

St. Alban's Episcopal Church The word

July/August 2022 Vol. 20, Issue 6

From the Rector

This past June has been a whirlwind of activity, and four events in particular stick out for me.

June started with my son's wedding in California. The marriage of one's child is a thrilling event but, for me, it was even more thrilling to witness the wedding from the "other side" of the altar. I have always told my daughter and son that I would be honored to baptize their children, but I wasn't planning to be the celebrant or officiant at my own children's weddings. The only role I want is to be the proud father of the bride or groom. It was a beautiful wedding in a beautiful space – the grandeur of an alpine meadow at South Lake Tahoe.



Will Shankles' Lake Tahoe alpine meadow wedding venue

While I was away, we said goodbye to **Deacon Theresa**.

Deacon Theresa came to us in 2015, and the plan was for her to spend a year here as an intern in an environment that was "different" than the church that raised her up. Coming to St. Alban's from Grace Church, Alexandria, I'd say she was, indeed, assigned to a very different kind of Episcopal church. Deacon Theresa made a significant difference here, almost from the beginning of her time with us. That one-year internship turned into a 7-year ministry in which Theresa carried out her role as a deacon by bringing the cares, needs and concerns of the world to us: telling us about the need for supplemental food for children at Belvedere Elementary; sharing with us her experience protesting hate in Charlottesville; standing up for voting rights for all in downtown Washington; facilitating groups that explored racism in our country to find a way forward that brings healing; facilitating support sessions for those of us who are providing care, in some form, to a loved one – it really is a rather long list. I know she would hate to hear me say this, but I admire Deacon Theresa's steadfast, unshakeable faith, her commitment to the Gospel and her work for justice, peace, and dignity for all people. It was a pleasure to serve at God's altar with her and I wish her well in her new ministry at Church of the Resurrection.

Your Vestry met for a time away one Saturday in June at Goodwin House, Bailey's Crossroads. The parish leadership met to consider the questions: Where have we been? Where are we now? Where do we want to be? How can we best use our resources to share the Gospel of Jesus in our community? There was energy, passion, and creativity at work at that retreat, and I'm looking forward to the good things that will come out of it.

I ended the month of June with **Alison Dilworth** and **Fr. Paul** on the annual Youth Mission trip in Raleigh, NC. It is always fun to spend a week away with the youth of our parish, and there is no better way to get to know our youth than to go on a mission trip with them. This mission trip was very different from the trips we have taken in the past, and I know the adult leadership came away with some great ideas to try to implement here. I encourage you to read Fr. Paul's article as he goes into more detail about the trip.

As we enter the peak of summer, I wish God's many blessings for each of you, and pray that you all are able to get some rest, recreation, and relaxation this summer.

-Fr. Jeff



Mission Trip

Missioners are blessed before they depart on their mission trip on June 26.

*Shown are:
Alison Dilworth,
Ted Blanchard,
Zack Dilworth,
Cole Lieberthal,
Finley Devereax,
Fr. Paul and Fr. Jeff.*

From the Associate Rector

From June 26 to July 1, the Youth of Saint Alban's participated in a program through Raleigh Youth Mission (RYM) in Raleigh, N.C. After being forced to cancel our missions in both 2020 and 2021, it was a relief and a joy—finally—to be able to get out on the road!

This year's program theme at RYM was "From Kingdom to KINGdom" – contrasting the kingdoms of this world—rife with injustice and inequality—with the righteous and just Kingdom of God. We focused on the neighborhoods of Raleigh, particularly downtown, learning about poverty and hunger and homelessness.

Over the course of the week we visited six different agencies that serve the poor and marginalized in Raleigh. Through those experiences we learned about how power works in our society, and how God wants a more just society – not only in the future, but in the present day. We are called, as Christians, to work toward that "KINGDOM" – which is present, and future. Here are just a few highlights:

On Monday, we began by visiting the First Baptist Church in downtown Raleigh, where they have created an amazing clothing distribution ministry. Once a week, they open their doors to whoever shows up needing clothing; they focus on only offering high quality thrift clothes, organized like a store, and each person is invited to fill a laundry basket full. Volunteers help with various tasks, and often assist shoppers with their baskets—and get to know them too—while they shop.

Tuesday we visited an amazing organic garden that supports the Food Bank of Eastern North Carolina, run by a powerhouse Latina named Lourdes. The Food Bank warehouse is located in a vacant Big Box store – think the K-Mart complex on John Marr Dr – and this garden is dug on formerly grassy medians in the middle of the parking lot. It's an amazing place.

Lourdes gave us a crash course in organic gardening – and taught us how to harvest potatoes, green beans and squash. She taught us the basics of pollination – nectar is the sugar, and pollen is the PROTEIN – and that a variety of flowers are needed to produce different types of pollen and attract different types of pollinators. We learned about how lawns without flowering plants are part of what's causing the loss of bee colonies – and urged us to plant just ONE plant, and encourage others to do the same.

Wednesday, the final activity was especially fun – they called it PEACE, LOVE and POPSICLES. Essentially we went into a park that is central to the homeless community, and greeted people while handing out popsicles and ice water. It was an amazing time; and though the kids were a little hesitant at first, they quickly spread out through the park enthusiastically spreading love and community.

Next year, we hope to use this template to create a summer youth mission that is LOCAL, where we can explore different ways that needs for food, clothing and housing are all around us. Through the next year, we hope to focus a lot on service to others in the community: learning to see the face of God in those around us, and working as disciples to further GOD'S harvest.

-Fr. Paul



Above: Missioners helped with the harvest

Our Missioners are Alison Dilworth, Ted Blanchard, Zach Dilworth, Cole Lieberthal, Finley Devereux, Fr. Paul and Fr. Jeff.

Warden's Pen

Summer is upon us, and with it comes a high level of activity and opportunity. This is indeed an exciting and inspiring time at St. Alban's as evidenced - at least in part - by all the photos of our various recent events included in this issue, from the great parish picnic to the inspiring and educational Youth Mission Trip. It's also a time of transition as we wish the new high school and college graduates well in the next chapter of their exciting young lives. We send our graduates forward with our prayers and blessings!

After two-plus years, many of us are looking forward to taking a little time away. I hope each of you can do that in whatever way works for you. And I offer that time away - even if it's just a local change of scenery or routine - may be a time to reflect on what our recent pandemic experiences have taught us about love, patience, faith, endurance and spiritual growth. God moves among us in mysterious ways, and often speaks through difficulty and challenge in our lives. I suspect that we will continue to discover that as we move into this next phase in our journey together.



Speaking of getting away, we are excited to see the number of you that have signed up for our upcoming trip to Shrine Mont, September 30 to October 2. If you aren't familiar, Shrine Mont is the diocesan retreat center in the Shenandoah Mountains, about a two-hour drive from Annandale. For some of us, this is one of those holy places that **Br. Luis** writes about in his article: a place where we may encounter God in deeper ways, or perhaps see God anew in one another. Or maybe God finds us personally when we least expect it, maybe in a quiet moment on a hike, or gathering around an evening campfire, or just taking in the beauty and history of the place. In my experience, sometimes just being in such a place presents the opportunity to meet and get to know God more fully, to be present and allow the Spirit to move in and among us. If you haven't been to Shrine Mont, I encourage you to consider it. Even though the registration deadline has passed, there may still be an opportunity to attend, so please contact the church office for more information.

As a parish family, we are stepping out in faith in a number of areas this summer and beyond: we are discerning the shape of our outreach and engagement ministries now that **Deacon Theresa** has moved on; embracing the new Sunday schedule and the additional time it provides for formation; and growing our interest in book study groups and other education and community-building activities. We are also excited about the Chorister program that will be starting this fall. I encourage you to participate in as many of these and other parish opportunities as you may feel drawn to and share the opportunities with others who may be interested.

In the coming months you'll be hearing more about additional efforts to implement the *RenewalWorks* recommendations, and other future plans including some resulting from the vestry's recent strategic planning retreat. So, "stay tuned" as we continue to discern where God is calling St. Alban's to go in this time and place, and where you may be called to participate in that journey.

"Now there are varieties of gifts but the same Spirit, and there are varieties of services but the same Lord, and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone."

(1 Corinthians 12:4 - 6)

-Chris Martin, Senior Warden



A Note from Deacon Theresa:

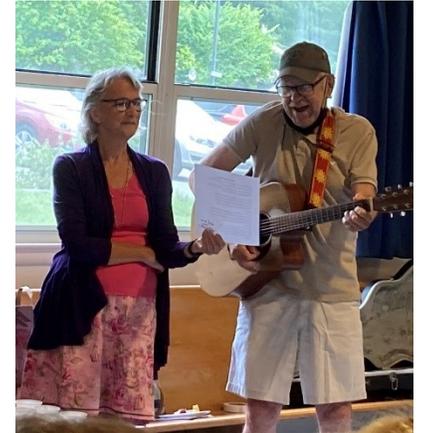
Beloved in Christ,

*Over the last seven years, we've shared joys, laughter, pain, and grief. Thank you for the grace-filled send-off you shared with me on Sunday, June 12. The transition litany, the choir's anthem, **Fr. Paul's** sermon, **Harry and Delores'** special song, the festive coffee hour, your notes and expressions of love and gratitude for our ministry together filled my heart.*

As Sunday's litany said, "Because God is love, and God's love always adds and multiplies, it is never divided or taken away." I carry your love with me as I move through all my days, knowing that you will continue to share that love with each other and in the community.

Yours in Christ's Service, Deacon Theresa

Deacon Theresa's Farewell, June 12



Theresa's Song Written and Sung by Harry and Delores Baisden

Refrain:

*She's stayed around and prayed around St. Alban's way too long,
Winter's come and gone, yeah summer's comin' on.
She's stayed around and prayed around St. Alban's way too long,
And the Bishop says she's gotta' travel on.*

*The Bishop writes Theresa, "Theresa it's time to go,
"Theresa it's time to go, Theresa it's time to go,"
The Bishop writes Theresa, "Theresa it's time to go,
You can't stay at St. Alban's any more."*
(Refrain)

*Father Jeff and Father Paul, they won't know what to do,
Won't know what to do, no won't know what to do.
Father Jeff and Father Paul, they won't know what to do,
Like the rest of us, they're really feeling blue.*
(Refrain)

*Gonna' miss Theresa, gonna' miss her bad,
Gonna miss her bad, yeah, gonna' miss her bad.
Gonna miss Theresa, gonna miss her bad,
She's the best gal St. Alban's ever had.*
(Refrain)



Litany of Transition for Deacon Theresa:

Nancy Calvert, Ted Blanchard, Jo Hodgkin, Linda Cummings, Donna Archer, Margaret Pendley, Deacon Theresa and Fr. Paul

Dear Theresa: "Go with our blessing to help release gifts in others; to guide another community of God's people to living water"



It is hard to believe that we've wrapped up our first program year together at St. Alban's. (My start date was, believe it or not, August 1, 2021!). It's been quite a year. Our choirs are taking a well-deserved rest for the summer and will regather in the fall. If you are interested in offering instrumental voluntaries (i.e. Prelude, Postlude and/or Offertory), the summer is a perfect time to do so! I hope the many gifted musicians in our midst will come out of the woodwork and make their talents known. Be in touch with me at adetzner@stalbansva.org if you would like to participate.

In the fall, we'll also launch our new RSCM Chorister Program. A detailed description of the program can be found at www.wearestalbans.org/music, including a Google Form with which to sign up your child(ren). Any child aged eight and up with unchanged voices is welcome to participate, and the program is free. Families can choose between Wednesday or Thursday evening rehearsals or attend both. Flyers and postcards can also be found all over campus. Please make the good news of our fledgling program known in your communities and consider how you might support this important work. We are going to change lives!

Mark your calendars for the 2022/2023 Muldoon Concert series! Our concerts last year were a huge success, with great attendance and interest. A detailed letter will make its way to you in August, but our dates and performers are set. (See box to right).

I pray that this summer can be a time of rest, relaxation and recuperation for all of us, especially after these exceptionally tough few years. I know I am looking forward to the time to plan for our next program year. Onward!

-In Christ, Adam Detzner, Minister of Music and Organist

Do you know a child who loves to sing?

St. Alban's Episcopal Church

(6800 Columbia Pike, between Sleepy Hollow Road and Gallows Road)

is starting a

Royal School of Church Music Chorister Program

Learn to sing in a safe, supportive environment.

Work individually with a trained vocal coach.

Develop teamwork and leadership skills.

All boys and girls age eight and above may join!
We welcome those of all faiths and of no faith.

Coming Fall 2022 | Free to join!
Choice of Wednesday or Thursday night rehearsals



RS M
AMERICA
We bring you VOICE for LIFE

St. Alban's Episcopal Church

6800 Columbia Pike

Annandale, VA 22003

(703) 256-2966

www.wearestalbans.org

The Rev'd Jeff Shankles, Rector

Adam Detzner, MM, Director of Music

Muldoon Concert Series 2023

October 23, 4:00 pm. – Carrie Rose, Flutist

February 12, 4:00 pm – Illuminare / Carmina Choral Ensemble

March 19, 4:00 pm. – Second Annual Annandale Bach Birthday Marathon

An afternoon of short performances of organ works of J. S. Bach by talented local artists on St. Alban's beautiful mechanical action organ (John Leek, Op. 1).

Audience members can drop in and depart at will. When the marathon ends at 6:00 pm., concertgoers and musicians will continue to celebrate Johann Sebastian in the parish hall, where beer and German fare will be served.

May 21, 4:00 pm – Dr. Kimberly Marshall, organist

Holy Places

Last month I was blessed to visit New York for a family wedding and stayed an extra day to be at the Sunday services at St. Bartholomew's Church, White Plains, my sending congregation. St Bart's, as its affectionally called, is a small but strong congregation with a long history in the city of White Plains, a suburb of New York City.

I was sent to St Bart's several years ago by the diocesan Latino ministries to help the congregation expand their ministry with an outreach to the Latino community in the area. Together, we dreamed, we prepared, we worked hard and we began our first Spanish service on the Easter Vigil of 2017.

Across these short years, the congregation has continued to grow in formation, commitment and numbers. Even through the pandemic and with our clergy person being moved to another parish and not being able to call someone yet, the congregation continues to share the good news of God in Christ and his inclusive love with power.

It was truly a blessing for me to visit, preach and be with them and receive all their love. Coming back to my home base at the Seminary, I am left thinking on holy places. We all have holy lands—places in which we have met God and we have been found by the fire of God's love. Those places are special for us and are signs of grace that can help us to recenter and reorient ourselves in the path of following Jesus.

The Bible is full of examples of stories of people that have had strong experiences of God in a particular place and have marked it, as a way to be reminded of and challenged by them. A good example is Jacob wrestling with God (as found in Genesis 32:22-32). Jacob wrestles with God and lives, and the moment is so pivotal, God changes his name. Jacob marks the place by calling it Penuel (because he saw God face to face and lived). This text serves as an icon of the people of Israel, whose name is given to Jacob in this story. Like Jacob's story, the story of the people of Israel will be one of struggle with God and men. In the footsteps of Jacob, the people of Israel will try to attain the blessing of God in their own terms. Like their forebearer, they will struggle and go through long hardships, but eventually will receive the blessing of God. Conversely, God will be to the people of Israel, as he was for Jacob, the eternal being seeking to find them, willing to go close to them. And all of this is signified and coded in a place called Penuel.

St Bart's, along with other places like the church where I was baptized and called, are holy places in my life. Sacred places I visit from time to time to be reminded of the awesome ways in which I have been loved, called, challenged and grown. These places are like wells of grace that help me to go back to that first love after which everything begun.

What are those places for you? Can you think of them? Do you visit them regularly? A good spiritual practice for these summer months might be to think on these places and the events that happened there. Maybe even go on a little pilgrimage to them; occupy that space again. Marvel at God's beautiful work in our lives.

- Br.Luis



Br. Luis Hernandez Rivas



Br. Luis preaching at St Bart's, White Plains, NY May 22



After fellowship time, which at St Bart's always includes a full lunch.

Youth Mission Trip to Raleigh, NC June 26-July 1





More Youth Mission Trip June 26-July 1





**St. Alban's 2022 Picnic
June 19**



More Picnic 2022!



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

Contributors:
The Rev. Jeff Shankles;
The Rev. Paul Moberly;
The Rev. Theresa Lewallan;
Br. Luis Hernandez Rivas;
Bill Calvert; Linda Cummings;
Adam Detzner; Barbara Hallman;
Peter Larson; Jane Lesko;
Chris Martin; Amy Perina.

Photographers:
Vivian Byerly The Dilworths,
Carolyn Foley; Barbara Hallman.

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

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

Building and Grounds Report

The following repairs and upgrades are in progress at the church and rectory:

HVAC Systems – Krafft Services completed their semi-annual inspection of the St. Alban’s property and identified two issues:

One of the six “mini-split” units in the parish hall is down and cannot be repaired due to obsolescence. Rough calculations of the parish hall square footage finds that four units can service the room. As such, the leadership has decided to forego replacement at this time and defer decisions until a holistic view of the air conditioning in the parish hall kitchen and classroom wings can be explored.

One of the two 2-1/2 ton units that serves the narthex, mechanical rooms and office wing is also down and obsolete. This unit and the other two units we have (another 2-1/2 ton at the church and 3 ton at the rectory) are 14 years old (expected service lives of 15 years). All units do not meet the current efficiency codes and use R-22, which is no longer made. To eliminate future emergencies and risks, we have contracted to have all three units replaced with code-compliant units for \$15K, a 10 percent reduction over the best “per-unit” price. The work will be performed in July/August timeframe.

Emergency Lighting – Becker Electrical identified a burnt-up power inverter and back-up battery system that provide emergency power to church building exit signs and egress lighting. This item will impact our ability to maintain an occupancy certification with the Fire Marshall if not corrected. **Carlos** has investigated alternatives and has no easy solutions. Therefore, we have requested Becker perform the work at a cost of \$13.4K.

Deferred Maintenance Items – Several deferred maintenance items require attention. We are working to address:

- Hot water heater replacement in the sacristy
- Protective/safety cover for the septic tank
- Roof leak in the narthex
- Sagging hallway ceiling outside Room 11.

-Bill Calvert, Junior Warden

More Picnic 2022!



Many Congratulations to our Graduates!

Robby Larson-Ensinger, son of Bob Ensinger and Peter Larson and brother of Heath

Robby graduated from Justice High School on June 1. Known by many at St Alban's for being an Acolyte and participating in Youth Group Mission trips, Robby will be attending Mary Baldwin University in Staunton, VA in the fall. Having played Varsity Soccer at Justice High School, as well as playing travel soccer with Villarreal Virginia Academy "VIVA," Robby is excited to be representing Mary Baldwin on their soccer team. Robby hopes to pursue a career in sports management/marketing.

-Peter Larson



Robby in action on the soccer field.

Julia Victoria Lesko, daughter of Jane and David and sister of John and Jack

Julia graduated from Justice High School on June 1.

Julia was an IB Diploma Candidate and was a member of the National Honor Society. Julia lettered in swimming all four years of her high school career.

Julia will attend Virginia Tech in the fall and plans to study fish conservation/marine biology. Go Hokies!

-Jane Lesko



Julia

James Perina, son of Amy and Hugo Perina, brother of Allison and grandson of Joyce and Alan Aument

James Perina graduated from Fairfax High School this year. James has been part of the St. Alban's family since he was born. Throughout the years, Easter egg hunts, candlelight services, swinging at the playground during coffee hour, serving Thanksgiving lunch to the seniors at Lockwood House, and breaking his nose in the courtyard (!) are among his favorite memories of St. Alban's. He has also loved going to church with his grandparents, **Joyce and Alan Aument**. James has many great youth group memories, too— including those from his mission trips to Hurley, Virginia. He hopes to continue to go to Shrine Mont where he enjoys gathering around the bonfire, eating the good comfort food, hiking to the cross and hanging out with other youth group members.



James with his sister Allison

Throughout the years, James has been quite an athlete--playing soccer, volleyball and basketball. He was the captain of his varsity lacrosse team this year at Fairfax High School. James is very thankful to have had an "in-person" --albeit not a totally normal— senior year and has enjoyed being able to make many memories recently with his friends and family.

James is a member of the National Honor Society and has excelled in his classes. He is caring, talented and funny. We could not be more proud of the wonderful person he is. James will begin studying engineering this fall at Virginia Tech. Best wishes to all of the St. Alban's 2022 graduates!

-Amy Perina

Congratulations to Other Graduates:

Henry Clune, son of **Gina** and **Shawn Clune** and brother of **Maddie**, Christopher Newport University, Newport News, VA.

Kaela Huheey, daughter of **Trish** and **Phil** and sister of **Kendall**, Alexandria City High School, Alexandria, VA

Sarah Rutherford, daughter of **Gwen DeFilippi**, sister of **Emily** and **Maggie** and granddaughter of **George** and **Penny DeFilippi**, West Point Military Academy, West Point, NY.

Calling all Graduates!

Do you have a graduate (grade school, college, trade school, etc) you'd like us to feature in a future Word? Stories about grandchildren welcome too! Please contact **Barbara Hallman** at bhallman1@cox.net for how to submit.

Articles are due the 15th of the month preceding the issuance month; next issue is September 2022.



New St. Alban's T-Shirts!

Patricia Smith, Nell Dillard and Debbie Rosse checking out the new short- and long-sleeved St. Alban's T-shirts for volunteers after they packed groceries for needy Braddock Elementary School parents on June 29.

The Youth missionaries were also sporting these attractive shirts while on their mission trip...see photos pages 7 and 8.



Along with our famous red aprons, these shirts tell our story as we serve others.

Robyn Leersnyder— New U.S. Citizen!

Congratulations are in order for **Robyn Leersnyder**, who received her U.S. Citizenship just in time to celebrate Independence Day, 2022!

Robyn came to the U.S. from New Zealand 37 years ago. She and her husband **Grant** applied for citizenship a couple years ago but processing it was delayed due to the pandemic.

Photos. Robyn is being blessed with a special prayer for citizenship by **Frs. Jeff and Paul** on July 3. Also shown with Fr. Jeff and Robyn celebrating the occasion at coffee hour is **Helen Cassidy**. Robyn and Helen look very patriotic!



Mystery Dinner

The book club did a murder mystery dinner with a 70's theme in June. Be nice to **Jo Hodgkin** - she ended up being the surprise murderer!

In case you don't recognize them through the 70's disguises:

Audrey Shankles, Izanne Zorin, Alison Dilworth, Jo Hodgkin, Bobbie Dilworth, Allison Blanchard, Sue Mairena, Kate Wettstein, Nancy Calvert, Gina Clune.

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

Episcopal Relief and Development, in partnership with Action by Churches Together Alliance, is providing cash, blankets, hygiene supplies and other desperately needed assistance to families fleeing the war in Ukraine. Donations can be made to support these efforts on the [Episcopal Relief and Development website](#).

A Compline Prayer:

Lord, it is night. The night is for stillness.

Let us be still in the presence of God.

It is night after a long day. What has been done has been done; what has not been done has not been done; let it be.

The night is dark. Let our fears of the darkness of the world and of our own lives rest in you.

The night is quiet, Let the quietness of your peace enfold us, all dear to us, and all who have no peace.

The night heralds the dawn.

Let us look expectantly to a new day, new joys, and new possibilities.

In your name we pray. Amen.



Happy Summer!

The next Word issue will
be for September.

Submit articles and photos
by mid August.

“See you in September!”