

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!



## The Messenger

*The Weekly E-Newsletter of St. Alban's Episcopal Church* **October 19, 2018**

### In Our Prayers

**Please pray for:**

Blane; Savannah Benton; Edwina Johnson; Jeanne Aycock; Laura Guest; Bobby Thomas; Eddie Farmer; Ralph Ammerman; Don Lester; Ryleigh Corcoran; Eilijah; Pat; James Powers; Edward Leon Graham; Patsy; Jim Pair; Erin Middleton; Shawn Corcoran; The Walker Family; Courtney Hay; Sally Howard

**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 38:1-7, 34-41  
Psalm 104:1-9, 25, 37b  
Hebrews 5:1-10  
Mark 10:35-45

**Readings for Next Week:**

Job 42:1-6, 10-17  
Psalm 34:1-8, 19-22  
Hebrews 7:23-28  
Mark 10:46-52

### Pat's Perspective

Dearly Beloved,

This past year, we have spent some time looking at St. Alban's history. The history day helped me understand St. Alban's much better. In 1954, the land for the church was purchased and the original section of the building was constructed by one person, Mr. Harry Launius who built it in honor of his wife, a cradle Episcopalian.

There were about 14 members of the parish at that time. Over the next almost 40 years, the parish had clergy come and go. When Folly Beach arrived at St. Alban's in the 1990's, he saw this place as an opportunity to literally grow a new church. He did grow the church and when he left there was still a strong viable congregation remaining. Since 2004, St. Alban's has had four called clergy serving you that ended poorly.

The years that I have studied Church Growth have taught me that church history creates a pattern for the way the parishioners interact with each other and the clergy. In my opinion, the painful way Folly left in 2004 has in many ways paralyzed this congregation.

I began serving here in January of 2017. As a supply priest before that time, I noticed each occasion I came to Monroe, the congregation had less people. I had no idea why? My experience here was that you were organized and a kind group of people.

I had known about Folly Beach leaving the Episcopal Church, and starting a new church in nearby Loganville. Since serving here, I now understand the damage that Folly did in exiting and the many difficulties since then. Hopefully, what we have learned together will help nourish us as we look into the future.

One of my frustrations serving here is that outside of [Sunday](#) you have not seemed to desire Adult Christian Nurture. Talking about God is my joy. It remains my happiness desire in being a priest. I find that talking about God, with people tells me about who one is and what we all desire most in life. It takes trust to ask hard questions about suffering, death and doubt. I believe that difficult questions lead to self discovery. Questions give us energy, answers are most often forgotten.

Worship is lead by just a few people. The word Liturgy means "Work of the People", it is not at it's best when Clergy do everything. The important day to day administrative work should be done by Shirley and the Priest. However, over the years, Shirley has gone from being the Parish Administrator plus Clerk of the Vestry and handling the portion of the parish's finances that are not done by the Treasurer along with the procurement of supplies for different committees.

I have a vision in my heart and mind of St. Alban's five years from now. On weekdays, there will be ongoing community and church activities in our building. Especially for children; either a small Episcopal School, an after school program with volunteers tutoring kids and a program for Seniors, that would involve sharing a meal once a week and conversation. Maybe a game night for all ages would be a great community opportunity. People of our time hunger to talk to each other and to develop friends. The church will have a full time Priest and a Deacon. There are two or more worship services, each with a different congregation in mind. The services are filled with many parishioners, whose joy is to read, sing, pass the chalice and be part of an active healing ministry.

As time advances, Outreach is a priority and is enjoyable for all involved. Sundays are filled with beautiful music, good preaching, enjoyable laughter, and mutual pastoral care. On Sundays, the congregation is happy and excited to come to church. Money and stewardship are discussed year round and we take our pledges as promises of support that the church remain viable and strong in the community.

I believe with all my heart that you are on the threshold of taking ownership of this mission. This cannot happen unless everyone gives something of themselves and supports others in ministry.

Lift up your Hearts,

Lovepat

## Bishop's Blurb

### True

After my years in the Navy, but before I finished college, I finally got it! I always believed. I was sure there was a God. I saw God in the sea and in the face of strangers. I understood that this God loved us so much that he chose to come to live with us as Jesus of Nazareth.

I knew church was important, too. People regularly gathered to bear witness that death is not the last word. Sharing bread and wine, we united with those apostles then. All that wasn't hard for me.

What blew my mind was this: "Strive first for the kingdom of God and God's righteousness and all things necessary for life will be added to you." This sentence changed everything for me because it begged to be tested. Tried. I did. I still am. Now I know it's absolutely true! True! ([Matthew 6:33](#))

*This For Faith originally appeared on [February 28, 2014](#)*

## "Celebrations"

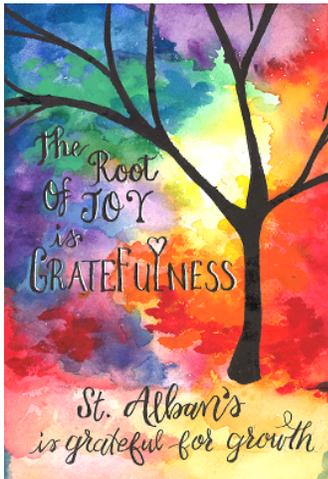
### *Happy Anniversary!*

October 26 - Victoria & Taylor McDaniel

### *Happy Birthday!*

October 24 - Pat Broach

## "Announcements"



**Our Stewardship season is underway.** Letters were mailed recently to inform you of exactly what is happening. We will have a special speaker this and every [Sunday](#) during the campaign to share his/her witness of stewardship and love of Jesus.

**On Sunday, November 11, St. Alban's** will have a Gratitude Celebration Luncheon following the worship service. Roy and Mary Jane have made a very generous donation to cover expenses for this celebration. Many thanks to the Mallady's!

Riley Tucker drew the beautiful art work that is on our stewardship material. Riley's talent is truly a gift!

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## 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.

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We are once again participating in Operation **Christmas Child**, a project that provides shoeboxes filled with everyday items to needy children around the world.

As we enter this **Thanksgiving** season, what better way to express our thanks for the many blessings God has given us than to pass on some blessings to a child in need? For very little money and time, we can help a child by filling a shoebox with those things that we tend to take for granted.

Shoeboxes and lists of items needed are available in the Parish Hall. Please return all filled boxes by **Sunday, November 11th**.

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**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 [saintalbanmonroe@windstream.net](mailto:saintalbanmonroe@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.

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**Vacation Notice** - Shirley will be back in the church office on Monday morning, **October 22nd**.

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**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](mailto:centeringprayerstannasmonroega@gmail.com) or Maggie Winfrey at [404-717-6815](tel:404-717-6815) or [coatlantageorgia@gmail.com](mailto: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

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### **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](http://www.episcopalatlanta.org); click the "Connecting News & Events" tab; scroll down to the Diocesan Acolyte Festival; click the registration tab.

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### **The Most Reverend Michael Curry to speak in Atlanta**

The Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church will deliver the sermon at the Diocese of Atlanta's Annual Council Meeting on **November 9th** at Holy Innocents' Campus in North Atlanta. All are invited! St. Alban's is planning on taking the church's van to the event and welcomes all that wish to ride. The van will depart from the church at 1 p.m. on that **Friday** and will return following the conclusion of the service. The Holy Eucharist worship service is scheduled for 3 p.m. and should conclude by 4:30 p.m. Please notify Mallory Sanders if you wish to reserve a seat on the van.



**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 held 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**