

The Cross & the Sword

The monthly newsletter of Saint Alban's Parish
Family

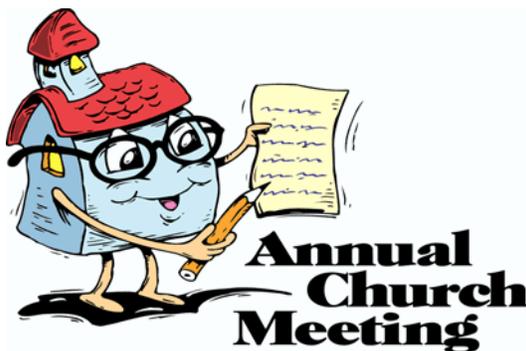
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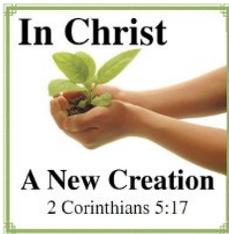
January, 2019

Sunday, January 20

One service at 9:00 a.m.

followed by a carry in breakfast and the





So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! (2 Corinthians 5:17)

Welcome 2019! Each New Year we often greet with new excitement. It is a reminder that the past is in the rear view mirror and something new will come. We sometimes make great new resolutions. “OK, this is the year I finally get in shape. This is the year I finally take that long awaited vacation. This is the year I finally finish that project. This is the year I finally read the Bible. This is the year I am finally nice to everyone.” Of course perched on one shoulder is the eternal optimist, while on the other shoulder sits the eternal pessimist. “Yeah right, you will never get in shape. You'll never finish that project, and there is no way to be nice to everyone.” Living between these two extremes is just life, or is it?

Saint Paul tells the Corinthians, “So, if anyone is in Christ there is a new creation, everything old has passed away.” Notice he didn't tell them that they might be a new creation if. Notice also that he didn't write that it was by anything we do that we become a new creation. No, he

clearly states that in Christ anyone is a new creation. In other words it is about living in relationship with God through Christ and allowing the love, forgiveness, and redemption of Christ to transform us. No, we will not be perfect after we are baptized. No, we will not be the greatest and all will be well after confirmation, or at any other stage in our faith life. However, when we pay attention to God's love desiring to transform our lives, we will continually become more human and Christ-like. We will become more real like the velveteen rabbit as we open ourselves up to sacrificial love. We will be new creations. I pray we all may realize that God loves the stuffing out of us.

Here at Saint Alban's this year will be a great year of transitions. As we all know by now, I have entered into a part-time letter of agreement which will end in May. It will be a time of sadness as we say goodbye. There will also be difficult transitions in how we do things. However, it will not be all about sadness and difficulty. In fact, God has much excitement in

store for all of us. We have an opportunity to pay attention to how God is loving each of us. Let us take time to celebrate the many gifts God has given us throughout the years! Further, let us not just look back. God is doing some incredible new things in all our lives! God is preparing me for my next calling in life. God is also preparing someone's heart to be your next priest. There is also much

excitement about realizing what you all as a community can offer. Moreover, and most importantly, celebrating new relationships with fellow Christians at Grace Episcopal Church. There is much excitement in how you can be a new community and offer more together! Let us all see the new possibilities God has in store. Let us let God love the stuffing out of us! Happy New Year!

Annual meeting and Bishop Sparks to celebrate with us on January 20th!

On Sunday January 20th we will have our Annual meeting. Like all annual meetings we will elect wardens, vestry members, and convention delegates. The nominating committee of Josh Miller, Pat Stath, Phil Mayer, Elaine Fazzaro, and Barb Jackson are hard at work. This will also be a special annual meeting as it will be the last Dan+ leads. **To celebrate and mark this important event in the life of Saint Alban's, Bishop Sparks will be here.** He will worship with us at 9am with a special liturgy. The Bishop, wardens and Dan+ all decided that this would be a great opportunity to clearly mark a transition in our life and ministry together. It will be a time to give thanks for the many gifts received, and a time to joyfully look to the future God has in mind. **So please do not miss this important Sunday, January 20th. Worship at 9 am with brunch and Annual meeting to follow at 10 am.**

8am service time to end

Due to the reality that Dan+ will be part-time, Dan+ recommended that the 8 am service time offered come to an end. This recommendation was agreed to by the Bishop, wardens, and vestry. The obvious reason is that Dan+ does not have the time to prepare for two services, nor will any clergy serving the collaboration moving forward. Further, the 8 am service time has steadily declined in recent years. This is no small change, however. The Rite 1 8 am service has been the avenue for Spiritual feeding for many in our parish. We will thus excitedly welcome, and greet with sadness those who regularly attended the 8 am service to the 10:15 am service. **The last 8 am service will be January 13th.** Remember that, "It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God." (BCP 333

Job 19:23 "Oh that my words were written! Oh that they were inscribed in a book!

Looking for an inspirational reading, in addition to *Forward Day by Day* (available in the Narthex)? Look no further, as we have a published writer here at St. Alban's! Altalee Stellhorn writes a biweekly inspirational column for KPC News which can be read online at KPCNews.com. Once at the site, use the search icon (the magnifying glass) which opens a box where you type her pen name, Leigh Moran, and voila, her writings pop up. Scroll down and pick out one(s) that catch your interest.

Altalee and her husband Lewis have three children and three grandchildren. She is a former teacher, social worker, and breast cancer survivor. And if that is not enough, she received the Call to Service Award from President George W. Bush in 2003! The Call to Service Award is the most prestigious of the Volunteer Service Awards and has been awarded to few Americans.



Hearts and hands have a wonderful ministry. They sew blankets and hats for baby's in the NICU. In 2017 they donated 599 items and through the end of September this year they have made and donated 313 items. Now they are in need of funds to continue doing the lords work through this wonderful outreach program. Any help will be greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, please ask Judith Palmer or Marilyn McClure.

January Monthly Activities

Wednesday Bible Group meets on Wednesdays mornings at 10:30 for a study of the next Sunday's Bible readings. We set aside time for prayers and at 12:00 noon we have Holy Communion. Please consider joining us for this wonderful time of sharing and learning.



Women's Bible Study and Fellowship meets at **2:00 – 4:00 p.m.** on **Thursday, January 10 & January 24**, at the home of Marilyn Rafter.

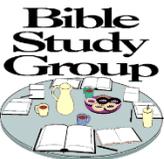
Men's night out will be on Thursday, January 3, 2019 at 6:30. It will be at The Hideout 125, located at 10350 Coldwater Road. A sign up list will be on bulletin board in narthex.

Daughters of the King gather on Tuesday, January 15 at 10:00 a.m.



The Heart and Hands group meets at **10:00 a.m.** on **Fridays January 4, 11, 18, 25..**

THE LUNCH BUNCH will not meet in January.



Bible Study and Fellowship Group meets at **7:00 p.m.** on **Thursday, January 17** at the home of Jack Rademaker.



Epiphany Sunday, January 6,
11:30



Taking Down the Greens

Followed by chili lunch Please sign the poster if you plan to attend.



Sunday, January 20 at 9:00

This meeting represents an opportunity for the parish family to review the previous year and to look ahead to the year 2019 and beyond.

There will be only one service that Sunday at 9:00, with brunch following. Please sign the roster if you plan to attend.



Please e-mail your annual reports to the office by Friday, January 5.



Altar Flowers

FLOWER FUND IN 2019... Every year we point out that the new calendar to sign up to sponsor flowers in memory of someone or in thanksgiving is on the wall. This year that calendar is already up, and we encourage you to sign up for a specific Sunday you want to celebrate the life of a loved one or give thanks to God for some person or gift. The cost this year once again will be \$35. Further, the office is committed to remembering your memorials and celebrations in the prayers of the people. **In addition to this, we also want to encourage donations by anybody who wants to give to the flower fund, even if you don't have a specific occasion to celebrate. You don't even need to pick a specific Sunday, just donate. Your gift will help offset the cost of Sunday's when no one commemorates anything**

specific. So remember you can donate any amount of money at any time to the flower fund to help beautify our worship every week.

The deadline for the February issue of *The Cross and the Sword* is **Thursday, January 24**

Vestry Stewardship

Operating Fund

Operating income for Nov	\$11,703.52	Operating income for 2018	\$145,774.82
Operating expense for Nov	12,227.29	Operating expense for 2018	147,416.14
		Transfers	3750.00
Net loss for November	(\$523.77)	Net loss for 2018	(\$ 2,108.68)

Vestry Highlights

At the regular meeting of the Vestry on December 18,
It was moved to:

- a. consolidate Sunday services to one service at 10:15 starting January 27.
- b. to have AltaLee make small packets for Judy.
- c. donate \$150.00 to Hearts and Hands program from Outreach fund.
- d. pass the new Letter of Agreement that was presented between Dan+ and the vestry.

It was noted:

that an internal audit was done on December 2nd.

that the emergency work that needed to be done on the furnace by Till Heating on Saturday, December 8 was a water valve and pump that needed to be replaced. The emergency was approved by Dan+ as time ran out to go through the procedures. Cost will roughly be \$500.00

that the snow plowing contract with Doug Snowball was approved via vestry e-mail note taken the first week of December.

that the police had been contacted to deter people from loitering in their cars in the church parking lot.

Membership changes: Transfer for LaVon Skinker is in progress.

Food Bank



In December we served 12 families 47 individuals and 705 meals served

January Birthdays

7 Rev. Dan Layden
8 Nevada Jones
10 Rob Frede
12 Brianna Steinbrunner
14 Vickie Faux
16 Debbie Grosjean
18 Chris Sanxter



18 George Shamp
20 Gloria Guindon
20 Jordan Trendelman
22 Donald Irvine
22 Caitlyn Townsend
23 Judith Palmer
23 Brock Peters
25 Todd Townsend
27 Les Stath

*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.*



**Paul Barker
Ray Brandes
Dick & Bonnie Camp
Dick Donnelly
Alexa Foland
Denise Frede
Abbie Gillig
Greg Gillig
Tammy Gillig**

**Norm Grams
Vicki Irvine
Cindy Spice
Rick Spice
Bill Townsend
Carlen Trujillo
June Williams
Paul Wiseheart.**

For those unable to worship with us: Ed Brackmann, John Diver, Frances Krauskopf, Tom Kurtz, LuAnn Kleinschmidt, Gene Pettibone, Jim Trueblood, and Paul Wiseheart.

ST. ALBAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Sunday Services

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

Wednesday

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

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