

RenewalWorks: Thank You for Helping Us Meet Our Survey Goal! *Here Are the Next Steps In Our Process*

Many thanks to everyone who participated in the Spiritual Life Inventory! Our goal was to receive a 60 percent response rate, and we wound up exceeding that target, with 71 percent, which means that we have a lot of confidence in the data as a representative sample of the congregation.

So, perhaps you are wondering about the next steps in this process. The RenewalWorks team (17 of us, including clergy – see box, right) have already begun conducting a series of workshops to review not only our church data, but best practices from other vital and growing Episcopal congregations. Here are the four questions of the RenewalWorks process and how the team is addressing each:


- **Where have we been?** During this workshop, team members reflect on the dynamic nature of their own faith and the role played by our church and clergy in supporting and encouraging spiritual growth.
- **Where are we now?** The team looks at the data from the Spiritual Life Inventory, along with information on demographics and growth for St. Alban's and our community. These sessions build a picture of where the church is now, which will be used in the rest of the sessions as we consider new ways to help our church grow in love of God and neighbor.
- **Where do we feel called to go?** Using RenewalWorks research and our congregation's data, these sessions focus on how St. Alban's can encourage and support spiritual growth. The team explores five "best practice" principles found in spiritually vital churches and considers how those principles can be applied in our parish.
- **How will we get there?** After reviewing what we've learned, the team will develop a few concrete next steps for refocusing on spiritual growth to present to the vestry and congregation. Team members will consider our individual commitments to spiritual growth and close the series with thanksgiving to God for this time and work together and with hope for its impact on the future.

Please keep the RenewalWorks team in your prayers as we work through this process, and we look forward to keeping everyone apprised of our progress here in *The Word* and in the weekly St. Alban's Message. -Kevin Holland


The RenewalWorks Workshop Team

Donna Archer
 Harry Baisden
 Monique Clark
 Linda Cummings
 Fay Froh
 Kevin Holland
 Debbe Hughes
 Remy Jurenas
 Peter Larson
 Kay Lusk
 Chris Martin
 Pam Matthes
 Fr Paul Moberly
 Elissa Rosasco
 Fr Jeff Shankles
 Moira Skinner
 Fran Walinsky






Mark your calendars! St. Alban's Bazaar is November 20!

St. Alban's 

Annual Christmas Bazaar

Saturday, November 20, 2021

9:00 am - 2:00 pm



From the Rector

A year ago, I thought our return to “normalcy” would be like a light-switch. Either on or off. I thought one day we’d turn on the news and we’d learn that the pandemic was over, and that masks and social distancing were a thing of the past. I had no idea I was so naïve.

Like almost every other Episcopal Church in our area, our return to normalcy has been a slow roll-out – beginning with actual, in-person worship. While we continue to worship with masks and other restrictions, which still feels really odd to me, I cannot tell you how light my heart is every Sunday as we gather, *together*, for worship.

The next phase of our roll-out was the reintroduction of Coffee Hour. I had an interesting conversation with a Roman Catholic acquaintance a while ago, and she mentioned our tradition of gathering together for coffee and refreshments after worship seemed... “odd” to her. I asked her, “what do Roman Catholics do after worship?”

“Everyone at my church just goes straight to their car and goes home,” was her response, and she continued, “I can’t imagine hanging around and actually (long pause here) *socializing* with other members of my church.”

I was intrigued by that comment, and so I Googled “Roman Catholic coffee hour” and found this fascinating comment: “...with Catholics, we go to mass to spend time with Jesus, not each other.” So much for community.

In this edition of our newsletter on page 10, our Coffee Hour coordinator, **Debbie Rosse**, explains some of the finer points and details about hosting Coffee Hour from our new kitchen. I’ve heard rumors and whisperings that some of our parishioners are intimidated...dare I say even frightened?... of the new kitchen. May I say that, if you ever worked in the old kitchen, this new kitchen is a dream to work in. Everything has a place. It’s easy to keep clean. I’m very pleased too that, with our new kitchen, we can do the right thing and be environmentally friendly by using washable cups, silverware and dishes (as Christians we are called to be good stewards of all that God has given us, and I believe God gave us the gift of his creation to care for). The dishwasher, while rather large and imposing, is really a gentle giant. Pressing one button wakes up the machine, fills up the water reservoir and heats the water to the perfect temperature. It’s a simple matter of sliding a rack of dirty dishes into the machine and closing the door - it automatically dispenses detergent and rinse agent! Dishes emerge in about 2-3 minutes, pristine. If only my home dishwasher were so friendly!

It is my hope that our kitchen will be used for a variety of purposes and events – our Poe Middle School Meal Program began cooking meals in the kitchen on October 27 (photos right). For that reason, a cardinal rule of the kitchen is leave it as clean (or cleaner) than you found it.

The kitchen belongs to all of us, not to a select group. It’s *our* church kitchen. I invite you to step inside and explore it! Rummage through the cupboards and find out where everything is. There are several of us who would be happy to show you around and show you the ropes. And then... please consider serving as a Coffee Hour host.

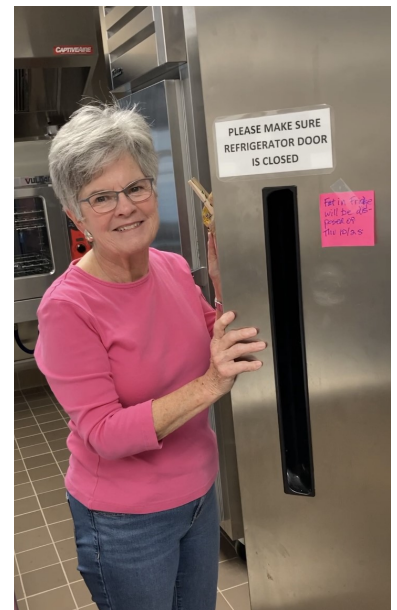
Our Coffee Hours might seem like delightful gatherings to catch up with friends, and they are, but they are so much more. I believe Coffee Hour is one of the most important ministries at St. Alban’s. I suspect most of us don’t really think of Coffee Hour as a ministry because when we’re at Coffee Hour, we’re not feeding the homeless, nor are we repairing a needy family’s home nor are we mentoring at-risk children. But Coffee Hour strengthens and builds community. Coffee Hour fosters friendships and creates new relationships, and it is the one place where a newcomer or visitor can really see, and get to know, our St. Alban’s family. I joke about Episcopal Coffee Hours as being the “eighth sacrament,” but underneath the humor is a little bit of the truth.

The fellowship of Coffee Hour is a precious thing and an important ministry that involves all of us. Coffee Hour is our opportunity to share the love of Jesus to one another and to all who grace our doorway and is our opportunity to welcome the stranger with genuine, heartfelt hospitality.

-Fr. Jeff



Fay Froh and Delores Baisden cooking for the Poe Meal Program on October 27 in the new kitchen.



Linda Cummings leaving the kitchen the way she found it, in tip-top shape.



Fr. Jeff joins the cooks.

From the Associate Rector

Perhaps you've noticed recently, when driving into the church parking lot, an update to our signage on Columbia Pike. And perhaps you've wondered: why in the world does our sign say the word 'Mass'? We've always used the phrase "Holy Eucharist" in the past, so why the change now?

First and foremost, the choice of the word does not indicate a change to our beliefs or to the conduct of our worship services. It is one of the words that Anglicans use, historically, to describe a service of Holy Communion.

The use of the word "mass" has a long history in the Christian Church – predating the separation of the Church of England from the Roman Catholic Church in the 16th century.

The first Book of Common Prayer, 1549, referred to the form of Holy Eucharist as "The Supper of the Lorde and Holy Communion, commonly called the Masse." The Catechism in our current Book of Common Prayer, 1979, states that "the Holy Eucharist is called the Lord's Supper, and Holy Communion; it is also known as the Divine Liturgy, the Mass, and the Great Offering" (BCP, p. 859.)

Over the centuries, Anglican belief and practice has existed somewhere in between the Catholic and the Protestant – thus sometimes referred to as the *via media*, or the "Middle Way." If you visit Episcopal parishes in the US, in various regions, you'll find worship that appears more middle-of-the-road Protestant, and you'll find others that might seem startlingly "Catholic."

Steve Lusk, in his "informal history" of our parish (copies of which are available in our church library, and I encourage you to check it out) -- notes that Saint Alban's

drew many of its early members from the Falls Church and Grace Episcopal Church in Alexandria, two parishes which stood (and still stand) at opposite ends of the Low Church-High Church spectrum. Mr. Karsten [the first priest-in-charge] adopted an eclectic liturgical style, designed to bridge the gap between the two often antagonistic traditions. No matter where parishioners were from, the services would be familiar enough to make them comfortable but different enough to keep them awake. (Called to be Saints, p. 2.)

Today, Saint Alban's continues to operate in this middle ground – grounded in the Protestant Virginia tradition, but also more outwardly "Roman Catholic" in our worship style than almost any Episcopal Church in our area. Our liturgy contains the ceremony and formality of traditional Catholic worship, without being fussy (at least, that's the hope!)

Our location, on a busy and well-traveled section of Columbia Pike, provides us a great opportunity to tell our story to passersby. One challenge, of course, is to describe the basics of what we do in a way that can be seen and understood by drivers whizzing past at 40 or 50 miles per hour. So, **Fr. Jeff** and I spend a good amount of time thinking about how to do it well, practically speaking, using as few words as possible.

While Holy Eucharist is surely the most common way that Episcopalians refer to our primary worship services, very few people outside know what the word means. In contrast, nearly everyone has seen a mass in a movie or on television; most people will have at least some idea of what that means. The use of the word "mass" distinguishes us from other churches in our neighborhood, and lets people know – in a succinct way – what to expect if they visit us on Sunday morning.

A large percentage of people in our parish, and indeed, many of the new people coming into Episcopal Churches all over the country, are people who come from a Roman Catholic background. Some of those folks are looking for a familiar service, but in a place that welcomes all kinds of people to serve in ministry. For former Roman Catholics, seeing a faithful Church that is more inclusive and expansive than the one they came from provides a route towards healing. Why not speak to them in a language they understand immediately?

Fr. Jeff and I realize that the word "mass" is uncomfortable to some, and we ask your patience and grace as we make this small effort to communicate who we are to our community. There are people in our little corner of Fairfax County who need – and are actively seeking – what Saint Alban's has to offer. When you see new people visit, make sure you do your best to make them feel very welcome here!

God has big plans for Saint Alban's, and I am excited to see what is next as we endeavor to grow together in faith, spiritual practice and understanding.

-Fr. Paul





St. Alban's Christmas Bazaar is right around the corner on Saturday, November 20!

We'll be open Saturday, November 20 from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm and we hope that everyone is able to attend the bazaar and join in the fun!

To ensure the safety of our congregation and surrounding community, the following Covid Safety precautions will be implemented during the bazaar: Regardless of vaccination status, masks will be required indoors at all times; café seating will be outdoors in the breezeway with overflow in the courtyard (under tents); masks will be available for anyone that does not have one; hand sanitizer will be available at the entrance and at all booths; signs will be posted at the main entrance, throughout the parish hall and at all the booths letting folks know that masks are required. Entry will be restricted if it gets too crowded to prevent movement in the parish hall or classrooms. All volunteers are requested to provide a mask to shoppers if needed.

Although publicity for the Bazaar is well underway, we think it's important to get the message out to as many folks as possible, so we have included a copy of the Bazaar Flyer along with this edition of The Word. Please share the flyer with your friends, your neighborhood, your book club, your bridge group or anyone with whom you come in contact ☺. The flyer is also available on the St. Alban's website, so you can share it via social media! Also, Trick-or-Treat cards will be available on Sunday, October 24 and Sunday, October 31. Please pick up a few to hand out on Halloween or give as cards to your friends and neighbors. Tell them to bring the card the bazaar to receive \$1.00 off at the café!

Have a few hours to spare? Volunteer opportunities include:

If you are able to volunteer – even for an hour - to help set up or tear down please contact **Tom Tycz** tstycz70@gmail.com or **Bill Calvert** hokiebc1988@gmail.com. Here's the schedule:

11/12/21 (Friday) – 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm - Remove items from rooms 10 and 12. Start set-up of Household Goods and Books

11/13/21 (Saturday) - 9:00 am to 12:00 pm - Finish set-up of Household Goods and Book rooms, if necessary. Decorate parish hall. Remove items from all remaining classrooms and begin setting up tables.

11/14/21 (Sunday) – 9:15 am to 1:00 pm – Finish setting up tables in remaining classrooms, pull down Toys and Christmas Décor from loft in attic. If time permits, begin putting items in the remaining rooms and remove conference table from room 11.

11/15/21 (Monday) 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm – Finish Setting up Jewelry and Toys

11/17/21 (Wednesday) 9:00 to 12 pm – Set up Christmas Decorations and Pressed Flowers in parish hall

11/18/21 (Thursday) 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm – Set up indoor café, raffle and Handmades in the parish hall. Finish setting up Baked Goods/Candy, Set up Santa and Face Painting in the narthex. Set up outdoor café canopies.

11/19/21 (Friday) 9:00 am – Full access to all rooms and stands for set up. Ensure Mask Required signs are prominently posted.

11/20/21 (Saturday) from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm – Bazaar (volunteers report at 8:00 am). Before 9:00 am, complete set-up of outdoor café.

11/20/21 (Saturday) from 2:00 to 4:30 - Clear rooms/stands and return items removed from classrooms.

Additionally, **Dottie Ninde** has requested assistance with setting up the household goods booth the week prior to the bazaar. She's looking for help Monday, November 15 through Friday, November 19 from 9:00 am until about noon each day. If you're able to help, even for an hour, please contact Dottie at dottiesn@yahoo.com.

If you'd like to volunteer at one of our many other booths, please contact the bazaar co-chairs, **Nancy Calvert**, **Sue Mairena** and **Nick Huskins** at bazaar@stalbansva.org to volunteer!
-Nancy Calvert



Bazaar Flyer



Along with this November Word is a full page Bazaar Flyer presented as a separate file. This file has been updated to include more wonderful raffle prizes and late breaking developments. Please download the flyer file, print it off and post it or hand it to your friends! Thank you for your help in spreading the word about our 2021 Bazaar.

From the Deacon

Repairing the Breach

At the annual bishop's retreat with the deacons of the Diocese of Virginia, **Bishop Susan Goff** asked about our joys and concerns. She also shared with the work of the diocese and the work she is leading in the year ahead. One of the focuses of our discussion was our call to participate in the healing of racial and other divides. The new Missioner for Racial Justice and Healing, **The Rev. Dr. J. Lee Hill** arrives for his role in early November, in time for Diocesan Convention on November 13. In the months ahead, he will meet with parishes and communities as he identifies and recommends ways that the diocese can do the intentional work of repairing the breach. His initial work will include discerning the most appropriate and impactful use of designated funds from the sale of a property.

Some in the diocese are discussing and recommending reparations. Other dioceses around The Episcopal Church have set aside funds for reparations. Virginia Theological Seminary has been actively involved in reparations work, including providing remuneration to the family members of Africans and African Americans who built and worked at the seminary.

The Diocese of Virginia's efforts are on repairing the breach, the language that **Presiding Bishop Michael Curry** uses when he discusses the work The Episcopal Church must do to participate in the repair, restoration, and healing of people, institutions, and systems. The Diocese' role in enslavement and segregating people in churches requires acknowledgment, discussion, discernment, repentance and action. As we take our next steps in the Diocese of Virginia, we will be invited into this work, to share our ideas with The Rev. Dr. Hill and consider the ways we use will our resources as a diocese. We are called to enter into this time prayerfully, with open hearts and open minds. The signatories of [Becoming Beloved Community](#) remind us, "*The ministry of reconciliation rests at the heart of God's mission and belongs to everyone who has been baptized into the body of Christ. We welcome our whole Church to move forward with humility, compassion, and prayer, trusting that God who has reconciled us in Christ will also lead and equip us for this great call.*"

-Deacon Theresa

Warden's Pen

Dear fellow parishioners,

I'm really looking forward to our Christmas Bazaar! I love helping my fellow volunteers by making change for all the cashiers and counting the proceeds, so you know how your hard work is "paying off," as it were. My fellow counters are the best!

I love the festive atmosphere, which gets me in the mood for the Christmas season, and the camaraderie that is shared by all. And did I mention "sausage rolls"?

I'm so glad that our visitors (and fellow parishioners) find some great items for themselves and their gift list and that it all goes to helping out our community. Please spread the word so we can make this year's bazaar the best ever.



Moira with Anne Gates' dog after the blessing.

And now, a bit of news. At our first Vestry meeting after our Annual Meeting and election of new Vestry members, we elected Wardens and a Register. **Jane Lesko** is our new Register, **Bill Calvert** is our new Junior Warden and I am continuing as your Senior Warden. Wishing you all the best.

-Moira Skinner



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On the Communion of Saints

I had the immense opportunity of being baptized as a teenager. If I was not completely an adult at least I had the chance to ponder what it meant and the heaviness of the step I was giving. I remember what a great deal it was for me that through the waters of Baptism I was going to die with Christ and be born again. Through the resurrection of Christ - of which we participate in our Baptism- eternal life is opened to us and death has no power over us, Jesus has annihilated death. Baptism opens for us all these wonderful mysteries.

At the same time, I knew that regardless of all I had learned (and that fascinated me!), death still was a crude reality in human lives. So, it was really hard for me to reconcile what I knew from the faith I was receiving and my life experience. Nevertheless, I agreed and was baptized. It was a transforming and humbling experience even though death and Jesus' promises were still difficult for me to understand.

I had an intellectual understanding of the communion of saints and life after death through the study of the creeds, but I still did not have a personal and contextual experience of these truths. Years after, when my dad died, I was devastated that I had no chance to be with him in his final moments (as we were living in different countries and were both unable to travel). I began to walk through the city trying to make ends meet between the faith I had in the love of God and the way things had happened. Suddenly and unconsciously, I began to talk to my departed dad and to open my heart to him. I was talking to my dad as if he had not died but was somehow closer to me than ever. Then, and only then, I understood fully so many hours of teaching and reading about the communion of saints, about the communion between those of us still here and those that have gone before us! I had experienced and was amazed that death was really defeated and that the physical boundaries that separated my dad and me were, in the life that Jesus gives us, gone forever!

Certainly, it's a different kind of life, and indeed is a different kind of relationship. But truly it is a real communion the one we have with those that have preceded us into the sign of the faith. Hence the truthfulness of the words on the blessing of the waters of the Baptismal Rite:

"Now sanctify this water, we pray you, by the power of your Holy Spirit, that those who here are cleansed from sin and born again may continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Savior"
- Book of Common Prayer, 307

May we continue to walk joyfully after the glorious example of those who have come before us in the way of Christ, truly knowing that we don't walk alone, but surrounded by a cloud of witnesses that is our family, the family of God, the communion of saints.

-Br. Luis Hernandez Rivas



Fr. Jeff blesses one of the Shankles family cats on October 10.



Fr. Jeff, Fr. Paul and Seminarian Luis bless **Emily's Nola** and **Robby's Calvin**.

From the Music Minister and Organist

Time Travel

By its nature, music is ephemeral. The performance of a piece of music lasts only and exactly as long as it takes to be heard. Our choir will tell you how hard we work on Thursday evenings and Sunday mornings – but when the offertory anthem is over, it's over. (Well, this isn't strictly true anymore in our "new normal" of recorded worship services, but that's another story). Depending on your perspective, this could be a feature or a bug. Personally, I find it liberating. Every time we perform a piece of music, we have a new opportunity to give it life and learn something new about it.

(As an aside, here is an interesting philosophical question to chew on: what is a "piece" of music? One printed copy of the score? All of the printed copies of the score? Which edition? Perhaps the composer's handwritten manuscript? What about recordings of performances of the piece? Can we even say that a given "piece of music" "exists" at all?)

Nowadays, we take for granted our ability to call up recorded music via CD, LP or streaming services like Spotify. But before the earliest recording technologies emerged in the middle of the nineteenth century, and until these technologies became sophisticated and affordable enough for widespread use, musical performances were available only to those enacting or experiencing them. It was a luxury to hear, say, a live orchestra – and for this reason, perhaps, pieces for large ensembles were often available in arrangements for the piano during the nineteenth century. The emerging European bourgeoisie could purchase these printed arrangements and play them on their living room pianos, enjoying the symphonic music of composers like Beethoven in the comfort of their own homes. Going back another century or two, medieval and early modern patrons (including powerful church officials) competed with one another to hire the best composers and musicians for their courts. If you wanted beautiful music at dinner, or during Mass, or accompanying a hunt, you had to play it yourself, or pay someone else to play it for you. Unlike a painting by Raphael or a bronze by Rodin, once you had enjoyed a piece of music, it was gone until it could be performed again. And most importantly for us: because all of this music-making happened before the phonograph, we don't know very much about how it sounded.

But we have an interesting way to experience and explore some of these ancient sounds: antique musical instruments, properly cared for and conserved, let us into the sonic world of the past. This is the root of my love for early music at the harpsichord and organ: the study and performance of this repertoire on antique keyboard instruments *allows for time travel*. When air enters an organ pipe, the sound it makes is determined by the size, shape, material and other physical details of its construction, as well as the pressure of the air moving through. Assuming these factors have remained more or less stable over the years, what you hear when playing an antique organ is likely very close to what its builders heard as they did their finishing touches. Because organ stops often have descriptive names like "Viola da Gamba," "Trumpet" or "Vox Humana" ("Human Voice"), a well-preserved organ can give hints about how these other instruments may have sounded, too.

The oldest playable organs date from the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. Our organ at St. Alban's isn't quite as old, of course, but it's getting up there – Leek Op. 1 turns forty in October 2022. I am hoping to celebrate this milestone with several organ recitals and concerts during the 2022-2023 program year. The preservation of our marvelous little machine puts us in touch with the past. This beautiful gift has ably served St. Alban's for almost forty years already. In 2062, what will it tell parishioners about the St. Alban's of today?

Upcoming Musical Events in the Area

Sunday, November 7, 4:00 pm: Here at St. Alban's, the Washington Saxophone Quartet will play the first Muldoon concert of the year in Frizzell Hall. All attendees will be masked, and seating will allow for social distancing. A brief reception will follow and allow the opportunity to meet the artists. This performance is partially supported by funding from the Virginia Commission for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Saturday, November 13, 4:00 pm: your very own Minister of Music and Organist **Adam Detzner** will perform an organ recital at St. Columba's Episcopal Church in Tenleytown, DC. This recital is sponsored by the Potomac Chapter of the AGO. I will play music from the repertoire list of my upcoming organ competition in the Netherlands, including composers like Sweelinck, Scheidemann, and, of course, J. S. Bach (and his son C. P. E!). The organ at St. Columba's was installed the same year as ours and is in a similar North German/Dutch style, making it a great vehicle for this early music.

-Adam Detzner, Minister of Music and Organist





Choir Notes



November 7 - Gerald Near (b. 1942 in St. Paul, MN) is a leading American composer of organ works and sacred music. Among his teachers was Leo Sowerby (1895-1968), whose setting of Psalm 100 (*Jubilate Deo*) we have often sung. Another influence was the English composer Herbert Howells (see below, Nov. 28). Near has directed choirs at Calvary Anglo-Catholic Church in Rochester, MN; St. Matthew's Episcopal Cathedral in Dallas, TX (where he was also organist and Canon Precentor); Holy Faith Episcopal Church in Santa Fe, NM; and currently St. Francis in The Valley Episcopal Church in Green Valley, AZ. We will be singing his anthem, *Holy Is the True Light* (1983), a memorial tribute to Herbert Howells.

November 14 - Our anthem this Sunday is a setting of the *Ave Verum Corpus* ("Hail, the True Body") by the French composer Camille Saint-Saëns (1835-1921). Probably best known to the general public for his *Danse macabre* and *Carnival of the Animals*, Saint-Saëns's extensive output includes concertos for cello (2), piano (5) and violin (3); chamber music; the opera, *Samson et Dalila*; organ works, and the "Organ" Symphony (#3), which some of us wannabee musicologists consider his masterpiece. Liszt regarded him as the best organist of his generation. His wide-ranging interests (and considerable talents) included mathematics, science and poetry.

November 21 - William Mathias (1934-1992), a prolific composer of choral, orchestral and chamber music, was one of the few Welsh composers to gain an international reputation. He studied at Aberystwyth University (where he probably spent a lot of time indoors with his musical activities, given the drabness of the campus) and the Royal Academy of Music. Mathias's compositions reflect influences ranging from Mozart to jazz. His works include service music in our Hymnal (S-98, S-128, S-165, S-278), some of which we have sung at our 10:15 am service. His anthem, *Let the People Praise Thee, O God*, was composed for the royal wedding of Prince Charles and Princess Diana in July 1981. This Sunday's anthem, *Lift Up Your Heads, O Ye Gates*, is based on Psalm 24.

November 28 - English composer and Royal College of Music Professor Herbert Howells (1892-1983), said to be the favorite pupil of Sir Charles Villiers Stanford, wrote a significant body of orchestral, chamber and organ works. (Some of you may recall that our former organist, **Ben Dobey**, recorded some of Howells's organ music on a Pro Organo CD in 1988.) But Howells is known chiefly for his church music, such as the requiem-like *Hymnus paradisi*, a response to the death of his 9-year-old son in 1938, and *Take Him, Earth, for Cherishing*, commissioned in 1963 for the memorial service for President John F. Kennedy. In October we sang Howells's anthem, *My Eyes for Beauty Pine*. This Sunday we will be singing *O Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem*.
- Clarence Zuvekas

If you wish to be a financial supporter of the Muldoon Concert Series, please fill out a donor form which can be found on the table in the narthex. You can make the check payable to St. Alban's Episcopal Church. Please clearly print Muldoon Concert Fund 2021-2022 on the memo line.

Friend \$25-\$50 Sponsor: \$51-\$75 Patron \$76-\$100 Partner \$101 and above



Muldoon Concert 2021-2022 Series

Sundays at 4:00 pm

Free and Open to the Public

Spend a nice Sunday afternoon with music—Bring friends and neighbors!
Concerts followed by informal receptions, Covid permitting.

The Washington Saxophone Quartet November 7, 2021

Bach Birthday Marathon March 13, 2022

Local organists play works of J. S. Bach on St. Alban's tracker organ (Leek Op. 1).
Audience members can drop in at will.

At 6:00 pm, concertgoers and musicians will continue to celebrate Bach
in the parish hall, where beer and German fare will be served (Covid permitting).

Dr. Caroline Robinson, Concert Organist April 3, 2022

Dr. Robinson is the Associate Organist-Choirmaster at the Cathedra of St. Philip (Episcopal) in Atlanta. She holds degrees from the Curtis Institute of Music and the Eastman School of Music. She also studied in France as a Fulbright fellow. She has performed in venues such as St. Thomas Church in New York and The Memorial Church at Harvard. She also won second prize in National Young Artist Competition in Organ Performance in 2018.

Featured Ministry— Music at St. Alban's

I invite you to consider participating in our music ministries here at St. Alban's! The Vocal Choir rehearses Thursday evenings from 7:30 to 9:00 pm in Frizzell Hall. On Sundays, we gather in the loft at 9:30 am, vested and ready to warm up for the 10:15 am service. We are wearing masks for the time being. We are especially looking for sopranos, altos, tenors and basses – which means you! Anyone who is fully vaccinated against COVID-19 is welcome to join us.

The Bell Choir also rehearses on Thursdays from 6:30 to 7:15 pm in the nave, also wearing masks. I've been having such a good time getting to know our ringers – it's a fun group! Ringing handbells is challenging but rewarding. Give us a try!

Finally, while congregational singing is still not allowed, a small group of masked singers sings two hymns and a doxology at the 8:15 am service. We meet at 7:45 am to warm up and learn the music. This is a great opportunity to make music for those of you who love to sing but can't commit to the weekly schedule of the 10:15 am choir.

If you are interested in participating in any of these groups, please contact me at adetzner@stalbansva.org. Thank you for your consideration!
-Adam Detzner, Minister of Music and Organist



Steve and Kay Lusk on October 17 promoting EfM and Quiet Days

Featured Ministry— Education for Ministry (EfM)

EFM is an international program of Theological Education for Lay People from the School of Theology, The University of the South, Sewanee, TN. It's a unique four-year distance learning certificate program in theological education.

Through study, prayer and reflection, EfM gives lay people a solid grounding in the Bible and history of the Christian faith, theology and ethics. Each seminar is led by a mentor using a study guide and books. The group meets weekly for 36 weeks to worship together and to discuss and reflect on the materials they have read. St. Alban's accredited mentors **Kay and Steve Lusk** serve as guides rather than teachers and help the study group develop a life of its own through the four years of the program.

Registration for St. Alban's EfM begins in November and starts in January of 2022 through June for each of the four years of the program. Students may choose from two sessions, either Wednesday or Saturday mornings. Tuition is \$375 per year which covers materials and support. Financial assistance is available for those who need help.

Please contact Steve or Kay for further information by email at efm@StAlbansVa.org or through the church office at 703-256-2966. They also can direct you to others who have taken the course so you can talk to them about their experience.

Featured Ministry— Quiet Days

We are planning on offering two half days of quiet reflection this coming year.

Advent Quiet Day
Saturday, December 4
8:30-1:00 pm

Lenten Quiet Day
To be announced. It is usually held
on the first Saturday of Lent.

Labyrinth Walks will be offered during quiet days, Holy Week and at other times upon request as a way to pray through walking a sacred pattern that leads on a path to its center and back out again. It is a way to pray with our bodies that invites a divine presence into an active conversation with our hearts and souls and spirits. By engaging in this walking meditation, we are fully engaging our minds, bodies and spirits.

We hope to arrange a field trip to visit the Chartres Labyrinths at the Washington National Cathedral next spring.

Please contact **Kay Lusk** for further information.

Featured Ministry— Centering Prayers

A group meets weekly for 45 minutes in the Chapel on a regular basis for centering prayer—quiet listening for God's movement in our lives.

A new group is forming, and days and times to be determined.

Please contact **Kay Lusk** for further information.



Featured Ministry— Coffee Hour

Yes, we are having coffee hour. We are now using the Signup Genius program to sign up for each week - both services. Here is the link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0e4eafad2ca3fb6-sunday1>

Due to restrictions for Covid safety, the coffee hosts will be serving us or we will be using tongs to serve ourselves. Finger Foods are easiest to do this. (Avoid dips). Some folks are worried about working in our new kitchen. Please do not worry; it's still a kitchen and you will be acquainted quickly with where things are. The three biggest things to remember are:

1. Turn on the dishwasher when you come in, so it warms up. (This requires pushing one button on the front of the dishwasher)
2. Do not put any food down a drain that doesn't have a disposal. There are only two. Just look under the sink to see if one is there before you dump crumbs or scrape a plate.
3. Make sure the refrigerator is closed before you leave. Sometimes one side pops open, when you are closing the other side. Or you think you have closed it but it is still open! We will all get used to checking this.

Because we now have a functioning dishwasher, we are using real cups, plates and silverware. However, if you want an easy cleanup, you may use cups and napkins or plates. Finger foods will not require silverware. Serving platters can be put in the dishwasher too. If you have any questions, you can always ask me (**Debbie Rosse**) or **Kate**.

If no one signs up, we will not have coffee hour. Please sign up. It's a great way to catch up with friends you haven't seen for a year and a half!

Here's to Fellowship and I hope to see you in church.

-Debbie Rosse



Please join us for a time of fellowship and refreshments after both services in the parish hall and in the courtyard. We need Coffee Hour Hosts to make this work.

We are asking parishioners to sign up for Coffee Hour on the Sundays of their choice.

The Coffee Hour sign ups are on the same sign up web page as our lector/intercessor/usher sign ups. [Click here to sign up to be a Coffee Hour Host.](#)

Featured Ministry— Annandale Christian Community for Action (ACCA)

Whatsoever you do for the least of my people, that you do unto me.” Matthew 25:40.

ACCA's work helping low income people and people in need in our community is made possible by its 27 member churches (of which St. Alban's is a member), more than 130 organizational partners, more than 500 volunteers and about 500 donors. This year ACCA celebrates its Golden Anniversary—50 years of service to the community.

ACCA provides transportation services, housing repair, scholarships to students with disabilities, furniture, nutrition and hygiene services, family financial emergency assistance and a child development center.

ACCA was named one of the best small non-profits in the metro area by the Catalogue of Philanthropy. ACCA's mission is "doing what Jesus would do by serving our neighbors in need" in our community.

If you are looking to give back to your community, consider supporting the programs of ACCA through volunteering or donating your time, talent, money, furniture for the furniture ministry and food for ACCA food drives.

For further information on how to support ACCA, please speak with St. Alban's representatives **Sue** or **Doug Mairena** at Mairena75@verizon.net



Doug and Sue Mairena promoting the ACCA ministry to Ann Gates in the narthex on October 10.

Youth Group Pumpkin Carving Party October 17





**October 10
Blessing of the Animals**





Oktoberfest October 9 Many thanks to the Parish Life Committee for a great evening made even more festive by the upbeat sounds of Marlarky, by our own **Debbie Rosse** and friends. Thank you!





A Gorgeous Shrine Mont Weekend 2021 Oct 1-3





Thanksgiving Dinner at Lockwood House

Lockwood and Elmwood House Apartments are in the Seven Corners section of Arlington County. Built in 1970 and 1985 under the leadership of our former rector, **The Rev John Frizzell**, they provide affordable housing to seniors in our community. Fr Frizzell was the board chair for many years and St Alban's parishioners **Delores Baisden**, **Vivian Byrley** and **Linda Cummings** currently serve on the board. Many years ago former parishioner **Doug Hyde** began the tradition of a parish-supported Thanksgiving luncheon for the residents.

We've been given the green light to resume the luncheon this Thanksgiving, Thursday November 25 at 12 noon and your help is needed. Cooked and carved turkey will be delivered to St Alban's new kitchen on Wednesday, and we need someone to arrive about 9:00 a.m. on Thanksgiving to heat the turkey.

Beginning on Halloween, Sunday, October 31 please look for the large poster board food sign-up in the narthex. We need mashed potatoes, green beans, stuffing, rolls, gravy, cranberry sauce and pies. Food donations on Thanksgiving morning may be brought to the church by 10:30 a.m. or directly to Lockwood House at 600 N. Madison Street, Arlington by 1:00 p.m. We need a volunteer to drive food delivered to St Alban's to Lockwood House.

And, last but definitely not least, we need happy volunteers to greet and serve the residents and keep the food coming from the kitchen. The time commitment is no more than an hour, and families are very welcome. Residents will be masked except when eating, and some may elect to take their food to their apartment. Our volunteers will be masked and wear gloves.

Please contact **Linda Cummings** at ldcummings@msn.com with your questions or comments. Thank you for considering participating in this St Alban's Thanksgiving tradition.

-Linda Cummings



35th Annual Gala!

November 6 from 7:00 to 8:00 pm. We'll be hosting a live "Watch Party" at St. Alban's. Join us and bid on one or two of the many gift baskets available at the Silent Auction! If you're interested in donating a basket, please let us now. Minimum value is \$100.

Thanksgiving Gift Card Drive! Keep an eye on SAM for more information.

If you're interested in serving as a volunteer at Samaritan Ministry, please speak with **Deacon Theresa** or **Nancy Calvert** (front office volunteer at the Arlington Office).



Fay Froh, Nancy Calvert and Barbara Hallman at the Stuff the Trunk event on October 16. Toiletries and dish soap were collected for Samaritan Ministries.

Thank you for your continued support of Samaritan Ministries
.-Kristi, Nancy and Deacon Theresa

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Next Edition: DEcember 2021
Articles/photos welcome!
Submit by November 15 to
bhallman1@cox.net

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

Capital Campaign Update

The kitchen, restrooms and laundry are complete and our first big event using our new facilities, the 2021 Christmas Bazaar, is just a few weeks away. This transformation is the result of many years of hard work by the Vestry, Clergy, Kitchen/Capital Campaign/Finance committees and the many, many dedicated volunteers. But, all this work would have never occurred if not for the parishioners and friends of St. Alban's committed to financially support this work. Again, **Linda** and I thank every one of you.

The 2021 3rd Quarter Capital Campaign statements have been mailed to all parishioners with an open pledge. Through September, \$1.086M has been collected (76 percent of the total pledged amount of \$1.426M). A total of \$200K has been collected this year towards the goal of collecting \$230K in 2021. Of the 118 pledges received during the Capital Campaign, 46 are now fulfilled or closed.

Linda and I are also happy to report that a number of parishioners and friends of St. Alban's have donated \$27,150 to the Capital Campaign even though they did not initially pledge. We thank these folks for their generosity. All bills associated with the Capital Campaign and renovation project are paid, and the outstanding principal on the loan is \$200K. 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. 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** (ldcummings@msn.com). -Bill Calvert and Linda Cummings

Poe Middle School Food Ministry Grocery Distribution Program

Thanks to a \$2,000 grant from the Mustard Seed Grant Fund of the Diocese of Virginia and an anonymous donation of \$5,000 that was supplemented with funds from the Outreach Committee, St. Alban's initiated a grocery distribution program in 2021 to provide groceries to about food insecure families at Poe Middle School and their feeder elementary schools. How can you help?

Help pack the grocery bags: This task involves setting up work tables in the parish hall, organizing the goods and filling the 35 bags and carrying them out to the drivers. Just a couple hour commitment.



Packing takes place in the parish hall followed by delivery every other Wed 2:15 pm to 3:15 pm on:

November 3
November 17
December 1
December 15

October 20: **Luis Rivas, Linda Cummings, Patricia Smith, Debbie Rosse, Melinda Patterson, Delores Baisden, Ron Vogel, Nell Dillard and Fran Walinsky.** Not shown: **Jo Hodgkin** helped drive the food over; **Barbara Hallman** helped purchase foods..

Help deliver and distribute the bags: This task involves carrying the bags out to the cars, driving them to the HMart parking lot and, staying to hand them out, checking recipients against a register.

How can I sign up? There is a sign up genius on our website or look for links in SAM. -Nell Dillard
<https://wearestalban.org/summer-changes-to-the-poe-middle-school-food-distribution-program/>

Tammy Gaines Thomas, our former parish secretary, died October 3, after battling serious health issues for many months.

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



Acoatzin Torres, beloved life partner of **Chris Martin**, died October 23. Memorial service arrangements are pending.

Please keep Chris and Acoatzin's family and loved ones in your thoughts and prayers.

Receive, O Lord, your servants **Tammy** and **Acoatzin**, 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

Online Sunday School: The Lord's Prayer began October 16

We invite you and your family to join us for this six-week study of The Lord's Prayer. Together, we will discover its meaning through art, reflection, and song.

Expect fun video lessons, 5-7 minutes each, released to St. Alban's YouTube page on Saturday Mornings:

Past lessons:

10/16: The Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13)

10/23: Praying to Whom? (Matthew 6:9)

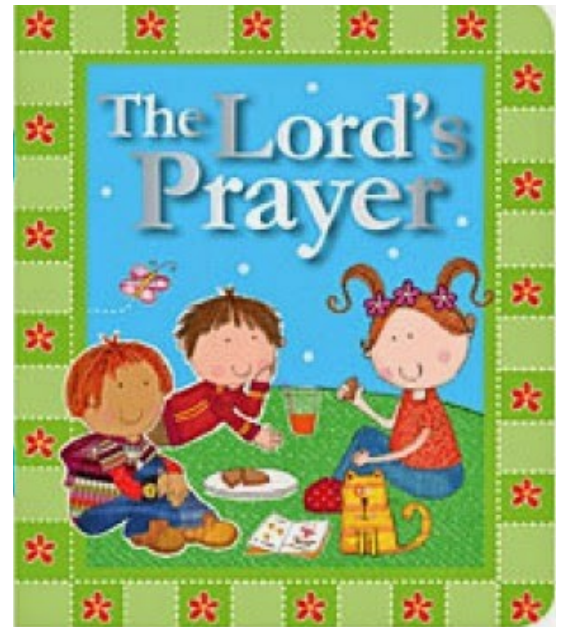
10/30: Praying for What? (Matthew 6:10)

Coming lessons:

11/6: Praying for Today (Matthew 6:11)

11/13: Praying You, Me, Us, We (Matthew 6:12)

11/20: Praying When It is Difficult (Matthew 6:13)



Companion activities will be available in the narthex every Sunday, including:

A **Reflection Activity** that strives to inspire deeper reflection of the Lord's Prayer.

A **Family Page** supplement so you may reflect on the week's lesson together as a family.

A **Prayer Booklet with Stickers** so your child may personalize a prayer booklet of their own!

The lesson materials are designed to supplement each week's video lesson. Each activity is designed to help your child explore their belongingness and connectedness with one another, the world, and God. If you need materials sent to you electronically or by mail, contact **Fr. Paul**: pmoberly@stalbansva.org.

During this season of disruption and uncertainty, scripture reminds us that through uncertain times, God's presence is constant in our lives. In challenging moments like these, as Christians, we rely on God to guide us through so that we gain peace and reassurance through Christ.

-Adam Hutson, Sunday School Coordinator

Youth Ministry: Back in Business!

Our Youth Ministry hosted a fun "kickoff" party on Sunday, September 26. Twelve of our amazing youth ministry members, and their families, enjoyed a tasty meal from Liberty Barbecue, and played games. We had a discussion with parents, too, about possibilities for Youth Ministry activities this autumn.

Most of our youth are in the twelve-years-of-age-and-up category, so most of them have been vaccinated. The parents were largely supportive of holding regular meetings through the autumn, wearing masks and distancing (as appropriate) when gathering indoors. We will gather for once-monthly meetings through December, and reassess the situation then.

We'll meet the third Sunday of the month, here at St. Alban's, from 11:45 am to 1:30 pm. Lunch served!

November 21 - 11:45 am – 1:30 pm

December 19 - 11:45 am – 1:30 pm (Christmas Party)

While we will miss some of our older youth who graduated and went off to college in 2020 and 2021, a great cohort is beginning to form. If you'd like more information, or to be involved in our Youth Ministry, please get in touch with me by email at pmoberly@stalbansva.org.

-Fr. Paul

Nursery Update

In consultation with the parish leadership – **Fr. Jeff**, Senior Warden **Moira Skinner** and **Kim Tanner** (Nursery Coordinator) – I have determined that it is not yet safe to reorganize childcare for worship services at Saint Alban's. This is due to continued high spread of the Delta variant in our area, and the danger to our youngest parishioners who are unable to be vaccinated. We continue to keep an eye on ever-changing conditions, and hope to be able to offer childcare once again (perhaps!) early in 2022.

-Fr. Paul

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



Muldoon Concert Series Sundays at 4:00 pm
The Washington Saxophone Quartet

Free and Open to the Public
November 7, 2021



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**



At Shrine Mont 2021