

St. Alban's Episcopal Church The word

May 2021 Vol.19, Issue 4

From the Rector

I'm often asked when I think we might be able to worship together, indoors. Sometimes I feel like consulting my Magic 8-Ball for the answer because it seems like the 8-Ball might be a little more reliable. I will say that the decision to gather for indoor worship does not start with me, nor does it begin with the Vestry. Rather, the decision lies with our Bishop, who has given parishes permission to regather once a plan has been submitted and approved.

In the coming weeks the Vestry and I will be working with our Regathering Committee to set out a road map that will eventually get us into our building, worshipping together. As the Committee works on our regathering plan, you may be asked, as an usher or lector, member of the choir or member of the Altar Guild, to assist the Committee – perhaps to provide input as to how your ministry operates to see what adjustments or changes to your ministry may be required. As we begin to emerge from a year-long cocoon of quarantine, we will need leaders who will step up when something needs to be accomplished; we will need leaders who have a vision for what St. Alban's can be.

All regathering in the Diocese of Virginia is based on tracking the 7-day average of new cases per day per 100,000 population. The Diocese uses the Brown University School of Public Health dashboard to track the case count for the Diocese, and so also for Fairfax County. We can also look to the Fairfax County Health Department's COVID-19 Dashboard to see a more localized case count. As of this writing, the Fairfax County Health Department shows that our ZIP code (22003) is in the top 10 for highest case rates per 100,000 in Fairfax County, and the case count has, essentially, been holding steady.

The Diocese has very strict rules for gathering indoors, one of which is that all persons must continue to maintain a safe distance of 6 feet. That 6-foot requirement determines how many people can be safely seated in our church. Per those guidelines, St. Alban's can currently accommodate a total of 30 households in our church, whether a household is a single person, two people or a family of four. That means that, as of now, a very limited number of people would be able to attend a live service at St. Alban's.

With vaccines being distributed widely in Fairfax County and with access to everyone 16 years of age and older granted earlier this month, re-gathering as a family for our worship is looking more and more likely. But given the uncertainty of next week, next month, or the coming summer, some tough decisions have been made.

Fr. Paul, in consultation with his adult volunteer leaders, has determined that the Youth Group will not go forward with plans for a mission trip to North Carolina this summer. While Fr. Paul, the adults and I were anxious for a summer trip with the youth, a variety of factors played into this decision: the uncertainty of how the pandemic will play out; the current lack of vaccinations for youth under 16; the difficulty of safely transporting a group of unvaccinated youth a rather

long distance and the potential health hazards with a group of unvaccinated youth sleeping in a single bunkhouse room.

Change is happening, and each week it seems we receive new guidance based on current research and new findings, but I continue to be hopeful and optimistic. Think of this, not as a time when our isolation is ending, but think of it as a new beginning. We are, after all, in the Easter season and we see Easter life not as an ending, but as a new, changed life.

That's what our faith is about; that's what our church family is about. I'm very excited about the future at St. Alban's.

-Fr. Jeff



The glorious altar on Easter Day, April 4.

From the Deacon

A few days ago, I celebrated my fifth ordination anniversary. As I reflect on my ministry among you, as an ordained deacon, and before that as an intern, I give thanks for the many ways that you have helped to form me. At St. Alban's, I've been able to participate in ministries related to my past work and ministry and to enter into new ministries, including some work deeply ingrained in the parish's history. Together, we've stepped into new spaces, tentatively or wholeheartedly, learning and growing together.

As I write this, seven people are readying to be ordained to the diaconate. One at a time, in seven separate services, they will take the same vows I did. These vows set us apart for ordained ministry, require us to obey the authority of our bishop, to be loyal to the teachings of Christ and the doctrine of the Church, and to carry out the work that God calls us to. I give thanks to God for the people of St. Alban's and the ways in which you have helped me to become the deacon I am today.



Deacon Theresa on Easter Day.

Our diaconal vows build on the same Baptismal Covenant that all Episcopalians vow to carry out every time we have a baptism and on feasts of the church when we are together. The baptismal promises remind all of us of our call to carry out the ministry of Jesus, to bring God's love into the world, and that our faith, rooted in prayer and Scripture, is an active one. We take part actively in God's promise of new life and of God's kingdom being among us know. Through our ministries, together, we feed the hungry, care for the lonely, work for justice and mercy and open our hearts to our neighbors near and far. Some ministries have shifted and changed during the pandemic, but with God's help, we continue to show the world around us that the love of God has no bounds and encompasses everyone and everything, seen and unseen, in God's creation.

-Deacon Theresa



Photo to left: Donna Archer, Linda Cummings, Helen Cassidy, Sheila Massey, Jo Hodgkin and Coordinator Nell Dillard packing food for families of Poe students. The food was distributed to the families on April 29.

Warden's Pen

I recently participated as a St. Alban's delegate to a Special Diocesan Convention on the Budget. It was interesting to see how the Diocese is funding different priorities and to play a part in voting on budget amendments and the ultimate budget. I highly recommend being a delegate to Annual Convention to experience perspectives from the different parishes and mission churches in our Diocese and to get a glimpse of the "bigger picture."

It seems hard to believe that it has been a year since I was elected Senior Warden. Time has flown by and, although we were constrained from doing so many things, we have accomplished a lot. We are nearing the completion of the Kitchen construction project, which started with a parish survey back in 2015! Many thanks to the Capital Campaign Committee, particularly **Bill Calvert** and **Linda Cummings**, and to all our parishioners for their pledges, which made it a reality. Many thanks to **Betsy Anderson** and the Kitchen Committee for their hard work and perseverance to bring this to fruition. I look forward to when we can use the kitchen to support our food ministries and community outreach, and particularly when we can gather in person and enjoy many Parish Life activities. The Regathering Committee is starting up again, to look into how and when we can regather for worship in person, ably led by **Charles Becker**. **Margaret Pendley** has kindly agreed to be the point person for St. Alban's as we negotiate a new lease with the Village School. The Musician Search Committee met to discuss restarting the process of hiring a Music Minister that was put on hold when the pandemic began. And, our food ministry quietly continues under **Deacon Theresa's** and **Nell Dillard's** leadership.

My admiration for our many volunteers and our clergy continues to grow. Blessings to you all.

-Moira Skinner

Kitchen Update

The parish vision for a kitchen, modern bathrooms and a laundry and shower has come true! Your moral, financial, and prayer support are responsible for the resulting facility that will allow St. Alban's to fulfill its mission for generations to come. In Kitchen Committee meetings, we often talk about how much that support has sustained us throughout our work on the project. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.



Kitchen Committee members being briefed on kitchen equipment.

The Kitchen Committee would like to thank the Vestry especially for its diligent support of the project and budget. You have represented the parish well! Once all the bills are paid, we will be about 8 percent under the authorized budget. The total cost of the project was just over \$1 million.

We can't wait to get back to church and celebrate with you! Until then, you can check out **Cole Lieberthal's** video tour. Click here for the tour: <https://youtu.be/efhIITd09Xk> Or stop by the church, which is usually open during weekdays.

-Betsy Anderson and the Kitchen Committee

St. Alban's is Getting Painted!

The job is always so much easier when you have the right tools and equipment! (and brave workers to do it!)



Capital Campaign Update

As you read this update, the St. Alban's Kitchen and Restroom renovation project will be complete and pending turnover. This transformation is the result of many years of hard work by the Vestry, Clergy, Kitchen/Capital Campaign/Finance committees and many dedicated volunteers. But, all this work would have never occurred if not for the parishioners committed to financially support this work. Again, **Linda** and I thank every one of you.

The 2021 1st Quarter Capital Campaign statements have been mailed to all parishioners with an open pledge. As of mid-April, \$982,200 has been collected (69 percent of the total pledged amount of 1.426M). A total of \$95,500 has been collected this year towards the goal of collecting \$230,000 in 2021. Of the 118 pledges received during the Capital Campaign, 38 have now been fulfilled.

Linda and I are also happy to report that a number of parishioners and friends of St. Alban's have submitted payments to the Capital Campaign even though they did not initially pledge an amount. We thank these folks for the generosity. To date, project expenses have exceeded cash-on-hand, so the line of credit has been utilized.

We want to encourage anyone who wishes to help pay down the debt to simply send a check or use myEoffering, indicating that the funds should be applied to the Capital Campaign. Payments 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) or Linda Cummings (ldcumings@msn.com)

-Bill Calvert and Linda Cummings



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF VIRGINIA

Life Wants to Live

Four years ago, a strong winter wind blew down a tree in the park in my neighborhood. The crown of the tree landed in the small lake and the roots stood upright, exposed on the bank. That spring, the tree burst into bloom, then leafed out fully in its new life turned sideways. Life wants to live.

This spring, the tree is leafing out again. Birds find shelter in its branches. Fish find safety in the submerged crown. Insects of many kinds find sustenance. Life wants to live. Even when turned sideways, life wants to live.

On this Earth Day, the fifty second in the United States, we recognize how human choices have turned life sideways for many species on this planet. We recognize the great diversity of living things as we grieve the loss of so many species. We celebrate that life wants to live.

God give us courage to turn ourselves sideways for the sake of all living things on this beautiful, complex, intricate, life-sustaining planet, our island home. God help us, who want to live, to choose life for all creatures and, by so doing, to choose life for ourselves and our descendants. -Bishop Susan Goff



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

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Articles/photos welcome!
Submit by May 15 to bhallman1@cox.net

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Pressed Flower Art Sales Support St. Alban's

A spring pressed flower art sale is in the works! Lots of newly created items like suncatchers and eco-print cards that make unique and great Mother's Day and birthday gifts. New items added most days!

Prices include local socially distanced delivery to your home. The sale will run through Mother's Day.

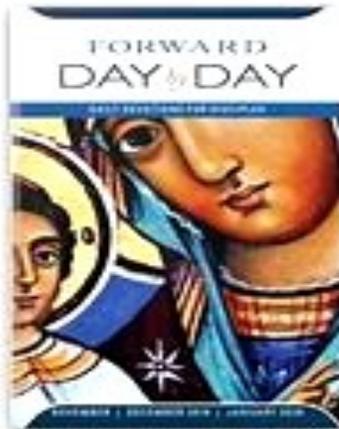
Please contact **Barbara Hallman** by email if you'd like a catalog at: Bhallman1@cox.net



Forward Day by Day

Forward Day by Day is a booklet of daily inspirational meditations reflecting on a specific Bible passage, chosen from the daily lectionary readings as listed in the Revised Common Lectionary or the Daily Office from the Episcopal Church's Book of Common Prayer. The meditations are rich in substance and offer a wide range of witness and experiences.

The new Day by Day booklets are now available in the narthex for pick up by parishioners.

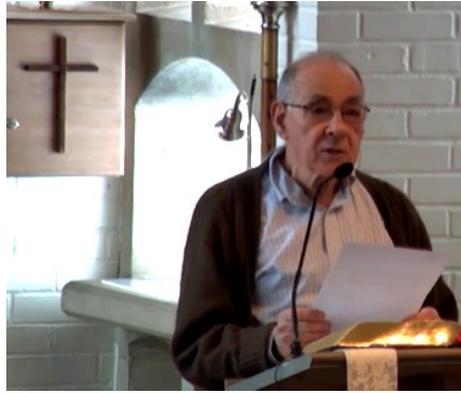


May Birthdays



Carlos Guzman Alfarol	
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
Virginia Shea	30
Jane Howard	31

Scenes from Service of April 25



Lectors Sarah Traum, Clarence Zuvekas. Intercessor Karen Weinberg. Deacon and Gospeller The Rev. Deacon Theresa Lewallen. Preacher The Rev. Lucretia Mann, Celebrant The Rev. Jeff Shankles. Music Dr. Jason Farris. Hymn Choir Marc Cheek, Wendy Hamnett, David Holland, Joan Jurenas, Angela and Hillary Leersnyder, Chris Martin, The Rev. Paul Moberly, Debbie Rosse, Fran Walinsky, Karen Weinberg, Clarence Zuvekas. Production The Rev. Paul Moberly.

Scenes from Service of April 18

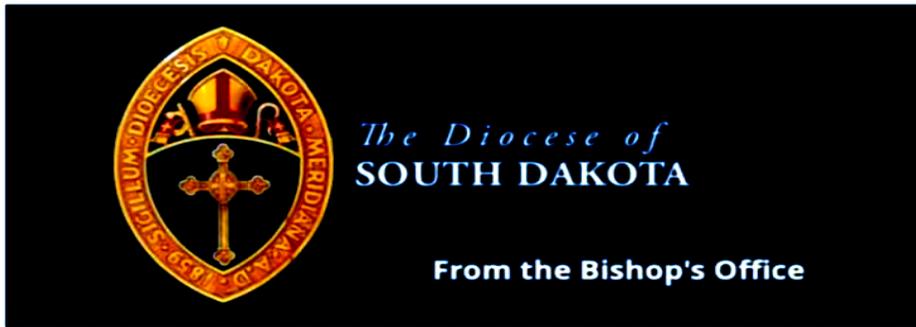


Lectors Cecilia Howton, Felix Howton. Intercessor Elizabeth Howton. Deacon and Gospeller The Rev. Deacon Theresa Lewallen. Preacher The Rev. Jeff Shankles. Celebrant The Rev. Paul Moberly. Music Dr. Jason Farris. Hymn Choir Wendy Hamnett, Joan Jurenas, Hillary Leersnyder, Chris Martin, The Rev. Paul Moberly, Fran Walinsky, Karen Weinberg, Cathy Williams, Clarence Zuvekas. Production The Rev. Paul Moberly.

Congratulations to our former Assistant Rector **Lauren Stanley**, who has been appointed to serve as the Canon to the Ordinary by Bishop Folts of The Diocese of South Dakota. Lauren currently has been serving as a priest on The Rosebud West. She will start her appointment part time immediately and full time in June. She will live in Pierre, SD.



My friends, this morning the Bishop of South Dakota, the Rt. Rev. Dr. Jonathan H. Folts, announced that he has appointed me the new Canon to the Ordinary for the Diocese of South Dakota. This is a huge honor for me, and I accepted his appointment. This means, however, that there are major tears for me as I prepare to leave the Rosebud. I begin as a part-time Canon on 15 April, and will officially begin full-time on 15 June, living in Pierre. We will find a new priest to come to the Rosebud West, one who is devoted to God and to the people, and who will be willing to listen and learn. I will share more information soon ... but know that my heart will always be here on the Rosebud, and that I will carry all that you have taught me with me as I work throughout the Diocese of South Dakota.



The Rev. Dr. Lauren Stanley, Canon to the Ordinary

Canon Lauren has accepted the invitation to serve our Diocese as the Bishop's new Canon to the Ordinary. In this new role, Lauren will oversee our Diocese's deployment and will be working closely with congregations who are searching for new clergy. She will also be providing training with both groups and individuals in leadership and congregational development. When a clergy person or Vestry asks, "How do I/we do....", Lauren will be the one to visit with you. Lauren will also oversee our Diocesan partnership ministries and help us to begin new relationships and strengthen older ones. She will be on the road visiting congregations two or three Sundays of the month and is available to preach, celebrate, conduct a forum or simply worship in the pew and visit with clergy and parishioners. As Canon Lauren finalizes her ministry with the good people of Rosebud Mission West, she will be working for our Diocese two days a week. Her last official Sunday as Superintending Presbyter will be June 6 and she will begin working full time in her new role on June 15. Lauren will be living in Pierre and her office will be at Trinity Episcopal Church.

Diocesan Service of April 11

All the churches in The Diocese of Virginia were invited to a Diocese-wide April 11 service on You Tube to provide a needed break to church clergy who have held virtual services for over a year now. The Diocese did this after Easter and Christmas last year. Shown here from the service are **The Rt. Rev. Susan Ellyn Goff, Bishop Suffragan and Ecclesiastical Authority** and **The Rt. Rev. Jennifer Brooke-Davidson, Assistant Bishop**.



Easter Day Service April 4



Lectors Ted Blanchard, Chuck Blanchard. Cantor Fran Walinsky. Gospeller and Deacon 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, Hilary Leersnyder, Chris Martin, The Rev. Paul Moberly, Debbie Rosse, Fran Walinsky, Karen Weinberg, Cathy Williams, Clarence Zuvekas. Production The Rev. Paul Moberly. Artwork Elizabeth Cheek. (Artwork shown on page 5).

Scenes from Past Easter Days shown during service on Easter Day



Scenes from Past Easter Days shown during service on Easter Day



April 4 Easter Day Zoom Coffee Hour



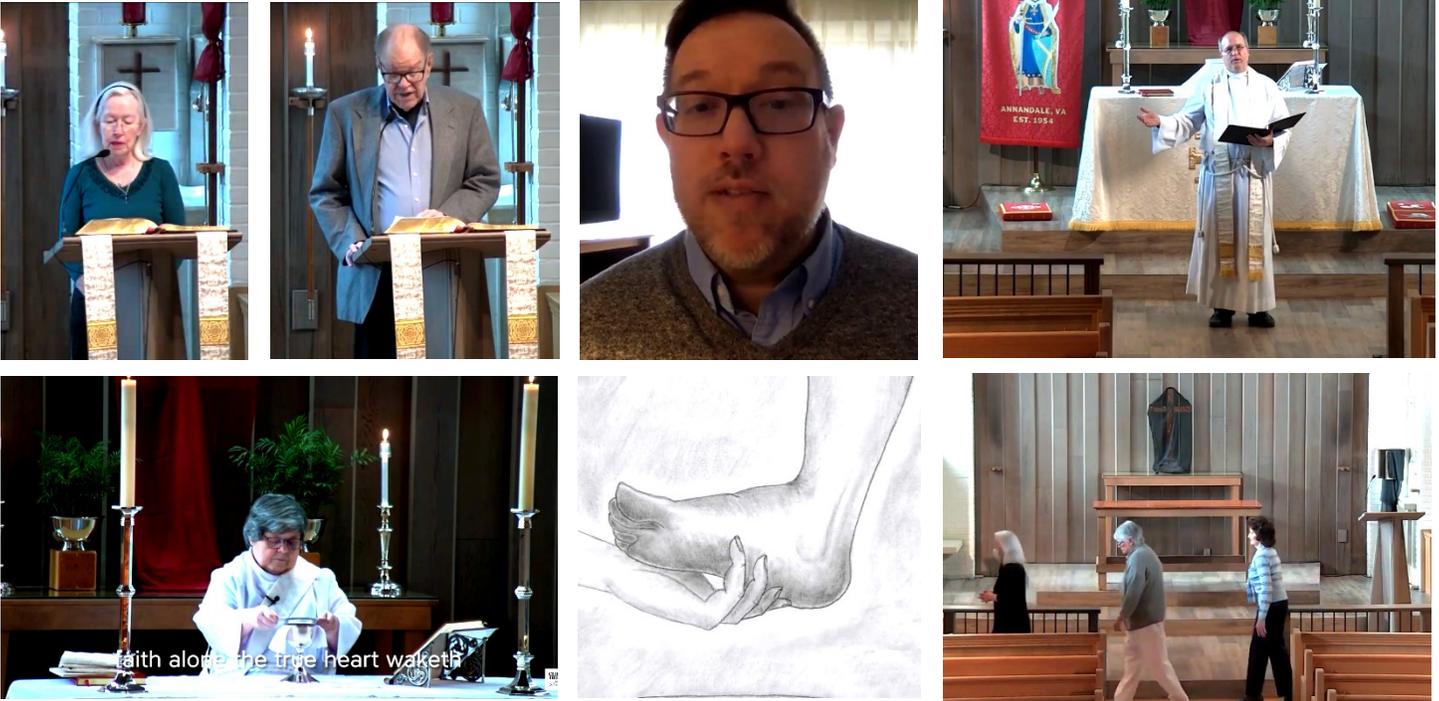
Scenes from Service of Good Friday Service April 2 Together again!



Lectors Nancy Harrell, Kate Wettstein. Gospeller Fr. Jeff Shankles, Deacon and Gospeller The Rev. Deacon Theresa Lewallen. Celebrant The Rev. Paul Moberly. Preacher Jon Guest-Scarffe. Music Dr. Jason Farris. Hymn Choir Wendy Hamnett, David Holland, Joan Jurenas, Angela Leersnyder, Chris Martin, The Rev. Paul Moberly, Debbie Rosse, Fran Walinsky, Karen Weinberg, Clarence Zuvekas. Production The Rev. Paul Moberly.



Scenes from Service of Maundy Thursday Service April 1



Lectors Delores Baisden, Harry Baisden. Intercessor Adam Hutson. Deacon and Gospeller The Rev. Deacon Theresa Lewallen. Preacher and Celebrant The Rev. Jeff Shankles. Music Dr. Jason Farris. Acolyte Kate Wettstein. 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. Cantors The Rev. Paul Moberly, Fran Walinsky. Production The Rev. Paul Moberly. Artwork Elizabeth Cheek. Altar Guild Delores Baisden, Dottie Ninde, Melinda Patterson.

Scenes of St. Alban's Parishioners in Service to the Community Shown during the April 1 service



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

[WeAreStAlbans.org/giving](https://www.WeAreStAlbans.org/giving)

**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.



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.