



The Cross & the Sword

The monthly newsletter of Saint Alban's Parish Family

Vol. XXXVI No. 9

September 2021



Now that our younger people have led the way into a new academic year (aka “the Program Year” within the context of the Church), it now remains for the rest of us to follow. Beginning with the small but noticeable re-instatement of the singing of the beginning of the Eucharistic Prayer on Sundays beginning on September 5th, continuing with the re-start of our Sunday School and Nursery programs on September 12th and a new Thursday evening Bible Study/Eucharist beginning on September 9th, and moving into October with our Blessing of the Animals and Welcoming Neighborhood event on 10/3 and our Parish Weiner Roast at Marilyn Rafter’s home on 10/16, it promises to be a rich and active season at St. Alban’s.

The fall season is also the time when we begin to set our budgetary and programmatic goals for the coming year of 2022. A significant (but certainly not sole) component of this work is our individual and shared discernment around stewardship. What will we prayerfully and intentionally offer to God, through the Church, to sustain the community of faith here at St. Alban’s which is so special and life-giving to us throughout the entire year? This is a highly personal and private matter and one that I, as your Priest, appropriately have the least possible amount of information. Yet, paradoxically, these decisions have significant implications for the health and vibrancy of our parish family.

I have to say here that during my interview process last fall, when we were mutually trying to figure out whether or not I should come to St. Alban’s, one of the first and strongest impressions I got was how utterly devoted you all are to your church home. It was—and is—remarkable.

You are one of the most faithful and hopeful Christian communities I have ever known. And, because all acts of stewardship (whether they are centered on treasure, time or talent) most appropriately begin from a place of gratitude, that’s where I wish to begin this conversation: by saying “thank you” for being so steadfast and appreciative in your many forms of support for this place. This profound sense of generosity not only attracted me to St. Alban’s but I have every confidence that it will continue to draw new individuals and families into our midst.

Together, let us enter this time of deliberation in a spirit of prayer and mutual support as we all, with God's help, strive to hear God's call to increase and strengthen His works of love in this place and at this time!

In the Peace of Christ,
Fr. Michael r. +

STEWARDSHIP

Donations were over \$10,100 for July remaining above budget. For 2021 so far, we are also \$14,900 over budget which is helping secure our future and significantly reducing our planned deficit. If it is more convenient you can always donate through Tithely. Also, please link St. Alban's to your Amazon Smile account and your Kroger plus card. This is easy money to St. Alban's and it helps both of these companies direct their donations in the direction you want.



Our expenses as always continue to be managed frugally, so together with good management and faithful donations we continue to thrive. We want to thank and welcome the many new people that have visited us and we hope that you stay and become a part of our community. We also want to thank Kenny White for helping to maintain the church property. Time and Talent are just as important as treasure and many provide all three. David Birchfield

WORSHIP COMMISSION

It has been a great joy to welcome several new people at our Sunday service as well as faithful attendance by our regular parishioners. With some increase in numbers it has become a little more challenging to remember that we are still supposed to be maintaining social distance between people who are not members of the same household. The blue tape markings are still on the pews to remind us to sit by households with a piece of blue tape on the back of the

pew where we are seated. Please remember to sign in when you enter the church. We are very happy to know that you have been here – but we also need the information in the unhappy event that we ever need to do contact tracing one day. Masks are being made available next to the sign-in book. Mask wearing is currently optional, but Covid cases are on the rise again and the bishop or civil authorities could make it mandatory in the future.

When there is so much turmoil in the world, we need the comfort of the Lord and seek Him in the familiar liturgy and the sacrament. One of the most infuriating things about this pandemic is the degree to which it has disrupted that familiar worship experience. But we have made much progress since the time when our worship was completely interrupted. Our Lord's great commandment is to love Him and our neighbors as ourselves. One of the most important ways we love our neighbors right now is to avoid spreading a virus to them. May the peace of the Lord be with us all. This too will pass.

Elaine Fazzaro

CHRISTIAN FOUNDATION



Religious Education will be starting up again soon. Looking for volunteers for Sunday School, Nursery and Children's Chapel.

We will resume religious education on September 12th. So far, we have only a few students but we are looking to proceed with our studies on Jesus, loving ourselves, and how we can try to be more like Christ.

We will periodically need teachers to assist but as our student count is low, we are looking for only 3 or 4 teachers for this year. We will proceed with lessons on days when we have more than 1 student.

We are changing up the curriculum a little bit this year. Saint Alban's has decided to create its own curriculum for this 3-year cycle. New additions to the curriculum include exercises in empathy, self-love, and safety.

Please Contact Amanda Fazzaro for further information or volunteer information at (260)435-9403.

Amanda Fazzaro

FINANCE

As of July 31, we are at about 72% of our annual Income budget, while we are at only 57% of our Expense budget. Those figures are: INCOME YTD - \$71,466.05; EXPENSES YTD - \$78,817.24. Our total annual Expenses budget is \$137,906.00 – the reality of what it costs to maintain our church.

This is such good news for us, as we are running a significant deficit budget. With 5 months to go, I hope to see this trend continue in order to decrease our final loss for the year.

Please keep up the great work on maintaining pledges. Also, remember that talent is another way to give to St. Alban's. Any talent you have that can save on hiring from outside is a wonderful way to contribute.

The Vestry is grateful for the support you give to St. Alban's.

THANK YOU!

Marilyn Rafter

DOVE FAITH CAFE (DFC)

Everyone loves a good story. Storytelling captivates and captures the imagination when told well. Through storytelling, we as humans are able to connect with one another through our shared experiences. Because storytelling connects us so powerfully, it only makes sense to use the power of good storytelling to share our faith stories.

There are many kinds of faith stories, some of them start at the beginning and bring the listener to the present moment, others relate to a time of difficulty when the storyteller received God's grace to walk through a hardship. Some faith stories tell of times of divine intervention in our lives. A well-crafted faith story has the power to rekindle the embers of a listener's faith.

That is the purpose of the Dove Faith Cafe, it is the fulfillment of a vision, divinely inspired by the Holy Spirit. The Dove Faith Cafe (DFC) is an event that brings together storytellers and listeners who share their faith stories in an evening of hope. The DFC answers the call to evangelism that we, as members of the Episcopal Diocese of Northern Indiana are committed to embracing.

I am one of five storytellers for the diocese, and will be sharing my story at four different events scheduled at various locations within our diocese during the next few months. We are reaching out to all of God's children and have made a conscious decision not to hold DFC in churches, so that Christians, and non-Christians alike will feel welcome.

The goal for those who experience DFC is to realize the work of God in the lives of others and to recognize it in their own faith stories. The event will illustrate that what unites us (God) is infinitely more powerful than what divides us.

The first DFC event will be held on Friday, September 17th 6:00 p.m. at Cahoots Coffee Cafe in Angola, IN. (This event is the closest to us).

If you have questions about DFC, please contact me.

God's Blessings!

John Lorenzen
Junior Warden



The Lunch Bunch meets on Tuesday, **September 14**, at **Dos Margaritas located at 4230 N Clinton St** at noon. 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!



All Contribution Statements for January – August have been e-mailed. For those without an email address, the statement will be mailed out. If you did not receive yours and you have an e-mail please notify the office. Thank you.

Electronic Media



If you have an e-mail address, and have not signed up to receive our monthly newsletter electronically, please consider doing so. It saves the church the cost of paper and postage, and you see the newsletter in color.

Access all our current information on our website any time of day or night to see what's happening. If you have misplaced your calendar or your ministry schedule, find all the information you need at

<https://saintalbanfw.org/>

A Reminder

All quarters placed in the offering plate are sent on to the Matthew 25 Clinic. This clinic helps the poor and the working poor in our area with free medical, dental and prescription services. Thank you for all your quarters because they do add up.



Vestry Stewardship

Operating Fund

Operating income July	\$10,191.84	Operating income for 2021	\$71,466.05
Operating expense July	10,980.33	Operating expense for 2021	\$78,817.24
Net loss for July	\$ (788.49)	Net loss for 2021	\$(7351.19)

Vestry Highlights

At the meeting of the Vestry on August 17:

It was noted that:

- a) Father Michael will be organizing an evening Bible Study starting on Thursday, September 9th.
- b) Sunday School starts Sunday September 12th. Looking for volunteers for Sunday School, Nursery and Children's Chapel
- c) Neighborhood event on October 3rd with the blessing of the animals.
- d) Dove Faith Café's first event is on September 17 at Cahoots in Angola. Will have more information in bulletins.
- e) Fall Stewardship campaign: in gathering scheduled for October 3rd.
- f) a discussion/review possible mask mandate

It was motioned that:

George motioned and was seconded by Amanda and Passed unanimously,

to send the following outreach donations to:

- a) \$250 to Rescue Mission in Fort Wayne,
- b) \$400 to Madina Village School sponsorship,
- c) \$400 to Hope for Jesus Children's Home in Honduras,
- d) \$350 to AWCC (Adams Wells Crisis Center) in Decatur
- e) \$350 to Blue Jacket in Fort Wayne.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

3 Larry Hade
4 Micah Spencer
5 Andrew Stath
10 Sam Naunas
10 Jaelyn Pontius
11 Dana White
17 Abbie Gillig



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



6 Jordan Trendelman & Christina Connelly
7 Jon & Amanda Fazzaro
10 Rick & Jane Spice
13 Glen & Carolyn Grate
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.*

REMEMBER IN PRAYER ESPECIALLY: Jerry Anderson, Cheryl Banks, Gene Bateman, Mindy Blech, Neal Birchfield, Ray Brandes, Denny & Anne Butler, Pete Cola, Elliot Culwell, Jane Davidson, Kari Doepke, Donna, Dale Edington, Kathie Edington, Joey Fazzaro, Chris Foreman, Lisa Frances and family, Denise Frede, Kacie Grace, Brook Gresback, Gary, George Imhausen, Claire Irvine, John Jeffries, Rick McMahan, Pat Kerlin, Julie Lieb, Kris Lorenzen, MJ & Missy, Maureen McMahan, Carl Michael, Francis and Bobbie Mustapha, Steve Potosky, Canon Henry Randolph, Sandra Ritchie, Sandra, Lamar Spencer, Rick Spice, Mariane Sumners, Melissa Surlles, Gianna Tinker, Carlen Trujillo, Betty Wiseheart.

For those unable to worship with us: LuAnn Kleinschmidt

Military: Kaylee Collins, Sean Collins, Matthew Michael.

ST. ALBAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Sunday Eucharist Service: 9:30 a.m. In person or on-line.

Live streaming Service from Saint Alban's YouTube channel! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ATo1XzD8KUK>

It will also be posted on our Facebook page and it will be archived on our YouTube channel.

Vestry

Cindy Spice	Senior Warden
John Lorenzen	Junior Warden
Laura Michael	Fellowship
Elaine Fazzaro	Worship
David Birchfield	Stewardship
Marilyn Rafter	Financial
George Shamp	Outreach
Kenny White	Property
Amanda Fazzaro	Christian Formation
Jane Spice	Care Connection
Christina Connelly	Communications Director

Church Staff

Priest-in-Charge	The Rev. Michael Roeske
Office Administrator	Debbie Grosjean

Office Hours

9:00 - 1:00
Monday through Friday

Office phone 485-8022