

St. Alban's Episcopal Church

The word

December 2021 Vol.19, Issue 10

RENEWALWORKS: GROWING CHURCHES ARE SPIRITUALLY VITAL

For the last couple of months, the RenewalWorks committee has been meeting regularly to discuss spiritual development opportunities at St. Alban's. The RenewalWorks process includes a review of the data collected from the Spiritual Life Inventory, the demographics of our congregation in comparison to the community in which we live, and the personal experiences of those who serve on the committee.

Here's just some of what we've learned so far:

St. Alban's is a community that puts faith in action. No surprise here! St. Alban's is a busy parish, where we are actively engaged in ministries to support our community. We demonstrate love of neighbor through such programs as our Poe and Belvedere meal services, our work with ACCA and other ministry partners near and far, a tradition of youth mission service, donation drives and even the construction of our new kitchen, which will help us expand food ministries even further.

St. Alban's is comprised of people who love our parish and are committed to it. A large percentage of our parishioners who attend regularly have been members for a decade or more. Our members come here, and keep coming here, because they have "found something" in the parish that speaks to them. They have watched each other's children grow up and have been there for each other in times of joy and times of grief. We are all fortunate to have found a very special community of Christians.

St. Alban's is facing demographic challenges. While the love of our parishioners for the church is strong, a low percentage of "newcomers" relative to longtime parishioners means that we will face serious challenges soon. This is unfortunately not unusual for a mainline church in 2021, but our particular church demographics are especially out of sync with the growing community in which we live. And despite the stereotype, not all Episcopal parishes are in a state of stagnation or decline; those Episcopal parishes that are growing today are those that are considered *spiritually vital* as well as active.

A significant percentage of St. Alban's parishioners are seeking more spiritual depth in their beliefs and practices. Evaluating the data and their own personal experiences, the Committee determined that there are several areas in which many parishioners are seeking more depth.

They are asking the following questions:

How can we live a whole and authentic life based on trust in God?

Where can we find spiritual friendship and accountability?

How can we participate with a present and active God in our daily lives and through our relationships with other people?

How can we integrate regular Bible reading and meditation into our lives?

The RenewalWorks team will be wrapping up its work in December, with a final report presented to the vestry in January. Stay tuned for more information!
-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



2021 Bazaar.
Many more photos inside!

From the Rector

A few years ago, my December newsletter piece was “a few thoughts about the season of Advent.” I really liked what I had to say (I’m easily impressed) and so I thought I would revisit my thoughts and update them for 2021. So, what follows is my revised and updated “a few thoughts about the season of Advent”:

Remember, **Advent≠Christmas** (or for the less math-inclined, like me, Advent is not Christmas). Advent is a season of its own, not a prolonged build up to the big Christmas reveal. Despite what the media and Amazon would have us believe, the four weeks before Christmas – Advent – are a time of preparation, anticipation and waiting for the arrival of our Savior and Lord Jesus. (And remember, Christmas begins on December 25th and lasts until January 5th.)

If I have learned nothing else from the past year and some months, I’ve gained a new appreciation for the **importance of having family and friends** in my life. This Advent, reach out to someone you haven’t seen, or spoken to, in a while.

Be counter-cultural. The season of Advent is a time of anticipation and waiting – so **slow down and be intentional** about all that you do this Advent season. Take a few moments to breathe a prayer of thanks each morning and try not to get caught up in the shopping and entertaining frenzies that tend to make our lives so much more complicated.

Advent is a great time to establish new rituals in your home. Advent is a short season of the Church Year but is packed with symbolism and meaning. **Rituals can be a source of comfort** and are another way to make us slow down, say a prayer, and think about what God’s gift of Jesus means to us. The most well-known symbol of Advent is the Advent wreath. Your wreath can be a simple ring with four candle holders or something elaborate and nicely decorated. Establish a tradition of lighting one candle each Sunday in Advent, maybe before dinner or whenever makes the most sense for your household. Say a prayer as part of the ritual – each week pray the Advent collect for the Sunday from the Book of Common Prayer (pg 211-212).

Two beloved saints, St. Nicholas and St. Lucy, have their feast days in Advent. Pick a saint (or both!); learn about their lives and their faith; tell their stories to your children. There is much to be celebrated in the lives of the saints who strived to live a Christ-like life, and there are wonderful, yet simple, traditions around both of these saints.

Don’t lose sight of the holiday in pursuit of perfection. The holiday season can be stressful and it’s easy to exhaust and frustrate yourself trying to make the perfect Christmas for you or for your family. Set clear expectations for yourself for everything from entertaining to gift-giving. Never forget that there was no formal table setting at the *first* Christmas – indeed, the first Christmas was a mother, father and child sheltering in a barn amidst the sheep and cattle. Our focus should be on Jesus as *Immanuel* – God with us.

Here are just a few opportunities for worship and spiritual growth with your parish family:

Our Advent Quiet Morning is Saturday, December 4th. Take some time out of your busy schedule to spend a few hours in quiet meditation and contemplation. The morning’s theme, “journeying out of the darkness” is a particularly important prayer these days.

Our service of Advent Lessons and Carols happens on December 12th. As the bidding prayer at the beginning of the service reminds us, it’s a time to read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience (in the Garden of Eden) until the coming of the Holy Child.

Remember our outreach to the homeless in this season of cold weather. We’ll be hosting the area’s **hypothermia shelter** again the week of Christmas and will be looking for volunteers to prepare a hot meal and be a welcoming presence for those with no other place to go.

Our Christmas Eve services are at 5:30 pm and 11:00 pm, with a half hour of Christmas music before each service. Our Christmas Day service is at 10:00 am.

I wish you all a blessed Advent, and a most joy-filled Christmas.

-Fr. Jeff

From the Associate Rector

Every year, the season of Advent catches me off guard. Thanksgiving is now ended, and the last of the turkey leftovers are being dutifully consumed. Families begin hauling home evergreen trees to set up in the living room; television ads and stores have gone full-on Christmas, and it's not even December yet. Some churches, I hear tell, even have a CHRISTMAS BAZAAR in mid-November!

And yet the readings for the first Sunday of Advent are dramatic and foreboding: Christians are called to “wake from sleep” as “the day is near” (Rom 13:11-12). In his warning to the disciples, Jesus speaks of the “coming of the Son of Man” — cautioning them to “keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming” (Matt 24:36, 41). Already, it feels like our Advent journey goes against the grain of the world around us. We begin our season of preparation for Christmas, the feast celebrating the first coming of Jesus Christ, by looking ahead to the final judgment. We begin, in a sense, at the end.

The first Sunday of Advent is the start of the new Church year. It is our own “liturgical time” — the annual cycle of feasts and observances that provide a trajectory for our worship together. In the Church time is actually circular, rather than linear. We end the year and the season after Pentecost with the Reign of Christ, or “Christ the King” Sunday — the recognition of Jesus Christ as Lord of all creation, and his supreme reign in eternity. This is really the point of the prophecies of the last judgment — that, in the end, all things will be put right by God, and all people will be gathered to their Source: the God who created everything that is. And so the church year begins essentially where it left off: ending with Christ on the throne, and beginning with Jesus' warnings to “keep awake” and vigilant for his return.

The word “Advent” means “coming” — and Advent invites us to consider both “comings” of Jesus, the first and second. We start with prophecies about the second coming, and then work backwards to the FIRST coming in Bethlehem; and even further than that, hearing from Hebrew prophets and their foretelling of a Messiah, and John the Baptist's fiery call to repentance as the herald of Christ's arrival.

We remember in Advent the time of waiting for the birth of Jesus... During Advent, Christians go back to that time of waiting, as the Bible shows it to us. They read again the prophecies in the Hebrew scriptures... about how people were longing for an end to slavery, longing to be 'back home' in some sense, longing to be with God again. Longing for reconciliation. And all of that is expressed in the most powerful metaphors, especially in the prophecies of Isaiah. Metaphors about the desert blossoming; metaphors about the rain falling; metaphors about day dawning after there's been a long, long night.

-The Rt. Rev. Rowan Williams, former Archbishop of Canterbury

Advent is, like Lent, a penitential season; but unlike Lent, it is not entirely penitential. We look to the end of all things, in which Jesus Christ is King of kings and Lord of Lords, and we are invited to place Him on the throne of our heart. We are called by the prophets to get ready, to stay awake, to remain vigilant. We are challenged to repentance: to turn from evil, and love what is good.

What would it mean for you, this year, if Jesus came more deeply into your life? What might his coming disrupt? What priorities might it make you reconsider? Is it a comforting thought? Is it scary? Where might God be calling you in the coming year? What if we gave in, and let him finally be the Lord of Lords, and the Lord of our lives? -Fr. Paul



Vestry Commissioning at the 10:15 am service: Shown here are Moira Skinner, Fr. Jeff, Fr. Paul, Bill Calvert, Sue Mairena, Christine Peck, Alison Dilworth, Kevin Holland, Jane Lesko, Evangeline Clark-Wiles and Donna Archer. Not present: Bob Ensinger, Chris Martin and Ken Youngert.

From the Deacon

Both/And Ministry

St. Alban's work in the community continued to expand over the last year as we provided groceries and gift cards to families at Braddock Elementary and Poe Middle Schools. We increased the size of our backpack meals program at Belvedere Elementary and continued it through the summer of 2021. The number of participants in Samaritan Ministry services grew. Requests for support through ACCA continues.

As followers of Jesus, as people of God, we're called to respond to those needs. Our Advent readings will remind us, again, that God sees the poor and oppressed and cares for them. In fact, John the Baptist's preaching may lead a few of us to looking into our closets to see if we have a coat to share.

There will be many important opportunities for service during Advent. I invite you to consider if you can assist with the hypothermia shelter meals or the Samaritan Ministry cookies.

Advent reminds us of God's longing to be in relationship with us. God sent Jesus to reconcile the world to God. In Luke's Gospel, we'll hear about Jesus' birth and life within the context of the political and economic systems. We can't separate Jesus' ministry. This leads me to a "both/and ministry." We must respond both to the present needs of those around us and we are also called to participate in changing policies, laws and practices that leave people homeless or hungry.

To support the work of policy change, the Diocese of Virginia is a member of the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy. In January 2022, the Center's Day for All People will be offered as a hybrid event, allowing participants to learn about criminal justice reform, including changes to pre-trial detention and solitary confinement regulations, farm worker justice, health equity and other issues. Information about the advocacy event is available at the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy's [website](#).

During Advent, you may find yourself considering engagement in the "and" part of ministry. If you feel called to engaging in educating lawmakers about the impact of laws and policies on people in our community, don't hesitate to reach out to me, **Donna Archer**, **Fay Froh** or **Debbe Hughes** who participated in the 2021 Day for All People events.

-Deacon Theresa

The Power is in the Partnership!

On November 6, Samaritan Ministry held its annual Gala with over nine hundred people from over forty parishes viewing the event via Facebook, YouTube, or in watch parties.



Samaritan Ministry Gala



During the evening's event, Samaritan Ministry presented three awards:

Ms. Yolanda Jeter received the Outstanding Achievement Award. As a former Samaritan Ministry participant, she expressed her appreciation for the work of Samaritan Ministry in her life. Ms. Jeter received her associate and bachelor's degree in criminal justice.

Ms. Jean Harrison received the annual Compassionate Samaritan Award. This award was first granted in 2013 and recognizes someone who has extraordinary contribution of time, talent, and treasure to Samaritan Ministry. From 2012 to 2020, Ms. Harrison served as the speech coach for participants who presented during annual Next Step Breakfasts, which is a venue to highlight Samaritan Ministry's work in the community.

St. Luke's Episcopal Church received the Outstanding Partner Award. This award is given every year for extraordinary support to Samaritan Ministry. St. Luke's led one of the most robust Samaritan Ministry Sundays. Members of St. Luke's served on the Samaritan Ministry Board and were selected to the newly formed Racial Equity and Justice Roundtable.

This year, St. Alban's donated two baskets which were auctioned off during the Gala raising \$705. Total raised from all the baskets sold during the event was almost \$5,900, which was almost \$1,000 more than their goal. During the entire event, Samaritan Ministry raised more than \$101,370, which was \$1,000 more than their goal. Funds raised during the event will be used to fund all aspects of their Next Step Program to assist participants with setting goals and making manageable steps to achieving these goals. Next Step Programs funded as result of tonight's event will include support such as employment readiness training.

If you missed the Gala (or want to watch it again) please go to: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KLrK5y-kV5c>

-Kristi Potts

Warden's Pen

YOUR VESTRY REPRESENTATIVES	
Parishioner Last Name	Vestry Member
A – Bo	Chris Martin
Br – Cl	Donna Archer
Co – Ed	Evangeline Clark-Wiles
El – Gr	Bill Calvert
Gu – Hu	Ken Youngert
Hy – Lal	Kevin Holland
Lar – McLa	Bob Ensinger
McLe – Pat	Moira Skinner
Pay – Sch	Alison Dilworth
Sco – Su	Chris Peck
Ta – Wh	Sue Mairena
Wi – Zu	Jane Lesko

Dear Friends,

I hope you enjoyed a wonderful Thanksgiving and are looking forward to Advent and the holiday season. As we begin the new church year, I once again invite you to join me and your fellow parishioners at Morning Prayer each day, Monday-Friday, at 8:00 am. A wonderful way to start the day with a very friendly (and caring and supportive) bunch!



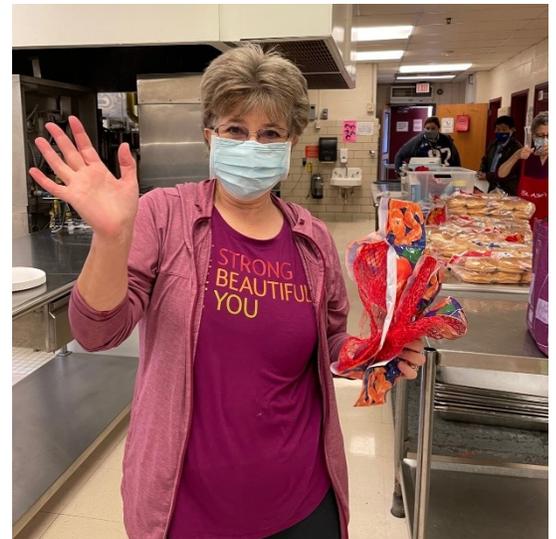
Jane Cheek and Moira at the bazaar.

Kudos to **Nancy Calvert, Sue Mairena, Nick Huskins** and all the volunteers who made this year's Bazaar such a success. Your hard work made a difference and will continue to do so because the proceeds of the Bazaar help continue our ministries to our community.

Remember, your Vestry is available to answer questions and help as needed. Please see the list of parish assignments to identify your Vestry member (to left). You have the same Vestry member if that person remained on the Vestry. For folks whose Vestry member cycled off this past election, you have been assigned one of our new Vestry members.

Wishing you and yours Joy and Peace this Christmas season! -Moira

Poe Middle School Food Ministry Food Programs

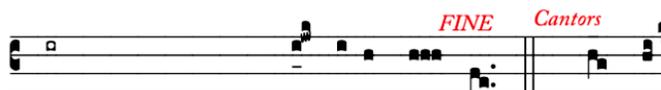


From the Music Minister and Organist

One of my favorite things about working in the Episcopal Church is experiencing the rhythm of the church year. Just this week, I stepped into the organ loft to practice and was greeted by the beautiful bright blue altar furnishings downstairs. Advent is here and Christmas is not far off. The work of our parish musicians is about to ramp up in a challenging and exhilarating way. It's going to be fun.

When planning music for our worship services, I try to mark these seasonal changes by introducing new service music. During Advent this year, at the 10:15 am service, the choir will offer a different plainsong intonation each Sunday as the ministers process to the altar. The choir and congregation will chant the Psalm responsively. And we'll sing a new setting of the Mass Ordinary, (i.e., the Kyrie, Sanctus, and Agnus Dei).

The choral intonations are in English, set to chant tones originally conceived for Scripture verses in Latin. The choir is reading from a score in neumatic notation, and they're being good sports about it:



that look for thee shall not be a- sham- ed. *Ps.* Shew me



*Adam Detzner,
Minister of Music and Organist
at November 7 Muldoon Concert.*

You'll note the absence of bar lines or a time signature; plainsong is not metered or measured in the way later music is. It's interesting to reflect on how people kept time back then. I think plainsong would likely have been sung in a similar way: with the almost liquid ease of sand moving through an hourglass, perhaps, or the slow, steady motion of a shadow on a sun dial.

Coincidentally, the third ("Rose") Sunday of Advent is called "Gaudete Sunday" because the intonation appointed for the day begins with that word. We'll sing it in English: "Rejoice ye in the Lord, and again I say, rejoice ye."

In early Christian monastic centers, Psalm verses were typically set to somewhat simpler chant tones. There's a good reason for this. During the course of a week of the many daily prayer services of monastic life, monks had to get through chanting the entire Psalter. That's a lot of verses (by one count, more than 2,600). A set of simple chant formulae allowed for ease of recitation, while more ornate antiphons could precede and follow the (many) verses. Our chant tone (VIII.1) looks like this:



The choir will sing the first half of each verse (up to the *), and the congregation will join in for the second half.

Remember, O Lord, your com- | passion and love, *
for they are from | everlasting.

Your mission – should you choose to accept it – is to sing the second half of each verse on the reciting tone (the long rectangular note), and switch after the vertical hash mark (|) in the text. The underlined and bolded syllables correspond to the notes with an accent above it. (Be not afraid - the choir will offer strong leadership on both halves of the chant.)

Finally, our setting of the Kyrie, Sanctus, and Agnus Dei is likely a new one for this congregation: they come from the *Missa Dorica* of Richard Webster. Richard is the Director of Music and Organist at Trinity Church in Boston, and he was my supervisor and mentor while I was an intern there. He remains an important friend and guide to this day. The name of this mass setting refers to its mode: the music is set in the Dorian mode, a scale that predates our modern major/minor binary. The music has parts for high voices (that is, sopranos and altos) and low voices (tenors and basses), but if your range allows, you might try switching it up each Sunday. While this music is full of mystery and solemnity, there is real excitement and energy in it, too. I think it's a marvelous setting for our journey through Advent.

I'm looking forward to exploring this new music with you. See you in church!

-Adam Detzner, Minister of Music and Organist

November 14 Handbells!



We love our handbell players! Handbell players delighted churchgoers on November 14 with “Meditation” by Michael Helman. Members of the handbell choir are: **Gail Coleman, Sheila Massey, Sarah, Samara and Jonquil Traum, Debbie Rosse, Annette Dagg, Nancy Palmerino and Kay Lusk**

Upcoming Musical Events

Mark your calendars for a service of Lessons and Carols here at St. Alban’s on Sunday, December 12 at 4:00 pm. This service will feature both Advent and Christmas readings, hymns, and choral and bell anthems.

December 5, 2021: St. John’s Episcopal Church, Norwood Parish, 5:00 pm. A Service of Lessons and Carols for Advent, accompanied by your very own **Adam Detzner** (and conducted by his partner **Karl**).

December 11, 2021: Church of the Epiphany (Downtown), 7:30 pm. Washington Master Chorale performs seasonal favorites, with additional audience caroling, accompanied by Karl Robson.

Do you know of other local musical events happening in our area? Be sure to let Adam know: adetzner@stalbansva.org.



Muldoon Concert of November 7

The Washington Saxophone Quartet, led by Rich Kleinfeldt, photo left, delighted a large audience of Muldoon concert goers on November 7.





Choir Notes



December 5 -- Malcolm Archer (b. 1952) is a conductor, organist, and prolific composer of church and organ music. From 2004 to 2007 he was Director of Music at St. Paul's Cathedral in London, and for the next eleven years he served as Director of Chapel Music at Winchester College. *People, Look East* is Archer's arrangement of a French carol melody set to words penned by Eleanor Farjeon (1881-1965), who is represented in our Hymnal with the text to Hymn 8, *Morning Has Broken*.

December 12 (10:15 am) -- Healey Willan (1880-1968) is best known to Episcopalians for his *Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena* (S-91, S-114, S-158 and S-202 in our Hymnal). Born in England, Willan went to Canada in 1913 to head the Theory Department at the Toronto (now Royal) Conservatory of Music. From 1921 until his death he served as organist and choirmaster at Toronto's Anglo-Catholic Church of St. Mary Magdalene. Willan composed more than 800 works in a variety of genres and came to be known as the dean of Canadian composers. This Sunday we will be singing his anthem, *Lo, in the Time Appointed*.

December 12 (4:00 pm) -- Our service of Lessons and Carols for Advent will feature, in addition to carols from our Hymnal, *Adam Lay Ybounden*, a 15th-century text set to music by Peter Warlock (1894-1930); the *Magnificat in d minor* by Thomas Attwood Walmisley (1814-1856); and *Lulla, Lullaby* (Part I) by William Byrd (c1540-1623).

December 19 -- Thomas Attwood Walmisley (1814-1856), whose *Magnificat in d minor* we will be singing again, was named for his godfather, the English composer Thomas Attwood (1765-1838). Educated at Cambridge University, he served as organist of that institution's Trinity College as well as a Professor of Music from 1833 until his death. In addition to his sacred music, Walmisley's output included organ compositions and chamber works.

December 24 -- Our Christmas Eve music will include *A Babe Is Born*, by the Welsh composer William Mathias (1934-1992), whose *Lift Up Your Heads, O Ye Gates* we sung on November 21; and *Bethlehem Down* by Peter Warlock (1894-1930), set to words by the English poet and journalist (and wine merchant) Bruce Blunt (1899-1957). Peter Warlock was the musical name of Philip Heseltine, whose respected literary work (mainly on musical subjects) appeared under his real name. Highly regarded for his many songs (some set to texts by the aforementioned Bruce Blunt), Warlock sadly succumbed to depression and died by his own hand at the age of 36.

December 31 -- The Choir will be on its traditional post-Christmas break.

-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.

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.

Awesome Things Require Hard Work

Some of you might have wondered why I was not able to be with you at the Christmas Bazaar a couple weeks ago. I am sad that I was not able to experience the joyful and life-giving experience of this yearly gathering, but I had a previous commitment I could not evade: preparations for the 80th General Convention of The Episcopal Church.

General, what? General Convention is a triennial meeting of lay and ordained (priests and deacons) delegates and all active bishops of every diocese of the church to pray, discern and make decisions about the life of the church. As the canons (church law) describe it:

There shall be a General Convention of this Church, consisting of the House of Bishops and the House of Deputies, which Houses shall sit and deliberate separately; and in all deliberations freedom of debate shall be allowed. Either House may originate and propose legislation, and all acts of the Convention shall be adopted and be authenticated by both (Section 1, Constitution and Canons of The Episcopal Church)

Under God, the General Convention is the highest authority of our church. We gather the largest legislative body in the world (about 1,000 members) for 10 days in a conference center in a particular city. The chosen city becomes the Episcopal capital for that period of time, with Episcopalians occupying every hotel room and any restaurant you can find. For measure, we expect that the 80th General Convention will bring to the city of Baltimore \$22 million in revenue. As you may imagine, this huge event requires a lot of planning, and this is where the general coordinators come in. We are a group of 25 persons that serve the church by managing and coordinating groups of volunteers in different assignments (worship, registration, public safety, communications, etc.). This team of people (lay and ordained) meets yearly to prepare for the triennial event once every three years. Many of them have been consistently serving in this capacity for over 15 years.

All awesome things require hard, consistent work. The mission we do, as we follow Christ, by serving others; all the great ministries of the church require hard work. To have a great and awesome General Convention, some people are called to work hard in preparation for it. Equally, to have a great bazaar, that serves many persons and welcomes them into our church, and that raises good amounts of money for the service of the underprivileged in our community, requires much work. Some are called to work hard in preparations for it, for months even.

More importantly, all of us are called to join in this joyful service and to build up the body of Christ from the position in which we have been called. Whether you are a lawyer, a teacher, a government employee, a factory worker, you have been called by Christ to serve others as a member of the body of Christ. Whether in the bazaar, or in the Samaritan Ministry, or in our food distribution ministries, or in any other ministry of this church or personal ministries you might be called to, we are all building together, piece by piece, the kingdom of God.



Language Services team, at the 79th General Convention in Austin, Texas - 2018.



Br. Luis Hernandez Rivas

We know it is hard work, but we also know that it is incredibly joyful service and that our lives have been transformed by it, for the better. We have met Jesus in the people we serve, and the people we serve with. If you are considering serving in any capacity in our church, I can promise you work, but also happiness, joyfulness in service and a life transformed by service, as Jesus taught us. Awesome things require hard work, and both the larger church and our local community need more hands.

Give it a try!

-Br. Luis

Lockwood House Thanksgiving Dinner November 25

Thank you, thank you! Over 35 of you once again shopped, cooked, and served a wonderful Thanksgiving dinner to the elderly residents of Lockwood House.

We had a large resident turnout, and they gave a hearty round of applause to thank us for resuming this tradition. Abundant leftovers were boxed and staff delivered them to resident apartments.

I'll close with a request to consider taking on this ministry next year. I've been coordinator for six years and it's time for me to pass the baton. I have notes on what needs to be done when, and I'm happy to answer any questions (ldcumings@msn.com). You will find that the Saints of St. Alban's fully support this event every year. Thank you!

-Linda Cummings



Thank you 2021 bazaar volunteers!

A big thank you to everyone who participated in the bazaar by planning, donating items, publicizing, inviting friends, shopping, cooking, decorating, setting up and cleaning up. Throughout the day, we heard so many of our visitors talking about how good the food was, what a great time they had in our shops and how warm and inviting St. Alban's is. We'll never get tired of hearing visitors talk about how wonderful our church is and hopefully, some of our visitors will come back and visit us on Sunday mornings!

Through your generous gifts of time, talent and treasure we set a new financial record of \$19,141.98 (+ additional sales from the Handmades booth on Sunday following the bazaar). Proceeds help support our outreach programs (ACCA, Poe Middle School, Bethany House, Lockwood House, Bailey's Crossroads Community Shelter, Our Little Roses School in Honduras, Holy Trinity Church in Haiti and other community organizations serving those in need). As **Fr. Jeff** mentioned on Sunday after the bazaar, we raised just a little over 19,000 this year! It's hard to believe that's \$3,000 more than we raised in 2019! We know that many of you enjoy seeing the totals for each stand, so we wanted to share the breakdown with you.

Baked Goods/Candy - \$1,690.11; Books - \$777.47; Cafe - \$1,512.22; Children's Boutique - \$320.00; Christmas Decorations - \$1,344.08; Face Painting - \$116.00; Handmades - \$2,253.65; Household Boutique - \$1,470.11; Jewelry - \$2,951.65; Pressed Flowers - \$2,370.78; Raffle - \$2,121.86; Santa - \$31.00; Tools - \$511.00; Toys - \$710.00 and Other (unspecified) - \$962.05.

One thing we'd like to mention - face painting, the children's boutique and time with Santa provide wonderful outreach services to the children in our community (and their parents). We believe these services helped make some great memories at this year's bazaar and, as we all know, you can't put a dollar amount on a great memory!! I heard several people talking about how much fun the kids had shopping for their parents, having their faces painted and visiting Santa.

-Nancy Calvert, Sue Mairena and Nick Huskins

P.S. It's never too early to start planning for our 2022 bazaar! This was Nancy's last year as co-chair and **Sue's** role will be acting as an advisor in 2022. Please let Fr. Jeff, Sue and **Nick** know if you're interested in serving as a co-chair.



Sue Mairena and Nancy Calvert served as co-chairs of the bazaar along with Nick Huskins. Sue shows off her new pressed flower purchase.



Many of the faces of our bazaar. Not shown are the many who worked behind the scenes to make our bazaar a success. Thanks all!

Bazaar 2021 November 20











Thanks to ALL the many 2021 bazaar volunteers!



Thank you Nancy! The Vestry honored **Nancy Calvert** on November 14 for seven years of managing the annual bazaar.

Vestry Resolution thanking Nancy Calvert for seven years of service as Bazaar Co-chair

WHEREAS, The St. Alban's Christmas Bazaar is the highlight of the year in our parish family; and

WHEREAS, **Nancy Calvert** has shown great patience, strength, energy, drive and creativity as co-chair of the St. Alban's Christmas Bazaar; and

WHEREAS, Nancy Calvert has been instrumental in bringing the Christmas Bazaar profits to new heights; and

WHEREAS, even with her time consumed by Bazaar responsibilities, Nancy is an active member of St. Alban's, serving as lector, intercessor, Vestry member, member of the Tuesday Morning "Handmades group," and representative to Samaritan Ministry, engaged in a variety of ministries; and

WHEREAS, even with all that, she still has time for the care and feeding of her husband, **Bill**, who is also a member of St. Alban's, dedicated and committed to its many ministries;

now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the people, Vestry and clergy of St. Alban's Episcopal Church expresses its sincere appreciation to Nancy Calvert for seven wonderful years serving as co-chair of the St. Alban's Christmas Bazaar; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the people, Vestry and clergy of St. Alban's Episcopal Church wish God's many blessings on Nancy in her future ministries and endeavors. Respectfully submitted by the Vestry of St. Alban's Episcopal Church



Featured Ministry—All Saints' Guild

The All Saints' Guild, an offshoot of the Parish Life Committee, hosts receptions for memorial and funeral services for parish family members, as well as Bishop visits. It's a ministry of hospitality in both times of joy and times of sorrow. It is sometimes the last gift that we can give to a parishioner or parishioner's family member that has died.

When St. Alban's is requested to host a funeral or memorial service, volunteers are needed to provide food, help with set up, serving, providing flowers and cleaning up after the service. We will send out a list of what's needed and provide information on special requests made by the family.

Please contact **Nancy Calvert** at billandnancycalvert@verizon.net or **Gina Clune**, at gclune012@gmail.com.

-Gina Clune and Nancy Calvert



Nancy Calvert and Gina Clune at the narthex ministry table to promote the All Saints Guild on October 31.

Featured Ministry—Memorial Grove

The Memorial Grove Committee is responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of our Memorial Grove (in the back of the church.) The Memorial Grove is a plot of land set aside for the interment of the ashes of St. Alban's members, and for those whose burial service is held in our church. And there is even a special area just for our beloved pets.

It is a ministry of care and compassion, ensuring the final resting place of many of our saints - friends, family and neighbors - is kept and cared for.



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Next Edition: January 2022
Articles/photos welcome!
Submit by December 15 to
bhallman1@cox.net

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Advent Quiet Day

Saturday, December 4

8:30-1:00 pm



A labyrinth walk will be offered 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.

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

Bob Weschler shows off his Christmas spirit with two festive ensembles. Shown here at left in his 2021 holiday outfit on November 20 at the bazaar, and at right in his 2020 holiday outfit at the November 21 church service. Now everyone is going to want one. Or two!



Stewardship Sunday November 21

Ron Vogel staffed the stewardship table on Stewardship Sunday, November 21.

Bill Van Balen checked in with Ron and let him know that he has already sent in his 2022 pledge card.

Many parishioners took advantage of Stewardship Sunday to personally deliver their pledges to the altar basket as is traditional on Stewardship Sunday.

Pledge cards are available in the narthex if you need one.

Youth Ministry

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

December 19

11:45 am – 1:30 pm (Christmas Party)

If you'd like more information, or to be involved in our Youth Ministry, please get in touch with me by email at pmoberly@stalbandsva.org. -Fr. Paul

Coffee Hour

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.](#)





Shhh. Be still. It's Advent.

Brother Jesus,
we know the pressures of the season,
the push to shop and buy,
the rush to wrap and bake,
the urgency to decorate and celebrate.
After a solitary Advent last year,
the pressures are doubled
and the push is on, as if
to make up for lost time.

Slow down, you tell us when we feel the squeeze.
Be still for at least a few moments every day.
Do less for a while. Do less, you say,
and we want to,
not because the omicron variant
of the coronavirus threatens
a repeat of last year,
but because we desire you,
because we don't want to miss you,
because we need time to prepare
to mark again your birth in our world
two thousand years ago
to see the ways you come
into our world every day
to long for you to come again
and complete in the world
God's work of creation
and bring this
bitter
beautiful
broken world
to its perfection.

Help us, our Jesus,
not to numb our aching for your presence
with food and drink and heart-racing activity.
Help us, our Jesus, not to get so caught up in bustle
that we lose all sense of you.
If the gifts we order don't arrive in time,
we'll be ok.
If we don't get out to every party and parade,
we'll be just fine.
More than fine, in fact.
Because this is a time to slow down
to be still
to pray
to wait
and wonder
and watch for you.
Jesus who came,
Jesus who comes
Jesus who will come again,
help us to pay attention,
to keep breathing,
to sit still a while,
so that we will know you
when you're here.
Come, friend Jesus,
come now
and make us yours.



About Featured Ministries

Stop by the information table in the narthex every Sunday to find out more about the ministries featured in the Word. Check out how you can be part of these important ministries at St. Alban's. When you do stop by, ask yourself, "Where is God calling me to serve?"

We can help find the "right fit" for you and your lifestyle. Whether you have one hour of time to donate or can chair an entire committee, there is a place for everyone at St. Alban's. Representatives from each ministry will be available to discuss how our combined effort serves the mission of St. Alban's.

Groceries for Poe Middle School Families in Need

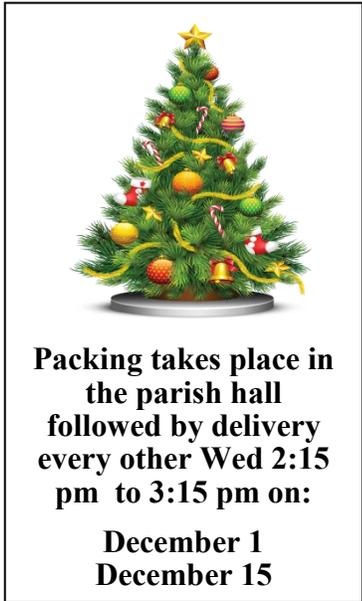
Thanks to a \$2,000 grant from the Mustard Seed Grant Fund of the Diocese of Virginia and an anonymous donation of \$5,000 that was supplemented with funds from the Outreach Committee, St. Alban's initiated a grocery distribution program in 2021 to provide groceries to about food insecure families at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

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://wearestalbans.org/summer-changes-to-the-poe-middle-school-food-distribution-program/>



**Packing takes place in the parish hall followed by delivery every other Wed 2:15 pm to 3:15 pm on:
December 1
December 15**



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**