

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!



The Messenger

The Weekly E-Newsletter of St. Alban's Episcopal Church **October 5, 2018**

In Our Prayers

Please pray for:

Blane; Savannah Benton; Edwina Johnson; Jeanne Aycocock; Laura Guest; Bobby Thomas; Eddie Farmer; Ralph Ammerman; Don Lester; Charles Goodman; Jeannette; Cheri; Ryleigh Corcoran; Eilijah; Pat; James Powers; Edward Leon Graham; Patsy; Jim Pair

Please pray for our Vestry and Clergy:

Marty Atkinson; Libby Martin; Marvin Gray; Judy Terry; Stan Brassie; Bob Emmons; Nicole Richards; and Rev. Pat Merchant



St. Alban's Intercessory Prayer

Group - Every **Tuesday** morning at 11:00 a.m. you are invited to come and pray for the needs of our church, our people, our community and nation.

If you would like for us to pray for someone or something special, please fill out a prayer card, which is found on back of the pews. You can place the card in the offering plate or give it to an usher.

Bible Readings

Readings for This Week:

Job 1:1; 2:1-10
Psalm 26
Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12
Mark 10:2-16

Readings for Next Week:

Job 23:1-9, 16-17
Psalm 22:1-15
Hebrews 4:12-16
Mark 10:17-31

Pat's Perspective

Dearly Beloved,

Gratitude is an attitude. I know it is corny, but it is true. I have been working on my "tude" most of my life. When I was young I thought it was terrific that my mother made my clothes. Then as I got

older I discovered that made clothes were not cool. My sister bought a blouse at the department store and I was very jealous.

There have been times in my life when I was really financially poor. Often cold in the winter and hot in the summer. I worried about having enough money a lot of my adult life. Like many people who do not make enough money to live on, every now and then I splurged and bought something I knew I could not afford. Then I would worry even more. The pleasure did not last long.

The last 20 years life has been better. I have better control and power over our finances and this has made the worry much less. The problem for me has been I have not been as grateful as I want to be. It is easier for me to more quickly remember what I don't have, rather than what I do have and it is a lot. I have a healthy family, animals I love, Lou and I are in good health and we are blessed with our friends.

Some years ago, I just made myself practice gratitude. At night when I said my prayers, I would name all the events and people in the day for which I was grateful. I would pray to God that I would change my attitude. That I would be more grateful at the moment.

This summer I have thanked God every time I saw the 2 hummingbirds that came to our feeders. I thanked God for the Monarch butterflies and the little tree toad. I thanked God when I made the round trip safely from home to Monroe and back. I thanked God for my daughter and her family. I thanked God when there were people in church; when others had their prayers answered. I still believe I fall short of a grateful heart. I surely do not want to be a whiney old lady who never has life her way.

So this is my confession. I wish I was more thankful and generous. I have a way to go. Perhaps you do not understand of what I speak. Bless You. I am asking all of us at St. Alban's to think of what we have together to be thankful. For our faithful choir, amazing Vestry and Wardens, the laughter we share and also the suffering we share. Thankful for our always amazing Coffee Hour, for Shirley who is a constant source of strength, and for Pam who keeps our building clean. I am grateful for Sam Knight who just joined us to lead us in our music ministry. I am grateful for Mallory and Shawn who operate the sound system, and Scott and Sissy who acolyte. I am grateful for Bob Hay who not only makes coffee, but helps us during the week. I am grateful for Susan McDaniel and Jane Hoglen who keep our nursery.

Mostly, I am grateful for each of you. Your laughter, your faithfulness and your presence. Please consider and reflect your gratefulness for St. Alban's.

Lovepat

Bishop's Blurb

One Word

Men and women, throughout the millennia, have invited us to unity with God. A God ceaselessly offering himself/herself to us. Despite our consistent rejection. God, relentlessly calling to our attention that we already have all the grace we need.

When did we get this lifetime supply of grace? At our birth! It's inside us ready and waiting. Divine appetite. Godly capacity. So far so good; what's our part?

John the Baptist answers the question with his one-word sermon, "Repent." Which is the same as saying, choose unity with God **today**. Re-imagine life. Why repent of our present life? "Because some of us are simply sick and tired of being sick and tired." Because, disunity with God is hell right now.

What areas of your life are out of step with Jesus' teaching? Want more unity, more harmony, with a loving God? It's available. Your choice.

"Celebrations"

Happy Anniversary!

October 10 - Pat Merchant & Lou Squyres

Happy Birthday!

October 8 - Azlynn Sexton
October 11 - Carolyn Pickeral
October 13 - Gail Hammond

"Announcements"

New Organist/Choir Director - Our new Organist/Choir Director is Samuel Knight. Sam is a retired Anglican/Episcopal priest, originally from Antigua in the West Indies. He was schooled not only in Antigua, but also in Barbados, Canada, and the United States. His degrees are not only in Theology, but also in music and counselling. Please make him welcome [this Sunday](#).

We wish to thank Dan Marineau for being with us these past few weeks and serving as the Organist/Choir Director during our search.

Church Breakfast

We have truly enjoyed the breakfasts which have been prepared for us in the past few months. Hopefully, enjoying breakfast together will continue on a monthly basis. If you are interested in preparing the breakfast one [Sunday](#), please sign the sheet provided in the Narthex.



Join us for the annual

Blessing of the Animals

In honor of St. Francis of Assisi, we will have a "Blessing of the Animals" [this Saturday, October 6th, at 2:00 p.m.](#) Everyone is invited to bring their beloved animals, large and small, to be blessed by Rev. Pat.



The Monroe Fall Festival is Saturday, [October 13th](#), from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. We will be cooking and giving away hotdogs in the church parking lot during the festival. We will also provide the annual hayride for all in attendance.

Cathedral Book Store at St. Alban's

Representatives from the Cathedral Book Store will be here at St. Alban's on Sunday, [October 14th](#). They will bring various books (including children's books), devotionals, and gift items for purchase. The items will be on sale after the worship service in the parish hall.

We Need Help! - When the Cathedral Book Store visits us [next Sunday](#), the woman coming needs help bringing in her boxes and unpacking them. At the conclusion of her visit after church, she will need help packing her car to take what she doesn't sell home. Please let Pat know if you can help. She will also need 6 large tables set up to display her wares.

This is a great moment to [Christmas](#) shop, to read a new good book, or to buy an Advent Calendar. I hope you will support this visit so that they will come again...lovepat



Our Stewardship season is just beginning. We will be sending out several letters to let you know what is happening. I want to thank Roy and Mary Jane Mallady for working on this effort. On [November 11](#), we will be having a closing luncheon after church. Roy and Mary Jane have made a very generous donation to pay for this celebration.

We will have [Sunday](#) talks by members of the congregation in the weeks to come. If you would like to share with the congregation your witness of stewardship and love of Jesus, please let me know. These will be short. I will also keep my sermons shorter than usual so that your ears and patience will be prepared to listen.

Riley Tucker has drawn a beautiful painting for us to use in our Stewardship materials. I am so grateful to her for her offering.

As Summer concludes, we are all drawing closer and looking forward to cooler weather. Let us remember our blessing...lovepat

New Church Directory - If your picture is not in the directory and you would like for it to be or if you are new to St. Alban's, please send your picture to Shirley at saintalbansmonroe@windstream.net. You can also stop by the church office and drop off a picture or Shirley can take your picture with her phone. The directory will be printed hopefully within the next few weeks.

Vacation Notice - Shirley will be on vacation from [October 15th](#) through [October 19th](#). She will be back in the church office on [October 22nd](#).

Centering Prayer Workshop - Contemplative Outreach of Atlanta will offer an "Introduction to Centering Prayer Workshop", hosted by Saint Anna's Catholic Church at 1401 Alcovy Street, Monroe, on Saturday, [October 20th](#), from 9:00 am to 3:00 p.m. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. The registration fee is \$35. A box lunch is \$10. You may register online under "Upcoming Programs" at <https://www.contemplativeoutreachatlanta.com/>. The series will introduce participants to the four simple steps of *Centering Prayer* and provide opportunities to practice the discipline in daily life. For more information, contact Tom Miller at [678-773-8656](tel:678-773-8656) or [770-267-6021](tel:770-267-6021) or centeringprayerstannasmonroega@gmail.com or Maggie Winfrey at [404-717-6815](tel:404-717-6815) or coatlantageorgia@gmail.com.

Centering Prayer is a simple method of prayer, rooted in ancient Christian tradition...."not so much the absence of thoughts as the detachment from them. It is the opening of mind and heart, body and emotions-the whole body-to God...beyond words, thoughts, and emotions."...Thomas Keating

Diocesan Acolyte Festival

The Diocese of Atlanta with support from the MEG Chapter of the Vergers' Guild will have an Acolyte Festival on **October 27th** at 9:00 a.m. at the Cathedral of St. Philip in Atlanta. This event will include fun and engaging workshops and Acolyte Olympics: team building activities for acolytes of all ages. To register, go to www.episcopalatlanta.org; click the "Connecting News & Events" tab; scroll down to the Diocesan Acolyte Festival; click the registration tab.

Camp Mikell Folk School

Camp Mikell is once again having a "Folk" school **Friday, October 19** through **Sunday, October 21**. Classes available are Woodturning, Weaving, Painting, Photography, Soap Making, Beginner Stained Glass, and Independent Study. Information and registration forms are available in the Narthex. Their website is:
<http://campmikell.com/mikell-folk-school/class-offerings/>



Tai Chi Classes
Thursdays - 6:30 p.m.
Instructor - Bill Carter
\$2.00 per Class



Women's Bible Study

The Women's Bible Study is every **Tuesday** afternoon at **1:30 p.m.** Please join Rev. Pat and an enthusiastic ladies group as the scripture is discussed using many references from the CEB Women's Bible.

[October & November Parish Calendars 2018](#)

[Lay Liturgical Schedule Fourth Quarter 2018](#)