

# St. Alban's Episcopal Church The word

January February 2022 Vol. 20, Issue 1

## From the Rector

December was a bit of a wild ride, from my perspective. What started out as the beginning of an uneventful, lovely finish to the Advent season and a glorious Christmas quickly became, thanks to the rise of the omicron variant, a tense period of “wait and see.” The very last thing I wanted to be asking myself, two days before Christmas, was “will we cancel in-person Christmas Eve services and go 100 percent virtual?” Our Christmas Eve services, while lightly attended, were glorious and I was happy knowing that those of you who were not able to attend were able to join us online.

The plan, for now, is to do everything possible to prevent having to go back to virtual worship. Please don't take this as a cavalier attitude on my part – your safety and the safety of our staff is paramount. We will continue to require masks, and I ask that everyone please put some safe distance between you and your neighbor. I mean, seriously, our attendance is so low right now that there is absolutely no reason 95 percent of our attendees have to occupy the back five rows of pews! We will continue to notify everyone of any potential exposure incidents made known to us and will reach out personally to anyone identified to us as being particularly at risk.

On a more upbeat note, I hope you will take a moment to read **Deacon Theresa's** article in this newsletter. She provides some interesting statistics that speak to St. Alban's heart for helping others and caring for those who don't have enough. Missing in Deacon Theresa's statistics, though, are the countless hours and resources *you all* have so generously shared – a couple of hundred cookies baked, the meal preparation for Poe and two weeks of hypothermia shelter hosting, packing and distributing food for Belvedere and Braddock and collecting jackets for kids without adequate winter clothing.

To me, those numbers answer the question I've asked a few times in past sermons over the years: “If St. Alban's were to disappear overnight, would we be missed by our community?” Let me know what you think. It's all about being the hands and heart of Jesus.

Finally, for those of you who have submitted your pledge card for 2022, you may turn the page and look at **Barbara's** beautiful photos from Christmas Eve. If you have not yet turned in your pledge card, I ask that you please do so. In times of financial uncertainty, non-profit organizations are particularly hard-hit, and St. Alban's is no exception. We can do nothing without your financial support. Consider the numbers that Deacon Theresa shared with us and know that the good work we do is only possible through your generosity.

I wish each of you God's many blessings in 2022. -Fr. Jeff



*Fr. Jeff lights a candle for Molly Chilton at the 5:30 pm Christmas eve service in preparation for the traditional singing of Silent Night by candlelight.*



*Clark practicing his relaxing skills in Fr. Jeff's office on December 12.*



*Clark among the poinsettias and nativity on the altar in a previous year.*

## From the Deacon

### Looking Back and Ahead

I'm writing this the first week of 2022 during which I remember my first Sunday as an intern at St. Alban's in 2015. My assignment included working with a group of parishioners who were exploring ways to assist Belvedere Elementary School. I also worked with the Outreach chair, **Moira Skinner**, to understand the work of Samaritan Ministry of Greater Washington. You can read more about those well-established partnerships in articles in this edition of The Word.

In the seven years I've been with you, I am continuously humbled and grateful for St. Alban's work in the community. Over eight days in December you shared your gifts in these ways:

- Hot meals to 110 middle school students (Poe)
- 60 weekend backpack meals (Belvedere)
- 41 packages of Christmas cookies (Samaritan Ministry)
- 35 bags of groceries (Braddock)
- 33 Target gift cards (Samaritan Ministry)
- 25 Walmart gift cards (Poe)
- 25 Giant gift cards (Poe)
- Warm jackets for kids (Braddock)
- And housed and fed people without homes (Hypothermia)

We do this work, nourished through our worship and prayer. As we journey together in 2022, I invite you to consider where God is calling you. Speak to one of the lay leaders of these ministries or to the clergy if you would like to explore ways to connect your spiritual growth with service to the community. -Deacon Theresa

## Warden's Pen



Dear Friends,

Welcome to a new year and renewed hope after the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ! As we look forward to what the year brings for us, please remember all those who are still in need. Please think of what you can do to help out, whether with your time or financially.

Our Finance Committee has already started the process of putting together a budget for 2022. If you have not already made your pledge, please prayerfully consider doing so. Your pledges support the operations of the church, our worship, and our outreach efforts. As the pandemic continues, so do the needs of the families in our community. As we say on our website: "We believe that following Jesus means we must give of ourselves and what we have to those who need it most."

Thank you for all you do help your neighbors. Wishing you and yours a very Happy New Year!  
-Moira Skinner

### Christmas Bazaar Thanks

*I want to extend my sincerest gratitude to the Vestry, clergy and people of St Alban's for your love and support! Following the announcement that I was stepping down as the Christmas Bazaar co-chair after the 2021 bazaar, I was shocked when **Moira** and **Sue** asked me to come to the front after Church on November 14 where Moira read a Vestry Resolution from the people, Vestry and clergy of St. Alban's Episcopal Church thanking me for serving as co-chair for the last several years and Sue presented me with a lovely glass etching on behalf of the congregation. I am incredibly humbled and overwhelmed by this honor.*

*The bazaar is such a success because of the hard work, enthusiasm, dedication and generosity of spirit of the entire congregation. I'm so grateful to all of you and it's heartwarming to know that together, our efforts are helping to make a difference in our community and providing support to our many outreach programs.*

*I've loved serving as the bazaar co-chair for the past several years and look forward to participating in the 2022 bazaar in a new capacity. Many thanks! -Nancy Calvert*



## From the Music Minister and Organist

In the 2010 documentary *Public Speaking*, cultural critic and iconoclast Fran Lebowitz describes the sophistication of the patrons of the arts of New York City in the 70's and 80's:

*"There was such a high level of connoisseurship, of everything, that made the culture better.... A very discerning audience, an audience with a high level of connoisseurship is as important to the culture as artists. It's exactly as important."*

(Fair warning: she goes on to lament the decline and, she claims, the disappearance of this audience, and does so with her characteristically dry and withering humor, so while I recommend the film, I do advise viewer discretion.)

Many parishioners here at St. Alban's have delighted me with some surprising erudition of exactly this kind. The comments and feedback on my hymn, anthem and voluntary selections (and their execution) show a depth and breadth of knowledge and tradition that is really affirming. It also keeps me accountable - and it helps that everyone is so polite. But I would submit that the worshipers gathered on Sunday mornings constitute not, in fact, an audience of connoisseurs, knowledgeable as they may be, but something rather different: a congregation of faithful Christians, worshipping God. And so I ask if we can try something new in the New Year: withholding applause after the postlude.

I don't mean to be difficult - I am grateful that so many of you enjoy my voluntaries. But as a minister in the context of Sunday worship, my preludes and postludes are something more, or at least different, than recital pieces. They are offerings that adorn our liturgy and enhance our common life, just like all of the other beautiful things we do so well at St. Alban's. It would be strange to clap, for example, following a sermon (no offense to **Frs. Jeff and Paul**). Of course, sometimes the Spirit moves us to do strange things. And applause doesn't hurt anyone. But, if you are one of those parishioners who choose to linger each week and listen to the postlude (and thank you!), consider listening, enjoying, pondering the music in your heart, and then departing in peace. (You can save your applause for the spring Muldoon concerts, at 4:00 pm on Sundays March 13 and April 3, both of which will feature our lovely organ—see below).

With best wishes for a safe and reverent 2022!

-Adam Detzner, Minister of Music and Organist

### 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 Cathedral 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 the National Young Artist Competition in Organ Performance in 2018.





## Choir Notes



**January 9** The familiar tune of *Far Away, What Splendour Comes This Way* has been attributed to the Italian-born French composer Jean-Baptiste Lully (1632-1687) but may have been borrowed or adapted by him from a traditional Provençal source. Lully appears to have intended his version to honor the Vicomte de Turenne, a 17<sup>th</sup>-century military hero. It was later adapted by Georges Bizet (of *Carmen* fame), who included it in his incidental music to *L'Arlésienne*, a play by Alphonse Daudet that flopped. Fortunately the music has survived in the form of two widely recorded and performed suites. The text of *Far Away*, featuring the Three Kings, dates from the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

**January 16** Sir Edward Bairstow (1874 -1946) was a renowned organist and composer of choral, organ, and chamber works. From 1913 to 1946 he served as organist at York Minster (York Cathedral). His blunt demeanor is illustrated by his comment that Sir Arthur Sullivan “never wrote any [church music] worth a cuss,” and by his response to a question about whether he would follow his predecessor at York and travel to the States: he would rather go to the devil, he proclaimed. Today’s anthem, *I Sat Down under His Shadow*, does not sound at all like it came from the pen of such a crusty personality.

**January 23** Sir John Stainer (1840-1901) was born in London, educated at Oxford, and appointed organist at St. Paul’s Cathedral in London in 1872. He left St. Paul’s in 1889 because of poor eyesight and became a professor at Oxford. His compositions, largely for the church, were popular in his day, but apart from *The Crucifixion* and a few other works they are little-performed now. More highly regarded are his scholarly works, including an anthology of early 15<sup>th</sup>-century music, a manual on organ playing, and theoretical treatises. We will be singing his anthem, *How Beautiful upon the Mountains*, the text of which is from Isaiah 52:7.

**January 30** American composer Everett Titcomb (1884-1968) was influenced by the Second New England School of musicians (George Chadwick, Arthur Foote, Horatio Parker, *et al.*), French music, and especially the plainchant and polyphonic traditions of 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> century Italy. He was largely responsible for bringing the latter back into the Episcopal Church. For 50 years Titcomb was organist and choirmaster at Boston’s Church of St. John the Evangelist, now merged with St. Paul’s Episcopal Cathedral. The text of his anthem, *O Love, How Deep*, is an English translation a 15<sup>th</sup>-century Latin manuscript also found in our Hymns #448 and #449.

**February 6** Lodovico Grilli (c1560-1627) apparently wasn’t very happy with his given surname, so he added da Viadana (“from Viadana,” his birthplace) upon taking on minor orders with the Franciscan monks. Perhaps he was emulating Palestrina. Changing jobs frequently (possibly because of religious and political squabbles with associates), Viadana still managed to produce a large body of sacred choral music. We will be singing his motet, *Exsultate justi in Domino* (“Rejoice in the Lord, Ye Righteous”) (Psalm 32:1-3).

**February 13** Samuel Sebastian Wesley (SSW, 1810-1876) was the grandson of Charles Wesley, an Anglican clergyman, poet and writer of thousands of hymns. Charles, with his more prominent brother, John, founded the Methodist movement, which eventually split off from the Anglican Church. SSW’s father, Samuel, was a noted organist and composer. SSW received a doctorate in music from Oxford and served as organist at a number of English Cathedrals. We will be singing his anthem, *Lead Me Lord*, the text of which is based on Psalms 5:8 and 4:9.

**February 19** The English composer, choirmaster and school administrator L(en) J. White (1910-1970) is best known for his setting of a short version of *A Prayer of St. Richard of Chichester* (1197-1253), which we will be singing this Sunday. The familiar text reads as follows:” O holy Jesus, most merciful redeemer, friend and brother / May I know thee more clearly, love thee more dearly / and follow thee more nearly. Amen.” (See our Hymn #654.) -Clarence Zuvekas

## Muldoon Concert Supporters

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





**Samaritan Ministries Update**

Thank you so much the people of St. Alban’s for making fresh baked Christmas cookies for the participants of Samaritan Ministries (Arlington Office) and a special thanks to **Debbe Hughes** for organizing the effort! It's amazing how big an impact such a small act can make.

Samaritan Ministry of Greater Washington (SMGW) is a faith-based community partnership comprised of more than 50 churches along with several schools and partner organizations that serve the greater Washington, DC area. Inspired by the Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37), they are called to practice –compassion, transformation, dignity and community. They are currently in need of food pantry and closet coordinators. Additionally, SMGW will begin opening additional days in early 2022 to meet the rising demand and will need front office coordinators and digital literacy trainers. The positions and job descriptions are provided below:

**Volunteer Opportunities**

If you are interested in volunteering or have additional questions, please contact, **Nancy Calvert, Kristi Potts** (St Alban's SMGW coordinators) or Sy Jones, SMGW Volunteer Manager at [sjones@samaritanministry.org](mailto:sjones@samaritanministry.org).

**Front Office Coordinator** - Welcome program participants, sort mail, answer the phone, assist with distribution and giveaway events, help maintain a clean and neat office, etc.

**Locations:**

- Arlington:** 2207 Columbia Pike, Arlington, VA 22204
- Northwest:** 1516 Hamilton St, NW, DC 20011
- Anacostia/Southeast:** 1345 U St, SE, DC 20020
- Hours:** 2-4 hours per week - (days/times vary by location)

**Digital Literacy Trainer** (Remote - hours vary) - Ability to Work Independently. Help Participants with basic computer literacy skills such as: turning on the device, using a keyboard and mouse, basic word processing, conducting email searches, using email, etc.

**Food Pantry & Closet Coordinator** -Ability to Work Independently.

**Food Pantry** - Ability to stand for length of time and lift up to 30 pounds, maintain and organize a clean food pantry, prepare food bags and food supplies for other Samaritan Ministry Offices, etc.

**Clothing Closet** - Maintain and organize clothing closet (sort, fold, hang, etc.)

- Location:** 1516 Hamilton St, NW DC 20011
- Hours:** Two to four hours per week 10:00 am - 4:00 pm Monday – Friday

-Nancy Calvert



*Arlington's front office Coordinator, Nancy Calvert with a participant on December 15 during their Christmas event. Gift bags included food for Christmas dinner, basic toiletries, hats, gloves and a \$25 gift card from St. Alban's along with the cookies baked by St. Alban's parishioners.*

*From Executive Director, Rev. David B. Wolf*

For many, this time of year embodies the spirit of human generosity. Gifts and presents are exchanged; friends, family, and colleagues get together to enjoy each other’s company, and people are often just more kind to one another. At Samaritan Ministry of Greater Washington, our work is a continual celebration of this spirit, so we have the unique pleasure of celebrating and sharing it all year long – through our Volunteers, Partners, Donors, Staff and, most importantly, our Participants.

It is heartening to talk with one of our Front Office Coordinators and hear how their volunteer work with us is a source of personal strength; it is rewarding to see the continuing, even enhanced, level of engagement from our Partners throughout the pandemic; and, it is fortifying to know our supporters throughout the Greater Washington community and beyond have stepped forward to support us, especially this past year. Finally, when all these things come together, it is inspiring to watch a participant engage with a caseworker and reach a goal – each of them collaborating to make the necessary journey of next steps needed to achieve it.

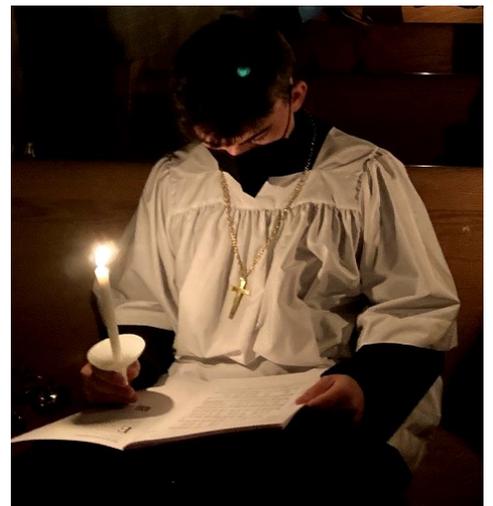
And so, with all these blessings around us – and in full view of the challenges and obstacles – I say thank you. May God richly bless you and those you care for this season and you have my best hopes for a joyous and forward-looking New Year.

# Christmas Eve 2021 5:30 pm Service









# Greening of the Church with Youth Group on December 19



**December 19  
Youth Group  
Christmas  
Party**  
Food, fun  
and  
festivities!



**St. Alban's hosted the Fairfax County's Hypothermia Shelter from December 12-25.**



*From the first day of our two week service to 14 days later on Christmas Day, St. Alban's parishioners and friends served homeless people through the Fairfax County social services agencies. Too many volunteers to name, from cooks to servers to clean up. Our kitchen was put to the true test!*

*Photos:  
Jane Cheek with Delores and Harry Baisden on December 12.*

*Harry, Delores and Donna Archer on Christmas eve.*

*Donna with her daughter, Christmas eve.*

*Donna serving dinner.*



*Dear Hypothermia Volunteers,*

*I want to thank all of you from the bottom of my heart for all the delicious meals and your hard work and generosity in welcoming and feeding our guests from the Bailey's Crossroads Shelter these past two weeks. It is a huge undertaking requiring many people to carry it off. Please also extend my thanks to your families and friends who came and helped and whose emails I don't have. Thank you all!*

*We had unforeseen challenges this year: an extra week to provide meals, not enough heat in the parish hall some nights. I invite you to share your ideas with me about how we could improve this ministry. For one thing, I am thinking about going back to the paper sign-up in the narthex. I think it's easier to see the holes that need to be filled. I also plan to ask my shelter contact if communication can be improved between us and the shelter so we waste less food.*

*I don't know of any more generous people than my brothers and sisters at St Albans. Again, thanks and I wish you all a Happy New Year!*

*-Delores*

## Featured Ministry: The Belvedere Backpack Program



December 12 Food Packing for Belvedere Elementary School students in need. We provide individual serving sizes of foods meant to hold students over when school is not in session. Shown here are the packers for December 12: **Scottie Prior, Br. Luis, Fr. Randal Prior, Kit Ryan, Emma Cheek, Cathy Casey, Chris Martin and Deacon Theresa.**

Since 2015 once a month you may have seen the notice, “Belvedere backpack packing this Sunday,” or “Come help pack for Belvedere.” What in the world are we doing with backpacks?

Belvedere Elementary School mirrors the population of Fairfax County with approximately 34 percent or more of the families living below the poverty line. Children are growing. Children are always hungry. What do their families do to feed them adequately? We don’t know for sure. But we do know that studies show childhood malnutrition and poor performance in school go hand in hand.

Currently during the pandemic, all students, regardless of family income, are eligible to receive a free lunch at Fairfax County schools. Many also eat a free breakfast at school. That certainly helps hungry children during the week. However, the Backpack Program is targeted to help children in need over the weekend. No, we don’t give out backpacks, but we do give out a bag of supplemental food for them to take home in their backpacks. Counselors at the school identify students whom they know or suspect to need weekend food supplies. Then, they slip one of our plastic bags filled with food into their backpacks as they leave on Fridays.

We’re not giving out gourmet food or complete meals. It is meant to be a supplement to whatever is in their home kitchen. Currently, we pack 60 bags to be distributed over four weeks (15 students/week). A sample of what we include:

- Macaroni and cheese
- Chef Boyardee canned dinner
- Oatmeal bags and dry cereal boxes
- Milk and a juice box
- Applesauce or sliced fruit
- Tuna and crackers kit
- Fresh apples and tangerines

Our core team is led by **Deacon Theresa** and includes **Emma and Jane Cheek, Monique Clark and Kit Ryan and Cathy Casey.** Plus, our loyal packers, some of whom are in the photo, help stuff the bags. After the bags are packed, they are put in Jane’s car trunk, and she delivers them to Belvedere the following Monday.

How can you help? Come stuff the bags with us, help put them in Jane’s trunk or help clean up the empty boxes with us. But, more importantly, this is one of the outreach projects that your pledge is supporting. So, keep giving!

–Cathy Casey and Kit Ryan

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**Next Edition: March 2022**  
**Articles/photos welcome!**  
**Submit by February 15 to**  
**bhallman1@cox.net**

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*The elves were busy wrapping packages at the gift wrap fundraiser on December 12, and every Sunday in Advent. Many elves (not all shown) help with this work. Shown here (left to right) Jane Lesko, Gwen DeFilippi, Jo Hodgkin (a customer!), Allison Blanchard and Nancy Calvert.*



## Our Bazaar Got Great Publicity in the December 10 Washington Post!

Our St. Alban's bazaar got a shout out in the Washington Post on December 10 in an article about finding unique gifts and shopping locally for unique holiday gifts and décor! The article included a hot link to our bazaar flyer. Too late for this year, but isn't it still nice to be noticed!

Article courtesy of **Barbara Cook**.

Relevant excerpt below. To see the full article, go to: [https://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/home/tips-for-how-to-decorate-your-christmas-tree/2021/12/08/669c4ad0-56a7-11ec-929e-95502bf8cdd5\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/home/tips-for-how-to-decorate-your-christmas-tree/2021/12/08/669c4ad0-56a7-11ec-929e-95502bf8cdd5_story.html)



**Swap disposable ornaments for heirloom keepsakes.** Put as many handmade ornaments on your tree as possible, Hildreth said, and if you don't have any, ask for them as gifts; they're more special than multipacks from Amazon, he said. Hildreth picks up ornaments when he's on vacation or gets them from the [St. Alban's Christmas Bazaar](#). "Support local artisans any way you can."

### 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.](#)



*Adam, Caitrin, Edmund and Rosie Keiper are pleased to announce the birth of Arthur Joshua Keiper on December 5. Mom and baby are doing well and Arthur made his debut appearance at church services on Christmas Eve.*

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



### **About Featured Ministries—Where is God Calling Me To Serve?**

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.

For more information, please contact **Karen** or **Rick Weinberg** at [rweinberg1@cox.net](mailto:rweinberg1@cox.net)

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:

