

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

June 2021 Vol.19, Issue 5

From the Rector

If you've been paying attention, you probably noticed that we did not have our Annual Meeting in late February/early March. The Vestry voted to postpone our Annual Meeting until we are able to gather in person. One suggestion put forth was that a video be prepared that presented an overview and recap of 2020. I rather enthusiastically endorsed that idea, until it became evident that I would also be the one to produce the video. Given the time and resources needed, I have finally decided that I would simply present a narrative timeline of the events of 2020 after our Annual Meeting in March. While the church, for the most part, stood empty, if you keep reading you will see that it was not a quiet year (article continues on pages 7-9).

In March 2020 the Washington Post wrote that the Diocese of Virginia has closed its churches and cancelled services. As you can see from my recounting on pages 7-9, nothing could be further from the truth. In 2020 St. Alban's volunteers gave their time and exercised their talent in a variety of ministries and programs. I'd like to share some numbers with you that we report to the National Church each year in our annual "Parochial Report." 124 volunteers helped with food distribution, in food pantries or meal projects serving over 12,000 people. Ten parishioners were involved in the "Walk the Walk" faith pilgrimage through Annandale and Alexandria and 15 volunteers assisted with our collection for Honduras. Our ongoing "Care Givers Support" group continued to meet online, with an average attendance of ten care givers. Those numbers don't include our mowing team volunteers, our Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer, weekly offering counters; Vestry, Kitchen Renovation Committee, Regathering Committee, Musician Search Committee, virtual choir members (see **Fr. Paul's** article, page 2), lectors and intercessors, the production of *The Word*, or the "non bazaar" online catalog sales of handmades and pressed flower art that occurred in lieu of the bazaar. And more! St. Alban's never closed.

As a family of faith, we've been through a lot. We've lost some friends, and one of the most painful parts of loss was that we weren't able to grieve as a family. We've been physically apart, but spiritually we've stayed united in purpose – to love, worship and serve the Lord. The pandemic isn't over, but I hope and pray that we have seen the worst of it. We are planning to worship together on Sunday, June 13, 2021. Sixty-six Sundays have passed since we were last together. I have missed seeing and being with each and every one of you.

Walter Cronkite used to sign off the CBS Evening News with his trademark phrase, "... and that's the way it is..." Those were always reassuring words to me, even as a child. Now, as an adult, I find comfort in the words of the prophet Isaiah, "...do not fear, for I am with you, do not be afraid, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand." (Isaiah 41:10); and in the words of the Psalmist: "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging." (Psalm 46:1-3)

-Fr. Jeff

See pages 7, 8 and 9 for Fr. Jeff's recounting of our amazing 14-month journey at St. Alban's during the Covid 19 pandemic.



Fr. Jeff is assisted with announcements by Clark on May 23



Bob Ensinger cuts the grass in November. Many activities of church maintenance and mission continued seamlessly during the pandemic. The show must go on!

From the Associate Rector

One of the unexpected joys of the past year in my ministry has been the “virtual” hymn choir. In the midst of much uncertainty, worry and isolation, the capacity to include some opportunity for congregational singing in our online pandemic services was a balm for my soul. I am deeply grateful to this group of singers – formed from regular choir members and other musically-inclined people from our congregation – for their faithfulness, artistry and even bravery, in submitting vocal recordings week after week: **Marc Cheek, Duncan McBride, Debbie Rosse, Elizabeth Howton, Cathy Williams, Betsy Anderson, Chris Martin, Kay Lusk, Fran Walinsky, Delores Baisden, Nancy Harrell, Joan Jurenas, Clarence Zuvekas, David Holland, Wendy Hamnett, Karen Weinberg, Hillary Leersnyder, Angela Leersnyder, John Lesko, and Nancy McSlarrow.**



Fr. Paul is the celebrant at the May 23 service of Pentecost.

When the lockdown began, we started producing pre-recorded services for Sunday worship – to provide a more worshipful and (hopefully) beautiful liturgy than the standard Zoom meeting can offer. While incorporating recorded instrumental music and plainsong into the service was fairly straightforward, I began to think about how we might work hymns and other congregational songs into the service. That was a real challenge: how do we allow people to sing “together” when everyone is isolated?

Some very tech-savvy music ministers around the country began producing “virtual choir” videos to put into services. Typically, these were little video boxes, Hollywood Squares-style, with people singing on camera with headphones on. But, it’s definitely complicated to mix together video and audio in a way that both looks and sounds good. It’s also time-consuming, with many people spending weeks putting together a single anthem. And, as our music minister search was suspended at the start of the pandemic, I realized that if we were going to have some hymns in our worship services, I was going to have to learn how to do it myself.

I began to tinker with audio software that allows for “multi-track” editing – that is, essentially, the ability to layer almost unlimited numbers of recordings over each other, and fine tuning them so that the recordings mix and line up exactly as intended. I quickly realized that this kind of software could produce a high-quality audio recording, with the right skill and technique, and so began to experiment with different ways of recording.

Ultimately, we began to experiment with sending a recording of **Dr. Farris** playing an organ accompaniment for one of our hymns. The singers would receive the file as an .mp3, and listen to it with headphones on one device (like an iPad or laptop). They’d sing along, and, using an audio recording app (comes standard with most smartphones), would make a recording of just their own voice singing their part of the hymn. I’d receive those recordings of voices, mix them together, and then layer that over the organ accompaniment I’d originally sent.

The first few were pretty rudimentary, but I have to say, when the first verse of full harmony played through my headphones, I knew that this was the method for us. We could insert these into the services we were already making, and people could (if they wanted to) sing along at home!

Since August 9, 2020, we recorded more than 100 hymns, a couple of anthems, and some service music from mass settings. We’re winding down our efforts now that we are moving back into in-person worship, with the search for a new music minister in full swing, I think, we have lots to look forward to in terms of music ministry at St. Alban’s. If you’d like to see the full list, and hear recordings of most of our hymns, you can peruse our shared Google Drive. You can even download recordings to save! Find it here: <https://bit.ly/3uvr50e>

*Bless, O Lord, us Thy servants who minister in Thy temple.
Grant that what we sing with our lips we may believe in our hearts,
and what we believe in our hearts we may show forth in our lives.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Fr. Paul

From the Deacon

As we prepare to move forward toward regathering in-person, I find an experiencing excitement and caution, joy and some sorrow. Some of us are in a state of almost and not-yet.

I'm looking at the intersection of joy and grief. In the last seven months, I experienced the death of my father and the birth of my granddaughter.

As a vaccinated person, I can make different risk calculations than people who cannot be vaccinated because of their health status. There currently are also no vaccines approved for young children—so parents have to make a different risk calculation. Even as the COVID-19 infection rate is declining in most of our country, 4,000 people died in the United States last week (as of this writing). At the same time the pandemic continues across the globe.



Ivy Kilby, Deacon Theresa and Linda Cummings help “Stuff the Trunk” with needed sundries and toiletries for Samaritan Ministries on May 15.

While we long “to go back,” in reality, we are moving forward, just as we always do. This time, we feel like we are taking a big leap forward. We’re moving forward toward being able to offer in-person as well as live-stream services so that our parishioners who cannot come into the building for worship can join us. People looking for a spiritual home who cannot come into the church will be able to find us online.

We’re beginning to move forward to provide services at Annandale Healthcare Center (AHC) this summer. This brings both joy and grief. Many residents of AHC and some staff died of COVID-19. Other residents have died as a result of aging or health issues. We’ll navigate this grief and joy in the months ahead as prepare to offer worship service. We are also looking at the best ways to provide the spiritual support through worship while keeping with the changes needed to keep the residents and the worship leaders at lowest possible risk. Please let me know if you would like to join the team of worship leaders and assistants.

The Holy Spirit is always leading us into new ways of being church and of being the faithful, active people of God. Where might the Spirit be leading you? Where is the Spirit leading St. Alban’s as we move forward in our community? Let me know if you have ideas and we can explore them together.
-Deacon Theresa

Walking on Sacred Ground

Every time we repeat our baptismal covenant, we promise to respect the dignity of every human being. For me, the Dignity Promise is The Big One, and it’s The Hard One. Every human being? Really? How do I/we show respect for the dignity of another person or group? It begins simply. We pay attention. We listen.

For a number of us at St. Alban’s, one vehicle for this kind of careful attention and thinking is [Walking on Sacred Ground](#), a film- and readings-based dialogue series on race, grounded in faith. Within the past year, **Deacon Theresa** organized two 10-week Sacred Ground sessions, where St. Albanites have walked together through chapters of America’s history of race and racism, while weaving in threads of family story, economic class and political and regional identity. The most recent one was led by **Rev. Lucretia Mann** and **Adam Smith**.

Watch this space in future issues of The Word for stories from Sacred Ground participants. Here's mine: My white skin enables me to take a break from thinking about racial justice, to look away. But the Black and Brown people in our congregation, people I care deeply about, don’t have that luxury. So, I’m choosing every day to stand with them, even if I get tired. I am paying attention.

If you have your own stories or thoughts to share, please talk with us. We are listening.

-Jo Hodgin

Regathering in person? YES!

Based on current public health information showing a decline in COVID-19 cases and an increase in vaccinations, and the Commonwealth of Virginia is lifting more restrictions, **Bishop Susan Goff** recently informed the clergy throughout the diocese that, as of May 28, 2021, we are permitted to regather without distance and capacity restrictions *to the extent we are ready to do so*. St. Alban's Regathering Committee has been preparing for this moment and agilely pivoted to address this welcome news. By now, you should have received the email from **Fr. Jeff** with a survey link. Please take the [survey](#) by May 28 which will help the Committee better prepare for restarting worship in person.

As Fr. Jeff noted in his email, it won't be exactly like it used to be, but it is a start! The Regathering Committee, in consultation with the Vestry, created a plan that balances our desire to gather in person with concern for everyone's safety, including the most vulnerable in our community. Here are some of the details we have as I write this:

Start Date: June 13

Indoor

Two Services:

8:15 am service – in the parish hall (allows for physical distancing)

10:15 am service – in the nave (physical distancing will be recommended) and Live-stream

Masks – required (except when lectors and intercessors read)

Vaccinations – not required

This plan gives you the option to do what you feel most comfortable doing at this point in time:

attend the 8:15 am service where you have the maximum flexibility for physical distancing;

attend the 10:15 am service where physical distancing is possible within the fixed pew seating; or

watch the service via the church's new live-streaming technology from the comfort of your home.

More details are being worked out; public health data will continue to be monitored; and adjustments will be made, accordingly.

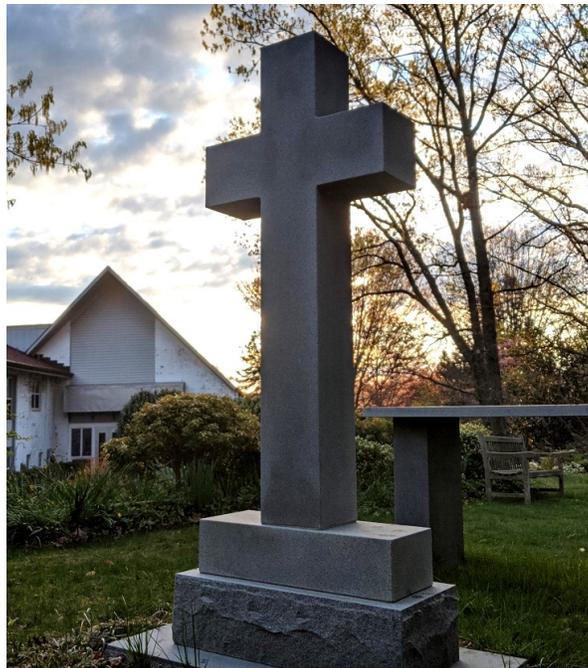
Many thanks to the Regathering Committee for their hard work in getting us to this point: **Charles Becker**, lead; **Donna Archer**, **Harry Baisden**, **Elizabeth Howton**, **Ivy Kilby**, **Chris Martin**, **Margaret Pendley**, **Moira Skinner**, **Tom Tycz**, **Rick Weinberg**, and **Fr. Paul**.
-Moira Skinner

Richard Froh

Richard Froh, beloved husband of **Fay** and father of **Christopher** and **Geoffrey**, died on May 15.

Please keep Fay and her family and loved ones in your thoughts and prayers.

*Receive, O Lord,
your servant, Richard,
into the arms of your mercy,
into the blessed rest
of everlasting peace,
and into the glorious company
of the saints in light.
May the souls of
all the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God,
rest in peace.*



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



*If you see any of these folks, please give them a big thank you for all the work they did to bring us our new kitchen!
Linda Cummings, Rick Weinberg, Fr. Jeff, Betsy Anderson, Delores Baisden, Nancy Harrell, Mike Gutermuth, Kate Wettstein
 and **Fr. Paul**. Not shown but members of the committee are **Moira Skinner and April Kreller**.*

Fr. Jeff’s Decommissioning Prayer for the Kitchen Renovation Committee

The Kitchen Committee met one last time on May 17 to celebrate the finalization of the Kitchen Project **Fr. Jeff** offered some thoughts and prayers:

You were called to serve this community as a member of the Kitchen Renovation Committee. You have been a responsible steward of the congregation’s resources. You have considered our future course and your views have informed our planning. As you leave this ministry, I thank you, on behalf of our St. Alban’s family, for your service, saying with Jesus, “Well done, thou good and faithful servant.” I know this parish offers you their prayers and support as you move on in the service of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Let us pray:

O God, who sent your Son to show us that the last shall be first and that the one who would be greatest must be the least, help your servants, who have been faithful members of the Kitchen Renovation Committee, find new ways to exercise ministry and leadership in your church. and grant that they, along with all good and faithful stewards within your kingdom, may enter into your joy, in this life and in the life hereafter. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

WHAT IS NIGHT PRAYER (COMPLINE)?

Night Prayer or Compline (“completion”) is the church’s bedtime prayer, a brief 10 minute peaceful service of words and song to quiet the mind before rest. It is a time to slow down and separate from the anxieties of the day and refocus on God.



Join St. Alban’s Compline service Wednesday evenings at 8:30 pm via Zoom. Zoom link provided in weekly email on Wednesdays.

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

Contributors: The Rev. Jeff Shankles; The Rev. Paul Moberly;
 The Rev. Theresa Lewallen; Barbara Hallman,
 Jo Hodgins; Moira Skinner;

Photographers, The Rev. Paul Moberly, The Rev. Jeff Shankles,
 Gerardo Mazariegos, Barbara Hallman; various videographers.

**Next Edition: July August 2021 Articles/photos welcome!
 Submit by June 15 to bhallman1@cox.net**

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

May 15 Adopt-A-Highway Clean Up Day



We had a great turnout for our adopted road clean up day on St. Alban's adopted one-mile portion of Sleepy Hollow Road on May 15.

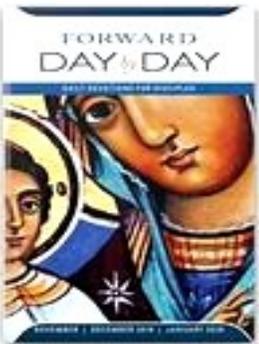
Cigarette butts were the primary findings. Surprisingly, not many masks. The most interesting items cannot be mentioned in this family friendly publication! It's always a riot to see who can collect the weirdest items along the road. All the trash pickers come with great spirits and laugh a lot. Come join the fun next time, and do something good for our community!

Shown in the photo below are **Delores Baisden, Stanley Utterback**, organizer **Elizabeth Howton, Izanne Zorin, Jim Cannon, Nancy Calvert, Bill Calvert, Jane Edwards, Ron Vogel** and **Wendy Hamnett**. Not shown, **Barbara Hallman**.

A Prayer for Clean Up Day

by Elizabeth Howton:

*Dear Lord,
We thank you
for the beauty
of this day that
you have made.
We pray that you
bless our labors.
Let us show forth
our love for our
neighbors and your creation
in our actions today.
And keep us safe along the road.
Amen*



Forward Day by Day

Forward Day by Day is a booklet of daily inspirational meditations rich in substance which offers a wide range of witness and experiences. The booklets are produced every three months.

The new Day by Day booklets are now available in the narthex for pick up by parishioners in regular and large print formats.

Pressed Flower Art Sales Support St. Alban's

My spring pressed flower art sale was a great success, thanks to all the wonderful customers who made referrals and purchased my wares! I appreciate your support of me and St. Alban's. I was able to donate \$600 to church from this sale. See you in the fall, but if there's anything I can do for you in the meantime, please, don't hesitate to inquire. I continue to produce daily and have lots of wares for your consideration. Fun Father's Day cards with ties made of flowers! All sales will continue to benefit St. Alban's.
-Barbara



June Birthdays

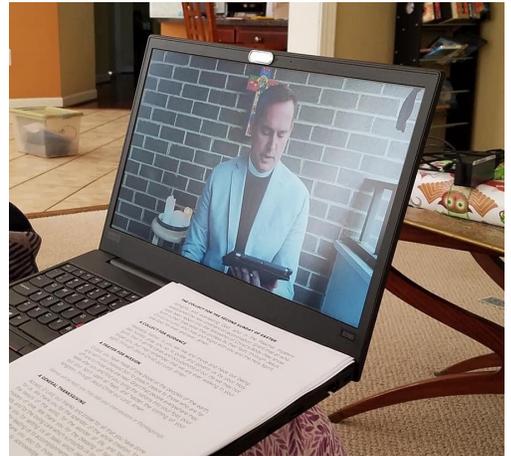
*O God our times are in your hand;
Look with favor we pray,
on your servants
as they begin another year.
Grant that they may grow
in wisdom and grace,
and strengthen their trust
in your goodness
all the days of their lives
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.*

Happy birthday June babies!
Please see SAM for birthdays
in the month of June.

Fourteen Months of Covid 19 Pandemic at St. Alban's — We Carried On!

March: The start of our kitchen renovation was looming on the horizon. I assumed the renovation was going to be the big newsmaker of 2020 for St. Alban's, followed closely by the work of our Music Minister Search Committee, who had resumes to review from 30 applicants for our new full-time Music Minister position. Lingering in the back of everyone's mind, of course, was this strange virus that seemed so far away. By mid-March, however, we began to see more and more effects from the virus in our area. Fairfax County schools were making plans for distance learning – just in case. The virus hit close to home when an Episcopal priest in Georgetown and several seminarians received positive diagnoses after attending a conference. Our Lenten program presenter was potentially exposed to the virus in a different venue, canceling our Lenten program after the initial session. **Bishop Goff** held an extraordinary online meeting via Zoom with all clergy of the diocese, in which we were informed that we must not gather for in-person worship for a period of at least two weeks. Our last in-person worship service was March 8, 2020. In late March, St. Alban's parishioners began assisting with food distribution to families in the Poe Middle School area.

April: We worshipped online for Holy Week and Easter, and had settled into a routine of recording parts of Sunday worship throughout the week, with **Fr. Paul** assembling a complete celebration of the Holy Eucharist out of short bits and pieces of video. Under the guidance of **Cole Lieberthal**, we learned how to upload our videos to YouTube, where they premiered on Sundays at 10:00 am. All committee meetings were being held via this new thing called Zoom.” In mid-April St. Alban's experienced a strong power-surge that destroyed the elevator controller, fire alarm panel, electric handicap door opener and several air-conditioner units throughout the building. Because staff were working from home, the problem wasn't noticed until our sexton, **Carlos**, attempted to enter the building and heard our security alarm blaring. Thanks to the national church's Church Insurance company, over \$14,000 in damages were covered with a very small co-pay. To make a tough month even more difficult, we discovered that checks were being stolen from the church mailbox. While the culprits were probably never apprehended, St. Alban's did install a new locking mailbox. Parishioner **George Irish** died from COVID-19 infection on April 25, our first death due to the virus.



One of our first YouTube church services.

May: Scientists came to the conclusion that COVID-19 was easily spread by an infected person through aerosol particles, especially through singing, resulting in the shutdown of the Music Minister Search committee. Confirmation classes moved to online sessions. Thanks to the hard work of our Treasurer, **Sue Mairena**, and our Assistant Treasurer, **Rick Weinberg**, St. Alban's applied for, and was granted, a PPP loan for \$83,200, which would later be forgiven. **Clark**, the Church Cat, got his own video and it is the fifth most watched video we produced. Our Pentecost 2020 worship video becomes our all-time, most viewed video with over 380 views.



May 31, 2020 - The Day of Pentecost - Holy Eucharist, Rite II - St. Alban's



June: We were joined by **Dr. Jason Farris**, who became our “on-demand organist” for our recorded worship videos. Following an excellent presentation to the Vestry by **Betsy Anderson**, the Vestry approved the Kitchen Renovation Committee's plans and unanimously authorized the committee to spend up to \$1.2 million on the Kitchen/Restroom renovation project. Virginians received the very sad news that Annandale Healthcare Center (the former Sleepy Hollow Nursing Home) had the highest number of COVID-19 cases and deaths in the state. Our neighbor reported 156 cases and 51 deaths.

July: Bazaar co-chair **Nancy Calvert** recommended to the Vestry that the 2020 bazaar be cancelled. St. Alban's started its first *Sacred Ground* circle. *Sacred Ground* is part of the Episcopal Church's long-term commitment to racial healing, reconciliation and justice in our personal lives, our ministries and our society. It is a film- and readings-based dialogue series on race, grounded in faith and designed for small groups. St. Alban's parishioners donated over 60 masks to the Annandale Healthcare Center.

August: St. Alban's volunteers began a weekly compline service on Wednesday evenings, adding to our well-established daily office of Morning Prayer. **Fr. Paul** began our "virtual choir." Each week he would send organ recordings to parishioners who would then record themselves singing their part. Once he collected all the recordings he then painstakingly compiled and synchronized the voices, producing a truly heavenly sound each Sunday morning. By May of 2021 our virtual choir had recorded 104 hymns, mostly from the Hymnal 1982. A survey of the parish found that a significant majority of the respondents felt connected with the church and each other but felt spiritually 'underfed' as a result of the quarantine. Our ever-faithful mowing teams continued their ministry of maintaining the grounds around our church. A small group of St. Albanites joined the "Walk the Walk" faith pilgrimage on its stretch through Annandale and Alexandria as part of its week-long pilgrimage from Charlottesville to Lafayette Square in Washington, D.C. **Deacon Theresa** led the members of the Sleepy Hollow Nursing Home ministry in an online prayer service for the residents of the facility who were affected by or died from Covid infection.



September: St. Alban's began transitioning from single camera videos to a much more sophisticated, multiple-camera video production system. All permits for the kitchen renovation were approved and work began with an asbestos abatement project – the official groundbreaking was on September 16 and demolition began on September 21. Sometime in September our electrical contractor, trying to determine why our illuminated cross no longer lit up, discovered old wiring inside the walls in the nave, as well as outside on the cross, had shorted out, burning and charring some of the wood, melting wire insulation and fusing some of the wires together.

The electrician said that we are incredibly fortunate that St. Alban's didn't go up in flames. The cross was completely re-wired and new LED bulbs were installed. We held what was intended to be the first of two outdoor offices of Evening Prayer on September 6th with about 60 people in attendance and plenty of volunteer support and assistance. **Harry and Delores Baisden** provided the music for our service, and it was just good to see faces we hadn't seen in many months.



October: a punctured natural gas line was the big excitement. A construction crew, searching for the underground sewer pipe, hit a gas line that runs in front of the church and up to the rectory, requiring all church buildings to be evacuated for several hours. Our second outdoor Evening Prayer service was cancelled due to rain. **Adam Hutson** began a 6-week, online children's Sunday School program that premiered at 11:00 am on Sunday mornings. Parishioners began hosting our online coffee hour following the Sunday morning 10:00 am premier of our worship video. With the cancellation of the 2020 church bazaar, the Chatting Fingers craft group began an online "bazaar" with a pdf catalog of hand made goods for sale. **Barbara Hallman** also produced a catalog of her pressed flower art in support of St. Alban's 2020 "non-bazaar." Both virtual bazaars raised over \$5000 for St. Alban's.

November: St. Alban's was awarded Samaritan Ministry's outstanding partner organization. **Ivy Kilby** accepted the award on our behalf at the Samaritan Ministry Online Gala. The 226th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Virginia was held virtually via zoom. In attendance were lay delegates **Nick Huskins** and **Moira Skinner**, and clerical delegates **Deacon Theresa, Fr. Paul** and **Fr. Jeff**. Unfortunately, the convention was not able to approve the 2021 budget, requiring a second, special, convention to be held several months later. In the midst of our construction mess in the parish hall, St. Alban's still managed to provide space as two election precincts for the 2020 presidential election. St. Alban's collected toiletries, clothing and over-the-counter medicine for Honduras' hurricane relief.



December: **Joyce Aument** stepped down as one of our Altar Guild directors. Joyce's main area was coordinating altar flowers, Easter lilies and Christmas greens. We thank Joyce for her dedication and for her service, and welcome **Delores Baisden** as her replacement as an Altar Guild director. An informal poll of the 13 churches that make up the South Fairfax Region of Episcopal churches showed that all the churches reported a depressed response to 2021 pledge drives, as well as lower than usual pledge income for 2020. Due to an increase in the COVID-19 infection rates in Norther Virginia, **Bishop Goff** imposed stricter restrictions on in-person corporate worship, to include a temporary ban on outside worship services. Parishioners sent in photos of their Christmas creche scenes, which was turned into an online gallery on our website.

January: The Vestry voted to postpone the 2021 Annual Meeting until such time as we can meet in person. The boiler which provides heat for the parish hall and education wing chose the middle of a cold snap to stop working. Electric space heaters were scrounged for the school's use, which resulted in a game of "whack-a-mole" as circuit breakers began to blow. Our HVAC contractor came up with a temporary solution which involved opening various valves on the boiler in the morning, and then closing the valves in the afternoon. The old gas meter in the back of the church building began to leak, and the gas line running under the Memorial Garden began leaking in several places, requiring yet another visit from the gas company.



March: **Fr. Tony Lewis** returned to give his Lenten Program on Hebrews another try, this time online via Zoom. Fr. Lewis' Wednesday evening program was very well received. The kitchen construction team laid a beautiful green carpet of sod on the front lawn of the church, and the kitchen actually looks like a kitchen. **Ivy Kilby** was asked to be a volunteer speaker at the Samaritan Ministry Next Step online breakfast, where she gave a wonderful talk on her volunteer work and how she came to be a volunteer at Samaritan Ministry. Our Outreach Committee was asked by the administration at Poe Middle School to provide the food distribution to 25 Poe families on the 4th week of the month. Holy Week and Easter services were, once again, pre-recorded, but hopefully for the last time. Handmades and pressed flower spring sales brought in more revenue for St. Alban's.

April: Substantial work on the kitchen/restroom renovation was complete, with the exception of a few, mostly cosmetic issues. It was a long haul. Our Music Search Committee was reactivated to continue searching for a permanent Music Minister. After more than 20 years, the exterior of the church and rectory, and some interior parts, were scraped and painted. Our building now fairly glows in the sunlight and is a beautiful sight to behold.



May: Even as I write this a team is breaking down the old boiler and bringing in a new, energy efficient boiler. Just to keep things exciting, they managed to break a gas pipe which flooded the building with natural gas. -Fr. Jeff

Scenes from Service of May 23



Fr. Jeff Shankles, rector

Clark, church cat

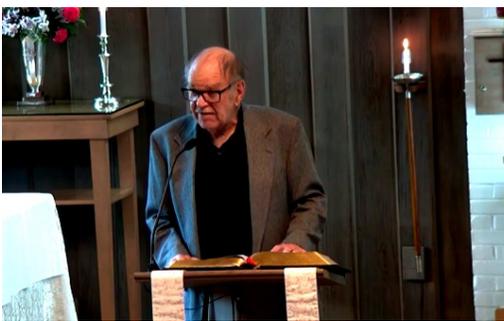


Pentecost Blessing

Lectors Gail Coleman, Charles Becker. Intercessor Kate Wettstein. Deacon and Gospeller The Rev. Deacon Theresa Lewallen. Preacher Fr. Jeff Shankles. Celebrant The Rev. Paul Moberly. Music Dr. Jason Farris. Hymn Choir Wendy Hamnett, David Holland, Hillary Leersnyder, Chris Martin, Debbie Rosse, Fran Walinsky, Karen Weinberg, Cathy Williams, Clarence Zuvekas. Production The Rev. Paul Moberly.



Scenes from Service of May 16



Lectors Barbara Cook, Harry Baisden. Intercessor Nancy Harrell. Deacon and Gospeller The Rev. Deacon Theresa Lewallen. Preacher Jon Guest-Scarff. Celebrant The Rev. Paul Moberly. Music Dr. Jason Farris. Hymn Choir Wendy Hamnett, David Holland, Joan Jurenas, Hillary Leersnyder, Chris Martin, Nancy McSlarrow, Debbie Rosse, Fran Walinsky, Karen Weinberg, Cathy Williams, Clarence Zuvekas. Production The Rev. Paul Moberly.



Scenes from Service May 8



Lectors Jon Guest-Scarffe, Kyle McKenzie. Intercessor Delores Baisden, Deacon and Gospeller The Rev. Deacon Theresa Lewallen. Preacher The Rev. Theresa Lewallen, Celebrant The Rev. Jeff Shankles. Music Dr. Jason Farris. Hymn Choir Marc Cheek, Wendy Hamnett, Joan Jurenas, Angela Leersnyder, Chris Martin, The Rev. Paul Moberly, Debbie Rosse, Fran Walinsky, Karen Weinberg, Cathy Williams. Production The Rev. Paul Moberly.

Scenes from Service of May 1



Lectors Cathy Casey, Nancy Calvert. Intercessor Linda Cummings. 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, Angela and Hillary Leersnyder, Chris Martin, The Rev. Paul Moberly, Debbie Rosse, Fran Walinsky, Karen Weinberg, Cathy Williams, Clarence Zuvekas. Production The Rev. Paul Moberly.



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

.We are regathering starting on June 13!

Please see articles in this edition of The Word
for more information.



And please watch
for emails
and see SAM
for more news
on regathering.

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.