The Mission of St. Alban’s Parish is to exemplify Christ’s love, using our gifts to connect people to God, each other and creation through worship, service, education and outreach.

December 2010

Christmas at St. Alban’s

Christmas Eve
Friday, December 24

4:00 p.m.    Festival of Lessons and Carols and Holy Communion

10:30 p.m.    Choral Prelude

11:00 p.m.    Festival Eucharist

Christmas Day
Saturday, December 25

10:00 a.m.    Christmas Holy Eucharist

Christmas Pageant
Stars! Angels! Shepherds! Kings!

Sunday, December 12
During the 10:15 a.m. service

Pageant rehearsals:

Sunday, December 5:    9:15 a.m. (1st grade and up)
                         10:15 a.m. (4-5 year olds)

Saturday, December 11:    11:00 a.m. - Noon

Sunday, December 12:    9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Worship Schedule

Sunday
Holy Eucharist
Rite I
8:00 a.m.

Holy Eucharist
Rite II
10:15 a.m.

Wednesday
Holy Eucharist and Healing Service
10:30 a.m.

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In the Transition

Preparing Ourselves for the Messiah’s Coming

“Prepare ye the way of the Lord; in the desert make straight a highway for our God.” This is the urging, if not the command, that is given us in the season of Advent. The Isaiah lesson (2:1-5) and Psalm 122 for the first Sunday in Advent strongly suggests that the Israelites experienced God’s presence in a special place: the temple in Jerusalem. “I was glad when they said to me, ‘Let us go to the house of the Lord.’ Now our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.” (Psalm 122:1-2).

Is there a place at home, work, or somewhere special, where you might go to be quiet, to wait, and so “prepare?” Is there a time or time(s) during the week when you might exercise some spiritual discipline in that special place; disciplines such as spiritual reading and reflection, or keeping a journal of how you might be experiencing God’s presence in your life, or closing your eyes and slowly repeating a Christian mantra such as “Come, Lord Jesus, make your home in me?”

Such “preparation” will be rewarded by our God who is faithful and ever giving. It may well lead to a very unexpected conclusion: that God is not only born again into the world this Christmas, but that Christ is born in you; that you become what God desires all of us to become, what the orthodox call theotokos, the God bearer.

The Context for Gospel Birth Narratives

Are you aware that many of the keystones of public buildings constructed in the first century Roman world bore the inscription “Augustus Caesar, Son of God, Savior?” If you were a person living in that time, how do you then think you might hear the words the shepherds heard the angels say in Luke’s Gospel: “To you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.”

What was going on in the world and in the lives of those first Christians in Israel, and how might that shape their hearing of the Gospel stories of Jesus’ birth? This is one of the major questions that Dr. John Crabeaux will be addressing in his reflections on and discussion of chapters 1 & 2 of the Gospel of Matthew at the Adult Education sessions on Sundays December 5 & 12 at 9:15 a.m. in the Education Building (see page 3 for more information). Your participation in these sessions is another way to enrich your experience and prepare for the birth of Jesus this Christmas.

A blessed Advent.

Michael Jupin, Transitional Rector

Deadline for December issue of The Red Door:

December 20
Adult Education in December
Toward the Observance of a Holy Advent

December 5 & 12 at 9:15 a.m. in the Education Building
The Birth of Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew: Chapters 1 & 2

Our leader for these two sessions is John Clabeaux, Ph.D. (Harvard 1983). Dr. Clabeaux teaches Sacred Scripture (Old and New Testament) at Pontifical College Josephinum School of Theology. His 13-part series "The Gospel of Matthew: Rooted in the Past - Risking the Future" began airing on Catholic TV in Boston (www.CatholicTV.com) this fall. His research focus is the relationship of Judaism to Christianity.

December 5:
Dr. Clabeaux will address how Matthew Chapter 1 advances the goals of this Gospel, written at a dangerous time in the first century of the Christian movement, when the temple in Jerusalem was in ruins and the future leadership of Judaism was yet to be determined. The followers of Jesus decided to venture out and bring Gentiles into their community; a move many insisted would rip the church forever from its essential divine moorings. Their situation has many applications to the church’s struggles today.

December 12:
With a focus on Matthew Chapter 2, Dr. Clabeaux will examine how a story packed with disappointment, duplicity, tragedy, and narrow escapes would be the birth story of this part of the Christian movement. It will provide much to think about as we approach Christmas.

December 19, 26, and January 2: Christmas Break.

Looking Ahead in January . . .

January 9: In honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr, The Rev. Dr. Kevin Dudley, affiliated professor of African-American Studies, Trinity Lutheran Seminary, will speak on “The Sacrament of Fractured Community: Revisiting King’s Call for the Beloved Community.”

January 16: Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday weekend. NO ADULT ED this day.

A n Advent Session of Contemplative Prayer

Saturday, December 5
Come, Lord Jesus

10 a.m. to Noon in the Living Room
(Coffee, etc. at 9:30 a.m.)
Led by
The Rev. Michael Jupin

Sign-up in the Living Room at church, call the church office at 253-8549, or respond via email to jupin@columbus.rr.com

Hat/Glove/Scarf Collection

The Social Concerns Committee is once again sponsoring a hats, gloves and scarves collection for children in need at Fairwood Elementary School. A basket for donated items will be in the Living Room. If you have questions, please contact Ernestine Ujah at 497-2463.
Make a Joyful Noise!

Music Notes

Music for Advent and Christmas

The Choir is preparing some beautiful songs for Advent, including Paul Manz’s *E’en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come*, Anton Bruckner’s *Virga Jesse floruit*, and a lovely new piece that combines the familiar carol “Lo, How a Rose e’er Blooming” with the text “There is no rose of such virtue” *Rosa Mystica* by Sharon Elery Rogers.

Mort’s Alleluia Chorus is singing on Pageant Sunday (December 12), and in addition to their role as angels in *Stars! Angels! Shepherds! Kings!*, they will be singing an arrangement of “O Thou, That Tellest Good Tidings to Zion” from Handel’s *Messiah*.

Christmas Eve services will feature *All My Heart This Night Rejoices*, set by Z. Randall Stroope. Dr. Stroope is a prominent American choral conductor and composer and is the Director of Choral and Vocal Studies at Oklahoma State University.

The traditional Choral Prelude that precedes the Christmas Eve Festival Eucharist will be Marc-Antoine Charpentier’s *Messe de Minuit pour Noël* (Midnight Mass for Christmas). This delightful piece dates from around 1690 and is based on eleven French noëls, or carols, adapted to fit the traditional mass text. The prelude is at 10:30 p.m. and the Festival Eucharist is at 11:00 p.m. Come and experience some of the music of this season!

All blessings,
Sara

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Saturday, December 11

Stay and Play at St. Alban’s!
10:00am-2:00pm

and

Christmas Pageant Rehearsal
11:00am-12:00pm

Need some time to do holiday shopping? Or would you just like a few quiet hours at home? St. Alban’s is offering a Stay and Play Saturday! For a small donation, drop your children off at the church with a packed lunch, and we’ll provide the entertainment, crafts, games, free play and even slip a Christmas Pageant Rehearsal into the mix!

- RSVP to diane@stalbansbexley.org
- Bring a packed lunch
- Kids can stay for part of the time or for the entire time.
- Middle school and high school youth are invited to help. We’ll need helpers in the nursery with our youngest children and one or two craft helpers.

If you don’t plan to take advantage of Stay and Play, please try to send your child for the 11:00 pageant rehearsal. A solid, non-rushed rehearsal the day before the pageant will help the kids feel more confident in their role on Sunday.
Report of the Nominating Committee

At its September 20, 2010 meeting, the Vestry appointed the following persons to serve as the Nominating Committee for the annual meeting of the congregation to be held on February 27, 2011: Tom Goodney (Senior Warden), Russ Rosler (immediate past Senior Warden), Sal Piazza, Jerry Becknell, Charlene O'Donnell and Sam Van Landingham.

Our Constitution charges the Nominating Committee to recommend to the annual meeting of the congregation one person to serve as Senior Warden, one person to serve as Junior Warden, persons to serve as members of the Vestry and persons to serve as delegates to the Diocesan Convention.

The Nominating Committee recommends to the annual meeting of the congregation to be held on February 27, 2011, the following persons:

**Senior Warden:** Sal Piazza

**Junior Warden:** Dan Fulton

**Vestry** (six nominees to fill three vacancies created by expiring terms):
- Rex Elliott
- Perry Fisher
- Kent Holley
- Greg Krabacher
- Anne Lowder
- Lucinda Sweeney

**Convention Delegates** (four nominees for the election of one Delegate and two Alternate Delegates):
- Rob Brown
- Bill Davis
- Jane Roslovic
- Ellen Yen

The Nominating Committee will provide for a brief written biographical outline of each nominee in a written report to be sent to the members of the congregation in the January Red Door. I am grateful to my fellow committee members for their efforts and ideas in developing this slate of nominees from among the many qualified and interested parishioners at St. Alban’s, and I thank the nominees who have agreed to be placed in nomination and, if elected, to serve St. Alban’s in the time ahead. Along with the continuing Vestry and Convention Delegates, we truly are in good hands.

Tom Goodney, Senior Warden
Christmas Gift Donations for Homeless Families Foundation

The Social Concerns Committee is sponsoring a Christmas gift collection for the children served by The Homeless Families Foundation. Unwrapped clothing, toys, games or gift cards (see wish list below for suggestions) can be placed in the box in the Living Room for delivery to Homeless Families. Questions? Call Lynne Tappan-235-5175.

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<th>WISH LIST</th>
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<td><strong>Clothing</strong></td>
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Neighborhood House Christmas Food Baskets

Once again this holiday season, St. Alban’s will collect both food and cash donations for Christmas baskets for The Neighborhood House Food Pantry. A basket for a family of 4-5 people will include the following items:

- Instant coffee
- 2 lbs. stuffing
- 4-5 boxes macaroni & cheese
- 2 lbs. beans (great northern or lima)
- 2 boxes instant mashed potatoes
- 2 cans green beans
- 2 cans cranberry sauce
- 2 cans corn
- 2 cans soup
- peanut butter
- evaporated milk
- powdered milk
- 2 lbs. rice
- jelly or jam
- a treat (candy, cake mix/icing, cookies)

Please drop off the food in the Living Room by Sunday, December 12. If you would like to contribute toward the purchase of turkeys or chickens, make your check payable to St. Alban’s and write “Christmas Baskets” in the memo space. Please be generous in continuing this wonderful St. Alban’s tradition. More than ever, Neighborhood House is depending on our contribution to feed people in December. The Neighborhood House Food Pantry will also be the recipient of St. Alban’s Caring & Sharing Offering in December.

Caring & Sharing

The Neighborhood House Food Pantry will be the Caring & Sharing recipient for December. Representatives from Neighborhood House will be at St. Alban’s on December 5, which is also the Caring & Sharing collection Sunday.