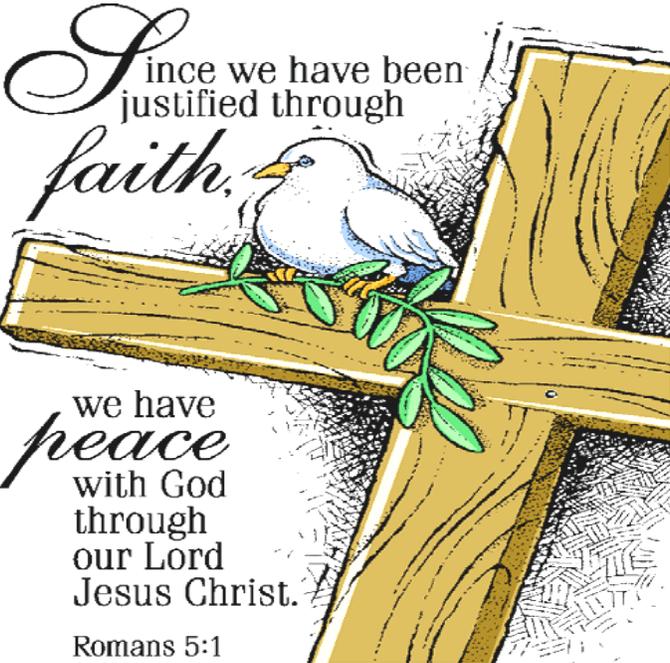


# *The Cross & the Sword*

The monthly newsletter of Saint Alban's Parish  
Family

Vol. XXXVI No. 8

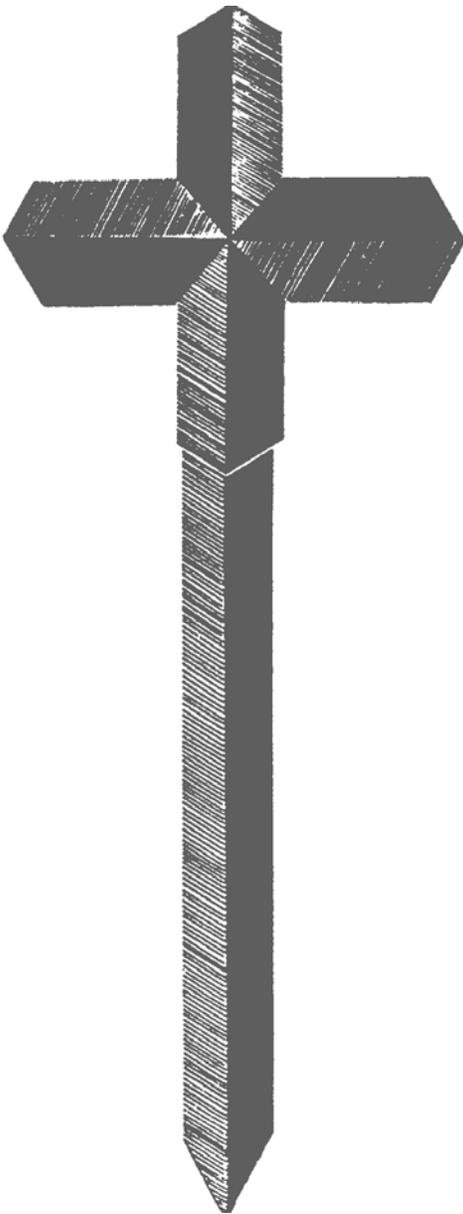
August 2018



Since we have been  
justified through  
*faith,*

we have  
*peace*  
with God  
through  
our Lord  
Jesus Christ.

Romans 5:1



**While he was speaking, a cloud appeared and enveloped them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. A voice came from the cloud, saying, "This is my Son, whom I have chosen; listen to him." (Luke 9: 34 and 35)**

On August 6<sup>th</sup> the Church celebrates the Feast of the Transfiguration. Above is a portion from Luke's gospel account of the event. These sentences come right after Jesus has been transfigured, turned a dazzling white, and has met with Moses and Elijah. Peter declares they should build three booths, and then a cloud and a voice from heaven interrupts. Now you would think that after seeing their Lord and teacher turn a dazzling white (one which would make even clorox bleach jealous), and having heard these words from God in a cloud, Peter, James and John would never not listen to Jesus again. However, despite this knowledge the disciples are anything but perfect in their faith. Peter is a great example of a disciple who struggles to listen to Jesus our Lord. After all Peter winds up denying Jesus three times. Yes, Peter is emboldened by the gift of the Holy Spirit, but even then he is never perfect. Faithfully, however, he feels his way through.



It seems to me that throughout history people like Peter, you and I have struggled to take God's advice and listen to Jesus. In many situations it is hard to submit and remain faithful. Many times we do not know God's will and are asked to remain patient and prayerfully listen. At other times our own agendas keep getting in the way. We want to fit God into our lives, when the Christian life is about surrendering to God through Jesus Christ our Lord. In fact I think the greatest sin of our age (even in the Church) is that often we are too 'me' focused. It is extremely hard to let go of our agendas in life and listen for God's calling. In other words we deeply want to fit God into our lives as opposed to submitting our lives to God. Further, we want God to love our lives the way we want to be loved, instead of being transformed by Christ's love. This is extremely tricky for us, especially because the gospel of individualism and feel good theology has dominated our western culture for decades now.

As August unfolds many things happen. Vacations are over and school begins. We start back to our

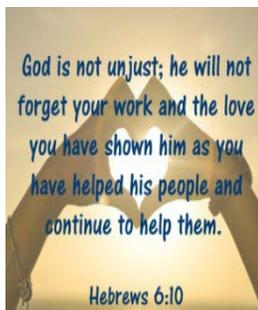
routines, but there is always an explosion of new activity. In all of this isn't it nice to know that God is still there for us. Perhaps even in the busyness we should pay attention to God. I challenge you therefore to keep a regular time of prayer. Come to church to praise the Lord. Take some time to look around and enjoy God's gifts. May God bless you in all that you do!

Remember it was our Lord who was transfigured for His glory, but also for our benefit.

I will be on Sabbatical for the month of August. I will see you in September. "The Lord watch between me and thee, when we apart one from another." (Genesis 31:49)

### Dan+'s Sabbatical in August

During the month of August, Dan+ will be on sabbatical. The focus of the sabbatical is some simple, but hopefully profound spiritual walking and hiking. It will also be a time of relaxation and refreshment. During this time, Saint Albans will be surrounded by the great support of many clergy. Sunday August 5th and 19th we will welcome the Reverend Kathy Thomas (retired rector of Grace) to preach and celebrate. On Sunday August 12th and 26th Deacon Sandy will lead us through morning prayer and preach. Pastoral coverage will be handled by the clergy of Trinity. Deacon Gordon Samra, Reverend Paul Grieve, and Reverend T.J. Freeman will be on call for any emergency pastoral concerns. If you are in need of pastoral care during this time, then please contact Debbie in the office (485-8022), Senior Warden Cindy Spice (348-7061), or Junior Warden John Lorenzen (452-7927), and they will know how to find a clergy person to help. Also, please know that Judy Wall will still be working hard with our Care Connections ministry. So please keep Dan+ in your thoughts and prayers during his sabbatical time.



*"For God is not unjust. He will not forget how hard you have worked for him and how you have shown your love to him by caring for other believers, as you still do." Hebrews 6:10*

This month I would like to highlight the efforts of **Marion Frid**. Marion has been a member of Saint Alban's since 2003. She is always willing to lend a hand around the office by folding bulletins, answering the phones and doing all the

little things that need to be done. She has a caring heart and gentle soul. She is a wonderful friend to all that she comes in contact with. She previously served as the chairperson for the Pastoral and Family Care Commission on the Vestry for 3 years. Working tirelessly to get people in need to doctor's appointments, the grocery store or any other errands that they needed to accomplish, or just spending time with them. Although her commission on the Vestry has ended, she continues to do these things on a regular basis. Marion is one of those people that live in the background, never needing to be in the spotlight or expecting any kind of recognition for her efforts. For this specific reason I wanted to bring attention to Marion and for her good works. I really appreciate everything that she does for Saint Alban's and those that she comes in contact with. Please join me and saying thank you to Marion for all that she does.

Cindy Spice  
Senior Warden

### **New Cross and Sword policy**

In order to cut down on office costs, the vestry has decided to cut way back on mailing out hard copies of the Cross and Sword. Currently, we have a list of people who receive the monthly newsletter by email, and another list for those who receive it by regular mail. The postage to send out hard copies of the Cross and Sword in this way is significant. Therefore, starting this month we will distribute the Cross and Sword in the following ways. First, by posting it on our website for any to read. Second, by way of email, expanding our email list to include those who have received hard copies in the mail. Third, by putting out a few hard copies in the narthex. Fourth, by sending out only a very few hard copies to those on our shut-in lists. As I am sure you can appreciate, this new process will really cut down on our postage costs and the labor it takes to distribute our monthly newsletter.

### **Don't forget automatic payments are a possibility**

During the month of May, our income was significantly low. May is a busy time of the year for most, then again when is not busy? It can become very easy to forget to bring to church our monthly or weekly giving. One way to avoid this is to

set-up with your bank an automatic payment to the Church. Many checking accounts now offer ways that bills and other things can be set-up to be paid automatically. It is often called automatic bill pay. You simply find out if this is an option from your account, and then ask your bank to automatically send a check once a week or month, in an amount you desire, to the church. They will then mail us a check from your account and all you need to do is watch over your bank account, however you do this. The church will then be able to credit your giving when we receive the check from your bank, and it will show on your next giving statement from us. It's really simple.



### **Heart and Hands START-UP**

Thanks to all who prayed for us during our summer recess! We appreciate your support. During our time off, members engaged in summertime stuff—visiting, being visited; fixing up the house; picnicking and boating at the lake—but now we're ready to get to work. So it's back to our sewing machines, crochet hooks, and knitting needles on **Friday, September 7<sup>th</sup>, 10 AM.**

Parkview Regional's NICU is happy to accept blankets, pillow cases, and hats for preemies and other newborns at risk.

If you want to join in, let Marilyn McClure or Judith Palmer know. And if the Friday AM meeting time doesn't work in your schedule, you can pick up kits to take home to sew, or check with us for patterns to use for hats.

We're all about enthusiasm right now! Consider helping us in a very satisfying ministry here at St. Alban's.

For minds to think, and hearts to love, and hands to serve,

We thank you, Lord. (BCP, p. 837)

Judith Palmer & Marilyn McClure  
Co-Directors

# August Activities

**Wednesday Bible Group** meets weekly at **10:30 a.m.** on **Wednesday** mornings to study the readings for the upcoming Sundays. There will be no noon Wednesday worship services in August.

**Women's Bible Study and Fellowship** meets at **2:00- 4:00** on **Thursday, August 9, 23**, at the home of Marilyn Rafter..

**Men's Bible Study** is not meeting in August. See you in September.



**Bible Study and Fellowship** will meet on Thursday, August 16 and the home of Jack Rademaker.

**Men's Night Out** –will meet Thursday, August 2 at 6:30 p.m. at Granite City Food and Brewery, located at 3809 Coldwater Road. The sign up list is on the bulletin in the narthex.



**The Lunch Bunch** will have a picnic on Tuesday, August 14, at 12 Noon. It will be held at the home of Dick and Bonnie Camp, 12631 Stoneboro Court. They have graciously offered to grill hot dogs and hamburgers on the grill. Please see the flyer on the bulletin board in the narthex to sign up and indicate what covered dish you can bring. If you need a ride, please call Anita at 449-9682. If you would like directions, please call the Camps at 637-2160. Hope to see you there!

**Daughters of the King** will meet Tuesday, August 21<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 am. This is due to meeting cancelled earlier in the year.



# OUTREACH



Every year the outreach committee sponsors a child at Madina Village School in Sierra Leone, West Africa. This year is no different. Last year we sponsored a boy named Elijah Larga. Unfortunately, Elijah moved from the area, so he no longer

attends Madina Village School. Our support of him for that year has already made a difference for him, from both the Christian teachings and the strong phonics base in his first year, to be ready to read and write. Our new child we are sponsoring is Marie Kpokie, a girl close in age to Elijah. She is one year ahead of Elijah in school, currently in class II, which is like first grade here. She and her family will be very happy.

Thank you for keeping the school and these two children in your prayers.  
Phillip Mayer, Outreach Chairman



I want to say Thank you to St. Alban's Family. For all the thoughts and prayers and just the kindness and love you have shown my daughter (Cassie) and myself with Michael's illness and passing away. We are so blessed to have awesome friends in Christ and I, for one, would not know what I would do without St. Alban's. God Bless all of you.

Debbie

## Food Bank

**In June we served 14 families, 42 individuals  
total of 630 meals**



The deadline for the September issue of *The Cross and the Sword* is **Thursday, August 16.**

# Vestry Stewardship

## Operating Fund

Operating income for June	\$ 9,855.28	Operating income for 2018	\$73, 751.48
Operating expense for June	12,926.11	Operating expense for 2018	82, 592.77
		Transfer for 2018	3, 750.00
Net loss for June	(\$ 3,070.83)	Net loss for 2018	(\$ 5,091.29)

## Vestry Highlights

At the meeting of the Vestry on July 17:

**it was noted that:**

- a) there was a music meeting on Sunday July 15<sup>th</sup>. There were discussions of a blend of music for every Sunday, and a desire to highlight the Junior Choir.
- b) an upcoming Parent meeting and Contemporary Service will also be discussed and explored.
- c) there was a walk through, at the church, with a rep from Certified Burglar Alarm Systems. The rep will be back to talk about replacing smoke detectors and the cost.
- d) the color samples have been collected for painting the doors into the Parish hall. It was decided to wait on a color choice until we know more what we want to do with the Narthex.
- e) e-mail vote was taken on July 13<sup>th</sup> to purchase bricks to celebrate the ministries of former bishops and priests of St. Alban's at a cost of \$445.00. Money is to be taken from the Memorial Fund.

## August Birthdays

2 Wesley Stath  
5 Aliyah Jones  
14 Larry Dearing  
16 Claire Irvine  
19 Ed Guindon  
20 Anne Donnelly  
24 Elaine Fazzaro



25 Austin Grate  
26 Anita Grams  
27 Sally Sowder  
29 Denise Frede  
29 Tara Ruff  
30 John Diver

### and Anniversaries

7 Donald & Vicki Irvine  
24 Ed & Gloria Guindon  
24 Rob & Denise Frede  
28 Jeff & Laura Diver  
29 Steve & Vickie Faux

*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*

Dick Camp  
John Diver, Sr.  
Rachel Diver  
Dick Donnelly  
Denise Frede  
Tammy Gillig  
Debbie and Cassie Grosjean  
Glen and Carolyn Grate  
Shirley Johnson  
Mary Lansford



Pat MacWhorter  
Alicia McLimans  
Larry Sanxter  
Larry Shaw  
Cindy Spice  
Rick Spice  
AltaLee Stellhorn  
Bill & Carolyn Townsend  
Carlen Trujillo

*Father God, Your word says the prayer of faith shall heal the sick. We come to you today and every day in faith asking that you heal us from every sickness, disease, and illness. We receive our healing by faith. In Jesus name Amen.*

**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
Norm Grams	Property
Tammy Gillig	Fellowship
Pat Stath	Worship
Josh Miller	Finance
Jordan Trendelman	Membership
	Stewardship
Phil Mayer	Outreach
Megan Spice-Freed	Christian Formation
Judy Wall	Care Connection
Christina Connelly	Communication Director

**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