



The Messenger

The Weekly E-Newsletter of St. Alban's Episcopal Church **November 30, 2018**

In Our Prayers

Please pray for:

Blane; Savannah Benton; Edwina Johnson; Jeanne Aycocock; Bobby Thomas; Eddie Farmer; Don Lester; Ryleigh Corcoran; Jim Pair; Courtney Hay; Steve Landcomer; Donna Hubbard; Rachel; Rhonda; Eric; Lisa; Richard Emmons; Mrs. Valentine; Family & Friends of Edward Leon Graham; Family & Friends of Lorena Gray; Family & Friends of James Powers

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:

Jeremiah 33:14-16
Psalm 25:1-9
I Thessalonians 3:9-13
Luke 21:25-36

Readings for Next Week:

Baruch 5:1-9
Canticle 4: The Song of Zechariah
(Luke 1:68-79)
Philippians 1:3-11
Luke 3:1-6

Got Vergers?

Why, yes we do! There is a verger in every congregation whether one has been officially identified or not. The Verger's Guild of the Episcopal Church describes a verger as a full or part-time, paid or volunteer whose ministry is largely exercised behind the scenes. Vergers are sometimes described as the "Master of Ceremonies", because they are facilitators for all services of worship. All verger's

efforts are specific to his/her parish and under the direction of the rector. They all have a love of helping and service to God.

As I "mature", I found that I'm more and more drawn to the study of Episcopal history, liturgy, traditions and love of reading and studying scripture while serving God in whatever way he leads me. When I found the Episcopal Church in 2006, I found my home, a place where all my interests and personal beliefs could happily co-exist. I enjoy helping the many groups in our parish and organizing in general.

I am currently a member of the St. Alban's Choir, Altar Guild and Women's Bible Study Group. I also am a member of the Verger's Guild of the Episcopal Church and the Mark Emory Graham Verger's Chapter of the Diocese of Atlanta. To better serve my Parish and Diocese, I am working to complete the training program, so I may become a Fellow Verger in the VGEC.

On The **first Sunday** of Advent, **December 2, 2018**, during our regular service there will be a brief commissioning ceremony. I would be honored to have you all attend and support me.

God's blessings,

Riley Tucker

Pat's Corner

Dearly Beloved,

Thanksgiving week we went to Rome with our daughter Laura, son-in law Paul, and our 2 grandsons. Paul loves to plan these trips, always looking for a deal. We stayed in an Air B & B on the Piazza across from the French Embassy. We were in walking distance to most of the major sites to see in Rome. We never had a bad meal, we ate and drank happily each day. Lots of delicious pasta that was different every meal.

We toured the Vatican (four hours), the Coliseum, 7 different churches and museums. The Sistine Chapel painted by Michelangelo is as inspirational and amazing in scope as I have heard for years. In the Vatican alone there are thousands of paintings, tapestries, sculpture, and religious relics. We rarely stopped as we walked through the various rooms leading to the Sistine Chapel. Inside of St. Peter's Basilica our guide told us that St. Peter was martyred and buried where it is built. In the early 20th Century the crypts were exhumed and they found what was verified as the bones of St. Peter.

As we walked away from St. Peter's, it was after 5 in the afternoon and almost dark. In the square was a huge tree that was being decorated with lights. Beside it was large creche big enough to stand up, and this was also being prepared for viewing. The Pope and Co. were not missing an opportunity to get ahead of the Christmas Rush. I was surprised as we do not put Christmas Trees and decorations in our Episcopal Churches until after the **fourth Sunday** in Advent.

Inside the front door of St. Peter's on the right is the sculpture the "Pieta" -- Mary holds Jesus after he has died. Michelangelo carved this extraordinary piece when he was 23. He said that the sculpture was already inside the large white marble and the figures were only waiting to be seen.

So grateful for such an enjoyable trip and the joy of another culture, filled with life from the past and the future.

Thank you to Shirley who once again has produced for us a new directory. Please pick one up and use it to find the people you see in church and call them up. Ask a question, go the lunch, or learn some names. If you have additions or corrections please just e mail Shirley to let her know. (Please do not call her up and complain. If you would like to make a criticism you may tell me or one of the Vestry Members.)

A reminder, if you have not made a pledge, please do so. It does not have to be a large amount of money. Each pledge counts each member who supports our life and work together. If after you make your pledge you need to change the amount, you may do so by emailing or slow mailing a note to the treasurer and the pledge will be changed according to your request.

lovepat

Bishop's Blurb

Better

"To challenge as Jesus challenged, we must begin the journey that puts us in the world without the blinders of contempt or blinding assumptions that flourish because of lack of real proximity. Think about it, it seems right that Paul was struck blind and delivered to the home of the people he was brutalizing, in the book of Acts, before his sight was restored and his new life of love began. To do better we've got to see better. This notion is woven into our Baptismal Covenant. We say that we will 'respect the dignity of every human being.' Remember that the Latin root of the word re-spect is to 'spectare', to see. Or to see again."

From Bishop Wright's Council Address

Pause and Give "Thanks"

Many, many thanks to all that provided food for donation to F.I.S.H. to assist the less fortunate in our Walton community. The St. Alban's Altar was presented with an abundance of foods that was blessed [last Sunday](#) and delivered to F.I.S.H. this past week. We are sure God used these gifts to nurture those in need.



Looking Forward to Upcoming Events: Advent and Christmas

On [Dec 2](#), we will have the honor of investing Riley Tucker as a new Verger. We have several visiting vergers from the Diocese to join us for worship and to support Riley.

Our annual Christmas Party will be on Saturday evening, [December 15](#), at the McDaniel-Tichenor House.

On [December 23](#), we will have a [Christmas](#) Pageant at the morning service. Please Let Shirley, Pat or Sam know if you would like to participate.

*Please let Pat know if you would like to participate in a Secret Santa/Friend during Advent this year.

"Celebrations"

Happy Birthday!

November 30 - Ellis McDaniel

December 1 - Jane Hoglen

"Announcements"



St. Alban's Christmas Party

Saturday, December 15, 2018

6:00 p.m.

McDaniel-Tichenor House

319 McDaniel Street

Monroe, GA 30655

Please join us for our Annual **Christmas** Party. Meat, mixers, and soft drinks will be provided. Please bring a festive side dish or dessert. Also, please sign the attendance sheet provided on the round table in the Narthex. *Childcare will be provided at the church.*

Directions: From the church, turn left on N. Broad St./GA-11; Turn right onto McDaniel Street.

Vestry Meeting -The next Vestry Meeting is **this Tuesday** afternoon, **December 4**, at 4:30 p.m. The meeting will take place in the conference room and is open to anyone who would like to attend and observe. If you would like to address the Vestry, please contact Libby Martin, Stan Brassie, or Rev. Pat.

Monroe Christmas Parade is **this Thursday** evening, **December 6**, at 6:30 p.m. St. Alban's will be represented this year in the parade thanks to Marvin Gray and Mallory Sanders. Members of the choir will be on the float singing. Come and show your support!



Anyone desiring to make a contribution toward **Christmas** flowers, please use the envelopes that are now in the pews. Put your name and the name of the person to be honored or memorialized on the envelope. Also, on the memo line of your check, please indicate "For **Christmas** Flowers." Thank you for your support!

Christmas "Thank You" Donation - The Advent and **Christmas** seasons give us special pause to remember our St. Alban's staff who have dedicated themselves to serving us. Each year we request a "thank you" donation for them as a special **Christmas** bonus. If you would like to

contribute, you can put your donation in the offering, give it to a Vestry member, or mail it to the office. We will present the bonuses at our [Christmas Party](#).

NEW ST. ALBAN'S DIRECTORY
Pick up your copy **this Sunday!**
(Round Table in the Narthex)

VESTRY ELECTION 2019

At the end of 2018, two Vestry members, Marty Atkinson and Libby Martin, will rotate off the Vestry. We are asking for nominations of people to fill these two positions.

Qualifications are as follows:

- 1) Confirmed communicant in good standing of the Parish.
- 2) Not less than eighteen (18) years of age.
- 3) Regular attendant upon the services in the year preceding election.
- 4) Known by the treasurer to have made and maintained a stated financial commitment for church support in the year preceding election.

Please submit your nominations in writing to one of the Vestry members or to the church office. Nomination forms are available on the round table in the Narthex. Please return forms by [January 1, 2019](#). The election will be held at the Annual Parish Meeting in January.



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



Women's Bible Study

The St. Alban's Women's Bible Study meets every [Tuesday](#) at 1:30 p.m. Please join Pat and this enthusiastic ladies group as the holy scripture is discussed using many references from the CEB Women's Bible.

[December Parish Calendar 2018](#)

[Lay Liturgical Schedule Fourth Quarter 2018](#)