

The Cross & the Sword

The monthly newsletter of Saint Alban's Parish
Family

Vol. XXXVI No. 9

September 2019



Sunday School
MAKES A DIFFERENCE



This month's spotlight goes out to Christina Connelly, our Communications and OIW Commission Chair. When it comes to social media you are either all about it or have no idea what it's all about. For me, I'm kind of in the middle of that spectrum. I have a Facebook account where I rarely post anything but I'm on usually once a day to look at all the different posts and "Stalk" my friends and family. Basically keep up on all they are doing and what they have to say about their lives to make me feel included in some way. Or there is Instagram and Snapchat where I have accounts yet hardly ever look at and never post anything about my life. It's all a huge struggle and very time consuming for me. I would never have the energy to keep up on our website let alone generate an "online presence" for Saint Alban's. In fact if it was left up to me we most people wouldn't know that we even existed. Thank goodness for those people that have a real love or knack for getting all the information out to the world about what is happening at Saint Alban's. Most of you know that we have a website and a Facebook page but did you know that we also have an Instagram account? In fact we have 113 followers, which may not seem like a lot but it is when you consider the fact that a majority of those people don't attend our church. Several of them actually live in other parts of the country, yet they are keeping up on all we are doing via Instagram.

Christina works hard every week trying to make our church as visible to the public as possible. I have said many times, if we could only get the rest of the world to see how wonderful and welcoming our church family can be then Sunday services would be standing room only. In today's world social media is where most people are finding the things they are searching for. This may be the only way that some people are even able to hear about Jesus and all the good work that can be done in his name. Maybe it's time for us to do our part in helping Christina tell the world all about us. So look around and start observing all the things that happen here and write them down. Send them to Christina by email, put notes in her box in the hall downstairs or just talk with her on Sunday. Let's all work together to share all the fantastic things that are happening here. Thank you so much Christina for all that you are doing for our church family. Remember to follow us on Instagram at [saintalbansfw](https://www.instagram.com/saintalbansfw).

“And he said to them, “Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation” Mark 16:15

**Cindy Spice
Senior Warden**

PRAYER LIST



Prayer
MINISTRY

The prayer life of a faith community is just as important as our individual commitment to prayer. Prayer comes in many shapes and forms, from suggestions we find in The Book of

Common Prayer, to moments of quiet reflection, the contents of our prayer life helps shape the world around us. Here at St. Alban's during the Prayers of the People, we pray for the needs of the community in the form of saying the names of those who we have acknowledged as needing our support. In the past Father Dan would follow up with individuals who had placed people on the prayer list to see if they needed our continued prayers. The hope is always that those in need of support will no longer need our prayers at some point, as they will have overcome the hardships life had presented them with. However without a full time priest overseeing prayer requests the necessity to create a system by which we ensure that those who need prayers and those who no longer need prayers are reflected in our prayer list has become apparent. Moving forward, all prayer requests for individuals will remain on the list for one month then they will need to be renewed. Obviously we want to ensure that any individual that needs our community prayers stays on the list as long as it is necessary, this includes if you desire someone to stay in our prayers indefinitely please feel free to make that known as well. I thank you all for your continued dedication to a life of prayer within the church knowing that a prayer for one is a prayer for all, for all of us are one in Christ.

Jordan Trendelman
Junior Warden

FOOD BANK

It is with mixed emotions that I'm writing to inform everyone that as of September 1st we will be closing our Food Bank operations for an indefinite period of time. We have been unable to find a coordinator for the position and in the process of evaluating what all is involved with this particular ministry some realities about the outreach we have been providing has come to light. Not only has staffing the Food Bank been an issue, attendance has been low or nonexistent. Some time ago we stopped serving twice a week and went down to just Wednesday's because of what seemed to be a diminishing need for the service. Even with just the one day we rarely served more than 3 people in need any given week and sometimes no one at all. If there weren't other options to assist those few people I'd like to think we would have figured out a way to continue doing so. However with Our Lady of Good Hope also running a Food Bank across the street we can rest assured that the people in our area who need help in this manner can still get it nearby. At this point in time it just seems our efforts could have a more valuable impact on the lives of others in some different capacity.



So I would like to challenge St. Alban's to not close the doors to our willingness to participate in outreach at a local level. There continues to be needs locally, some of which we may have not even identified yet, where we as a community could be instrumental in the lives of others. Closing the Food Bank is hopefully not a decrease in St. Alban's level of outreach, but instead an opportunity to have a much larger impact in lives of those around us in a more profound way. I ask that all of you prayerfully consider new ways that St. Alban's can continue to be in service to the larger community around us.

Peace and Blessings,

Jordan Trendelman
Junior Warden

ELECTRONIC GIVING

Over the years I have forgotten my envelope many times for the offering plate. When I actually remember to bring it with me I end up leaving it in the acolyte room because I'm serving at the altar. Either way, my offering wasn't making it into the plate that week. Chances are I'm not alone when it comes to this subject.

The vestry has looked into many different online giving sites and apps over the last few years in order to offer another option for giving. Most of the sites and apps that we found have huge fees and charges for both the person donating and the recipient. We finally found an app that was designed with churches in mind. In doing the research of this particular subject we found that the churches offering a form of online giving showed an increase in pledges from 10-20% on average.

Beginning September 1, 2019 we will offer a new way to donate to Saint Alban's with an app called Tithe.ly. This particular app doesn't have any contracts or hidden fees. There are transaction fees that the donor can choose to cover if they desire, if not then the fee will come directly out of the donation amount. Either way the money will be deposited directly into our bank account. Tithe.ly will send the church weekly totals of what was given and by whom so that Debbie will be able to log the amount for all contribution statements. The fees are as follows:

Credit/debit card transactions: 2.9% + \$.30 per transaction

Example: \$100 donation → \$96.80 deposited (if fee paid by church)

ACH/Bank account transactions: 1% + \$.30 per transaction

Example: \$100 donation → \$98.70 deposited (if fee paid by church)

We will have a few people available on Sunday September 8th and Sunday September 22nd after both services to answer any questions or help anyone who is interested in setting up this app.

Of course this is just another option that you will have to donate to the church. Please feel free to continue using whatever option you are currently using if that works best for you. We will continue to provide envelopes for all members who wish to use them.

Cindy Spice
Senior Warden

SUNDAY SCHOOL YEAR WILL BEGIN ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8th. All youth in grades kindergarten through 8th grade are welcome to attend class each week.

Sunday school classes will be held in 2 classrooms divided by age groups. Kindergarten-4th grade will be held in the Atrium and 5th-8th



grade will be held in the classroom across from the office next to the youth group room. The first Sunday of each month, chapel will be held in lieu of classroom time. All Sunday school students will attend chapel. Chapel is located in the Atrium.

Those attending class should meet in the Narthex each Sunday by 10:10 am and youth will proceed in with the beginning procession of the service, return to the Narthax, and then continue on to Sunday school.

If there are any question, please text or call Megan Spice-Frede at 515-1888.



YOUTH GROUP will begin on September 8 and be held every 2nd and 4th Sunday 6:30 p.m. until 8 p.m. The group is open to all youth between 6 and 12 grades. We are very excited about our upcoming events and are looking forward to welcoming several new faces this year. If you have any questions about our group or any activities that we have planned please see Cindy Spice.

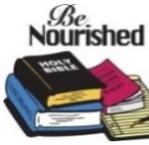


Looking for a good book to read? A person near and dear to us all has written a book, Father Dan. *Dreams in the Desert* by Daniel Layden is available from Amazon.com and other outlets. Not an Amazon Prime member (free shipping)? Contact me and I will order the book for you and have it delivered to your home. Judy Wall

TOUR DE CURE: Anne Donnelly's son, Martin will be riding in the Tour De Cure in Cleveland Ohio on **September 14th**. He will be cycling in honor of his father who passed away this year due to complications of diabetes. His wife's mom also suffered from this awful disease. He will be pedaling a 62 mile tour and has been training since spring. He is happy to do the pedaling but needs your help to raise money to help find a cure for diabetes. Please pray for Martin as he trains and please consider making a tax deductible donation. We will be accepting donations **September 1st thru 8th**. Please place your donation in the designated basket on the table in the narthex. **Make any checks payable to Martin Donnelly.** Anne thanks you for any support you can give.

We would like to extend our appreciation for all the Supply Priests that have come to helped us in August. Thank you to: Mother Terri Bays, Reverend Kathy Thomas, Reverend Aaron Evans, and Reverend Richard Kallenberg.

Monthly 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.

Men's night out will be on September 5, 2018 at 6:30. It will be at 6:30 Men's Night Out at The Trolley Bar at 2898 E DuPont Rd. The sign up list is on the bulletin board in the narthex.



Daughters of the King gather at 10:00 a.m. Tuesday, September 17, for our monthly meeting in the Parish Hall. We welcome any woman to attend who would like to find out what we are all about. Coffee and treats will be available. Please come and join us.

The Lunch Bunch meets on Tuesday, **September 10,** at **The Back 40 restaurant in Decatur.** Please sign the poster in the narthex and indicate whether you wish to have a ride and carpool from the church or will go directly. If you have any questions or need to cancel, please see Anita at church or call her at 449-9682. Hope to see you there!



ALTAR GUILD MEMBERS meet on Saturday, September 21, at 10:00 a.m. for fall cleaning. All members of the guild are asked to be present. New members are always welcome.

STEWARDSHIP



July was a bit disappointing with less than \$8,500 in donations which is well below our budgeted amount and if this trend continues then we will be short of our budget by the end of the year by about \$1,500. Though we will still be in good positive territory if you are behind in your pledge to the church please catch up if you are able. Even though times are tough the church continues to offer outreach and help to those in need. We donate treasure, time and talent as a congregation to: Matthew 25, Helping Hands, the Rescue Mission, the Food Bank, Christmas Families, Alcoholics Anonymous as well as 1% of our Operating Fund, over \$600 so far this year. We make it a priority to reach out to others with an open hand.

We would like to thank Phil Mayer for his time and efforts on vestry as head of the Outreach Ministry and especially for his work with the Food Bank, Rescue Mission and the Men's Group. We would also like to single out Anita Grams for her talent of always bringing smiles to everyone she knows and greets. When we see her we think, "That's right. There is Anita and we are home." You will see her as usher and quietly doing things around the church. Say "Hello" and thank Phil and Anita when you see them.

WORSHIP

There will be a Worship Meeting in the sanctuary following the 10:15 service on Sunday, September 15. It is requested that all LEMs, Lectors, Servers, Crucifers, and Ushers please attend this meeting. There will be a training session for new LEMs, Servers, and Crucifers on Sunday, September 22 following the 10:15 service. Anyone who would like to become a LEM, Crucifer or Server is requested to be present for this instruction. Thank you to everyone who gives of their time and their talent to enable St. Alban's to carry on



WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

our primary mission – the reverent and orderly liturgy and sacraments to the Glory of God.



Please remember if you or someone you know is in the hospital and would like to receive communion, or anointing or just a visit, please contact Deacon Sandy Ritchie at 619-3988.

Food Bank

In July we served 21 families, 63 individuals and 945 Meals.

Thank you for all the volunteers that have been a part of this ministry.

Deadline for the October newsletter is Thursday, September 19

Vestry Stewardship

Operating Fund

| | | | |
|------------------------|-------------|----------------------------|-------------|
| Operating income July | \$ 8,460.33 | Operating income for 2019 | \$69,534.60 |
| Operating expense July | 6,097.94 | Operating expense for 2019 | \$63,214.25 |
| Net gain for July | \$ 2,362.39 | Net gain for 2019 | \$ 6,320.35 |

Vestry Highlights

At the meeting of the Vestry on August 19:

It was moved:

- a. to clarify how long people will be on the prayer list. It was approved to leave on list for a month and then review the list again.
- b. to approve Lily T. to be a LEM.
- c. to accept Phil Mayer's resignation from Vestry.
- d. that starting in September the food bank will be closed until further notice. This decision is based on the lack of use by community and lack of staffing.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

3 Larry Hade
5 Andrew Stath
10 Sam Naunas
10 Jaelyn Pontius
11 Dana White
14 Cheryl Parker
17 Abbie Gillig



19 Carolyn Townsend
22 Audrey McLimans
24 Mary Brooks
26 Lydia Layden
29 Cindy Spice
30 Dick Ritchie

and Anniversaries



6 Jordan Trendelman and Christina Connolly
10 Chris & Melissa Renner
10 Rick & Jane Spice
13 Glen & Carolyn Grate
24 Phillip & Joyce Mayer
26 John & Julie Naunas
28 Gary & Laura Michael

*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
Neil Birchfield
Ray Brandes
Dick Camp
John Diver, Sr.
Denise Frede and
family
Elaine Fazzaro



Vicki Irvine
Mary Lansford
Rose Tinder-O'Brien
Jack Radamaker
Rick Spice
Les & Pat Stath
Betty Wiseheart

Match the Numbers

- | | | |
|---|-------|-------|
| a. Thieves crucified with Jesus (Matthew 27:38) | _____ | 1 |
| b. Number of lost sheep (Luke 15:3) | _____ | 2 |
| c. Gifts from the Wise Men (Matthew 2:11) | _____ | 3 |
| d. Young women without extra oil for their lamps (Matthew 25:2,3) | _____ | 3 |
| e. Jesus' apostles (Matthew 10:2) | _____ | 4 |
| f. Lepers who didn't thank Jesus (Luke 17:17) | _____ | 5 |
| g. Fishermen who became apostles (Matthew 4:18-22) | _____ | 6 |
| h. Jesus' age when He was baptized (Luke 3:23) | _____ | 9 |
| i. Pots of water Jesus changed to wine (John 2:6) | _____ | 12 |
| j. Days Jesus was tempted in the wilderness (Matthew 4:2) | _____ | 27 |
| k. People baptized on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:41) | _____ | 30 |
| l. Times Jesus said we must forgive others (Matthew 18:22) | _____ | 40 |
| m. People fed with five loaves and two fish (Matthew 14:21) | _____ | 77 |
| n. Times Peter denied Jesus (Luke 22:61) | _____ | 3,000 |
| o. Books in the New Testament | _____ | 5000+ |

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

Vestry

| | |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| Cindy Spice | Senior Warden |
| Jordan Trendelman | Junior Warden |
| Norm Grams | Property |
| Tammy Gillig | Fellowship |
| Elaine Fazzaro | Worship |
| Jordan Trendelman | Membership |
| David Birchfield | Stewardship |
| Phil Mayer | Outreach |
| Megan Spice-Frede | Christian Formation |
| Judy Wall | Care Connection |
| Christina Connelly | Communication Director |

Church Staff

| | |
|----------------------|---------------------------|
| Office Administrator | Debbie Grosjean |
| Organist(s) | Judith Palmer & Pat Stath |

Office Hours

9:00 - 1:00
Monday through Friday

Office phone 485-8022