancy in a light moment atop the parish hall service console. Look at that storage! New parish hall and kitchen exit door*



*Betsy demos the new baby changing station. One in both restrooms!*



*Margaret Pendley in shower room.*



*The hallway to bathrooms*



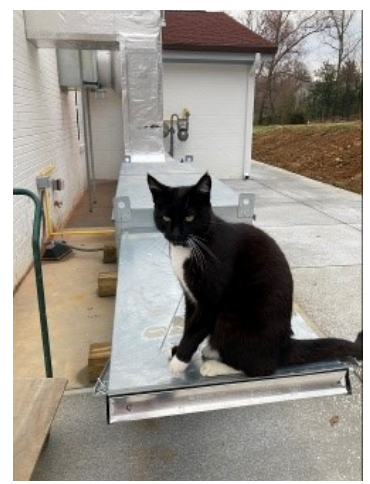
*New hot water tank technology*



*Betsy and Nancy and April in the back of the building with monster exhaust vents.*



*Clark conducting supervisory duties.*



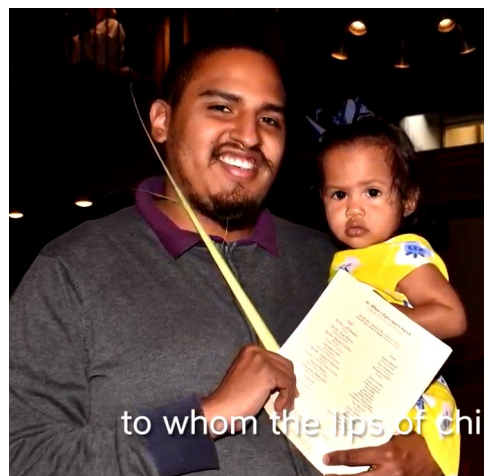
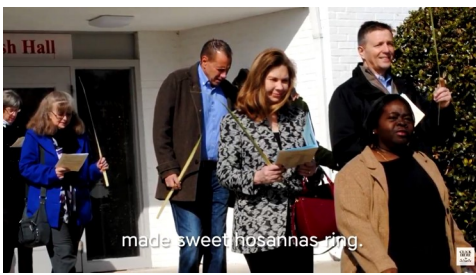


## Scenes from Service of March 28 Palm Sunday



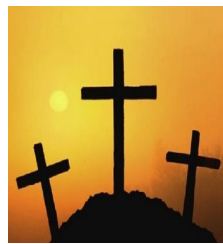
Lectors Barbara Cook, Liz Clements, Karen Weinberg. Intercessor Margaret Pendley. Gospeller Gail Coleman. Deacon and Gospeller The Rev. Deacon Theresa Lewallen. Preacher The Rev. Jeff Shankles, Celebrant The Rev. Paul Moberly. Music Dr. Jason Farris. Hymn Choir Marc Cheek, Wendy Hamnett, David Holland, Joan Jurenas, Hillary Leersnyder, Chris Martin, The Rev. Paul Moberly, Debbie Rosse, Fran Walinsky, Karen Weinberg, Cathy Williams, Clarence Zuvekas. Production The Rev. Paul Moberly.

## Scenes from past Palm Sundays shared in the Palm Sunday 2021 Service





# Holy Week



## Scenes from Service of March 21

Lectors Gail Coleman, Nancy Harrell.  
Intercessor Delores Baisden.  
Gospeller The Rev. Deacon Theresa Lewallen. Preacher and Celebrant The Rev. Paul Moberly. Music Dr. Jason Farris. Acolyte Gerado Mazariegos. Hymn Choir Wendy Hamnett, David Holland, Joan Jurenas, Angela Leersnyder, Hillary Leersnyder, Chris Martin, The Rev. Paul Moberly, Debbie Rosse, Fran Walinsky, Karen Weinberg, Clarence Zuvekas. Production The Rev. Paul Moberly.



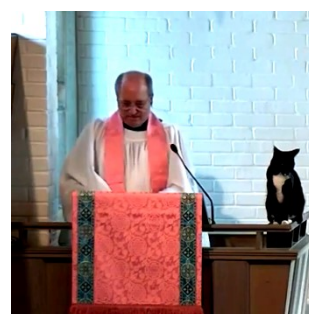


## Muldoon Concert

We were treated to a wonderful studio production quality Muldoon concert by a repeat favorite group, the Kenny Rittenhouse Quintet via You Tube on March 14. Mr. Rittenhouse also played Amazing Grace for us at the March 14 You Tube church service. Photo below.



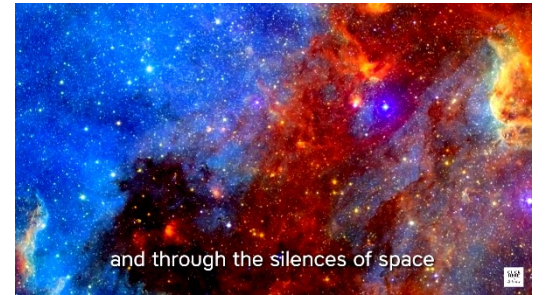
## Scenes from Service of March 14



Lectors Barbara Cook, Ivy Kilby, Intercessor Kyle McKenzie, Gospeller The Rev. Deacon Theresa Lewallen. Preacher The Rev. Jeff Shankles, Celebrant The Rev. Paul Moberly, Music Dr. Jason Farris. Guest musician Kenny Rittenhouse. Hymn Choir Marc Cheek, David Holland, Joan Jurenas, Angela Leersnyder, Hillary Leersnyder, Chris Martin, Nancy McSlarrow, The Rev. Paul Moberly, Debbie Rosse, Fran Walinsky, Karen Weinberg, Clarence Zuvekas. Production The Rev. Paul Moberly.



## Scenes from Service of March 7



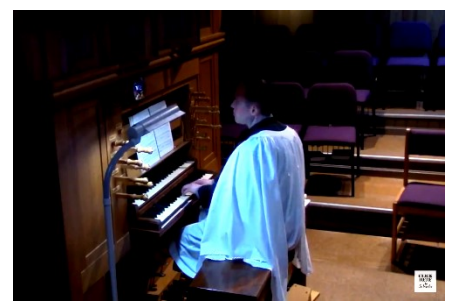
Lectors Charles Becker, Chris Martin, Intercessor Gerardo Mazariegos, Gospeller The Rev. Deacon Theresa Lewallen. Preacher The Rev. Jeff Shankles, Celebrant The Rev. Paul Moberly. Music Dr. Jason Farris. Hymn Choir Marc Cheek, Joan Jurenas, Angela Leersnyder, Hillary Leersnyder, Chris Martin, Nancy McSlarrow, The Rev. Paul Moberly, Debbie Rosse, Fran Walinsky, Karen Weinberg, Clarence Zuvekas. Production The Rev. Paul Moberly.



## Scenes from Service of February 28



Lectors Delores Baisden and Harry Baisden, Intercessor Cathy Casey, Acolyte Kate Wettstein, Gospeller The Rev. Deacon Theresa Lewallen. Preacher The Rev. Deacon Theresa Lewallen, Celebrant The Rev. Paul Moberly. Music Dr. Jason Farris. Hymn Choir Delores Baisden, Marc Cheek, Wendy Hamnett-Cleland, David Holland, Elizabeth Howton, Joan Jurenas, Kay Lusk, Chris Martin, Nancy McSlarrow, The Rev. Paul Moberly, Debbie Rosse, Fran Walinsky, Karen Weinberg, Clarence Zuvekas. Production The Rev. Paul Moberly.



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

**Compline:  
Wednesdays 8:00 pm  
Via Zoom**

About 15 minutes in duration, it's the perfect way to prepare for bed, whatever time that happens to be for you!

You can follow along in The Book of Common Prayer (p. 127), or follow the customized liturgy PDF that will be sent by email each week, along with the Zoom link.



**WeAreStAlbans.org/giving**



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.