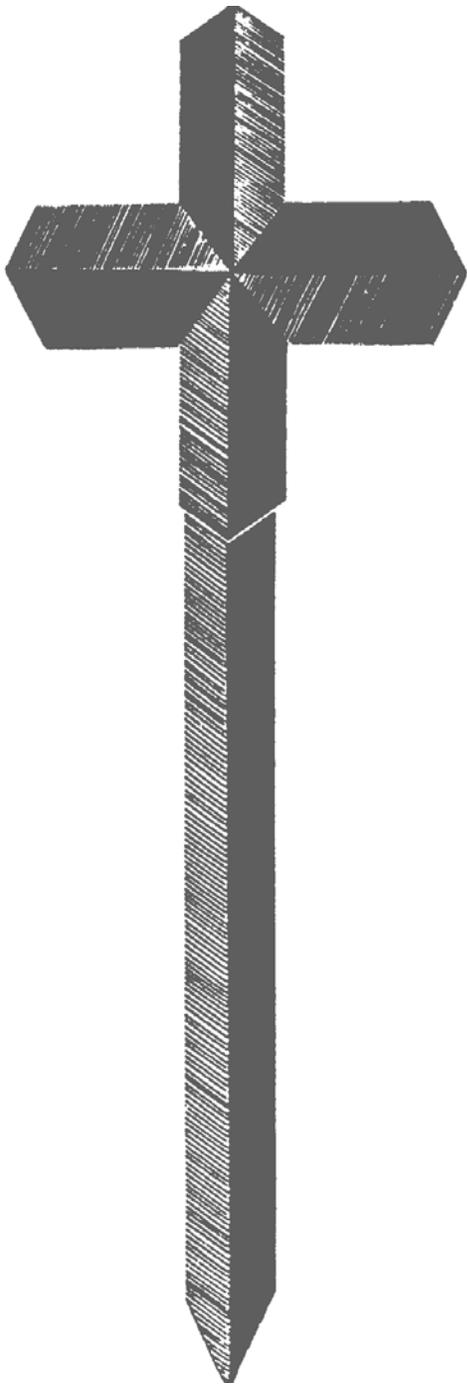
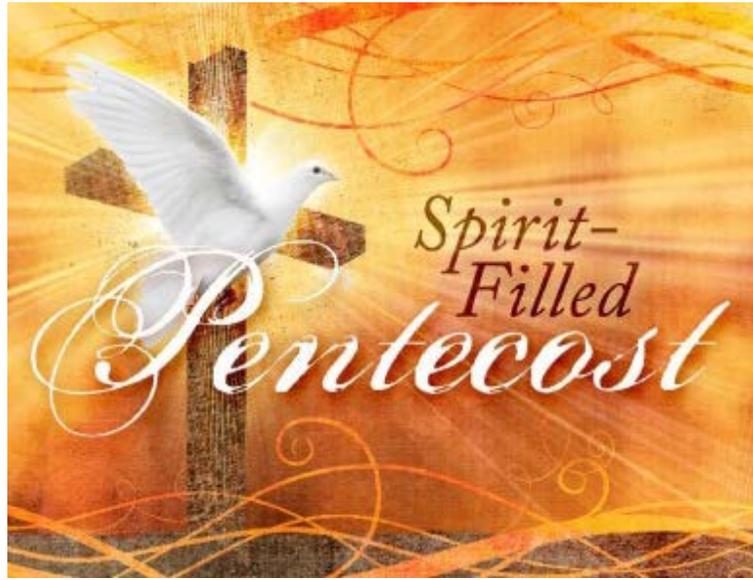


The Cross & the Sword

The monthly newsletter of Saint Alban's Parish Family

Vol. XXXVI No. 7

July 2022



Dear People of St. Alban's,

I don't know about all of you, but sometimes I feel like all the events and activities of life—both personally and in a larger sense—are just unfolding at a pace that is hard to keep up with! The pace can be overwhelming and difficult to process. It often seems like there's little or no "breathing time" between momentous moments. And this is basically mid-summer, for heaven's sake!

It's in the midst of times like these that I find myself turning to the incredible and ancient wisdom of the Christian tradition that I am privileged to practice with all of you on a regular basis (thank GOD!). There are two particular spiritual practices from our shared perspective that I find myself turning to with great frequency lately, namely slowing down and simplifying.

Now I can tell you, these two things are not my natural, default go-to's! But they both appear with some regularity in our scripture:

"Jesus said to them, 'Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while.' For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves." (Mark 6:31-32);

"But the Lord answered her, 'Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; there is need of only one thing.'" (John 10:41-42a);

"But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." (Matthew 6:33).

As well as in our rich tradition:

"'Tis the gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be free, 'tis the gift to come down where we ought to be..." (Hymnal 1982, #554, Shaker song, 18th cent.);
and, quite possibly my favorite "simplifier/slower-downer":

Night Prayer (from the New Zealand Prayer Book version of Compline)

Lord, it is night.

The night is for stillness.

Let us be still in the presence of God.

It is night after a long day.

What has been done has been done; what has not been done has not been done; let it be.

The night is dark. Let our fears of the darkness of the world and of our own lives rest in you.

The night is quiet. Let the quietness of your peace enfold us, all dear to us, and all who have no peace.

The night heralds the dawn.

Let us look expectantly to a new day, new joys, new possibilities.

In your name we pray. Amen.

Look, I'm not saying, "don't be busy or engaged or concerned or even mad, scared or overwhelmed." Quite honestly, for a lot of us that horse has already left the barn, and we're gonna feel what we're gonna feel. The world also often needs those active and uncomfortable dispositions to move forward.

But I also know from hard-won experience that, in the immortal words of the unforgettable Anne Lamott: "Almost everything will work again if you unplug it for a few minutes, including you."

In the Peace of Christ,

Fr. Michael r. +

FREEDOM

Red, white and blue bring to mind all things American, including feelings of hope and joy, which people from all over the world desire. Many come to this great nation which God has richly blessed for over two hundred years

The freedoms we enjoy did not come by our own hands, by those of many men and women over the years, who have given of their time and talents, and sometimes even the ultimate sacrifice of their lives!!!

Likewise, the freedom we have as Christians came with sacrifice. It was because of His great love for humanity that the Father was willing to sacrifice His Son, a Son whose blood was also shed so we could have freedom from sin, death and the power of the devil. Our freedom in Christ was not free! The cost was very high, so we could enjoy the grace we do not deserve.



As you gather to celebrate the 4th of July and all the wonderful blessings and freedoms we have, remember to give thanks and praise for the resurrection of Christ each and every Sunday, a true celebration of what brings us total freedom.

Lord God Almighty, you have made all the peoples of the earth for your glory, to serve you in freedom and in peace: Give to the people of our country a zeal for justice and the strength of forbearance, that we may use our liberty in accordance with your gracious will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen

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WORSHIP COMMISSION

At the end of this month we will be saying farewell to two people who have contributed greatly to our worship services at St. Alban's. We are excited and rejoice with them as they take this major step in Jordan's vocation to the priesthood, but both Jordan and Christina will be sorely missed here. This parish

has been blessed in many ways by your presence. Know that you will remain in our hearts and in our prayers. Please visit us often.

Elaine Fazzaro



Trust

Trust, in today's world, is a commodity that seems hard to experience. The last time I trusted our government was back in the Reagan years. It seems as though truth and politicians go together like oil and water...not too good! Truth on the internet is also just about as hard to find. I'm wary about what is taught in our schools, and what is found on the 5 o'clock news. It's hard to trust when the truth is so often in question. Maybe it's my doubting nature, but I don't think so.

As Christian's we are lucky to believe in the author of truth, Our Lord Jesus Christ. When everything else is in question, Christ's love for us remains a constant. It always was and it always will be. I find comfort in the knowledge that I will always be able to "Trust" that our Lord will always be there for me. I hope that this truth is comforting for you also! It's what helps me to sleep better at night.

God's Blessings,
George Champ

STEWARDSHIP

If you are unable to regularly attend Sunday services you can donate at your convenience through [Tithe.ly](https://www.tithe.ly/). 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 put their donations in the direction you want. We are also eager for volunteers to help as acolytes, ushers, altar guild, A/V, nursery and coffee hour so please call the office to be put in touch with the right person. Thank you everyone for keeping this community strong.

David Birchfield

FINANCE

I am pleased to report that for the month of May we exceeded our budgeted income. Income was \$10,805.18, while our budget for the month was \$8,953.32. As much as we try to stay within our budget for monthly expenses, we did exceed our budgeted expenses by \$928.53. We are aware how inflation has affected all of our lives at this time so this was not a big surprise as many prices have increased, some significantly.. Because we have cut our expense budget as much as possible, I believe we will see an overage happen occasionally. Please know that your vestry works very hard to try to stay within budget and will always continue to control spending as much as possible.

Thanks to all of you for remaining faithful to your pledges during this period of high inflation.

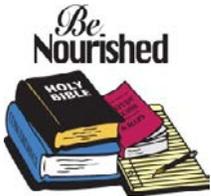
Finance,
Marilyn Rafter

ENDOWMENT

We have seen very few Endowment envelopes coming in each month. With inflation it may be difficult to give extra right now, but if you do have a few dollars to drop into the once a month envelope, please do. Over time small donations do add up and will be there for St. Alban's future needs. Thank you!

Please note: We will no longer be offering the Day by Day pamphlets. The ones for August – October will be put out but will be the last ones. This is due to cost and the lack of use by the congregation. You have two ways of receiving either by on line or calling Day by Day and have them mailed to you.

JULY ACTIVITIES



Every **Wednesday** morning, except **July 20th** due to **Senior Mission camp**, Fr. Michael will be leading a regular Bible Study at 10:00 a.m. followed by an informal Eucharist. He will be leading with a study of the Gospel of Genesis. Everyone is welcome.

ALSO....an **evening Bible Study and Eucharist** will continue on **Thursdays** except for July 21st at **6:30 p.m.** We are currently looking at the Book of Acts. ALL ARE WELCOME!

Meeting of Daughters of the King is scheduled to meet once a month on Thursdays, at **10:00 a.m.** Next meeting will be on **July 14.**



Lunch Bunch will be meeting at 11:30 a.m. on July 12th at The Deck at the Gas House located at 305 E Superior St, Fort Wayne. All are welcome and need to be there by 11:30 a.m. There will be a signup sheet located on the bulletin board to sign up. They do not save seats or take reservations. If you have any question please contact Rose T-O'Brien.

Men's Night out the third Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. Location and date will be listed on the poster on the bulletin board.



The **Baptism of Grayson Robert Frede** will take place at the 9:30 a.m. Eucharist on **July 10th**! We hope you all can be present as we officially welcome Grayson into the fellowship of the Church.



The Vestry will meet on Tuesday, July 26th at 7 p.m.

Office will be closed on Monday, July 18th and reopen on Tuesday. Debbie will be out of office.




P.O. Box 15869 – Fort Wayne, IN 46885
June 2022



Dear Friends,

Happy summer! Using a Q & A format this time to answer some questions our friends have been asking.

Q: Where in the world are you, and for how long?

A: Indiana, just until mid-July. The time has come for us to be spending more time (four months) in Sierra Leone and less time (two months) in Indiana.

Q: How does Madina School keep running when you are not there?

A: Very well, with Deputy Executive Director Maada Boima (below left) handling all financial and personnel matters, Headteacher Agnes (below right) in charge of the daily running of the school, and thirteen teachers on the job. But there's plenty of problem-solving for us to do there, too.



Q: When is this “Health Center” ever going to open?

A: It’s coming closer. We are planning to open the education wing when the new school year starts. Clinic services, maternity, surgery, dentist and other things will start up little by little, not one grand opening. Classes and missions teams will use the building first.

Q: What do you still need for the school and health center?

A: For the school - Sponsorships for the 440 students. We have 185 sponsored now. This provides half of the operating and feeding costs.

A: For the health center – Staffing and the money to pay them. We have the building, the water, the equipment, and are working to raise the funds for the solar electrical system. We have two amazing nurses (Nurse Mabel below) to build our staff around. God knows the doctors and nurses and technicians that will come to be part of this team. As Francis says, “God is dealing with us on a need-to-know basis.” We can’t wait to meet the people God sends our way! Keep us (and them) in your prayers. And stay tuned.

Thank you for all your wonderful support!



Francis and Bobbie Mustapha for Madina Village School, Inc.

Vestry Stewardship

Operating Fund

Operating income for June	\$ 7,384.54	Operating income for 2022	\$61,929.27
Operating expense for June	9,386.14	Operating expense for 2022	66,339.77
Net loss for May	(\$ 2,001.60)	Net loss for 2021	\$(4,410.50)

Vestry Highlights

At the regular meeting of the Vestry on June 21 it was noted that:

- a) Church grants for collaborative use of facilities
- b) Jordan will be preaching on Sunday, July 24th.
- c) Need nursery volunteers for summer
- d) Front sign bent need repair

July Birthdays

6 Tammy Gillig
9 Marilyn Crewe
9 Melissa Townsend
17 Robert Frede II
18 Neal Birchfield



19 Cayley Townsend
20 John Naunas
27 Kenny White
29 John Lorenzen
31 Bonnie Camp

and Anniversaries

9 John & Susan Diver
11 Dick & Sandy Ritchie
18 Todd & Melissa Townsend

*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, Ellen Anderson, Mindy Blech, Neal Birchfield, Dick Camp, Vincent Carboni, Ethan Clark, Jimmy Clark, Alesha Critten, Courtney, Marilyn Crewe, Elliot Culwell, Jane Davidson, Denise, Kari Doepke, Donna, Ethan, Kathie Edington, Elaine Fazzaro, Joey Fazzaro, Chris Foreman, Denise Frede, Grayson, Megan and Robbie Frede, Tammy and Greg Gillig, Karl Frick, Brook Gresback, Gary, George Imhausen, Cam Irvine, John Jeffries, Aerika Katip, Pat Kerlin, Julie Lieb, Jo McMahan, Maureen McMahan, Rick McMahan, Melissa, Michelle, Janet McQuain, Francis and Bobbie Mustapha, Olivia and Lily, Steve Potosky, Canon

Henry Randolph, Mark Sowder, Sandra, Mary Scribner, Terry Searles, Cindy Spice, Ginger Spice, Rick Spice, Mariane Sumners, Melissa Surles, Carolyn and Bill Townsend, Blu Turner, Judy Wall, Bishop Keith Whitmore.

Military: Kaylee Collins, Sean Collins, Matthew Michael, Danny and Robert Scribner, R. J. Smith,

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

John Lorenzen	Senior Warden
Julie Naunas	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
Megan Spice	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