



The Messenger

The Weekly E-Newsletter of St. Alban's Episcopal Church **December 28, 2018**

In Our Prayers

Please pray for:

Blane; Savannah Benton; Edwina Johnson; Jeanne Aycocock; Bobby Thomas; Eddie Farmer; Don Lester; Ryleigh Corcoran; Jim Pair; Richard Owings Emmons; Jim and Marian Sweeney; Jackie Reddick

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:

Isaiah 61:10-62:3
Psalm 147
Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7
John 1:1-18

Readings for Next Week:

Isaiah 60:1-6
Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14
Ephesians 3:1-12
Matthew 2:1-12

Pat's Perspective

Dearly Beloved,

How are you? I hope everyone was able to get some rest and have time to eat boring food! Goodness, it is fun to have too much of everything for a day or two.

Christmas at church was beautiful and full. Advent 4, we celebrated with the **Christmas** Pageant at the 10:00 am service. It was beautiful, funny and filled with Joy. Only a few last-minute additions...the original Mary was sick; the Mary in the Pageant was begged to come and play the part with less than an

hour notice! Thank you to Riley who helped direct and drew the pictures of the animals in the manger. Thank you to Jennifer Hammond and Mary Herren and their costumes. Thank you to Jessica Garbach and Gabby Reid for their narration and patience. To every child and teen, I am very grateful to you for your participation.

Also, thanks to Shawn and Mallory for helping with the sound system and for pitching in and doing what needed to be done. Libby, Bob and Judy Terry had a feast for us after the Pageant and thank you so much.

Christmas Eve was beautiful, gentle and inspiring. We had several newcomers which is always a gift. The Church looked spectacular with poinsettias and magnolia leaves. The Altar Guild has been working overtime and creating beautiful order to worship.

To our Choir and Sam Knight, our Music Director, a huge thanks for the beautiful music. To those who sang solos, thank you for sharing and your brave performances. As Sam says we sure could use more people in our choir. He is a great tutor and encourages all singers

So many thanks to Shirley Morgan for patiently preparing our bulletins and the additions for us to have during this **Christmas** season.

This coming Sunday, **December 30th**, is **Christmas 2**. We will sing more **Christmascarols** and enjoy the music of the season. One note: The Vestry has extended my time of service to the parish until the middle of **May 2019**. With the new arrangement, I will be in the office one weekday each week -**Tuesday** and of course on **Sunday** for the worship service. If you have a pastoral need, I encourage you to call me. I am very willing to come to Monroe if I am needed. I believe the Wardens are preparing a letter addressing my work schedule and the parish's future in 2019.

I am so grateful to all who attend church and who financially support us. As we grow and welcome newcomers, let us each celebrate in our hearts the birth of the Holy Child, as he grows, we grow and our lights shine as a witness to the world.

Lift us your hearts!

lovepat



Christmas Pageant

What an exciting opportunity for the youth of St. Alban's to participate in telling the **Christmas** Story of the birth of Jesus. Thank you to all that participated in the many, many positions required to bring this wonderful narration to life.

Looking Forward to Upcoming Events

January 20th, St. Alban's Annual Meeting for 2018

"Celebrations"

Happy Anniversary!

December 31 - Judy & Mallory Sanders

Happy Birthday!

December 30 - Mary Brandenburg
January 2 - Judy Sanders
January 3 - Robbie Thomas
January 4 - Brynda Roth
January 4 - Charles Patrick Hammond
January 4 - Libby Martin

"Announcements"

Please Note - The church office will be closed **January 1st, New Year's Day**.

However, the church office will be open **December 31st from 9 am to 1 pm**. The final deposit for 2018 pledges and offerings will be made at 1 pm that day. If you have any remaining 2018 contributions to St. Alban's that you wish to be reflected on your year end giving statement, please have them to the office by noon on the 31st. Many, many thanks for all the support in 2018!!!

Vestry Meeting - The next Vestry Meeting is Tuesday afternoon, **January 8**, at 4:30 p.m. The meeting will take place in the conference room and is open to anyone who wishes to attend and observe. If you would like to address the Vestry, please contact Libby Martin, Stan Brassie, or Rev. Pat.



A N N U A L PARISH

Meeting

St. Alban's Annual Meeting for 2018 will be Sunday, **January 20th**, immediately following the worship service. Please mark your calendars to be here on that day. We will have a potluck lunch, then the meeting. The financial report for 2018 and reports from all the Vestry members will be available. We will also vote in two new members to the Vestry. If you plan to attend, please sign the sheet provided on the 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

Please Note: There will be no class on **Thursday, January 31**.



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. The weekly study will reconvene after the holiday season.

[December 2018 & January 2019 Calendars](#)

[Lay Liturgical Schedule Fourth Quarter 2018](#)