

The Cross & the Sword

The monthly newsletter of Saint Alban's Parish
Family

Vol. XXXVI No. 10

October 2018



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As many of you are aware, Saint Alban's finances have been in decline for quite some time: we have a planned deficit of over \$22,000 just this year alone. The vestry has discussed and wrestled with this for years and even though many here at Saint Alban's give quite sacrificially, we simply cannot sustain our current financial condition. We discussed in our annual meeting that unless something major happened financially, we would need to become extremely creative in order to continue to thrive as a church. As of now, we cannot sustain our current financial situation for very much longer. Thus, it is time to transition into a new phase in the life of Saint Alban's.

What does this mean? This means that Saint Alban's needs to reorganize our finances to be able to have a balanced budget in order to effectively share and spread the love of God through Jesus Christ our Lord. The wardens and vestry, along with our Bishop, met on August 21st to discuss a creative solution to aid in our financial situation. It was brought to our attention that Grace Fort Wayne is currently in the same financial situation as we are and is currently searching for a priest. The idea of sharing a clergy person to aid both our of congregations' finances was discussed to great length and then voted on by our vestry and theirs to begin a process to see what this might look like for both of our congregations. Again, this is just an exploration at this point to see if both churches' vestries

and congregations can come to some sort of agreement in order to survive our financial issues. We currently don't know exactly what this would look like at this point. I want to emphasize that neither church is bailing the other one out. We are both in the same current financial situation and this would be a joint venture to work towards having 2 churches succeed rather than letting 2 churches fail. I always picture the people of Saint Alban's doing whatever it takes to continue to strive to do God's work. After all, this is God's church and we are just manning the helm if you will.

What about Father Dan? He has been aware of this possibility for quite some time. He understands the situation that both churches are in and fully supports the idea of us sharing a priest. At this point he knows that no matter what happens with the collaboration, his calling as Rector of **just** Saint Alban's is coming to a close. However, with all endings come new beginnings. It is very possible that God will call him to be a part of this new ministry. He is currently in the discernment process around this whole situation. For him to be a part of this Grace would have to agree to have him as their priest and he would have to decide that he wants to stay and preside over both congregations. It is important to know that he has already put his name out there for positions at other churches as well.

So what happens next? Grace's search committee is currently going over Father Dan's profile and will be calling him to set up an interview. On our end we are waiting to see the outcome of that before we even discuss the idea of searching for a new priest. I understand that our ideal situation would be for him to stay but at this point we don't know if that will happen.

The Senior Warden at Grace, Missioner Terri Bays and myself have been in discussion about this process. We will be putting on the calendar at least 2 different town meetings at both churches for anyone that wants to come and talk about the collaboration and to voice any ideas they may have of their own. Both Senior Wardens and Missioner Terri will be at these meetings to answer any questions or take any suggestions that are given. Please pray about this process and try to commit to coming to at least one of these meetings.

By no means are we saying that this is definitely happening or how it would work. Again, this is just a conversation about how both churches remain as vital

parts of our communities. I want to stress that it is our intention to have both churches maintain their own identities. Both Grace and Saint Alban's have really amazing things going on, and we want to be able to keep those things thriving. We both do a lot of good, just on opposite sides of town and there is no reason for that to change. I look at this as a great thing. Just imagine all the possibilities we would have if we weren't strapped for funds! We have so many wonderful people with fantastic ideas, and now we might be able to see those things become a reality.

All transitions can be difficult at first. However, we should always keep in mind what we are called to do. We are called to share the love of God through Jesus Christ our Lord by worshipping God, deepening our faith, reaching out to others and holding on to each other. Saint Alban's has always done a pretty good job of this and I assure you we will continue to do so.

Sincerely,
Cindy Spice
Senior Warden

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”

Joshua 1:9

“Be strong and courageous.”



Joshua 1:9

Transitions are hard. There are a lot of unknowns during transition.

However, transitions can also be a great source

of blessing, if we pay attention to where God calls us. I will never forget a lesson one of my mentors taught me. I was anxious about something and wanted to snap my fingers and make everything alright.

My mentor looked at me and said, “How do you think the disciples felt when they left the Last Supper and went to the Garden of Gethsemane? They were anxious, but God was faithful and more amazing things happened than they could have imagined.” Times of transition can bring great anxiety, but also even greater blessings.

As we all know, Saint Alban’s is moving into a time of transition.

Almost two years-ago we embarked on a three year initiative titled “Open, Invite, Welcome.” The purpose of the initiative was to increase our membership, raise our awareness of good evangelism, and hopefully stabilize our congregation financially.

We surrounded this initiative with prayer and used the story from Acts

chapter 8 about Philip and the conversion of the Ethiopian Eunuch to guide us. We hosted two workshops on evangelism with one of the best church planter’s in the Episcopal Church. We have accomplished much through our OIW initiative. We formed a new member OIW group, created a new website, increased our social media awareness, created a new logo, evaluated many of our ministries, received a grant for a London Pilgrimage to explore our Anglican heritage, received a grant for a playground, and most importantly a deeper awareness that evangelism is about journeying with others while listening and sharing the love of Christ. Saint Alban’s is a place bathed in the unconditional love of Jesus Christ our Lord. We should be very proud of the gifts God has guided us to shine forth, and the work of OIW will continue.

Sadly though, our finances have not dramatically improved. Saint Alban’s, like so many congregations, is finding it impossible to keep a full-time priest and keep up with all the necessary expenses of a church. Thus, it is time to transition into a new phase in the life of Saint Alban’s. Our Bishop, Canon Terri, our

wardens, and vestry will lead the work of listening to God and moving forward. Please pray for them, be flexible, caring, open, and honest.

This does not mean that Saint Albans needs to close our doors.

This does not mean that anyone has to leave. This does not mean that we need to pull back our outreach efforts, or disband our youth group, or cancel any of our great small

groups, or in any way let go of our loving church family. Jesus Christ is still Lord. We are still under the same management we have been for 2,000 years. We simply need to find a new clergy situation that will enhance what God is already doing

The Lord calls us *to be strong and courageous*. God will guide. Will we listen? I pray we might!
Dan+

Prayer Walk Sunday October 7th at 5:30pm.

For Prayer Night this month we will have a prayer walk at Shoaff park. Anyone can join us. We will meet at Shoaff park at the picnic tables near the playground and splash park. Please join us!



The Order of the Daughters of the King

The Daughters of the King is an International Anglican lay religious order for women founded in New York in the 19th century which continues today. Our membership currently includes women in the Anglican, Episcopal, Lutheran (ELCA) and Roman Catholic churches. The Mission of the Order is the extension of Christ's Kingdom, through Prayer, Service and Evangelism.

Here at St. Alban's we meet the third Tuesday of the month from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon, in the Parish Hall. Presently, we have several ladies interested in becoming a member of the Daughters and they will soon start the three-month preparation program required for membership. If you are interested in becoming a member, and are interested in joining this class, please contact Anita Grams at 449-9682. Guests are always welcome at our meetings, so feel free to attend and learn more about who we are and what we do.



Did you know if you find it difficult to get your trash and recycling bins to your curb for pickup, you can make arrangements with the city to have them pickup from other locations on your property? This is especially helpful when there is snow and ice on your driveways. Call 311 and ask about this service. They will send you a form which you need to fill out and have your physician sign. Return the form and the service is in place indefinitely. Blessing!



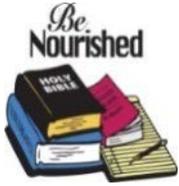
• **DIOCESAN CONVENTION IS SATURDAY November 3, 2018**

On Saturday November 3 in the morning and early afternoon the Diocese will have our annual convention at Saint James's Cathedral in South Bend. Please keep Dan+, John Lorenzen, Jordan Trendelman and Carlen Trujillo. in your prayers as they represent Saint Alban's. Please also keep Cindy Spice in your prayers as she serves as a clerk for the convention.

COME BUILD OUR PLAYGROUND. On Saturday October 6th we will begin to build our playground. We are looking for people that are willing to help out in any way that they are able. We are meeting at the church at 8:00 a.m. and this process will take most of the day. We will be providing a small breakfast and lunch. Come and help even if you aren't able to lift or use a hammer, we will have other things that you would be able to help out with. Bring your own tools since we are extremely low on those types of things here at the church. We will need things like hammers, power tools, levels and such. If you have a wheel barrel or dolly we could use a couple of those as well. There is a signup sheet in the narthex so that we know how many people to provide food for, please mark on the sheet if you aren't available for the whole day. See Cindy Spice if you have any questions about this event. Thank you in advance for your help.



October Activities



Wednesday Bible group meets every Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. The study is always grounded in the Bible. We begin with Morning Prayer. Anyone can join at any time and it is very easy to jump in to any of our studies. **Holy Eucharist will follow at noon.**

A Men's Bible Study, which looks at the lessons for the following Sunday, meets at **10:00 a.m.** on **Saturdays.**



Men's night out will be on October 4, 2018 at 6:30 at The Lucky Moose, 622 E. DuPont Road. The sign up list will be on the bulletin board in the narthex.

HEART AND HANDS group meets every Friday at **10:00 a.m.**

Heart & Hands will rev up the sewing machines for another round of creating blankets. If you don't sew, how about joining us for knitting, crocheting, or loom knitting? And we can always use willing hands to do small tasks involved in the creation of the things we donate. If you have any questions, please Contact Marilyn McClure or Judith Palmer. We meet at 10 AM each Friday in the lounge (downstairs).



The Lunch Bunch goes to the **Blue Gate Restaurant** in **Shipshewana** on **Tuesday, October 9th** for lunch. Please see the poster on the bulletin board in the narthex to sign up. We will carpool from the church at 11:30 a.m.. We always welcome anyone new or old to come and join us. If you have any questions, please see Anita at church or call her at 449-9682.

BIBLE STUDY AND FELLOWSHIP GROUP meets at **7:00 p.m.** on **Thursday, October 18** at the home of Jack Rademaker.



Vestry Stewardship

Operating Fund

Operating income August	\$10,599.64	Operating income for 2018	\$ 94,728.44
Operating expense August	12,691.22	Operating expense for 2018	108,750.54
		Transfers for 2018	3,750.00
Net loss for August	(2,091.58)	Net loss for 2018	(\$ 10,272.10)

Vestry Highlights

At the regular meeting of the Vestry on September 18

it was moved

- to authorize Kenny to paint the crucifix. Kenny is generously offering to pay for the project. Paint colors were discussed and chosen with vestry support

it was noted that

- Rose Tinder-O'Brien's transfer has been received.
- Altalee and Lewis Stelhorn's transfer is in process
- A workday will take place on Saturday October 6th, to build the playground

Deadline for the November newsletter is Thursday, October 18.

FOOD BANK

In August we served 21 families, 73 individuals, and 1095 total meals.

Remember our web site
web site: <http://www.saintalbanfw.org>
Twitter : @StAlbanFW & @DanLayden
Like us on Facebo

October Birthdays

7 Dick Donnelly
11 David Birchfield
11 Jim Jackson
13 Stephen Warga
15 Peggy Brandes
20 Alison Birchfield
21 Christina Connelly



22 Elaine Marten
24 Trudy Spath
25 Roman Pontius
28 Mason Diver
28 Joe Steinbrunner
30 Peter Crewe

and Anniversaries

14 Dick & Bonnie Camp
19 Joe & Janine Steinbrunner
19 Bill & Carolyn Townsend
25 Dick & Sue Dirrim

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

Paul Barker
Ray & Peggy Brandes
Dick Camp
John Diver, Sr.
Rachel Diver
Dick Donnelly
Denise Frede
Marion Frid
Tammy Gillig
Glen and Carolyn Grate
Norm Grams



Mary Lansford
Alicia McLimans
Larry Sanxter
Larry Shaw
Cindy Spice
Rick Spice
Les & Pat Stath
AltaLee Stellhorn
Bill & Carolyn Townsend
Carlen Trujillo
Paul Wiseheart

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-Frede	Christian Formation
Judy Wall	Care Connection
Christina Connelly	Communication Director

Church Staff

Rector	The Rev. Daniel K. Layden
Office Administrator	Debbie Grosjean
Organist(s)	Judith Palmer & Pat Stath

Office Hours

9:00 - 1:00
Monday through Friday

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