



The Messenger

The Weekly E-Newsletter of St. Alban's Episcopal Church January 4, 2019

In Our Prayers

Please pray for:

Blane; Edwina Johnson; Jeanne Aycock; Bobby Thomas; Eddie Farmer; Don Lester; Ryleigh Corcoran; Jim Pair; Richard Owings Emmons; Jim and Marian Sweeney; Jackie Reddick; Charles Henson; Mary Jane

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

Readings for Next Week:

Isaiah 43:1-7
Psalm 29
Acts 8:14-17
Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Pat's Perspective

Dearly Beloved,

"This little light of mine, I am gonna let it shine"

In the darkness, we have seen a great light. The light from without and within.

In the winter, I miss not having a fire in our home. There are few things as comforting as dazing into a fire and letting your mind wander. The fire draws you and heat is so comforting. Looking at a fire and it's fierce light reminds me of the energy of the light.

The fire also has a smell. Ireland for centuries has burned peat dug up from the bog. Burning the peat has a very distinctive smell. I have been told that Ireland exports peat to people in the U.S. who long for the comfort of the smell of peat burning.

The rain keeps falling. Darkness in the night and the day. It is hard to see past these days. That is why we long for the light more at this time of year. At the time of the birth of Jesus there was a bright star that drew people to see the new baby.

This year the season of Epiphany will last for eight weeks starting [this Sunday](#). The power of light that affirms that God is with us. The light of the creator is in us and we take that light of hope into the world.

Lou and I would like to thank you for your very generous [Christmas](#) check. It comes at a perfect time for us. Thank you for this gift.

Lift up your hearts!

lovepat

Bishop's Blurb

From the Top

Let's begin at the beginning: God is the ultimate reality. This is dramatically made clear when God and Moses defeat the Egyptians-even clearer when God, through Jesus of Nazareth, defeats death. God is free and purposeful and relentless for the cause of love, because "God is love." This love, this peerless force, is correcting over time, and with our partnership, everything that is not love. The highest and best use of our lives is to co-create and enlarge with God, justice, compassion and joy on earth. This is where we start in 2019. Have a purposeful New Year!

1 John 4:7



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 Birthday!

January 4 - Brynda Roth
January 4 - Charles Patrick Hammond
January 4 - Libby Martin
January 11 - George Hart

"Announcements"

Altar Guild Meeting - The Altar Guild will meet [this Sunday, January 6](#), at 2:00 p.m. to take down the [Christmas](#) decorations.

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 (parlor) 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.

January 2019 Calendar

Lay Liturgical Schedule 1st Quarter 2019