



The Messenger

The Weekly E-Newsletter of St. Alban's Episcopal Church **December 7, 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; 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:

Malachi 3:1-4
Canticle 16: The Song of Zechariah
(Luke 1:68-79)
Philippians 1:3-11
Luke 3:1-6

Readings for Next Week:

Zephaniah 3:14-20
Canticle 9: The First Song of Isaiah
(Isaiah 12:2-6)
Philippians 4:4-7
Luke 3:7-18

Pat's Corner

Dearly Beloved,

The four weeks of Advent go by so fast. This speed is what adults experience, not children. For them, the time drags and **Christmas** feels years away. The immediacy of the moment is the gift

of youth. I remember when I was ten, I walked in on my mother wrapping gifts. She told me not to tell my brother and sisters. I could hardly wait to talk to them and get them to try and guess, and then I told them. I felt guilty and we all experienced the loss of our surprise in opening the presents.

Thanks be to Marvin, Mallory, Ron and Riley for organizing the [ChristmasParade](#) Float. Thanks to Valerie, Nicole, Marty, and Virginia for braving the cold while riding and singing during the parade. Great witness for our congregation. Wonderful to see the pictures of everyone laughing and enjoying the event.

A Blessed Advent to you,
lovepat

P.S.- A Pageant is coming!!! [Sunday, December 23](#), at the 10AM service we will have a parish Christmas Pageant during the service. On the Sunday of [December 9](#), please meet in the Parish Hall following Church and we will provide a list of who we need such as angels, shepherds, animals, and the Holy Family. One rehearsal before church at 9 am on the [December 16](#) in the church. All adults who wish to help are MORE than welcome.

Bishop's Blurb

Effective

"Every effective ministry I have ever known at its core is some lay person, deacon, priest or bishop personally joining Jesus in his purpose and then out of the overflow of that, in the tractor beam of that, asking others to join them. People on purpose is the best church program. Everything else is poking and prodding people. People on purpose with Jesus is the most authentic way to challenge the world to love. That's discipleship. That's different from the management of organizational decline. So we have to be going somewhere because of Jesus to cause others to go somewhere with Jesus."

From Bishop Wright's Council Address

Looking Forward to Upcoming Events: Advent and Christmas

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!

[December 13](#) - Carole Bond

"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.

If you need childcare at the church during the party, please notify Shirley before Wednesday of that week.

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

Altar Guild - The Altar Guild will meet Sunday, **December 23rd**, at 2:00 p.m. to decorate the church for **Christmas**.

Please Note - The church office will be closed **December 25 - January 2**.



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.





Congratulations, Riley, our New Verger!

Dear Fellow Members of St. Albans,

I would like to give you an update on our 2019 Stewardship and Pledge Campaign. As of **today** we have 43 pledges representing \$128,930. Wow! That is absolutely wonderful and shows our gratitude and support of St. Alban's. I was thrilled to see these numbers.

Last year we had 40 pledges representing \$120,825. There are 4 people who pledged last year, but have not pledged for 2019. Their pledges represented \$4,310 and I am inviting them to pledge before the end of the year. That would really put icing on the cake. I don't know who you are, but you do and we would love for you to join us. Your pledge would again help us plan for next year as we look for a new rector. I think our new slogan ought to be "Come Grow With Us."

There were 12 new pledges representing \$15,640 and there were 18 pledges that were increased for 2019 representing an increase of \$11,210. Just think of that for a minute!! That really shows a lot of love for St. Alban's and really makes me realize that we can grow and have St. Alban's even stronger in our community. Over all, I would say our Stewardship Campaign was very successful thanks to our entire congregation.

I am hopeful that as we look for a new rector next year we can get closer to a full time person. If we all work together to grow the membership of St. Alban's, we will be able to make our new rector a full time person in a short time. I feel there are great days ahead for St. Alban's and I feel lucky to be a part of this family.

God Bless you, your family and your loved ones during this wonderful **Christmas** Season!

Roy Mallady



St. Alban's Float at the Monroe Christmas Parade

Many thanks to Mallory, Marty, Marvin, Nicole, Riley, Valerie and Virginia for representing St. Alban's in Thursday's Monroe Christmas Parade

A reminder, if you have not made a pledge for 2019, 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 at any time by contacting the office via email or USPS mail and the pledge will be modified according to your request...Pat

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.

Dec. 2018 & Jan. 2019 Parish Calendars

Lay Liturgical Schedule Fourth Quarter 2018