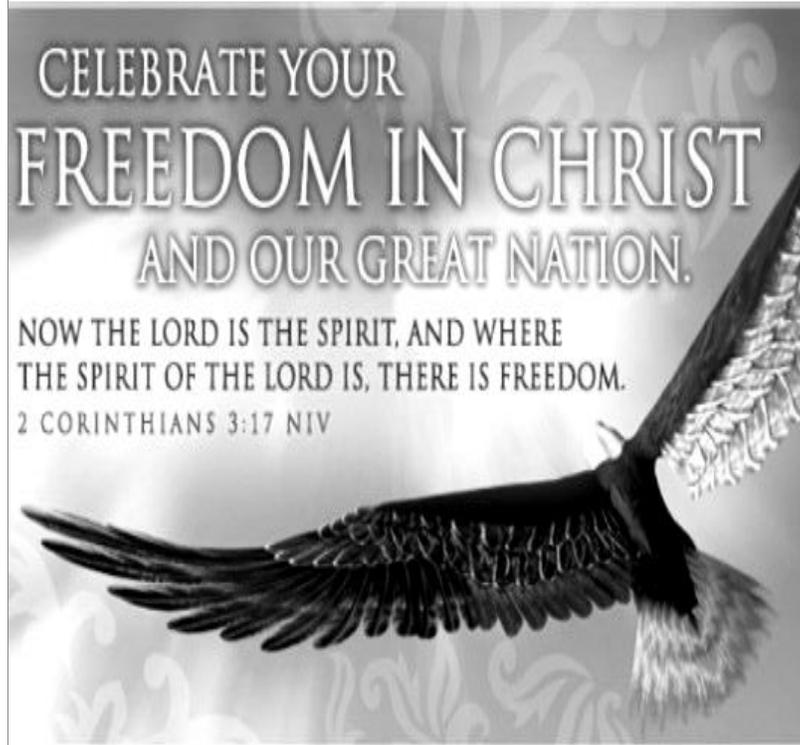


The Cross & the Sword

The monthly newsletter of Saint Alban's Parish Family

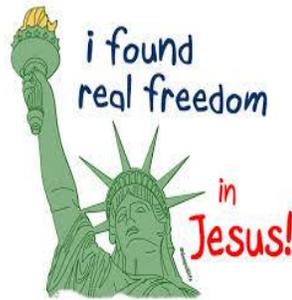
Vol. XXXVI No. 7

July 2017



This is a true saying, and worthy of all to be received, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. 1 Timothy 1:15

What is freedom? We all strive to be free. Free from tyranny. Free from oppression. Free from limitations. Free from dependence. Free from pain. We have been taught how important it is to be free. That is the American dream after all, right? On Tuesday July 4th we will once again celebrate Independence Day. We celebrate when the founders of this country declared they were free. They wanted to set their own destiny. Don't we all? I give thanks for our country. Despite all it's flaws, we basically live in a country that allows us to do a great deal, to go about our business freely. Generally many of us are able to strive for a sort of freedom in our lives, but are we ever truly free? We have freedom of religion, freedom of speech, freedom to assemble, freedom of the press, and we are afforded due process. These are pretty good freedoms to have. However, these are all external freedoms. Are we really free? Are we really free deep down in our souls?



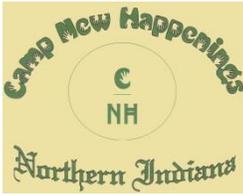
During the past several months we have been talking about being "Open, Inviting, and Welcoming" to others. We think of church growth and the building up of God's Kingdom, but why do we do this? Is it to balance our budgets? Is it to make ourselves feel better as Christians? Is it to have bigger potluck suppers?

A huge part of our initiative of "Open, Invite, Welcome," is that it is grounded in prayer. The prayer that was handed out at the Annual meeting first focuses on asking God to strengthen our community and our witness, but it ends with a different focus. It ends with the reason why we are called to spread God's love. It reads: "Help us to open, invite and welcome others, and to inspire our witness to Jesus, that all may know the power of forgiveness and the hope of his resurrection." The reason we do what we do, my brothers and sisters, is so that we and others may know the power of forgiveness and the hope of the Resurrection. That is, we do what we do to spread the love of God so that all may come to know true "freedom." Jesus Christ died and Rose again for our freedom, our

spiritual freedom. Is this not the freedom people really yearn for? So as we watch the fireworks, eat pie, and relax this Fourth of July, don't only reflect on the freedoms

this country gives us, but reflect on the true grace and freedom found in Jesus Christ our Lord! I pray you might! Amen.

Dan +



Camp New Happenings... From Sunday afternoon July 23 until Saturday July 29th, Father Layden will be the chaplain at Camp New happenings. Camp New Happenings is a special camp sponsored by the Diocese for younger children who have one or more parent who has been incarcerated. The children come from all over Northern Indiana. The goal is to spread the love of God and offer a camping experience to children who otherwise face many obstacles in life.

George Shamp to Honduras... Our dear brother in Christ George Shamp is embarking on a mission trip journey to Honduras. George is a part of the Diocesan team going down to partner in ministry with the people of San Jose de la Montana in San Pedro Sula. Please keep George in your prayers until July 9th. God Bless you George! Please also pray for Michael Marcks, Byron Evans, Deborah Mendenhall, Star Thompson, Alice Taylor, Tim Skimina and Bob Cantor from the Diocese who are also going on the trip.



Praise God for Youth Camp and Senior High Mission Week... A great time was had by all at the recent youth camp and Senior High Mission Week. God truly did some amazing work teaching our kids and teens

about how God is the tree of life and also the value of helping others in need. God bless our youth, those who mentor them, and those whose lives they impact.

Balance in Life

“Pay close attention to what you hear. The closer you listen, the more understanding you will be given – and you will receive even more” (Mark 4:24).



There is always balance in life: What we receive unfailingly depends on what we give. It is true of a study of the Bible. We often feel that there are certain parts of the Bible we cannot relate to. If, however, we study these parts, they are often the sections that yield the richest harvest. A superficial study of any topic doesn't really interest us, while intensive study always excites and fascinates.

It is especially true of worship. The more we bring to the house of the Lord in worship, the more we get out of it. There are wrong ways in which we go to the house of the Lord. We might go only to receive. It is then that we criticize the organist, the choir and the preacher. We see the whole service as a performance that is presented to entertain us. No, we must be willing to give. We must remember that worship is a corporative act. It is also wrong to go to church without any expectations at all. It might just be a custom in our lives. Then we go without expecting anything; the result of habit or routine. We should remember that we go to church to meet with God and when that happens, anything can happen.

We may also go without preparing our thoughts or our hearts. Often we are in such a rush simply to get there in time. We need to meet God in prayer before going to church and asking for His blessing on our gathering.

The perfect church service would be one we were almost unaware of: our attention would have been on God.

C. S. LEWIS

Thank You, Lord Jesus, for moments of worship where I am blessed by my meeting with God.

July Meetings

BIBLE STUDY GROUPS



Men's Bible Study meets at **10:00 a.m.** on **Saturdays** in the parish hall. This group looks at the lessons for the following Sunday.

Bible Study & Fellowship Group meets at **7:00 p.m.** on **Thursday, July 20, at the home of Jack Rademaker**



Men's Night Out –will meet Thursday, July 6 location to follow.



The Lunch Bunch will meet on Tuesday, **July 11,** Boathouse Restaurant, Winona Lake.

Please sign the poster in the narthex. If you need a ride or need to cancel your reservation, contact Anita at 449-9682.



Daughters of the King next meeting will be in September.



Heart & Hands is taking a few weeks off and will resume in August. Thanks to all who have given so much of their time! It's been a ball!! Hope to see you in August.
Judith Palmer

Friends in Faith group meets in July on Wednesday mornings at 10:30 am. They will continue the study of the book *Magnificent Defeat* by Frederick Buechner and begin with Morning Prayer. **Holy Eucharist will follow at noon.**



Outreach



P.O. Box 15869, Fort Wayne, IN 46885

Dear Friends at St. Alban's,

It was so nice to receive your letter and the donation of \$251.42 in support of Madina Village School. I am always amazed at the unexpected ways that people raise money for the school. On behalf of the 390 children at MVS, thank you very much. It has been put to use to provide supplies for the children's daily classes.

I am enclosing some new brochures. You will notice that we have changed our address to use a Post Office Box. This was done to simplify the record keeping and keep things from getting mixed up.

Many exciting things have been happening at Madina Village School. In February, while we were there, a new assembly pavilion was built. Francis is there now until June. He and an engineer from here in Fort Wayne went to install solar panels, inverters and batteries to provide power and lights for the school, which we have never had before. This opens up new possibilities, like adult literacy classes, parent meetings, and programs.

MVS is now in its fourth year. Our oldest students have taken the National Exam and we are eagerly awaiting their results. We have 110 of our 390 sponsored and ten of our 35 adult staff members. I am enclosing information fliers about sponsorship. Every MVS child wants to have a sponsor.

This past year our nurses discovered that 89 of our 390 students have chronic malaria in their systems. Two of our little girls at the school had died of it. Malaria is the greatest killer of children in West Africa and it is spread by mosquitoes, so a project is nearing completion providing mosquito nets treated within insecticide for all MVS students to sleep under. We are very hopeful that this will stop the chronic illness and prevent any more loss of life. Our future goal is to provide a clinic. God leads us one step at a time. Thank you for all your support and prayers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bobbie Mustapha".

Bobbie Mustapha for Madina Village School.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION



St. Alban's has a wonderful diversity of small groups all formed to help their members form closer relationships and grow together in the knowledge and love of Christ.

A reference binder is currently being assembled to try to organize information about all of our Christian Formation activities in one place. A general outline is in place, but I need to ask the leaders of each of these groups to submit some detailed content for this project. I would particularly

like to hear from the person or persons convening Friends in Faith, Women's Bible Study, Work and Family Group, and Men's Bible Study groups confirming when and where you meet, what your current study or emphasis is, and anything else you would like published about your group and its activities and goals. You can email me at efazzaro@gmail.com, call me at 471-7940, or stick a note in my box. Thank you for your input. Elaine Fazzaro



GARAGE SALE – The food bank garage sale was held June 1st, 2nd, 3rd. It was a great success. It brought in \$1,189.00.

A big thank you to the entire St. Alban's Church family for your donations, help, thoughts, and prayers. We couldn't have done it without you. And a special thank you to the youth group for making the banner. We had a lot of positive comments on it. We had several boxes left over, which were donated to The Treasure House, a ministry of The Rescue Mission. Thank you. In God's precious name, Joyce and Phil Mayer.

Food Bank

In May we served (113 Individuals and 1695 meals)



Dave and Marty Miller 635 E. Pointe Ct, SW
Ocean View, Florida phone the same

Vestry Stewardship

Operating Fund

Operating income for May	\$10,162.34	Operating income for 2017	\$65,740.85
Operating expense for May	13,523.47	Operating expense for 2017	68,525.52
Transfers		Transfers for 2017	130.00
Net loss for May	\$ 3,361.13	Net loss for 2017	(\$2,654.67)

Vestry Highlights



At the meeting of the Vestry on June 20 **it was noted,**

1. that Katherine Ramsey and Matthew Eberle were married on June 17.
2. a generous donation was received by the Heim estate.
3. to pursue the purchase of potted plants to use when there are no flowers.
4. In all worship ministries meetings will be held after church on August 20

It was moved and passed:

1. Submit a grant proposal to the Diocese to help us build a playground, and mount a cross and episcopal Shield on our building.
2. To allow Michael Irvine to build a gazebo as part of the playground. This is Michael's Eagle Scout project.
3. To appoint Phil Mayer to the vestry to fulfill the open spot
4. To authorize new commission statement for outreach and Care Connection.
5. To accept a new logo for St. Alban's as drawn by Jordan Trendelman.

July Birthdays

6 Tammy Gillig
7 Paul Barker
9 Marilyn Crewe
9 Melissa Townsend
14 Paula Hanlin
17 Robert Frede II
18 Neal Birchfield



19 Cayley Townsend
20 John Naunas
22 Tom Taylor
22 Carlen Trujillo
25 Patricia Hummel
29 John Lorenzen
31 Bonnie Camp

and Anniversaries

6 Dick & Ruth Ford
9 John & Susan Diver
11 Dick & Sandy Ritchie
16 Todd & Melissa Townsend

*If your birthday or anniversary has not been listed,
please notify Debbie at 485-8022, so that we may add your date to our records.*

Peggy Brandes
John Diver
Dick Donnelly
Denise Frede
Tammy Gillig
Glen Grate
Don Mefford
Carol Newell



Larry Shaw
Cindy Spice
Rick Spice
Wesley Stath-Tracy
Carolyn Townsend
Jim Trueblood
Paul Wiseheart

The deadline for the August issue of *The Cross and the Sword*
is **Thursday, July 20, 2017**

ST. ALBAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Sunday Services

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist
Sunday School (Sept-May)

Wednesday

10:30 a.m. Bible Study
12:00 noon Holy Eucharist

Vestry

Cindy Spice	Senior Warden
John Lorenzen	Junior Warden
Elaine Fazzaro	Communication
Marilyn McClure	Care Connection
Dave Krockner	Property
Mary Ann Krockner	Fellowship
Pat Stath	Worship
Josh Miller	Finance
Jordan Trendelman	Membership
George Shamp	Stewardship
Phil Mayer	Outreach

Church Staff

Rector	The Rev. Daniel K. Layden
Office Administrator	Debbie Grosjean
Organist	Michelle Kyrrou

Office Hours

9:00 - 1:00
Monday through Friday

Office phone	485-8022
Fr. Layden's cell phone	579-5555